

January 18, 2010

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***Bad News for Outlaws* Wins Prestigious American Library Association (ALA) Coretta Scott King Book Award**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, is proud to announce that *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal* author Vaunda Micheaux Nelson has won the American Library Association (ALA) Coretta Scott King Book Award. The Coretta Scott King Book Award got its start in the late 1960s and was later recognized as an association award by the American Library Association in 1982. The award is given annually to an African American author and illustrator for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions. The ALA awards were announced earlier today at ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Boston.

Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal, written by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson and illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, faithfully represents the true story of Bass Reeves, a deputy U.S. marshal who became one of the most feared and respected lawmen in the Indian Territory in spite of resistance to the notion of a black lawman. Vaunda Micheaux Nelson is the author of *Almost to Freedom* (Carolrhoda), for which artist Colin Bootman won the 2003 Coretta Scott King Honor Award for illustration. Artist R. Gregory Christie is an award-winning illustrator of many picture books, including *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth* and *The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children*, for both of which he won a Coretta Scott King Honor.

“Vaunda Micheaux Nelson’s intensely researched text and R. Gregory Christie’s vibrant artwork pair perfectly to portray the life of a fearless African American hero of the Old West,” said Adam Lerner, Lerner Publishing Group president and publisher. “We are thrilled and honored that *Bad News for Outlaws* has received such a distinguished award.”

For more information—including a downloadable discussion guide and a podcast with artist R. Gregory Christie—please visit www.lernerbooks.com/badnews or contact Elizabeth Dingmann, publicist, Lerner Publishing Group.

About Lerner Publishing Group

Lerner Publishing Group creates high-quality fiction and nonfiction for children and young adults. Founded in 1959, Lerner Publishing Group is one of the nation’s largest independent children’s book publishers and currently has ten imprints and divisions: Lerner Publications, Carolrhoda Books, Millbrook Press, Darby Creek, Twenty-First Century Books, Graphic Universe, ediciones Lerner (a Spanish-language imprint), First Avenue Editions, LernerClassroom, and Kar-Ben Publishing. For further information, visit Lerner Publishing Group’s website at www.lernerbooks.com.

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