

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Breaking Barriers – Will the Yankees Soon Welcome Their First Female Player to the Team?**

(Yonkers, N.Y.) – When they are young, a lot of kids dream about what they are going to be when they grow up. Some of the most popular dream jobs include movie stars, astronauts and ballerinas.

But Charlotte “Charley” Mason, the main character in *The Last Time* (Outskirts Press, Nov. 2013, \$16.95) by Jacquelyn Eubanks, never wanted to be any of those things. Her dream has always been to be a professional baseball player. In fact, she would love to one day play for the Yankees, like her beloved grandfather did; but first she has to get through the trials and tribulations of high school.

When the story begins in the summer of 1955, Charley and her parents have just moved from a small town in Georgia to Yonkers, N.Y., where her grandparents live. Charley’s grandfather is very sick, and her grandmother needs help taking care of him.

Not only does Charley have the stress of her grandfather’s illness, the move and the loss of her friends to deal with, the most popular girl in school doesn’t like her. Angelica Whitman has made it clear that Charley is not welcome at Our Lady Queen of Angels School.

Eubanks did a lot of research for her book, making sure she would depict the 1950s in such a way that the story seemed realistic. She also wrote from experience. Like a lot of kids, the now 17-year-old has endured her share of bullying.

“I was bullied a lot my first two years of high school, so a lot of the stuff I had to deal with is channeled into my books,” said Eubanks. “I am proud of the fact that I have written a true portrayal of what it is like to be in high school.”

Readers who have been bullied too will especially sympathize with what happens to Charley in Chapter 7. Eubanks writes:

*Their terrible laughter is ringing in my ears. It’s like being underwater or in a dream, where everything seems so slow and unrealistic. The only thing I can hear above the cackles is my own heart beating. Time seems to be standing still, but the sound is getting louder and louder. I feel like I’m going to drown in the noise.”*

*The  
Last Time*

A Last Summer Novel

JACQUELYN EUBANKS



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The reviews for *The Last Time* have been very favorable. Jean Hall of Readers Favorites said, “For the most part, the story was really interesting and original. I liked Charley’s attitude and spirit, and while this is definitely a Young Adult book, there are some themes and moments that come off as adult as well. . . . You get a real look into some different things like changing gender relations, civil rights movement, etc. *The Last Time* was definitely an interesting read and I recommend it to fans of Historical Fiction!”

*The Last Time* is the sequel to *The Last Summer*, published in May 2012 by VG Publishing. Jacquelyn Eubanks’ books are available for purchase on her website, [www.jacquelyneubanks.com](http://www.jacquelyneubanks.com), as well as Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. Eubanks is currently putting the finishing touches on the third book in the series, *The Last Chance*, which is scheduled for release in early 2015.

### **About the Author**

Jacquelyn Eubanks of Chesterfield, Mich., a suburb of Detroit, is a senior at Austin Catholic High School in Ray, Mich. She has been writing for as long as she can remember and had her first book published when she was 14. She plans to study creative writing, English and education in college. She has not yet chosen a school.



*To arrange an interview with Jacquelyn Eubanks, or request review copies of her novels, *The Last Summer* and *The Last Time*, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, at 952-240-2513 or [rachel@rmapublicity.com](mailto:rachel@rmapublicity.com).*

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## TESTIMONIALS

“The style of writing is informal. It is descriptive, and at the same time penned in a conversational style that makes it an exciting read. There are moments of anxiety in the story when it comes to her grandfather's illness and the problems she has with her mother. A very interesting story that covers a lot of emotions and has a positive vibe.”

- *Mamta Madhavan for Readers' Favorite*

“I really loved the format of *The Last Time*. Ever since I read Anne Frank's Diary when I was a girl, I've loved to read books that either are in complete diary format, or at least have some journal, diary, or letter entries. I just really feel you get an extra glimpse into the character's thoughts and mind by what they say - or don't say - to the person that they are writing. The letters from Frankie were adorable and really helped set the scene for different events in the story. Loved it!”

- *Katelyn Hensel for Readers' Favorite*

“For the most part, the story was really interesting and original. I liked Charley's attitude and spirit, and while this is definitely a Young Adult book, there are some themes and moments that come off as adult as well... You get a real look into some different things like changing gender relations, civil rights movement, etc. *The Last Time* was definitely an interesting read and I recommend it to fans of Historical Fiction!”

- *Jean Hall for Readers' Favorite*

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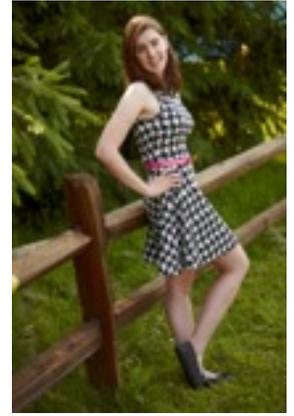
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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jacquelyn Eubanks has accomplished more during her teenage years than many people do well into adulthood. She is only 17, but already has a resume filled with accomplishments, many of them involving volunteer work.

She has been on two mission trips with her church—one to West Virginia to help a man whose home needed rehabbing, the other to the East Coast to help clean up after Hurricane Sandy. She also teaches Sunday School and participates in her school's Forensics Club. She has performed with the school choir and in school theater productions, and competed in several sports: softball, volleyball and basketball.



All this, and she is also a published author. VG Publishing released her first novel, *The Last Summer*, in May 2012, when Eubanks was 14-years-old. Outskirts Press released the sequel, *The Last Time*, a little more than a year later in Nov. 2013. Book three, *The Last Chance*, will be released in early 2015.

The series is about a young girl named Charlotte “Charley” Mason who is a talented baseball player who aspires to play for the Yankees one day. “I have always loved baseball so that was part of the inspiration for the story,” said Eubanks, who also credits the movie, *The Sand Lot*, with helping her develop the plot for the book. She watched the movie as part of her 7th grade English class.

“The Sandlot” is a 20th Century Fox movie released in 1993 about a new kid in town desperately trying to fit in. He meets a group of kids who play baseball on the sandlot near his home every day and they invite him to play. As the movie progresses, the kids have all kinds of misadventures. The story is set in the summer of 1962.

Eubanks’ series may be based on “The Sandlot,” but the storyline is completely different and original. Jacquelyn Eubanks’ mother says she is a born storyteller. “She started writing as soon as she learned how to put a pencil to paper,” said Kathy Eubanks.

Both of Jacquelyn Eubanks’ published novels have won national book awards. The 2012 USA Best Book Awards named *The Last Summer* as a finalist in the Best New Ebook Fiction category of its awards program. The National Indie Excellence Awards recognized *The Last Time* as a finalist in its book awards program in 2014. *The Last Time* also won a Reader’s Favorite 5 Star Award and a Reader’s Favorite Bronze Award in 2014. As part of the prize for that award, query letters will be sent to agents and major publishers on Eubanks’ behalf in an effort to help her get the attention of a major publisher.

Jacquelyn Eubanks is the eldest in a family of three girls. Her family lives in Chesterfield, Mich., a suburb of Detroit.

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## SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Ask Jacquelyn Eubanks, author, *The Last Summer & The Last Time*

- 1) How did you gain an interest in writing at such a young age?
- 2) Do you remember the first story you ever wrote?
- 3) What was the inspiration for your latest book series?
- 4) Now that you are getting ready to head to college, what are you planning to study?
- 5) Do you have another book in the works?

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Teenage Novelist Attracting Attention from National Book Awards Programs

By Rachel M. Anderson, Contributing Writer

(Detroit) – Most authors don't sit down to write a novel until they are well into their adult years, but by the time she was 9-years-old, Jacquelyn Eubanks of Chesterfield., Mich., a suburb of Detroit, had already written her first full-length book. It was called *My Life with Pa* and handwritten took up an entire 150 page notebook.

The prolific young writer penned two more books before she was 12. *The Adventures of Sheila*, written when she was in the 5th grade, is a story about a girl with hair that changes color. When she was 11, Eubanks wrote *Detective Jack*, a collection of short stories.

Though none of those stories has been published, the book she started writing when she was 12 was. VG Publishing released *The Last Summer* in May 2012, when Eubanks was 14. Its sequel, *The Last Time*, came out the following year, in Nov. 2013.

*The Last Summer* is about a young girl named Charley who lives in Georgia in the 1950s. Every summer she plays on a baseball team with her friends who are all boys. After she finds out she is going to be moving to New York in time for the new school year to begin, Charley and her friends decide to make it the best summer ever.

Its sequel, *The Last Time*, published in Nov. 2013, by Outskirts Press, picks up where *The Last Summer* ended. Charley is now living in New York and having a tough time making friends. Then one day she gets up the courage to ask a group of boys she sees playing baseball if she can play too. Though hesitant at first, they invite her to play and she impresses them with her abilities. Charley eventually goes onto play for the high school softball team, and even catches the eye of a scout from the New York Yankees.

But at the same time her dream is about to come true, she is also dealing with a tragic situation at home. Her grandfather, who once played for her beloved New York Yankees, is dying; and the most popular girl in school is going out of her way to make Charley's life as miserable as possible.

"I am proud of the fact that I have written a true portrayal of what it is like to be in high school. I was bullied a lot my first two years of high school, so a lot of the stuff I had to deal with is channeled into my books," said Eubanks.

Both *The Last Summer* and *The Last Time* have won national book awards. In 2012, *The Last Summer* was named a finalist in the USA News Best Book Awards program. The National Indie Excellence Awards recognized *The Last Time* as a finalist in its book awards program in 2014. *The Last Time* also won a Reader's Favorite 5 Star Award and a Reader's Favorite Bronze Award in 2014. As part of the prize for that award, query letters will be sent to agents and major publishers on Eubanks' behalf in an effort to help her get the attention of a major publisher.

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Eubanks credits an experience she had in her 7th grade English class as being the inspiration for her book series. “It all started in Jan. 2010 when our class watched the ‘Sandlot.’ I was hooked and remember just wanting to write about my dream life as if I was in the sandlot and it became *The Last Summer*,” she said.

In “The Sandlot,” released by 20th Century Fox in 1993, Scotty Smalls is the new kid in town desperately trying to fit in. He meets a group of kids who play baseball on the sandlot near his home every day and they invite him to play, but there’s a problem. He can’t. One of the kids on the team takes Scotty under his wing and he learns to play, then has all kinds of misadventures with his new friends. The story is set in the summer of 1962.

“‘The Sandlot’ has always been one of our favorite 8th grade movies that we watch. It’s just a fun kid movie and I’m so glad to see how inspirational it was to Jacky,” said Kathy Falk, who was Eubanks’ 8th grade English and history teacher at St. Mary Catholic School in Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Falk was also the first person Eubanks asked to read her first novel once it was finished. “I was so delighted and honored to have been asked to read Jacky’s book,” said Falk. “I was proud beyond words. I enjoyed the novel.”

So much in fact, she offered Eubanks, who is planning to pursue a career as a teacher after high school, one of her early teaching experiences. “She did a mini lesson with the students on writing and developing storylines. She talked about how to come up with ideas and expand on them and she did some writing activities with the kids and they really responded well to her. She’s going to make a very good teacher one day,” said Falk.

Eubanks has not chosen a college yet, but is concentrating on schools that offer creative writing programs. She is planning to major in either English or Education, depending on where she ends up going to school.

“Jacky has the passion, and a love of writing and language, and that is a gift. To share it with others in a teaching career is perfect for her,” said Falk.

Jacquelyn Eubanks’ books are available for purchase on her website, [www.jacquelyneubanks.com](http://www.jacquelyneubanks.com), as well as Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. Eubanks is currently putting the finishing touches on the third book in the series, *The Last Chance*. It is scheduled for release in early 2015.

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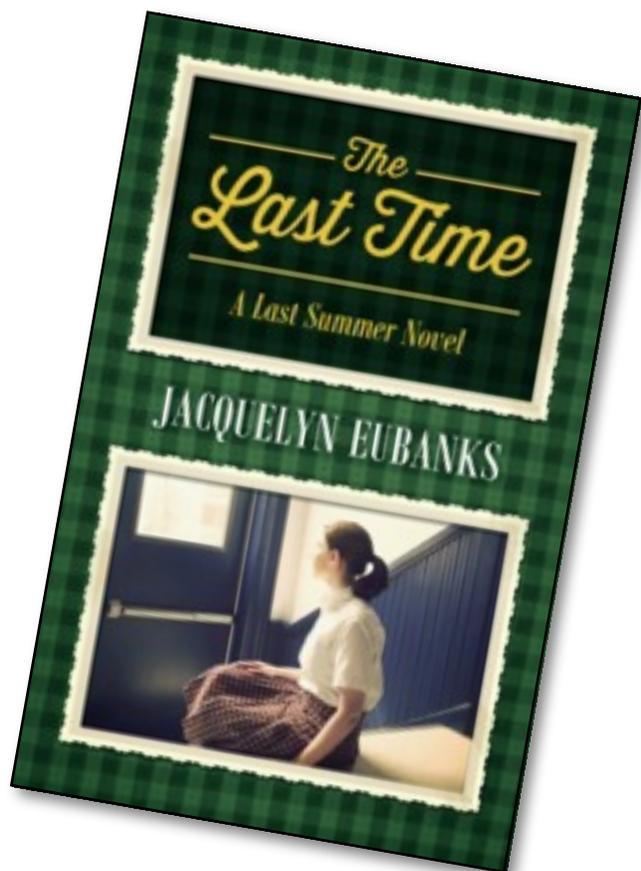
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**Author:** Jacquelyn Eubanks

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**Pages:** 249

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