



TALKEETNA AUTHOR WINS AWARD

For Immediate Release

Ester, 20 May 2007—Sarah Birdsall of Talkeetna has been awarded a bronze medal in the Independent Publishers annual competition (IPPY) for her novel, *The Red Mitten*.

Birdsall, a long-time Talkeetna resident, spent some childhood years in the southwestern Alaska lake country where her book is set. Most recently an instructor at MatSu Community College, she has also been a reporter for the *Talkeetna Times*.

The competition is open to all US and Canadian small publishers not a division of a larger company. Issuing only one or two new books a year, Birdsall's publisher, McRoy & Blackburn of Ester, near Fairbanks, was among the thousand-plus firms entering thousands of titles in the contest.

"The IPPY award is a pretty big deal, and we're delighted that Sarah's excellent work has been recognized," said Carla Helfferich, McRoy & Blackburn's editor in chief. "In her division, books from Alaska go head to head with those from California and all the rest of the Pacific coast, so the competition was stiff."

Called by one reviewer "a haunting loon call of a book," *The Red Mitten* has been described as part mystery, part love story, and part reflection on how the past can never be truly left behind. It is available from most Alaska bookstores and from the publisher via its web site, www.alaskafiction.com.

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