

New York Magazine Arts & Events

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All Posts Tagged: 'Roderick Gordon'

News Reel

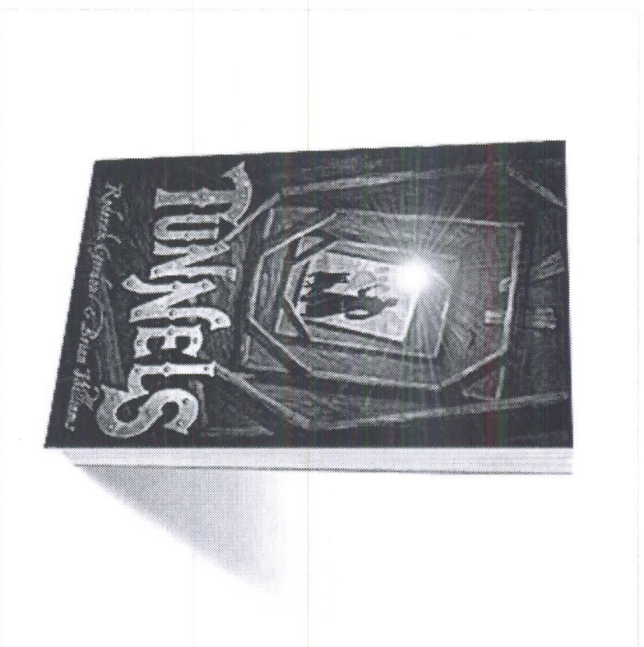
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'The Next Harry Potter' Ignites the Next Hollywood Freak-Out



A Mighty Heart. Clipped. Blunt, and Grimly Realistic



Courtesy of Chicken House

How to create a Hollywood panic attack in three easy steps:

1. Write a children's book.
2. Get your publisher, the man who discovered *Harry Potter*, to call your book the next *Harry Potter*.
3. Wait.

That's all it took for every book-to-film person in Hollywood to fly into a tizzy this week, trying desperately to find and cover a copy of Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams's YA novel *Tunnels*, to be published next month in the U.K. by Chicken House. The book was a success when self-published by the authors, but Hollywood didn't notice until Chicken House publisher Barry Cunningham — who, as an editor at Bloomsbury, first signed J.K. Rowling — agreed to republish the book and told reporters, "I knew from page one that *Harry Potter* was magic. Reading *Tunnels* gave me the same thrill." A Reuters story got picked up by Yahoo! News, and the frenzy began.

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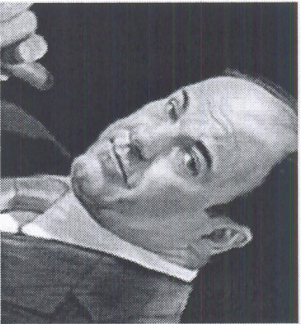
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