



# Quarterly Cupcake

Sweet news from around the globe in children's rights

## WELCOMING AUTUMN!

After a pleasant and productive summer, the weather is changing to a crisp autumn air (at least in London!) and everyone here at Rights People is gearing up for the Frankfurt Book Fair. We've got lots of exciting new projects to share – check out our Frankfurt Highlights on the right to get a sneak peek.

We've had a head start on fair season, with Alex Webb attending the Beijing Book Fair in August: read on for her thoughts on this exciting emerging market.

We look forward to seeing you in the Agent Centre come October, and perhaps sharing a glass of Sekt in the bar! In the meantime, enjoy my recipe for perfect autumn pumpkin and chocolate swirl cupcakes.

—Rachel Richardson

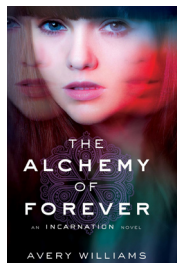
## REFLECTIONS ON THE BEIJING BOOK FAIR

It was the 19th Beijing International Book Fair this year, and I was delighted to attend on behalf of Rights People. I arrived a couple of days before the fair, to meet with Chinese and Taiwanese publishers at the offices of our agents, and then spent two full days at the fair. The Chinese market for children's and YA books is booming! Up until a few years ago, only state-owned publishers were allowed to publish for children, but in the interests of a growing market economy, these rules have been relaxed, and many professional publishers are hurrying to build up children's and YA lists. The Chinese reading public is loving books from international authors!

At the moment most books are sold through the state-owned book chain (Xin Hua Book Chain). They have a distinct advantage as many are based in state-owned buildings, so they don't have to pay the high city rents. Independent bookstores find it very hard to pay city rents, so you mostly find those in smaller towns. In addition, sales through internet bookstores are growing exponentially. Currently Dang Dang is the biggest Internet bookstore, with Amazon China a close second.

## FRANKFURT FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

**ALLOY ENTERTAINMENT** *Incarnation Vol. 1: The*



*Alchemy of Forever* by Avery Williams: After spending six hundred years on Earth, Seraphina Ames has seen it all. Eternal life provides her with the world's riches, but at a very high price: innocent lives. From the creators of *Vampire Diaries* and *The Lying Game* comes a trilogy (S&S

US, January 2012) about soul searching with a very unique twist. (Translation)

**ARENA VERLAG** *Memory* by Christoph Marzi: Jude Finney is an ordinarily disenchanted A-level student with fantasies of being a rock guitarist. He lives in an ordinary house with his single parent father. Only Jude isn't quite as ordinary as he seems. Jude can see ghosts. (World English)

**AURORA METRO** *Themba* by Lutz Van Dijk: A lucky break gives Themba the chance to train as

a footballer and play professionally - but Themba has a secret - should he tell the truth and risk everything he's ever dreamed of? (US)

**EDEN STREET LITERARY** *Miss Lilly Is Silly!* by Dan Gutman: My Weirder School weirder than ever! It's Career Day at Ella Mentry School! Mrs. Lilly, a reporter for the local paper, is going to help the kids make their own newspaper. (Translation)

**EGMONT USA** *How Not to Run for President* by Catherine Clark: For election year, a nerdy clarinet player accidentally gets mixed up in a presidential campaign—and finds he's an unlikely star. (UK & Comm)

**ERIN MURPHY LITERARY AGENCY**

*Transcendence* by C. J. Omololu: Sixteen-year-old musical prodigy Cole Ryan fears she's losing her mind until she learns from a handsome and mysterious boy that she is seeing memories from her previous lives. Full of romance, danger and intrigue! Erin Murphy sold to Walker in the US and Bloomsbury in the UK. (Translation)

**GREENHOUSE LITERARY AGENCY** *Eden* by Helen Douglas: A teenage girl starts to fall for

Continued on back/next page

They now have a 30% market share, and this is still increasing. In terms of trends and what's popular, most publishers are looking for series of six titles and more, mostly middle-grade and some YA. They love heart-warming stories with happy endings! It's not possible to sell some of

the older YA fiction, as Chinese parents and schools won't allow children to read books with more adult content. They only publish books that contain what they call 'pure love', which is why *Twilight* has been such a winner there! Paranormal/dystopian seems to have come to a standstill, with only the added element of TV/film deals to make people interested. Picture books are going well, if there are at least four books in a series, and non-fiction is slowly taking off.

It was a very beneficial week in terms of making new contacts and showing a broad range of Chinese and Taiwanese publishers our fantastic list! And I'm grateful for the warm welcome and amazing hospitality that was shown to me all week. I'd definitely recommend a visit!

—Alex Webb



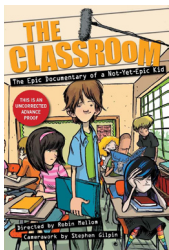
Alex Webb at The Great Wall of China  
Alex with Chen Zhongmei, Tina Yang, Eloise Elandaloussi and Terry Tao from Hachette Phoenix, publishers of *Beast Quest*

## SALES HIGHLIGHTS

- \* THE NINE LIVES OF CHLOE KING by Liz Braswell (Alloy Entertainment), now a popular TV show in the US, at auction in France to Editions Bragelonne, and to Record in Brazil and SC Leda in Romania.
- \* MY SISTER THE VAMPIRE by Sienna Mercer (Working Partners) has now sold in 10 languages, most recently to Precious Pages for Tagalog Rights and to Editions ADA for French Canadian
- \* DOG DETECTIVES by Fin & Zoa (Maverick) to Beijing 21st in China Beijing 21st Century International
- \* Quercus Publishers bought UK rights to both TAKEN BY STORM and NOBODY by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- \* A DOG CALLED HOMELESS by Sarah Lean (Greenhouse Literary Agency) to Planet Girl/Thienemann in Germany and Planeta in Spain
- \* SLIDE by Jill Hathaway (Greenhouse Literary Agency) has now sold in 11 territories, including the most recent sales to Fragment in Slovak and Czech
- \* THE MAGIC TOYSHOP by Jessie Little (Working Partners) to Azbooka-Atticus in Russia

the mysterious new boy, and then her stargazing best friend gets a telescope for his birthday. Would you believe that these occurrences could change the world? This novel will definitely change the way you look at the night sky and how you feel about true love. (Translation)

**HERMAN AGENCY** *The Classroom* series by Robin Mellom: In 2012, a documentary crew descended upon Westside Middle School to detail the life of an average seventh grader and his classmates. What they uncovered, though, was far from average. Mostly, it was upper average along with moments of extreme average, highlighted by several minutes of total epicness. This is the story. Four books to be launched as Hyperion's lead titles next year. (Translation)



**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT** *First Comes Love* by Kate Kacvinsky: Like his name, Gray is dark and stormy. Dylan, a girl always searching for what's next, seemingly unable to settle down, is the exact opposite: full of light and life. On the outside, they seem like an unlikely couple. But looks can be deceiving and besides, opposites attract. (UK & Comm)

**LERNER PUBLISHING** *Drowning Instinct* by Ilsa Bick: Jenna Lord has been through hell. But now Jenna is sixteen; sweet sixteen, the age when a girl is supposed to find her prince. Instead she finds Mr. Anderson—friendly, sympathetic (and sexy) Mr. Anderson. (UK & Comm; Translation)

**MACMILLAN US** *When the Sea is Rising Red* by Cat Heilesen: In Pelimburg, magic is only performed by High House Lammers. As the only daughter of House Pelim, Felicita's access to scriven is strictly regulated. But when her dearest friend, Ilven, throws herself over the cliffs and into the sea to escape an arranged marriage, Felicita chooses freedom over privilege. (UK & Comm).

**O'BRIEN PRESS** *Into the Grey* by Celine Kiernan: Patrick Finnerty's twin brother is dying. His only hope of saving him is to go in between this world and the next – into the grey. (US)

**PEACHTREE** *Summer on the Moon* by Adrian Fogelin: A move from an impoverished tenement to an unfinished suburban development turns thirteen-year-old Socko's world inside out,

forcing him to redefine community, loyalty and his view of himself. (UK & Comm; Translation)

**PIPPIN PROPERTIES** *The Legend of Diamond Lil: A JJ Tully Mystery* by Doreen Cronin: Latest in the series from NYT-bestselling author Doreen Cronin. J.J. is ready for some much-needed R & R. But there's a new problem to worry about: Diamond Lil, a shiny new dog who's taken up residence next door. Is Lil all that she seems? (UK & Comm, Translation)

**SCOTT TREIMEL NY** *The Clueless Girl's Guide to Being A Genius* by Janice Repka: Aphrodite Wigglesmith is a thirteen-year-old prodigy. After a fast track through Harvard, she's back at her old middle school to teach remedial math and prove a bold theory: anyone can be a genius with the right instruction. (Translation)

**STIMOLA LITERARY STUDIO** *Tiger Lily* by Jodi Lynn Andersen: A lush revisit of Neverland, through the eyes of a teenage Tiger Lily, the island's brave, mysterious warrior princess. In this retelling, it is Peter and Tiger Lily who come to the fore as would-be soul mates. (UK & Comm)

**STRIDENT** *The Danny Lansing Series: The Sons of Rissouli* by Matt Cartney: Fans of Alex Rider, Young Bond and Jimmy Coates will love this book about a boy and his uncle who uncover a top-secret, highly illegal operation to ship arms out of the country. Three books signed up. (Translation & North American)

**WENDY SCHMALZ AGENCY** *Obi- Gerbil on the Loose!* by Michael Delaney: Fun and adventurous new series for readers aged 8-12 published by Dutton. Follow Obi, the pet gerbil, on her adventures through the home – trickier than it sounds when there are pet snakes and tarantulas to contend with... (Translation)

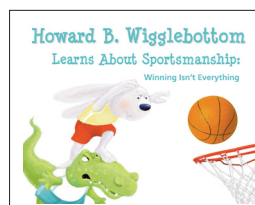
**WORKING PARTNERS LTD** *Star Fighters* series by Max Chase: Thrilling inter-galactic adventure series for readers aged 6-9. Bloomsbury UK and US have signed up for 10 titles. Space pilot in training Peri, and top Academy student Diesel find themselves unwittingly drawn into the centre of an intergalactic battle. (Translation)



PICTURE BOOKS / NON-FICTION

**HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT** *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* by Paul Galdone: a sumptuous reissue of Galdone's rendition of this classic folk tale first published in 1971 in which the country mouse discovers that if fine living is interrupted by fears and dangers then he is much happier with plain food and his peaceful cottage. (UK & Comm)

**HOWARD B. WIGGLEBOTTOM** *Learns About Sportsmanship-Winning Isn't Everything:*



Howard didn't like to lose. He just had to be the best at everything. But no one can come first all the time and Howard learns that it's OK not to win

sometimes and that doing his best and being a team player is more important. (UK & Comm; Translation)

**LERNER PUBLISHING** *Beep and Bah* by James Burks: Beep is a robot who loves adventure.

Bah is a goat and when Bah discovers a single sock, Beep knows there's only one thing to do: find its match! Beep and Bah meet monkeys, whales, and angry bears—but will they find the sock? (UK & Comm; Translation)

**MAVERICK ARTS PUBLISHING** *Sparkle's Song* by Samantha Hale: After a tragic accident, Sparkle has to live with her Aunt Mildrid who bans her beloved music from the house. Sparkle must follow a songbird to discover what secret her aunt is hiding. (US; translation)

**PIPPIN PROPERTIES** *Taking A Bath With The Dog And Other Things That Make Me Happy* by Scott Menchin: What makes you happy? From stripes to shoes, running around or sleeping upside down, everyone has a different answer. (UK & Comm; Translation)

**ZEST BOOKS** *47 Things You Can Do For The Environment:* The planet is in trouble; everyone is talking about how pollution is causing climate change, how logging and oil-drilling are ruining natural habitats, and how our trash is overflowing. Find out what can you do about it? (UK & Comm; Translation)

Pumpkin and Chocolate Swirl Cupcakes

INGREDIENTS

- (Cake batter x 2)
- 1 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 large eggs

- 1/4 cup vegetable or olive oil
- 1/4 cup butter, melted and cooled
- 3/4 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

- For the pumpkin batter: 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- For the chocolate batter: 2 to 2.5 oz melted baking chocolate, 2 tbsp cocoa powder

INSTRUCTIONS

Whisk together flour, sugars, baking powder, baking soda, spices and salt. (For the chocolate batter, whisk in the cocoa powder.) In separate bowls, whisk together eggs, vegetable oil, melted butter, pumpkin puree, milk and vanilla extract until well combined. (For the chocolate batter, whisk in the melted chocolate.) Stir each pumpkin mixture into dry ingredients. Measure an equal amount of each batter into cupcake cases, alternating spoonfuls, and swirl with a knife to create the marble pattern. Bake at 350F/175C for about 15 minutes. Makes 24 cupcakes.

Enjoy!

