



Press Release ... Press Release . . . Press Release . . .

Bestselling novel *How I Live Now* by Meg Rosoff
soon to be a major motion picture

Passion Pictures and Cowboy Films have revealed that director Kevin MacDonald, best known for directing Bafta and Oscar-winning *The Last King of Scotland*, *Touching the Void* and Oscar-winning *One Day in September*, will be directing the film version of *How I Live Now* based on the bestselling, critically acclaimed novel by Meg Rosoff.

The screenplay has been written by Jeremy Brock (who also wrote *Mrs Brown*, *The Last King of Scotland* and Kevin MacDonald's soon-to-be-released film, *The Eagle*) and Tony Grisoni (who also wrote the screenplay for *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* and *In This World*).

A cast has yet to be announced but the film is due for a proposed release in 2012.

How I Live Now was Meg Rosoff's debut novel published by Penguin in 2004. It won the Guardian and Branford Boase Awards and was short-listed for the Orange Prize for New Fiction as well as the Whitbread. It garnered the sort of rave acclaim most writers only ever dream of. Mark Haddon, author of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, championed it right from the beginning, saying, 'That rare, rare thing, a first novel with a sustained, magical and utterly faultless voice. After five pages I knew that she could persuade me to believe almost anything.'

Meg wrote *How I Live Now* soon after her younger sister Debby died of breast cancer. Meg realised that life was too short to put off writing the novel she'd always been meaning to write. She took leave from her advertising job at J Walter Thompson and set about writing *How I Live Now*. A few months later Meg found herself at the heart of a bidding war between several of the UK's leading publishers. *How I Live Now* is dedicated to her late sister Debby.

On the verge of publishing glory in August 2004, Meg was also diagnosed with breast cancer. As wonderful reviews and prizes flooded in, she had to turn to the business of survival but has since been given the all clear.

Since *How I Live Now*, Meg has gone on to write several award-winning books including *Just in Case*, which won the coveted and most prestigious children's book prize, the Carnegie Medal in 2007, and *What I Was*, set in Suffolk where Meg has a second home. Her Hardy-esque nineteenth century novel *The Bride's Farewell* was published in 2009 and her highly anticipated new novel *There Is No Dog* based on the idea of God being a feckless teenage boy is published in August 2011.

Acclaim for *How I Live Now*:

'Rarely does a writer come up with a first novel so assured, so powerful and engaging that you can be pretty sure that you will want to read everything that this author is capable of writing...this is a powerful novel: timeless and luminous.' **Observer**

'*How I Live Now* is outstanding – as a commentary on contemporary problems, as a superb story of love and war, and as a way of introducing those on the threshold of adulthood to the perils and passions of moral responsibility.' **Times**

'There are some pretty good children's novels out there, but it is only occasionally that one comes along with a voice so stridently pure and direct and funny that you simply can't question it. . . If E Nesbit were alive and well and had teamed up with Philip Roth to write for children, there's a chance they might have come up with *How I Live Now*.' **Guardian**

'From the first page of *How I Live Now* the reader is in thrall to a remarkable narrative voice – possibly the most affective since Cassandra in *I Capture the Castle*... Readers won't just read this book, they will let it possess them.'

Sunday Telegraph

'Meg Rosoff has a wonderfully original voice and she understands perfectly the tension that can be created between what is written and what is left unsaid.'

Mail on Sunday

'An incredible first novel, not so much a book that you read, as one you become part of and you'll never forget. I loved it.' **Bookseller**

'Rosoff achieves a remarkable feat. Without wavering from the lightness and irony of Daisy's narrative tone, she recounts a story of intense, underage first love, and of a war that turns England's country lanes into killing fields' **Sunday Times**

'It really stuck with me. I dreamt about it afterwards' **Sunday Express**

'As compelling as any childhood tale could be... great suspense writing' **Telegraph**

'Both children and adults will enjoy Daisy's smart, ironic style' **Independent**

'One of the great new novels for today's teenagers. Funny, tragic and completely compelling' **Independent on Sunday**

'an absorbing read: tender and brusque' **Guardian**

'Meg Rosoff's *How I Live Now* had my 13-year-old daughter and me equally moved... It already feels like a classic, in the sense that you can't imagine a world without it' **New Statesman**

'Outstanding . . . *The Silver Sword* for the chemical generation' **BBC Radio 5 Live's Simon Mayo Show**

'an intriguing tale with great characters'... 'Her punchy, conversational style reminded me of *Catcher In The Rye*' **Eve**

'Reminiscent of *I Capture The Castle*, it's imaginative, self-conscious and a must-read' **Glamour**

‘The most talked-about book of the year... this is a book for young adults and adult youngsters alike’ **Tatler**

‘A powerful and moving “kidult” novel’ **Heat**

‘I read this in one day. It’s so moving I cried and cried’ Margarita, 14 **Bella**

‘Adults will love this story... Perfect for... your favourite niece – and her mother’
Red

‘Dealing with big issues like love and death this book will make you think – and probably cry too’ **Cosmo Girl**

A ‘powerful and haunting voice’ **Sun**

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