



THE BOOKSELLER'S JOEL RICKETT JOINS PENGUIN

London, 23 June 2008... It was announced today that Joel Rickett, Deputy Editor of *The Bookseller* magazine has been appointed Editorial Director for Viking.

Joel will join the existing commissioning team at Viking, led by Publishing Director, Venetia Butterfield and including Tony Lacey, Eleo Gordon, Mary Mount and Kate Barker. His arrival signals Viking's ambition to expand the range of its list and seek out the very best authors writing in categories with a broad appeal across the whole retail market.

Viking Publishing Director, Venetia Butterfield said, "At Penguin we've long admired Joel's passion and commitment to books and his understanding of the complexities and challenges of our market. We are thrilled that we've tempted him to focus his many talents and energies on publishing for us. His own tastes and interests chime in with Viking's ambition to find and publish brilliantly books with real impact, wide appeal and of great quality. He completes our team of outstanding editors with formidable experience and excellent taste."

Joel Rickett said, "This is a dream come true. Viking is one of the finest lists in publishing with some of my all-time favourite authors, and I have always been hugely impressed by Penguin's creativity, literary sensibility and commercial nous. It's a unique chance to publish the kind of books I love: high-quality fiction and non-fiction with real edge and the ability to appeal to a wide readership. After nearly a decade of observing publishing, I'm ready to make this leap and discover and nurture a new generation of Viking bestsellers. I'll be looking for writers who can match narrative drive with emotional punch, who can tell big stories with a light touch. I will help them make a major impact in literary, media and retail terms."

Neill Denny, Editor-in-Chief of *The Bookseller* paid tribute to Joel, "In his time at *The Bookseller*, Joel has contributed an enormous amount to the magazine. He has been a superb news journalist and news editor, consistently breaking exclusive stories. As deputy editor he took responsibility right across the magazine, and his judgement, intelligence and good humour made him a key part of the editorial team. He developed a great range of contacts at all levels of the industry, and has represented the magazine - and the book trade generally - with great fluency and authority in the wider media, particularly with his longstanding *Guardian* column. His great knowledge and love of books has always allowed him to talk the language of publishers with confidence. I wish him the very best in his new role, for which he is admirably suited, and I thank him for his all hard and effective work here."

Joel will join Penguin at the end of August.

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**For further information, please contact:
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Note to Editors:

Joel Rickett is currently Deputy Editor of *The Bookseller*. He graduated from Leeds University in 1998 with a First Class BA Hons English Language and Literature, European (winning the Sir Richard Graham Prize for Best Finals Performance). After stints in publishing and at national newspapers, he trained as a journalist at London City University's renowned post-graduate centre. He joined *The Bookseller* in 1999 as a Reporter and was promoted to News Editor in 2001. In 2004 he became Deputy Editor, and helped to restructure and relaunch the magazine in 2005. His responsibilities have spanned news, features, profiles, charts, book reviews, diary and conferences. Joel has written a weekly column in *The Guardian* and a monthly column in *Screen International*, and contributes regular fiction reviews to the *Financial Times*. He has also been published in the *Independent on Sunday*, *The Times*, the *Telegraph*, the *Evening Standard*, *Word* magazine and the *New Statesman*. He has contributed chapters to the *Writers & Artists Yearbook*, the *Guardian Media Directory* and *Inside Book Publishing*, and sat on judging panels for the Nestle Children's Book Prize, the Booktrust Teenage Prize, BBC Page Turners, the *Guardian* 50 Best Film Adaptations, and the *Guardian* Books of the Century. He regularly appears on television and radio to discuss books and publishing.

Viking authors include: Antony Beevor, Jonathan Coe, Kim Edwards, Joshua Ferris, Nick Hornby, Felicity Lawrence, John Mortimer, Ross Raisin, Ed Smith, Claire Tomalin, William Trevor, Simon Winchester.