



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Level Best Books expands into children’s publishing**

*First title to be released May 27*

**OLNEY, MD (May 9, 2022)** — Level Best Books (LBB) announces its expansion into children’s publishing with the May 27 release of *SOCIETY OF THE SENTINELIA* under Level Elevate, its middle grade and young adult imprint created in 2021.

North Carolina author Micki Bare signed a five-book deal with the publisher last August as its first Level Elevate author. *SOCIETY OF THE SENTINELIA* is the first of the five titles, set to release May 27. The series is middle grade magical realism told from the point of view of Zahra, a sprite-like tween no bigger than a loblolly pinecone who befriends an 11-year-old human in a quest to find her family. When a neighbor muddles their plans, kidnaps Zahra, and threatens her new friend, Zahra discovers unnerving truths about herself and her family. The story is set in and around the Birkhead Wilderness of the Uwharrie National Forest in central North Carolina.

This is the third expansion for the publishing company since its inception in 2003. LBB’s first expansion was its Historia imprint for historical fiction (pre-1970). In 2020, it expanded to include romantic suspense, literary fiction, fantasy, and science fiction under the New Arc Books imprint.

“I’m thrilled to be working with Level Best Books to publish this series,” Bare said. “I’m especially honored to be the first under Level Elevate. This series combines two of my greatest passions—writing for children and the outdoors. I hope it’s as enjoyable and inspiring for tweens to read as it was for me to write.”

*SOCIETY OF THE SENTINELIA* is Bare’s debut middle grade novel. She is also the author of three early reader children’s books, has short stories in two anthologies, wrote a human interest column for 18 years, and has articles published in local and regional magazines. She is an active member of the Carolinas Chapter of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators

(SCBWI). She also serves as the director of marketing and community engagement for Randolph Partnership for Children in Asheboro, NC.

To celebrate the release, Bare plans to embark on a hike in the Birkhead Wilderness, the locale that inspired the series. She's also planning author events through the summer and fall.

LBB began as a crime fiction publisher. Its family currently includes more than 100 authors worldwide.

**ABOUT LEVEL BEST BOOKS:** Founded in 2003 as the publisher of crime fiction novels and short story anthologies, Level Best Books (LBB) has expanded into multiple genres. Titles include The Best New England Crime Stories, the Writers' Police Academy, and New York/Tri-State Chapter of Sisters in Crime anthologies. Publications by LBB have won the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity, Derringer and Robert L. Fish Award for Best First Short Story presented at the Edgar® banquet. LBB short stories have also been recognized as Best and Distinguished Mystery Stories by the editors of the Best American Mystery Stories series. LBB publishes quality and award winning contemporary and historical mystery, thriller, and crime fiction novels, literary fiction, fantasy, science fiction, and select non-fiction titles, as well as middle grade and YA. [www.LevelBestBooks.us](http://www.LevelBestBooks.us)

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