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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Harcourt to Distribute Full Cast Audio**

Harcourt Children's Books, a division of Harcourt Trade Publishers, and Full Cast Audio are pleased to announce that Harcourt will distribute Full Cast Audio's complete line of recorded books, beginning in April 2007.

"We at Harcourt are excited to partner with Bruce and Full Cast Audio," says Dan Farley, president and CEO of Harcourt Trade Publishers. "Each Full Cast recording is a rich achievement of collaboration; we look forward to similar quality and success with this joint venture."

Full Cast Audio (FCA) was founded by noted children's author Bruce Coville in 2001 to create unabridged, full cast recordings of books suitable for family listening. Because of its mission to create a lively, theatrical experience, FCA is committed to age-appropriate casting and often hires young actors to read the parts of child and teen protagonists. The resulting recordings are not radio-theater-style adaptations of the books, however; each book is performed completely unabridged, retaining every sentence of the original text. FCA records books by some of the finest authors in the field of children's literature, including Paula Danziger, James Howe, Sid Fleischman, Tamora Pierce, Geraldine McCaughrean, and many others.

"This arrangement with Harcourt is an exciting move for us, since it frees Full Cast Audio to focus on creating great audiobooks while we have a strong partner that can bring us to legions of new listeners," says Bruce Coville, president and founder of FCA. "There is a special pleasure in creating this new business arrangement with Harcourt, a publisher to which I have been long and happily linked as a writer. I think we're uniquely positioned to achieve explosive growth."

"Bruce Coville is a master storyteller and a major presence on our list," says Lori Benton, vice president, publisher of Harcourt Children's Books. "Full Cast Audio extends Bruce's considerable talents beyond the written page to the spoken word and greatly enriches the listener's

experience. It's a perfect fit for Harcourt—we're absolutely thrilled to expand our partnership with Bruce on such an exciting venture.”

Full Cast Audio’s backlist of more than forty titles includes such award-winning books as *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit* by Paula Danziger, *The Moffats* by Eleanor Estes, and Virginia Sorensen’s *Miracles on Maple Hill*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1957. Bestsellers slated for 2007 release include Newbery Honor winner *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale (February) and *Fairest* by Gail Carson Levine (September).

Harcourt will warehouse FCA products at its Troy, Missouri, facility. Orders can be placed through a Harcourt sales representative or by contacting the Harcourt Trade Customer Service department at 1-800-543-1918 in April. A complete list of titles is available on Full Cast Audio’s website: <http://www.fullcastaudio.com/>.

Harcourt Trade Publishers is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in Pre-K through grade 12, adult learners, and readers of all ages. In addition to Harcourt Trade Publishers, the Harcourt Education companies include Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve (including the Rigby, Steck-Vaughn, and Saxon imprints); Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Greenwood/Heinemann; and Harcourt Education International. For further information, please visit [www.HarcourtBooks.com](http://www.HarcourtBooks.com) or [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).

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