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“The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights”
Named SIBA Children’s Book Award Finalist

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (May 3, 2007) – While it may seem unlikely that a giraffe would be afraid of heights, the main character of author David A. Ufer’s *“The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights”* is. Luckily for Ufer and illustrator Kirsten Carlson, the young giraffe’s fears haven’t stopped the book from becoming a finalist for the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance’s 2007 Children’s Book Award (SIBA).

SIBA is a trade organization for independent bookstores in the South, and the SIBA Book Award was created to recognize great books of Southern origin. Books are nominated and voted on in several categories, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, cooking, and children’s, by SIBA-member booksellers, and winners will be announced in June. Then the awards will be presented at SIBA’s Fall Trade Show in Atlanta on Friday, September 28.

This is not the first time that *“Giraffe”* has been recognized. The picture book, which is published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, was included on Book Sense’s Autumn 2006 Children’s Picks List and is an Accelerated Reader title. *“Giraffe”* has also received complementary reviews from *School Library Journal*, *The Bloomsbury Review*, and *Science Books & Films*.

“This book will appeal to preschool and early elementary school children and could be used in the classroom or as a wonderful addition to libraries,” wrote Carol April for *Science Books & Films’* November/December 2006 issue.

Judith Nasse of *Children’s Book Reviews* also comments, “David A. Ufer adeptly combines fiction and facts about animal behavior and habitats. He gently lets children know they can overcome their fears too—just like their animal friends—while Kirsten Carlson’s lively illustrations bring this sweet story alive with both humor and compassion.”

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children’s imaginations, are artistically spectacular, and have educational value. As a result, each Sylvan Dell title features a three to five page “For Creative Minds” educational section. *“Giraffe”*’s section includes a “Match the Feet” craft, a mix-and-match activity, adaptation information, and fun facts about animals of the African savannah. In addition, educators at the Houston Zoo verified *“Giraffe”* for scientific accuracy.

Interested booksellers can find more information by contacting Bookstore and Gift Shop Sales Manager Rob Carli or Public Relations Manager Katherine Miller by calling (877) 958-2600 or by visiting www.SylvanDellPublishing.com. For more information about the award, please visit SIBA's website for southern literature, www.AuthorsRoundTheSouth.com.