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**NEWS** (Release Immediately)

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**New Middle-Grade Novel Features Mystery-Solving Military BRAT**

Belle Isle Books, an imprint of Brandylane Publishers, Inc. of Richmond, Virginia has announced the release of *The Case of the Ding-Dong Ditcher,* an adventurous middle-grade story about the struggles of a new home and the ingenuity it takes to solve a local mystery. Written by Kim Roedl and illustrated by Mindy Whitten, this is the first book in the Max Brinkley’s Military BRAT Mysteries series, and is scheduled for release this summer.

After moving to a small North Carolina town, Max is adjusting to his new middle school and his father’s military deployment when life takes an interesting turn. A cunning ding-dong ditcher targets their quiet neighborhood, and Max’s friend Finn Harper is named the culprit! It is up to Max and his genius seven-year-old brother Knox to figure out who’s really behind the pranks. And to do it, they’ll need the help of the cranky and mysterious war widow next door, Mrs. Needlemeyer. Meanwhile, Max learns that change isn’t so bad or scary after all, since there are always new mysteries to be solved no matter where he goes!

Kim Roedl was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama. She is a former newspaper reporter who always hoped to one day break into fiction writing. A Southerner at heart, she enjoys traveling throughout the country with her husband and five children. Kim enjoys reading, shopping, volunteering, and going to community theater performances.

Mindy J. B. Whitten, also a born Southerner, is a graduate of Georgia Tech. She currently has one other release, *An Alpaca in My Pocket*. When she is not illustrating, Mindy enjoys her growing family, gardens, and travelling experiences.

Brandylane Publishers, Inc. is an independent press located in Richmond, Virginia, that has published books since 1985.

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*Max Brinkley*  (paperback, 96 pages, $14.95 retail) is available from the publisher at belleislebooks.com, from amazon.com, bn.com, and from fine booksellers.

**Requests for review copies should be made to the publisher. The author is available for interviews.**