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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Science Fiction Series for Reluctant Readers Celebrates Team Diversity

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As children's author J. E. Bright toured schools and bookstores, teachers, parents and young readers consistently requested books with more diverse characters. Bright connected that request to his mission to write books designed to keep kids reading, and mixed in his interest in science fiction adventure stories. The result, the first book in a new middle-grade series, "Recess Heroes Face the Moon Fumes," has now been published by Brighten Press.

Bright has more than 120 novels, novelizations and novelty books for children and young adults published by houses including Scholastic, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, Capstone and Penguin Random House. A native New Yorker, he moved to Houston in 2017.

"Around 8 or 9 years old, a dismaying number of kids, boys in particular, are in danger of stopping reading for enjoyment entirely," said Bright. "It's crucial that we keep them engaged, before they lose the habit of reading forever. I'm a fan of video games and streaming media, too, but nothing sparks the interior mind and reinforces human empathy like experiencing internal immersion in an imaginary world of a story."

While the focus of Bright's career has always been the entertainment of reluctant readers, the importance of showing diverse characters playing together in children's fiction has never seemed greater. In our divided and fractured world, respecting and celebrating diversity in childhood has become vital to our interdependent survival.

"Children of all walks of life deserve to see themselves reflected in stories," said Bright. "They should all imagine themselves exploring the universe as heroes together."

"Recess Heroes Face the Moon Fumes" by J. E. Bright is now available in Kindle and paperback editions, with out-of-this-world illustrations by Rima Salloum throughout. More information about the book series and author can be found at jebright.com.

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