

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUTTON SIGNS TWO BOOK DEAL WITH RICHARD PAUL EVANS

New York, New York, March 15, 2002...Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Putnam Inc, has acquired world rights to two new novels by Richard Paul Evans. It was announced today by Carole Baron, Executive Vice President of Penguin Putnam, Inc and President of Dutton and Putnam.

The Last Promise, the first book in the contract, is scheduled to be published in hardcover by Dutton in November 2002 followed by a New American Library paperback edition a year later.

Richard Paul Evans has sold more than eleven million copies of his books worldwide. His first novel, **The Christmas Box**, is the only book in history to simultaneously hit #1 on the **New York Times** hardcover and paperback lists. Each of his five subsequent novels has been **New York Times** bestsellers including his most recent novel, **The Carousel**, published in 2000. An international bestselling author, his novels have been translated into more than 17 languages and have been adapted into award-winning television movies.

In making the announcement Carole Baron remarked "Everyone enjoys a love story, and I have no doubt that **The Last Promise** will capture the imagination of readers of all ages."

Richard Paul Evans had this to say: "I am pleased to be adopted into the Dutton family. I was taken by their very obvious enthusiasm—and in their commitment to me as a novelist."

This deal reunites Dutton Senior Editor, Laurie Chittenden, with Richard Paul Evans. She explains, "I am elated to be working with Rick again. It's been more than six years since we published **The Christmas Box** together, and the excitement around **The Last Promise** feels like that first novel all over again."

Richard Paul Evans was represented by Laurie Liss, of Sterling Lord Literistic, Inc., who commented on the deal: "It is truly exciting to have Rick at Dutton. The energy and enthusiasm Dutton brings to the table is the way publishing should always be."

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