



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Andy Briggs flies high with Scholastic UK acquisition of new middle grade novel **DRONE RACER**

London 16th February 2018:

Having witnessed the world marvel at the spectacular drone display at the Winter Olympics opening ceremony in PyeongChang, Scholastic UK is excited to announce **DRONE RACER** by Andy Briggs, the brilliant new middle-grade novel that taps into this massive trend.

Drones are becoming a part of everyday life and drone racing is an international phenomenon with huge appeal for children. Over 75 million fans watched the latest Drone Racing League (DRL) races across broadcast and digital with high-profile coverage across Sky Sports and ESPN. Over 75 countries are set to broadcast DRL and with immense high-profile sponsorship investment, drone racing will continue to grow as a competitive sport and pastime. Children are particularly captivated by this trend and CBBC commissioned two seasons of "Airmageddon", a drone racing competition for kids.

DRONE RACER is the first middle-grade adventure novel that taps into the drone racing trend. 12-year-olds Carson, Trix and Eddie need parts for their racing drone, so they sneak into an Air Force scrapyard. There they discover a discarded drone that has a mind of its own - and a personality! The team is soon winning races on the international circuit. But when the military takes notice, how will three kids protect their new friend?

Screenwriter, graphic novelist, and writer on movie projects such as *Judge Dredd* and *Aquaman*, Andy Briggs is perfectly placed to write the ultimate high-octane adventure with drone racing at the heart. His work as children's author includes *The Inventory* (Scholastic), the middle-grade sci-fi adventure series about dangerous tech and dark secrets.

Linas Alsenas, Commissioning Editor at Scholastic UK bought World rights from Tom Witcomb of Blake Friedmann Literary Agency.

Author Andy Briggs says: "I'm really excited about dropping my readers into the thrilling, and real, world of drone racing. It was all I dreamt of growing up, watching Star Wars pod racers in spectacular sci-fi space battles, but set in the familiar world of sporting rivalry and with the addition of a loveable Artificially Intelligent character who becomes a mentoring figure to our heroes. **DRONE RACER** is full of heart as well as furious action."

Linas Alsenas says: "I'd been on the lookout for a drone racing book for a long time, because this sport is exploding in popularity online, in local events and at spectacular international competitions. So I was thrilled when Andy pitched the idea for **DRONE RACER**; he's the perfect writer to craft a heart-pounding – and heart-warming – story about the drone racing world and government secrets about AI



technology that has gone rogue. Older readers like me will appreciate how the story calls to mind classic films from our younger days, such as Flight of the Navigator, Tron, E.T., and War Games.”

Tom Witcomb says: ‘I’m immensely happy that we were able to continue the great relationship that Andy and Scholastic have built over the INVENTORY series, and looking forward to seeing DRONE RACER soar.’

DRONE RACER by Andy Briggs will publish on 2nd August 2018.

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