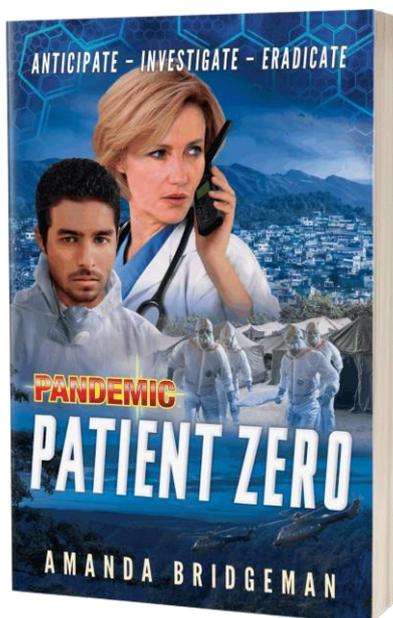




Press release

PANDEMIC NOVELS COMING FROM ACONYTE BOOKS, IN COLLABORATION WITH Z-MAN GAMES

NOTTINGHAM, UK 02 June 2021 —ACONYTE BOOKS, the fiction imprint of global games group Asmodee, has announced details of its long-planned range of novels inspired by the global bestselling game *Pandemic*. And just like that game and its spin-offs, the novels foreground highlights scientific cooperation and human ingenuity, as its heroes try to ensure that humanity is protected from future outbreaks.



The first title will be *Pandemic: Patient Zero*, hitting shelves in September 2021. A few years in the future, an expert team of epidemiologists are expressly tasked with tracking down potential outbreaks and ensuring that they are resolved before a full pandemic can break out. In this first episode, new recruit Bodhi Patel finds himself in South America, far from his comfort zone, where the clues to the source of a new mutated virus lie on land controlled by a local warlord.

Aconyte's publisher Marc Gascoigne said: "To say this series has been long in the planning would be an understatement. *Patient Zero* was completely written and about to be announced in early Spring 2020 when... well, we all know what happened next. Even with a message as positive as the one enshrined in the game and the novels, the timing wasn't right. Now updated, it truthfully and respectfully captures the

courage and sacrifice of experts in the field, and shows what can be achieved when teamwork, cooperation, and empowerment are put to the test.”

The author is Amanda Bridgeman, whose pair of futuristic crime thrillers, *The Subjugate* and *The Sensation*, have recently been optioned for a TV series by the team behind *True Detective* and *Mr Robot*. The Perth, Australia-based writer has worked closely with the Aconyte and Z-Man teams, constructing a complete cast of relatable characters, and the organisation they work for, who will appear throughout the series. Two more novels are currently in development, for publication in 2022.

About Pandemic

Pandemic is a cooperative board game in which the players work as a team to treat infections around the world while gathering resources for cures. Created by acclaimed designer Matt Leacock and first published in 2007, the game’s unique combination of cooperative gameplay, engrossing premise, and compelling design have proved a hit with everyone from hardcore gamers to casual players. Discover more at zmangames.com

About Aconyte & Asmodee Entertainment

Aconyte Books is the publishing arm of Asmodee Entertainment, a platform of global games publisher and distributor Asmodee. Its mission is to extend Asmodee’s intellectual properties into novels and comics, TV/film, location-based entertainment, and consumer products, working closely with Asmodee Boardgames and Asmodee Digital. As well as novels from the many worlds of Asmodee’s games, Aconyte is also extending its catalogue with key partnerships, including several ranges of novels set in the rich worlds of Ubisoft’s computer games and Marvel comics. Learn more at aconytebooks.com and asmodee-entertainment.biz

About Asmodee

Asmodee Group is a leading international games publisher and distributor committed to telling amazing stories through great games with many tens of millions of games sold in more than 50 countries. Through our portfolio of iconic game titles, including *Catan*, *Ticket to Ride*, *Pandemic*, *Arkham Horror*, *Splendor*, *KeyForge*, *Dobble/Spot it!* and *Star Wars: X-Wing*, we create a dynamic transmedia experience for players across a variety of digital and physical platforms. Asmodee also creates inspiring and innovative products in partnership with leading entertainment and technology companies. Asmodee operates in Europe, North America, South America and Asia and is headquartered in Guyancourt, France. Learn more at corporate.asmodee.com.

Press contact:

To find more information or to arrange an interview about Aconyte’s mission, see aconytebooks.com or email Anjuli Smith at contact@aconytebooks.com