



Usborne acquires astonishing and unique debut; **Level Two** by Lenore Appelhans

Usborne Fiction Director Rebecca Hill has acquired English Language and Commonwealth (excluding Australia, Canada and NZ) rights for **Level Two** by Lenore Appelhans, an utterly astonishing YA debut novel which combines a magnetizing mix of dystopia, contemporary friendship, and the afterlife.

Not only has CBS Films acquired the film rights due to the incredibly cinematic writing, but the book is set for a huge US launch in Autumn 2012. Published by Simon & Schuster US there will be an initial print run of 200,000.

Level Two is a young adult novel about a limbo-like place that exists between our world (Level 1) and the afterlife (Level 2). Seventeen-year-old Felicia Ward died and is now stuck in a place where the dead are held in a hive of pod-like cells, spending their days downloading and viewing their favourite memories from the dangerously addictive afterlife equivalent of YouTube. Felicia is no different, re-living key moments from her life from the security of her pod—until she gets broken out by Julian, a boy she knew when she was still alive. There's about to be an uprising in Level 2, and Felicia learns that she's the key to stopping it. But unsure whether she can trust Julian, and still in love with her boyfriend Neil, she finds herself torn between two loves—and two worlds.

Rebecca says of the acquisition; *"From the minute I heard the agency's pitch, I knew I had to read this novel – and when I did, I knew we just had to have it! Level Two is an astonishing debut that captures your imagination; with its unique story, cinematic setting, deeply engaging central character and slick writing, it really is something very special."*

Lenore Appelhans has worked as an award-winning freelance advertising copywriter. She is a prolific YA blogger and social networker, currently maintaining her own YA literature blog (<http://presentinglenore.blogspot.com>) and regularly contributes to several other collective author blogs. She says of the book;

"I adore high concept fiction with literary flair and that's what I set out to write with Level Two. It's exactly the type of novel that I love to read: a fast-paced thriller full of twists but anchored with compelling, relatable characters."

Lenore currently lives in Frankfurt, Germany, with her illustrator husband, Daniel Jennewein.

Rights were acquired from agent Caspian Dennis, Abner Stein representing Stephen Barbara Foundry Literary + Media.

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