

**PRESS RELEASE: Blue Harbour Group comments on Reader's Digest Acquisition**

November 16, 2006

GREENWICH, Conn., Nov. 16 /PRNewswire/ -- Blue Harbour Group, a significant shareholder of The Reader's Digest Association (NYSE: RDA), today issued the following statement from its Chief Executive Officer, Clifton S. Robbins, commenting on Reader's Digest's agreement to be acquired for \$ 17.00 per share in cash:

"Over the past year, Blue Harbour has been working with Reader's Digest's Board and management, exploring ways to optimize value for shareholders. Blue Harbour believed that the Company's shares were undervalued in the market and recommended that Readers Digest consider a going-private transaction. We applaud Reader's Digest's Board on the transaction announced today."

Blue Harbour Group, which has in excess of \$1 billion in capital, was formed in 2004 to pursue a private equity approach to public markets by acting as a lead minority investor, working cooperatively with managements and boards to create and unlock shareholder value.

