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**BESTSELLING YA AUTHORS HOLLY BLACK AND
JUSTINE LARBALESTIER ASK READERS:
TEAM ZOMBIE OR TEAM UNICORN?**

**SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN'S TO PUBLISH *ZOMBIES
VS. UNICORNS* ANTHOLOGY IN FALL 2010**

New York, NY, February 4, 2010— Young adult authors Holly Black and Justine Larbalestier enlist the help of an all-star lineup of contributors to help settle their ongoing feud in *Zombies vs. Unicorns*, an anthology to be published in hardcover in September 2010 by Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. A paperback version will follow in September 2011. Edited by both Black, who is pro-unicorn, and Larbalestier, who is pro-zombie, the anthology includes twelve of today's hottest YA novelists such as Cassandra Clare, Libba Bray, Meg Cabot, Garth Nix, and Scott Westerfeld making strong arguments for both sides in the form of short stories. The deal was negotiated by Karen Wojtyla, Editorial Director of Margaret K. McElderry Books, with Barry Goldblatt of Barry Goldblatt Literary LLC and Jill Grinberg of Grinberg Literary Management.

The original zombie/unicorn debate between Black and Larbalestier started on their blogs in 2007 as a feud about which creature made for better fiction: The original feud can be found at <http://promo.simonandschuster.com/zombiesvsunicorns/>. In *Zombies vs. Unicorns*, half of the contributors portray the strengths for good and evil of unicorns, and half show the good and evil side of zombies, with the two editors adding their own hilarious commentary throughout the anthology.

Team Unicorn includes: Meg Cabot, Kathleen Duey, Margo Lanagan, Naomi Novik, Garth Nix, and Diana Peterfreund. "I am extremely pleased to be working with Simon & Schuster to ensure the clear and final victory of the majestic unicorn over the zombie," says Team Unicorn editor Holly Black. "For too long, the zombie has dominated the public consciousness, but the reign of the unicorn is at hand!"

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Team Zombie includes: Libba Bray, Cassandra Clare, Alaya Dawn Johnson, Maureen Johnson, Carrie Ryan, and Scott Westerfeld. “I think that posterity will look upon this as the moment when the mythology of rainbow-farting unicorns was finally laid to rest, and zombies took their rightful place at the top of the food chain,” says Team Zombie editor Justine Larbalestier.

Zombies vs. Unicorns will feature a three quarter iconic book jacket over a cover portraying an awesome and grotesque scene of unicorn and zombie carnage. The marketing campaign for the book includes a dedicated landing page (<http://promo.simonandschuster.com/zombiesvsunicorns/>), with voting functionality, so fans can join the debate themselves. Within twenty four-hours of the launch of the landing page on February 1st, over six hundred votes had been cast. Also available on the landing page will be a video trailer and downloadable assets. Debate-format book signing events will be held with the contributors.

Holly Black is the co-creator, with Tony DiTerlizzi, of the *New York Times* bestselling *Spiderwick Chronicles* series. *White Cat*, her YA noir caper, hits bookstores in May 2010. Her first novel, *Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale* was an ALA Top Ten Book for Teens, and has been translated into twelve languages. The companion volume, *Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie*, was an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, a *Locus Magazine* Recommended Read, and was the recipient of the Andre Norton Award from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. Her third novel, *Ironside*, the sequel to *Tithe*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. Holly lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, with her husband, Theo. Visit Holly online at www.blackholly.com.

Justine Larbalestier is the author of several teen novels, including *Liar*, *How To Ditch Your Fairy*, and the Magic or Madness trilogy. She has been a zombie enthusiast ever since she first saw George Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* as a tiny tot. She lives in Sydney, Australia & New York City, USA. Visit Justine at www.justinlarbalestier.com.

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