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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lauren Roche's exciting debut novel signed by Quentin Wilson Publishing

High Spot Literary is delighted to announce that the debut novel from Lauren Roche, *MILA AND THE BONEMAN*, has been acquired by Quentin Wilson Publishing.

MILA AND THE BONEMAN tells the story of a young woman growing up in rural Northland and the tragedy that tears her close-knit family apart. A novel of guilt, forgiveness and finding your way home, it draws on Lauren's experiences living and working in the area as a GP.

Quentin Wilson, publisher at Quentin Wilson Publishing, is thrilled with the acquisition. "MILA AND THE BONEMAN is the most exciting, new, haunting and pure New Zealand writing I have read in a long time. I am delighted to be publishing such a brilliant author and introducing, for the first time, her exceptional fiction to the many lovers of great New Zealand literature," he said.

Lauren Roche is the author of two previously published memoirs, *BENT NOT BROKEN* and *LIFE ON THE LINE*. She overcame a turbulent childhood and adolescence where she struggled to deal with sexual abuse and rape, working as a stripper and prostitute before turning her life around. She returned to high school and university, eventually graduating as a medical doctor. Last year Lauren retired from general practice and began writing full time. She completed a Diploma in Advanced Writing through NorthTec in 2019 and is currently working on her Masters in Creative Writing at AUT.

Lauren has completed Ironman New Zealand twice and in 2019 was a recipient of the Zonta New Zealand Woman of Achievement award.

"MILA AND THE BONEMAN reflects my deep love of the north, health and healing, and living near the end of life and I am thrilled that I have found a publisher who believes in the story and understands it so completely," said Lauren. "I was running in the bush up north one day when the character of Mila came to me. A young woman with a deep love of trees and birds and family and healing who has to negotiate a world turned upside down. How would her love of the bush and the land help her to find herself again after experiencing tragedy?"

Lauren is represented by High Spot Literary. "I knew when I read the first draft of this novel that it was something special," says Vicki Marsdon who brokered the deal. "Lauren is such a beautiful writer and the character of Mila is one that stays with you long after you've finished reading. I'm delighted that Quentin Wilson has also recognized the quality of the project."

About High Spot Literary: High Spot Literary represents authors of adult fiction and non-fiction, and is a full-service literary agency that aims to find the widest possible audience for its authors both inside and outside New Zealand.

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