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## ***The Great Mrs. Claus* wins Silver at the prestigious Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs) in NYC**

June 1, 2009 – Burbank, CA

*The Great Mrs. Claus*, written by author Chris A. Shoemaker, won the prestigious Silver Medal Award in the Gift/Holiday/Specialty book category at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Independent Publisher Book Awards in New York City on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Described as "magical realism" by the book's author, *The Great Mrs. Claus* is told by Sparky, Santa's senior elf, and his favorite nephew and niece, Rattle and Klee-Klee. Their surprising bedtime demonstration prompts their doting Uncle Sparky to share a seldom-told poem. It details how Santa first met Mrs. Claus and fell (literally!) in love with her.

Says Awards Director Mr. Jim Barnes, "This year's awards attracted 4,090 entries from throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus most English-speaking countries worldwide. Medal-winning books came from 44 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia, eight Canadian provinces, and six countries overseas."

Launched in 1996 as the first unaffiliated awards program open exclusively to independent, university and self-published titles, the Independent Publisher Book Awards are conducted to honor the year's best independently published books.

Director Barnes adds, "This year's winners represent a mix of established independents, bold new voices with alternative viewpoints today's readers crave. While much of the world economy is in a slump, books and reading are gaining ground on more expensive forms of entertainment."

Attending the Awards Ceremony at the Providence Club in Manhattan, winning author Chris Shoemaker also attended North America's largest book fair, the 2009 Book Expo at the Jacob Javitt's Center to promote the book. "What a tremendous honor for the first of what will be a series of holiday books," enthused Mr. Shoemaker. "It's always wonderful to have anyone compliment your work. I'm a true independent, so receiving the IPPY award for *The Great Mrs. Claus* was a great surprise and thrill. It inspires our entire team to always strive for excellence."

In 2005, Mr. Shoemaker received the Gold Award for Editorial Excellence from Parenting Publications of America for his regular column *Her Family/His* co-written with Suzanne Shoemaker. His column appears in the Los Angeles Family Magazine and other Family Magazine Group sister publications in the greater Southern California region.

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*The Great Mrs. Claus*, the premiere product of The Claus Diaries, a new holiday brand, is the first of a series of holiday books and specialty gift items that feature the unique stories from the North Pole. The next book (title TBA) has an anticipated Pub. Date of February 2011.

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