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Chicago Community United Through The Nocturnals' All School Read Program

February 2018 – Author Tracey Hecht's *The Nocturnals* book series brings a unique opportunity to engage young readers and their families. The All School Read program highlights the impact that literacy, combined with imagination and empathy, can have on a community.

Hunting Ridge Elementary School in Palatine, IL chose *The Nocturnals* for their One School One Book® program (OSOB), a program that aligns perfectly with Tracey's ongoing efforts to get more schools and families reading aloud

together. Every staff member and child in the school (K-6) received a copy of book 1: *The Mysterious Abductions* with the exception of the Kindergarten special education and ESL students who received *The Nocturnals Early Reader: The Moonlight Meeting*. The program, which ran for three weeks, was a huge hit with staff, kids, and families. It included a booklet for parents to encourage nightly family read aloud, Language Arts & STEM activities from The Nocturnals educator guides that teachers used, an in-school graffiti wall where kids left comments and pictures as they read, word games and crafts from our free activities hosted on our website, and a virtual, interactive story workshop with Tracey.

Tracey conducted two separate virtual sessions (one for younger students and one for older students) at *Hunting Ridge Elementary*. The impact of this program on the students and their families was incredible.

"This OSOB program and "The Nocturnals" book has effects that are far-reaching and unexpected. Teachers were hearing students discussing the characters throughout the day, even during their free time. During our Open House, some families said it was the first time they sat down all year to read together! The custodian, who is Hispanic, had students asking him every day if he read the book. The English as Second Language (ESL) teacher had a student who barely speaks English acting out how Tobin and Bismark felt while reading the early reader! The students in the gifted programs did amazing essays, and my students, the struggling readers, were so sad when it was over. For them, they were on the same playing field as everyone else. They were reading the same book as their classmates and were able to discuss the same topics about the theme and the characters. That, for me, is what it is all about." – Cheryl Harsh, reading specialist.

"After this was over, students were sad. They asked when we were going to read another book and were so glad to hear that *The Nocturnals* was a series. This is what reading is all about: talking, listening to others' opinions, getting immersed in the written word, and sharing the joy of reading."—Karen Surdynski, school librarian.

This virtual program had such an impact on the Illinois school and community that Tracey will be visiting the school in person on April 24th.

About *The Nocturnals'* All School Read Program: The program unites a school community, from staff to students and parents. Available in both beginning reader and middle grade formats, *The Nocturnals* book series allows children from kindergarten through sixth grade to connect with the same endearing animal characters: Dawn, a serious fox; Tobin, a

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sweet pangolin; and Bismark, the pint-sized sugar glider. With captivating plot twists and plenty of humor, the books follow the Nocturnal Brigade as they solve unpredictable nighttime mysteries. A virtual visit with author Tracey Hecht is a highlight of the experience. During these free programs, Hecht tailors her interactive activities to the needs and interests of each specific community and its learners.

About Tracey Hecht: Tracey Hecht is a writer and entrepreneur who has written, directed, and produced for film. Her first critically acclaimed middle grade series, *The Nocturnals*, was launched in 2016 with *The Mysterious Abductions* which the American Bookselling Association selected as a Kids' Indie Next List pick. In 2017, Tracey expanded *The Nocturnals* to include a new early reader book, *The Moonlight Meeting*, for younger children so that families could share the reading experience together. Fabled Films Press released Tracey's fourth middle grade book, *The Hidden Kingdom*, in February 2018. In partnership with the New York Public Library, Tracey created a Read Aloud Writing Program in New York City for her first book's launch. Since that time, she has conducted this program in over sixty schools, libraries, and bookstores across the country.

ABOUT FABLED FILMS: Fabled Films is a media and entertainment company. Fabled Films properties connect across generations of parents and their children via a combination of original content creation, high-quality production, and impactful distribution channels. Fabled Films Press is a subsidiary of Fabled Films and a member of the American Booksellers Association and the Children's Book Council. Additional content in the forms of animated web series and social media as well as websites featuring activities for children, parents, bookstores, educators, and librarians support each property.

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For a review copy or more information, or to set up an interview, contact: Stacey Ashton, Fabled Films Press, Stacey.Ashton@fabledfilms.com, 212-951-0580.

The Nocturnals Middle Grade Series

Author: Tracey Hecht; Illustrator: Kate Liebman

Format: Jacketed hardcover with deckle edge, PB, and e-book

Price: \$15.99 US; Ages 7–12

Book 1: *The Mysterious Abductions* (Indie Next Summer 2016 Kids' Pick and in the AR Quiz Library)

Lexile Ranking 530L; Fountas & Pinnell S

ISBN: 978-1-944020-00-2

Book 2: *The Ominous Eye*

Lexile Ranking 580L; Fountas & Pinnell T

ISBN: 978-1-944020-03-3

Book 3: *The Fallen Star*

Lexile Ranking 630L; Fountas & Pinnell S

ISBN: 978-1-944020-05-7

Book 4: *The Hidden Kingdom* (February 2018)

Lexile Ranking 630L; Fountas & Pinnell T

Author: Tracey Hecht and Sarah Fieber; Illustrator: Kate Liebman

ISBN: 978-1-944020-11-8

The Nocturnals Grow & Read Early Reader Series

Format: Paper-over-board and paperback

Trim Size: 6 x 9; Page Count: 64, with 54 color illustrations

Book 1: *The Moonlight Meeting*

Fountas & Pinnell L

Author: Tracey Hecht; Illustrator: Waymond Singleton

ISBN: 978-1-944020-15-6; Price: \$12.99 US; Ages 6–8

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Book 2: *The Slithery Shakedown* (April 2018)

Fountas & Pinnell M

Author: Tracey Hecht; Illustrator: Josie Yee

ISBN: 978-1-944020-17-0

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