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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“If You Were a Parrot” Selected as a Book of the Year Finalist**

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (March 10, 2007) – “If you were a parrot, you would make lots of noise. You would squawk when you were happy and screech when you were mad.” “*If You Were a Parrot*” author Katherine Rawson is squawking too because her debut picture book has recently been selected as a *ForeWord* Magazine Book of the Year finalist.

Founded in 1998 and written for those in the independent publishing and book-selling industry, *ForeWord* includes reviews of upcoming books for children and adults, and provides coverage of industry news and trends. The magazine’s Book of the Year Awards (BOTYA) were established to bring increased attention from librarians and booksellers to the literary achievements of independent publishers and their authors. The winning books will be announced this April.

“*If You Were a Parrot*” shows readers what a day in the life of a parrot might be like and, as a result, “*Parrot*” has been selected as a finalist in the Pets category of the BOTYA. Rawson’s whimsical story, illustrated by Sherry Rogers and published by Sylvan Dell Publishing, lets children and adults imagine that they are climbing around the house with four-toed parrot feet, chewing wooden spoons and popsicle sticks with hooked beaks and even eating vegetables like corn on the cob and broccoli!

Like all Sylvan Dell books, “*If You Were a Parrot*” is aligned to national curriculum standards and is part of the Accelerated Reader program. Educators at SeaWorld and the National Aviary vetted “*Parrot*” for scientific accuracy and the National Parrot Rescue and Preservation Foundation has endorsed the picture book.

Rawson, a freelance writer residing in Vt., wrote the picture book to teach children about bird classifications and specific parrot adaptations. She says the inspiration for “*Parrot*” came from her own pet parrot, Shadow—“a small green parrot with a big personality.”

“It’s great to see ‘*Parrot*’ succeed,” Rawson adds. “I really like the way Sherry decided to include children and parrots from different continents. It adds such a multicultural level to the picture book, and I hope that readers will appreciate that.”

“*Parrot*” is illustrator Rogers’ second children’s book. The Northern Calif. illustrator’s first picture book, “*Counting Little Geckos*,” was published in the summer of 2005. Additionally, Rogers is illustrating two other Sylvan Dell titles:



“*Burro's Tortillas*,” a humorous southwestern retelling of “*The Little Red Hen*” that will be available in June, and “*Kersplatypus*,” which will be released in February 2008.

Sylvan Dell Publishing is on a mission to create picture books that excite children's imaginations, are artistically spectacular and have educational value. Each Sylvan Dell title features a three-to-five page “For Creative Minds” educational section. “**Parrot's**” section includes parrot fun facts and information on their adaptations and classification, a “Make a Beak” craft and a checklist to see if a pet parrot is right for your child. There are also child-friendly “Learning Links” and additional “Teaching Activities” on Sylvan Dell Publishing's website to help expand the learning possibilities.

Sylvan Dell Publishing's award-winning books include “*Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too!*,” “*Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean*,” “*How the Moon Regained Her Shape*” and “*Happy Birthday to Whooo? A Baby Animal Riddle Book*.” The company's May release, “*Tudley Didn't Know*,” is also a *Foreword* Book of the Year Award finalist in the Children's Book category.

Readers can ask for “***If You Were a Parrot***,” “*Tudley Didn't Know*,” “*Burro's Tortillas*” and any other Sylvan Dell title at their favorite neighborhood or online bookstore. They can also visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or contact Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600 for more information.

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