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Tip sheet for *Stargazer* by Von Allan

Synopsis:

Marni is a young girl dealing with the recent death of her grandmother, which has left her emotionally devastated and struggling to cope. Granny Hitchins was a wonderfully curious woman, responsible for giving her granddaughter a rich sense of imagination and adventure, as well as an old and mysterious "Artifact." Granny Hitchins found the Artifact when she was herself a child and, with origins unknown, it provided a lifetime of adventure, speculation, and storytelling for herself, her son, and finally, her granddaughter. While not a replacement, the Artifact is nonetheless a treasured memento for Marni after her grandmother's death.

With the love and support of her two best friends, Sophie and Elora, and the magic of the Artifact to comfort her, Marni is just beginning to cope with the loss of her beloved grandmother when her life takes an abrupt and strange turn. While the girls are examining the Artifact on a backyard camping trip, the object suddenly takes on a life of its own, transporting the three friends and their tent to a strange and distant world. After exploring the tent and their immediate surroundings, the girls discover that the Artifact has vanished, leaving them alone and afraid under a very alien sky.

After summoning their courage, Marni, Sophie and Elora venture out to explore their alien surroundings, where they find a surreal world containing a robot, a mysterious far-off tower, and an illusive yet terrifying monster. Scared, yet buoyed by the stories and songs that they've heard while growing up, the three girls gather their meagre supplies and head out into the wilderness, determined to find a way home.

A magical tale with the most unlikely of heroes, *Stargazer* is an exploration of friendship, loss, and hope. By turns terrifying, poignant, and humorous, *Stargazer* is part fairytale, part science fiction, and part adventure story. Anyone who has ever opened a book, looked up at the stars, or dreamed will love this story....and wish they'd been the one to find the Artifact.

Sales Pitch:

Three young girls find themselves magically transported to another planet.

Author Bio:

Von Allan was born red-headed and freckled in Arnprior, Ontario, just in time for *Star Wars: A New Hope*. The single child of two loving but troubled parents, Von split most of his childhood between their two homes and, consequently, spent a lot of time in the worlds of comics and wrestling. He managed an independent bookstore in Ottawa for

many years, all the while working on story ideas in his spare time--eventually, he decided to make the leap to a creative life.

Von currently lives in Ottawa, Canada, with his writer/editor geek wife, Moggy; a husky dog, Rowen; and two feisty cats, Bonny and Reilly.

Von's first graphic novel, *the road to god knows...*, was published in late 2009 and received critical acclaim, including positive reviews in the Library Journal and Booklist Online.

Publishing Specs:

- ❖ ISBN: 978-0-9781237-2-7
- ❖ Diamond Comic Distributors Item Code: NOV101057
- ❖ 122 pages
- ❖ Release Date: April 25, 2010
- ❖ Trim Size: 6.69" by 9.61"
- ❖ Case Quantity: 35
- ❖ Suggested Retail Price: \$14.95 US
- ❖ Art: black and white
- ❖ Audience: All-Ages
- ❖ Distribution: Ingram Book Company, Diamond Comic Distributors, Follett Library Services, Baker and Taylor, Brodart Company

Features and Selling Points:

- ❖ An original graphic novel that will appeal to readers of Jeff Smith's *Bone* (978-1-8889631-4-4), Kazu Kibuishi's *Amulet* (978-0-4398468-1-3), James Robinson and Paul Smith's *Leave it to Chance* (978-1-5638958-6-9), Louise Simonson and June Brigman's *Power Pack* (978-0-7851379-0-0) and Linda Medley's *Castle Waiting* (978-0-9651852-3-3)
- ❖ Marni, Elora and Sophie, the three young protagonists, are very strong female characters, still a rarity in both graphic novels and fantasy stories

Marketing Plan:

- ❖ Promotional website at <http://stargazer.vonallan.com>
- ❖ Gallery showing of early pages in various Ottawa, Ontario, galleries from 2009 through to the present.
- ❖ A promotional trailer featuring art from the graphic novel was launched in July 2010.
- ❖ Advance copies to Publishers Weekly, Booklist, Library Journal, ICV2.com, School Library Journal and the Midwest Book Review
- ❖ *Stargazer* added to Graphic Novels Core Collection, a subscription database for libraries published by H.W. Wilson in May, 2010 (http://www.hwwilson.com/databases/graphicnovels_core.cfm)
- ❖ Teaser interview with the Seattlest.com website based in Seattle, Washington (June 2, 2010)