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**CHRISTOPHER PAOLINI'S 'ELDEST' ACHIEVES BIGGEST SINGLE-WEEK SALE
IN RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS HISTORY**

TOTAL COPIES IN PRINT NOW 1.8 MILLION

August 30, 2005 (New York, NY) In its first week on sale, **ELDEST**, Book Two in Christopher Paolini's Inheritance Trilogy, sold more than 425,000 hardcover copies, making it the greatest single-week sale ever recorded for a Random House Children's Books title, hardcover or paperback, it was announced today by Chip Gibson, Random House Children's Books, President and Publisher. **ELDEST** is also the fastest-selling title in the publisher's history. **ELDEST** was published by Random House's Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers imprint in the U.S. and Canada on August 23rd with a first printing of 1.3 million copies.

Mr. Gibson also announced additional printings of **ELDEST** totaling 500,000 copies to meet continuing enormous consumer and bookseller demand, bringing the total number of copies in print to 1.8 million.

"We are thrilled with the first week's sale, which has far exceeded our expectations," commented Mr. Gibson. "Our accounts believe that **ELDEST** will continue to have strong sales through the year, into the holiday season and beyond."

The publisher reports that the hardcover sales are strong in every region of North America and in all channels of distribution, including independent retailers, bookstore chains, and mass merchandisers.

Mr. Paolini is currently in the midst of a fifteen-city book tour, where fans are turning up in droves at bookstore signings in order to meet and to spend a few moments with the twenty-one-year-old novelist. This week, the tour will take Mr. Paolini to Cleveland, Ann Arbor, and Milwaukee, and he will continue his tour efforts through September 22nd.

ERAGON, the first book in the trilogy, has already sold 2.5 million copies in hardcover and paperback in North America since its initial release in August 2003. It has been a #1 bestseller in both its Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers hardcover and paperback editions.

The novel has been published in thirty-eight countries, including Croatia, Greece, Iceland, Japan and Russia. Fox 2000 is currently in production for the film adaptation of **ERAGON**, scheduled for release in June 2006.

ELDEST is also published in a Random House Audio edition in both cassette and CD formats and sales are reported to be brisk in its first week on sale.

Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers is an imprint of the Knopf Delacorte Dell Young Readers Group division of Random House Children's Books, the world's largest English-language children's trade book publisher. Creating books for toddlers through young adult readers, in all formats from board books to activity books to picture books to novels and narrative nonfiction, the imprints of Random House Children's Books offer publishing programs that bring together world-famous franchise characters, multimillion-copy series, and top-flight award-winning authors and illustrators.

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