

## NEWS RELEASE

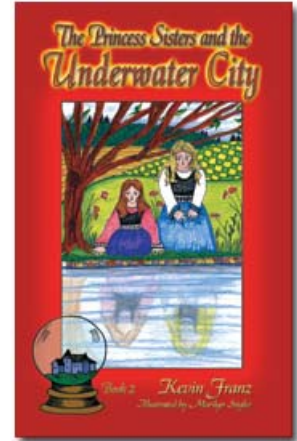
### For Immediate Release

Contact: Starbell Books 815-254-9495 ♦ Email: StarbellBooks@comcast.net

## Book 2 (and Counting) for Local Author

“When will your next book be out?” That was easily the most common question that Plainfield author Kevin Franz heard while speaking at schools throughout the area. Children quickly fell in love with the characters introduced in his first book – *Into the Hidden Lands* – and now they were clamoring for more stories starring the Princess Sisters of Castle Rose. Today, to the joy of many young fans, the second book in the series is finally available.

*The Princess Sisters and the Underwater City*, Book 2 of the Castle Rose Adventures, continues the story of two young girls that stumble upon a hidden land of mystery and magic. Impressively illustrated by Wisconsin artist Marilyn Stigler, the book combines fantasy adventure with realistic details.



Even Franz himself is a little surprised at the success of the series. “When I saw all those boxes being unloaded from the truck, I was a little nervous.” he said. “I knew I could sell a few dozen to family and friends, but a thousand? That seemed like a lot.”

As a self-publisher, Franz knew that he and his company – Starbell Books – had a lot of work to do. He began speaking about the book at any place he could. At first, things moved slowly. Less than 15 people showed up for his first engagement at the Plainfield Public Library. But positive comments began to spread, and the phone began to ring. “Before I knew it, I was standing in front of 150, 200, even 300 kids at time – many of whom had already read the first book and were waiting for more! It was really amazing.”

Franz is also quick to give credit to others that have lent support to the project. “Marilyn (the series’ illustrator), and my sister Belinda, have both been a tremendous help in promoting the books and lining up appearances. And of course my wife Denise and the rest of the family has been fantastic, too.”

But it’s really all about the stories. “Children will come up to me – or even adults – and tell me how they couldn’t put the book down. That makes it all worthwhile.”

And while the release of the *Princess Sisters and the Underwater City* is a major achievement for Franz and Starbell Books, he has his sights set much higher. “This is still only Book 2,” Franz reminds us. “I’ve got three more Castle Rose stories already written, and ideas and plots lined up for many more. This is only the beginning.”

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*The Princess Sisters and the Underwater City* is available from Starbell Books, 2507 LaBrecque Drive, Plainfield, IL 60544. The price is \$7.99, plus \$2.95 shipping and handling. Credit card orders are accepted. Reseller discounts are available. For more information call 815-254-9495, or visit our web site - [www.Princess-Sisters.com](http://www.Princess-Sisters.com). Kevin Franz is also available for interviews and speaking engagements. Email [StarbellBooks@comcast.net](mailto:StarbellBooks@comcast.net), or visit [www.StarbellBooks.com](http://www.StarbellBooks.com) for details.