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## Eric Hoffer da Vinci Eye Awarded to Illustrator Laura Jacques

Mount Pleasant, SC (April 28, 2010) – Sometimes a book *should* be judged by its cover. The Eric Hoffer Award announced this week that the Sylvan Dell title, “**Baby Owl’s Rescue**” won the da Vinci Eye, part of the The Eric Hoffer Award, for best cover art. Laura Jacques is the creator of this award winning cover.

“Winning a ‘best cover art’ award is quite thrilling, but winning a ‘best cover art’ award that named after the great ‘da Vinci’ is an honor beyond words,” says Jacques.

Award-winning illustrator Laura Jacques has more than 25 years of professional experience as an illustrator in advertising and publishing. She enjoys illustrating children’s books that focus on natural history, wildlife, and the environment. In addition to illustrating “**Baby Owl’s Rescue**” and “**Whistling Wings**” for Sylvan Dell, she has also illustrated “At Home in the Rain Forest,” “Wildlife Refuge; A Classroom Adventure,” and “Sweet Magnolia.” Her books have won several honors and awards, including “NSTA-CBC Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children” sponsored by the Children’s Book Council and the “KIND Children’s Book Award” sponsored by the Association for Humane and Environmental Education, a division of the Humane Society of the United States. Visit [Laura's Website](#) for more information.

“Baby Owl’s Rescue” by **Jennifer Keats Curtis** is the story of a brother and sister that learn a valuable lesson from a little lost owl. Maddie and Max just wanted to play baseball in their yard one day. They never expected to come face-to-face with a wild animal! Lush illustrations by Laura Jacques accompany this story and demonstrate the proper treatment of wildlife. This story reminds all of us that we live in a world surrounded by wild animals, and those wild animals deserve our caution and our respect!

Each year, the Eric Hoffer Award presents the da Vinci Eye to titles with superior cover art work. Cover art is judged on both content and style. The da Vinci Eye is given in honor of the historic artist/scientist/inventor Leonardo da Vinci.

### About Sylvan Dell Publishing

Sylvan Dell Publishing’s mission is to excite children’s imaginations with artistically spectacular science, math and nature themed stories. Founded in November of 2004, Sylvan Dell has grown to include more than 75 authors and illustrators, in the U.S. and Canada, and 50 titles – honored as finalists or winners of more than 70 book awards. Our *Science and Math Through Literature Program* integrates reading, science, math, geography, character skills, and language learning through fun, cross-curricular activities. Sylvan Dell provides more online educator resources than any other publisher in the U.S. We offer schools, homeschooling families and public libraries a free one-year access to our ebook site license featuring **the most technologically advanced eBooks** each with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, 3D page curling, and selectable English and Spanish text *and* audio through our School Resource Grant program. For more information, visit

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