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LOS ANGELES AUTHOR WON'T ALLOW LA TO FALL

New Crime Novel Expresses Local Pride

(Los Angeles, California, February 2006)— Melissa M. Garcia, published by iUniverse, Inc., the leading provider of publishing technology solutions for authors, announced today her first mystery novel, *Falling Angels* has been published.

Swelled by an influx of immigrants from all over the world, Los Angeles emerged in the 1980s as the nation's most multi-cultural city. Because of the quickly changing demographics, residents witnessed a growing gap in the economic landscape as well. This inequality caused an increase in crime, greed, homelessness and racism and ultimately a fear and hatred of law enforcement and the judicial system.

This novel delves into the lives of those affected by what the city has become and to a crime that stretches throughout Los Angeles county.

"This is a novel about the people of LA," said Melissa Garcia. "I had an editor tell me that Los Angeles was the hell hole of the country. I wanted readers to see that real people live here; people who work hard and love deeply. We demand to be heard, and fight for justice, and everyday strive for happiness."

Crime happens in every big city in America. But the people of LA will always overcome.

FALLING ANGELS

By Melissa M. Garcia

Novel Synopsis:

After a panicked call from his best friend, Mattie Hardwin, Luc Actar must return to Los Angeles and the life he fled three years earlier. Mattie's husband, a prestigious lawyer named Spencer Hardwin, has mysteriously disappeared. Desperate for assistance and despite his better judgment, Luc enlists the help of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in his search to find Spencer. But he soon learns that the detectives have their own reasons for locating Spencer—the lawyer has become the prime suspect in a drug dealer's brutal murder.

As he hunts for the man he thought he knew, Luc's history with Mattie haunts his dreams and drives him to the depths of the misery he once escaped. Back on the streets of Los Angeles, Luc employs old friends and encounters childhood rivals to take on the sheriff's department, while a slew of lawyers impede his every move to save those closest to him from an unknown killer.

Luc survived hell once before. But this time around, his survival depends on saving the angels falling around him.

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About Melissa M. Garcia

Melissa Garcia was born in La Mirada, California. As a child, Melissa left California and lived four years in a small town in North Carolina. When she returned to Southern California, she found it was very different from the home she had left.

Melissa grew up in the melting pot of Southern California and witnessed the Rodney King beating, the resulting trial, and the LA Riots. Wanting to be a journalist, she watched as reporters tore apart her city. From the city officials, the law enforcement and judicial system to the very people that survived on the streets, everyone became a victim of the city. Saddened by what had become of such a beautiful city, Melissa began to write stories of the lives affected by the city she loved.

Melissa is a member of the Mystery Writers of America. She graduated from California State University in Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in English/literature. Garcia also writes short stories and children's picture books. She currently lives with her husband in Lakewood, California.

FALLING ANGELS

Author: Melissa M. Garcia

Genre: Fiction / Mystery & Detective / General

Format: Trade Paperback, 214 pp

Publication Date: Feb-2006

Price: \$14.95

ISBN: 0-595-37710-6

Available from Ingram Book Group, Baker & Taylor, and from iUniverse, Inc

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