

For Immediate Release

HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS ANNOUNCES NEW PICTURE BOOK BY STEPHEN KING AND MAURICE SENDAK

**HANSEL AND GRETEL WILL PUBLISH IN
NORTH AMERICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM IN SEPTEMBER 2025**

New York, NY (February 13, 2025) — HarperCollins Publishers is honored to announce the publication of an all-new picture book collaboration between two literary titans: **Stephen King** and **Maurice Sendak**.

Hansel and Gretel is a must-have reimagining of the Brothers Grimm fairytale, retold by worldwide bestselling author Stephen King, with artwork by Caldecott Medal–winning creator of *Where the Wild Things Are*, Maurice Sendak. Sendak’s illustrations were originally created as set and costume designs for the Humperdinck opera of *Hansel and Gretel* in 1997. This new edition of *Hansel and Gretel* will be published in the US by HarperCollins Children’s Books and in the United Kingdom by Hodder Children’s Books, part of Hachette Children’s Group, on September 2, 2025. Nancy Inteli and Megan Ilnitzki acquired North American rights from The Maurice Sendak Foundation and Liz Darhansoff at Darhansoff & Verrill on behalf of Stephen King. English-language rights for UK and Commonwealth excluding Canada were acquired by Jo Dickinson at Hodder & Stoughton and Hannah Ray at Hachette Children’s Group in the UK, from Luke Ingram at the Wylie Agency on behalf of The Maurice Sendak Foundation and Liz Darhansoff at Darhansoff & Verrill on behalf of Stephen King.

Hansel and Gretel brings together two creative legends, each unparalleled in their genius and influence shaping the literary landscape for kids and adults alike for more than sixty years. In this book, Stephen King brings his signature voice to the classic fairytale of two brave children lost in an eerie and dangerous forest. Sendak’s hauntingly beautiful illustrations on every page draw readers into the deliciously daring world of Hansel and Gretel. With a personal introduction from Stephen King, this beautiful book has been created in close collaboration with The Maurice Sendak Foundation. This stunning storybook makes the perfect gift for fans of King, Sendak, and Grimm fairytales.

In a 1997 behind-the-scenes interview with the producer of the *Hansel and Gretel* opera, **Maurice Sendak** said, “Hansel and Gretel’ is the most profound of all Grimm fairy tales. Generally speaking, most of Grimm is about heroic children. Hansel and Gretel are the most heroic of them all. . . . It’s the toughest story in the world and people are afraid of it, yet it’s famous because it’s so truthful.” (*The Art of Maurice Sendak: 1980 to the Present* by Tony Kushner)

“When I was asked if I might be interested in writing a new interpretation of “Hansel and Gretel,” bending it to fit (loosely) with set and costume designs Maurice Sendak had created for the Humperdinck opera of the story, I was interested,” said **Stephen King**. “When I saw the pictures themselves, I resolved to give it a try. Two of his pictures in particular spoke to me: One was of the wicked witch on her broom with a bag of kidnapped children riding behind her; the other was of the infamous candy house becoming a terrible face. I thought, *This is what the house really looks like, a devil sick with sin, and it only shows that face when the kids turn their backs*. I wanted to write that! To me, it was the essence of this story and, really, all fairy tales: a sunny exterior, a dark and terrible center, brave and resourceful children. In a way, I have been writing about kids like Hansel and Gretel for much of my life.”

“We can’t think of a more wonderful, appropriate collaboration than King and Sendak,” said **Lynn Caponera, executive director of The Maurice Sendak Foundation**. “Both are virtuosos of their crafts. Mr. King’s skillful adaptation reads as though he were looking over Maurice’s shoulder.”

“*Hansel and Gretel* is the literary event of the year, a timely and timeless dialogue between Mr. Sendak, Mr. King, and Brothers Grimm that transcends time, space, and even death,” said **Nancy Inteli, vice president and publisher of HarperCollins Children’s Books**.

“Much like the oeuvres of Mr. King and Mr. Sendak, *Hansel and Gretel* champions the undeniable strength, bravery, and resilience of children in the face of the horror and terror of the world,” said **Megan Ilnitzki, executive editor, HarperCollins Children’s Books**.

ABOUT STEPHEN KING:

Stephen King is the author of more than sixty books, all of them worldwide bestsellers. His new novel, *Never Flinch*, comes out in May 2025. His recent work includes *You Like It Darker* (a *New York Times* Book Review top ten horror book of 2024), *Holly* (a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2023), *Fairy Tale*, *Billy Summers*, *If It Bleeds*, *The Institute*, *Elevation*, *The Outsider*, *Sleeping Beauties* (cowritten with his son Owen King), and the Bill Hodges trilogy: *End Of Watch*, *Finders Keepers*, and *Mr. Mercedes* (an Edgar Award winner for Best Novel). His novel *11/22/63* was named a top ten book of 2011 by the *New York Times* Book Review and won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Mystery/Thriller. His epic works *The Dark Tower*, *It*, *Pet Sematary*, *Doctor Sleep*, and *Firestarter* are the basis for major motion pictures, with *It* now the highest-grossing horror film of all time. He is the recipient of the 2018 PEN America Literary Service Award, the 2014 National Medal of Arts, and the 2003 National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. He lives in Bangor, Maine, with his wife, novelist Tabitha King.

ABOUT MAURICE SENDAK:

Maurice Sendak’s books have sold over 50 million copies and have been translated into more than 40 languages. He received the 1964 Caldecott Medal for *Where the Wild Things Are* and is the creator of such classics as *In the Night Kitchen*, *Outside Over There*, *Higglety Pigglety Pop!*, and *Nutshell Library*. In 1970 he received the international Hans Christian Andersen Medal for Illustration, in 1983 he received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award from the American Library Association, and in 1996 he received a National Medal of Arts in recognition of his contribution to the arts in America. In 2003, Sendak received the first Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, an annual international prize for children’s literature established by the Swedish government. In 2024, HarperCollins released Maurice Sendak’s *Ten Little Rabbits*, a hilarious counting picture book starring Mino the Magician, which *School Library Journal* called in a starred review “a newly discovered treasure from a beloved children’s book magician.”

ABOUT THE MAURICE SENDAK FOUNDATION:

The Maurice Sendak Foundation is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization that promotes the artistic legacy of Maurice Sendak by ensuring his books are widely available in ideal editions, by preserving his home and studio, and by exhibiting his original art. It supports illustrators and writers in children’s literature, especially supporting excellence in the art of the picture book. The Sendak Fellowship, a core program of the foundation, is a residency that encourages, teaches, and supports artists who tell stories with illustration. Past fellows include Harry Bliss, Cozbi A. Cabrera, Terry and Eric Fan, Yuyi Morales, Sergio Ruzzier, Doug Salati, and Sara Varon. Find out more about The Maurice Sendak Foundation at sendakfoundation.org.

ABOUT HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN’S BOOKS:

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HANSEL AND GRETEL

Retold by Stephen King, Pictures by Maurice Sendak

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Media Contacts:

Tracy van Straaten | TvS Media Group | tracy.vanstraaten@tvsmediagroup.com

Jennifer Corcoran | HarperCollins | jennifer.corcoran@harpercollins.com