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Take a 'Zoo Day' With Retelling of Children's Classic

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (Feb. 3, 2008) – The llamas are spitting, the bears are roaring loudly and the elephants are busy rolling in the mud. It may sound chaotic to most, but it's just another day for children's author Catherine Ipcizade as she promotes her newest release, *'Twas the Day Before Zoo Day*.

"When my son was entering kindergarten, he desperately wanted to learn everything he could about animals," explained Ipcizade. "But finding a book that provided animal facts in a fun, entertaining way proved much harder than I anticipated. So I wrote *'Twas the Day Before Zoo Day* to do both."

An adaptation to *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, Ipcizade's new book takes readers to the zoo as preparations are underway for "Zoo Day." But nothing is going according to plan for the zoo keepers as they scurry around trying to get the misbehaving animals to cooperate.

"I had a lot of fun imagining what animals might do at the zoo while misbehaving – but I made certain I included a lot of interesting information about animals that parents can find at virtually all zoos," said Ipcizade. "For example, did you know that lions sleep about 20 hours a day?"

"We loved the fun animal facts that Catherine sprinkled throughout the text," said Donna German, editor and co-owner of Sylvan Dell Publishing. "The manuscript fit with our mission to bring science and math to children through literature." After signing Ipcizade, Sylvan Dell brought award-winning illustrator Ben Hodson, of Ottawa, Canada, on board, and he used acrylic paint and pencil crayons on watercolor paper to create the inviting zoo and detailed animal expressions that fill the book's pages.

A full-time mother, freelancer and author, Ipcizade also volunteers for The Little Owl Mentoring Program, a program in her community that pairs published authors with local high school students who wish to be authors. She is also an active member of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). In addition to *'Twas the Day Before Zoo Day*, Ipcizade has also written *African Animals: Giraffes*; *African Animals: Lions*; and *African Animals: Zebra* (Capstone Press).

"Sometimes people ask how I do it all," laughs Ipcizade. "There's a simple answer: We always make time for our passions."

Readers interested in learning more about Catherine Ipcizade and her books can visit her Web site, <http://catherineipcizade.blogspot.com/>. Zoo stuffed animals, ordering information and free supplemental materials – such as audio readings, activity ideas, learning links, quizzes and more – are available at www.SylvanDellPublishing.com.

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Visuals & Other Requests:

For cover art or Ipcizade's headshot, please visit <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ImageGallery.htm>.

For all other requests, please contact Sylvan Dell's publicist at (877) 958-2600 or AngieDzalamanow@SylvanDellPublishing.com.