

Local award-winning author publishes 30th book for young readers

Vaughan, ON—Awarding-winning author Deborah Kerbel's thirtieth book for young readers, *No Huddles for* Heloise, publishes on March 11, 2025.

Throughout her extensive writing career, Deborah's books have received the Forest of Reading Yellow Cedar Award and the Red Cedar Award and have been shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Canadian Library Association's YA Book Award and the Rocky Mountain Book Award, among others.

Her tenth novel *Iggy Included* (Scholastic Canada) is up for the Forest of Reading Silver Birch Fiction Award this spring.

Deborah's forthcoming picture book, *No Huddles for Heloise*, is a humorous story about Heloise, an introverted penguin who avoids huddling with her friends. It's a great discussion starter for conversations around personal space, boundaries, fitting in and accommodating differences.



Deborah was born in London, England, raised in Toronto, and now lives in Thornhill with her family. She is available for interviews on this impressive milestone in her writing career.

Praise for Deborah Kerbel:

"Offers a sympathetic portrayal of a character who's eager to maintain personal boundaries yet still wants to embrace her friends in her own way." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *No Huddles for Heloise*

"The cheerful and engaging gouache and colored-pencil illustrations include many humorous touches...Kerbel presents the need for personal space in an entertaining tale that many children will relate to." —*Booklist* on *No Huddles for Heloise*

"This beautiful dedication to these special animals brings the reality and the irreversible finality of extinction to the forefront and calls on readers to act now, before so many other animals become endlings. Highly recommended for all collections." —*Booklist*, starred review for *The Late Great Endlings*



MEDIA RELEASE

About the publisher: Orca Book Publishers is an independently owned Canadian children's book publisher of award- winning, bestselling books in a number of genres. With over 1,000 titles in print and more than 80 new titles a year, Orca prides itself on publishing Canadian authors and bringing them to a wider market.

Media contact: If you'd like to arrange an interview with Deborah Kerbel, please contact Isabella Kennedy, <u>isabella@orcabook.com</u>, (add phone number here)