



THE GOTHAM GROUP

## LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS AND THE GOTHAM GROUP PARTNER TO DEVELOP ENTERTAINMENT PROPERTIES FOR BOOK, FILM AND TELEVISION FORMATS

### Partnership Reflects Commercial Strength of Multi-Platform Storytellers and Launches in Spring 2018 with *Phantom Wheel*

(New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA; June 15, 2017)—Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a leading trade publisher of children’s books, and The Gotham Group, a leading film production and talent management company, have entered into an agreement to collaboratively develop original IP properties with strong book, film, and entertainment potential, it was announced today by Megan Tingley, Executive Vice President and Publisher of Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Ellen Goldsmith-Vein, founder and CEO of The Gotham Group; and Eddie Gamarra, Co-Head of The Gotham Group literary department.

The partnership launches in Spring 2018 with the paperback publication of *Phantom Wheel* by Tracy Deeks, a fast-paced young adult thriller. The editorial direction of the publishing program will be overseen by Kara Sargent, Editor-in-Chief of Licensing and IP at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. Goldsmith-Vein and Gamarra will spearhead The Gotham’s Group’s pursuit of film and television opportunities.

This unique collaboration combines Little, Brown Books for Young Readers’ prowess in publishing bestselling children’s and YA books with The Gotham Group’s reputation for great taste in material, its impressive talent roster and its development and production slate. The partners will conceive, develop, publish, and produce content across a wide array of traditional and evolving entertainment media.

*Phantom Wheel* tells the story of what happens when a group of diverse teens with extraordinary hacking and coding abilities is brought together in a race against time to right a wrong they were manipulated into committing by a powerful organization. If they are to fix what they have unwittingly done, their actions will have devastating consequences for each of them—and on the country.

The idea was conceived in a development meeting between the two companies and is being written by *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Tracy Deeks (*Ruined*, *Addicted*, *Exposed*). Deeks has written eight young adult novels, including *Doomed*, which was a YALSA finalist and has been on numerous state reading lists. Deeks is represented by Emily Sylvan Kim at Prospect Agency.

“We have had enormous success publishing bestselling authors whose books have been made into hot entertainment properties in both film and TV, including *The Twilight Saga*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *The 100*, *Beautiful Creatures*, and *The Duff*,” said Tingley. “Now we’re thrilled to partner with The Gotham Group to develop ideas together that envision translation into entertainment media from the point of conception. We are both in the storytelling business and it’s exciting to join forces and take our combined expertise in this innovative new direction.”

“Years ago we recognized that client Tony DiTerlizzi’s *The Spiderwick Chronicles* concept was inherently cinematic as well as having the potential for an extraordinary book series, so we sold the movie first and then the books,” says Goldsmith-Vein. “We are excited to work with the team at Little, Brown to similarly create IP across all platforms and to provide great content to the studios and networks in the traditional and digital spaces in both animation and live action. Today’s most exciting content creators are multi-platform storytellers who defy the traditional ‘silo’ mentality and whose creative output can’t be limited to one entertainment sector.”

Similarly, The Gotham Group is creating multiple revenue streams with *The Big Game* by Albert Chen, the brainchild of The Gotham Group’s Jeremy Bell, for which they partnered with Waxman Leavell Agency and Diversion Books to broker a book deal with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and then set up a film deal with TriStar Pictures and Leonardo DiCaprio’s Appian Way to produce.

#### **About Little, Brown Books for Young Readers**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers is a division of Hachette Book Group, a leading trade publisher based in New York and a division of Hachette Livre (a Lagardère company), the third-largest trade and educational publisher in the world. HBG is made up of eight publishing groups: Little, Brown and Company; Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Grand Central Publishing; Perseus Books; Orbit; Hachette Books; Hachette Nashville; and Hachette Audio. For more information, visit [hbgusa.com](http://hbgusa.com).

#### **About The Gotham Group**

The Gotham Group is a multi-faceted management and production company, representing some of the most creative minds in Hollywood. Goldsmith-Vein and The Gotham Group, cited in *Variety*’s “10 Producers to Watch” series, have been producers on such hits as *The Spiderwick Chronicles* as well as *The Maze Runner* franchise. Gotham also is producing *Kodachrome* with Jason Sudeikis and Elizabeth Olsen; *Stephanie*, directed by Akiva Goldsman; *The Big Game*, which chronicles the phenomenon of daily fantasy sports; and *Train Man*, starring Julia Roberts as the lawyer defending Darius McCollum, the New Yorker who became notorious for driving subway trains illegally. On the television side, Gotham has *Star Trek*’s Zachary Quinto set to star in and executive produce *Biopunk*, and is developing Randi Zuckerberg’s *New York Times* bestselling book *Dot Complicated: Untangling Our Wired Lives* as a series.

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