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## Michelle Paver moves to Puffin

London, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November '10 ... Puffin Books announced today that it has signed up the acclaimed and bestselling children's author Michelle Paver for a major new series. Puffin has acquired world rights, including digital, in a deal which will see the award-winning author – well known for her Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series - published by Penguin in the US as well as by Penguin group companies in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India and South Africa.

Elv Moody, Editorial Director for Puffin Books, secured the global deal for five books from Peter Cox of Redhammer Management Ltd.

The new series, entitled GODS & WARRIORS, is set during the Bronze Age in the Mediterranean. Famed for her vividly-imagined exploration of the prehistoric past, Michelle Paver has already begun research for the new books, the first of which will be published by Puffin in the autumn of 2012.

Francesca Dow, Managing Director of Puffin, said, 'We are thrilled to be publishing Michelle Paver. She is the real thing - a true writer whose books have huge appeal and lasting value. Puffin will publish her new series with all the ambition and creativity it deserves. We can't wait!'

Peter Cox of Redhammer Management Ltd said, 'The decision to move to Puffin wasn't taken lightly. Tom, Francesca and Elv are part of a team that feels excited by the future, not daunted by it. This willingness to engage with the future - and indeed to make it their own - is the essence of today's successful publisher. I'm entirely confident that Michelle's new publishing home is the right place for her to be in the years ahead, and I feel as excited about it as the Puffin team are.'

Paver's Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series is published in thirty eight countries and has achieved huge international success with a total of 1 million copies sold in the UK alone. *Ghost Hunter*, the last book in the Chronicles series, recently won the prestigious Guardian Children's Fiction Prize 2010 and Michelle's adult ghost story *Dark Matter* has just been published to wide critical acclaim.

Michelle Paver said, 'I've been overwhelmed by Puffin's passion for GODS & WARRIORS. As a child, my bookshelf was crammed with Puffin paperbacks, and I'm thrilled that my next series will become part of that tradition.'

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