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BOOM! Studios Begins Work with #DisneyMustPay Task Force

LOS ANGELES (May 25) – The #DisneyMustPay Joint Task Force is pleased to announce that BOOM! Studios have begun to work with them to achieve the Task Force's goals to ensure that all writers who are owed royalties and/or statements for their media-tie in work are identified and that Disney and other companies honor their contractual obligations to those writers after acquiring the companies that originally hired the writers.

"BOOM! Studios strongly support all creators receiving any reporting and royalty payments they are contractually owed. When we have obligations, we honor them," said Filip Sablik, President, Publishing & Marketing BOOM! Studios. "We are happy to work with both the <u>Disney Task Force</u> and our licensor Disney to resolve the situation to everyone's satisfaction."

Through their research, the Task Force believes that BOOM! Studios were not told about the writers who were due royalties when Disney transferred media rights to them. Though Disney is a partial owner of the studios, it is not engaged in the day-to-day operations. "BOOM! Studios are not at fault here, and the #DisneyMustPay Joint Task Force is grateful that they have taken the lead with their cooperation," said Mary Robinette Kowal, President, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA). "With their help, we're able to speed up the process of locating writers who might have been affected by the rights transfer by Disney. I wish Disney itself was also willing to work with us."

Fans, fellow writers, and the creative community need to continue to post on social media showing their support so the #DisneyMustPay Joint Task

Force can help writers. Thanks to their support, the message is reaching Disney and related organizations, such as BOOM! Studios, to alert them to the work they need to do to honor their contractual obligations.

The <u>#DisneyMustPay</u> Joint Task Force, formed by SFWA, includes the <u>Authors Guild</u>, <u>Horror Writers Association</u>, International Association of Media Tie-In Writers (<u>IAMTW</u>), <u>International Thriller Writers</u>, <u>Mystery Writers of America</u>, <u>National Writers Union</u>, <u>Novelists, Inc.</u>, <u>Romance Writers of America</u>, and <u>Sisters in Crime</u> (SinC). The Task Force identifies and guides authors who might be owed money. Disney is refusing to cooperate with the task force to identify affected authors.

Sandra Wong, National President of SinC, said, "Sisters in Crime believes that writers and creators should be paid what they're legally owed for their work, no matter the media or genre. We joined the task force to help spread the word to potentially affected authors, since Disney has placed the onus to be paid on writers and creators, and to lend our voice to an issue which has potential consequences for all creators."

The <u>#DisneyMustPay</u> Joint Task Force makes sure writers' working conditions are fair and safe, but individual negotiations are rightly between the authors, their agents, and the rights holder. The Disney Task Force is working to address structural and systemic concerns.

Additional updates and information are available at www.writersmustbepaid.org.