



Quarterly Cupcake

Sweet news from around the globe in children's rights

WELCOMING IN HOLIDAYS AFTER BUSY AUTUMN

The days are drawing in, as my 102-year-old grandmother-in-law likes to say, and the long dark evenings are perfect for reading. With the hustle and bustle of the Frankfurt Book Fair and all the ensuing follow-up behind us, this is the time of year when rights people indulge themselves in a little non-work reading. I consider carefully what book to treat myself to after the book fair, so if you're curious about what we're enjoying (and not selling!), read on for a glimpse into our pleasure-reading lives.

We are delighted to announce that we have welcomed three new clients to the Rights People family. We are now representing North American rights for some of the fabulous books represented by Philippa Milnes-Smith of Lucas Alexander Whitley (London, UK) and both translation and UK & Commonwealth rights to the thrilling books coming from Soho Teen Press (New York, USA), whose launch list will be out in January 2013. And to make it a hat trick we're also now representing North American and UK rights to the fantastic HarperCollins Australia's Children's list—a cracking month!

I had the opportunity to spend a few days in New York City this November visiting with some editors and clients. It was wonderful when the weather turned balmy and I was able to stroll from appointment to appointment in the warm sunshine! It's always nice to connect with editors in their offices, hear about what manuscripts they've just bought, see the cartons of new ARCS and books coming through, and catch up on what everyone is after for their lists. While tastes vary, it's always interesting to note what pops up on multiple wish lists.

The two requests I heard repeated all over the place were the desire for great middle-grade stories—both standalone and

series—and realistic young adult novels. Whether the books are set in historical contexts, are hilariously funny, or are really scary thrillers, these seem to be the hot categories this season. However, no one seems to know where the next big hit is going to come from and we think that's part of the fun!

As we enter the holiday season, thoughts turn to Christmas shopping and gift-giving. Books are among my favorite gifts! Drop by Facebook and tell us what books you'd suggest for this holiday season—a good recommendation is always welcome!

Rights People wishes everyone a very happy, healthy and relaxing holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all in 2012, and in the meantime, enjoy some Chocolate Peppermint Cupcakes!

—Alexandra Devlin



Rights People team in Frankfurt: (From left) Alex Webb, Allison Hellegers, Caroline Hill-Trevor, Rachel Richardson, Alexandra Devlin, and Charles Nettleton

THE DIGITAL WORLD OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Caroline attended the Children's Publishing Goes Digital conference in Frankfurt. The discussions about apps vs eBooks were particularly interesting — although in general book apps are designed for children up to age 8 and eBooks for older children, increasingly there is a blurring of the distinction between the two and of course consumers don't really distinguish.

Jennifer Perry of Sesame Street gave a very informed presentation about how children use apps (35% of children interact with Sesame Street NOT through television) full of useful information, for example apps for young children must be landscape view as portrait is too heavy for a four year-old, and that icons should be positioned away from the bottom of the screen so they are not touched inadvertently. Also a four-year-old is more likely to be able to operate an app than tie his shoelaces— eek!

Teenagers however are still more likely to read a novel as a printed book which can be shared and are suffering technology fatigue and are averse to single-use devices such as eReaders. Rights People are having more and more conversations with our licensees about eBooks and in the not-too-distant future we are sure that we'll be seeing increasing eBook sales.

❄ SALES HIGHLIGHTS ❄

❄WATER BALLOON (Erin Murphy) to Stabenfeldt in Germany, Norway, Sweden and Finland

❄THE ALCHEMY OF FOREVER (Alloy) to Droemer Knauer in Germany and Novo Conceito in Brazil

❄SECRET CIRCLE (Alloy) to Psychogios in Greece and Algoritam in Croatia

❄THE HUNCHBACK ASSIGNMENTS (STNY) to Juvenile and Children's Publishing House in China

❄WELCOME CALLER, THIS IS CHLOE (Herman Agency) to Fischer in Germany

❄HOWARD B. WIGGLEBOTTOM series to Beijing 21st Century International Media Ltd.

❄THE REPLACEMENT (Greenhouse) to Asengard Edizioni in Italy

❄EDEN (Greenhouse) to Euromedia in Czech Republic, Novo Conceito in Brazil and Dogan Egmont in Turkey

❄KEEPER (Pippin) to Azbooka-Atticus Publishing in Russia and Ukraine

❄VAMPIRE DIARIES and STEFAN'S DIARIES (Alloy) to Ranok Publishing in Ukraine

❄STAR FIGHTERS (Working Partners) to Loewe in Germany

❄CHESHIRE CHEESE CAT (Peachtree) to RCS in Italy

❄PIE (Pippin) to Iwasaki Shoten in Japan

❄ONE DAY AND ONE AMAZING MORNING ON ORANGE STREET (Erin Murphy) to Omnibooks in Taiwan

❄THIS GIRL IS DIFFERENT (Peachtree) to Algoritam in Croatia

❄️ A SPRINKLING OF REVIEWS AND AWARDS ❄️

❄️ **CATCH & RELEASE** by Blythe Woolston (Lerner): “Engaging writing and characters lift this above the typical clichéd story of disabled teen. Heartbreakingly honest.” —*Kirkus Reviews (starred)*

❄️ **THE CHESHIRE CHEESE CAT** by Carmen Agra Deedy and Randall Wright (Peachtree): “Whether you come to this book as an English major or as a cat lover, you will agree the first line of “The Cheshire Cheese Cat” is pure genius...” —*New York Times*

❄️ **EMPIRE OF RUINS** by Art Slade (*Hunchback Assignments 3*, STNY): “Middle schoolers will crave the publication of the next installment after reading the last pages of Empire of Ruins.” —*VOYA*

❄️ **THE PROBABILITY OF MIRACLES** by Wendy Wunder (Alloy Entertainment): “Beautiful. . . Fans of Gayle Forman’s *If I Stay* (2009) and others will find hope and laughs amid tragedy.” —*Kirkus (starred)*

❄️ **IF I TELL** by Janet Gurtler (Herman Agency): “This novel also addresses the pressure students feel to fit in and encourages them to stay true to themselves. Sometimes we just need to hear that it’s OK to be different.” —*Booklist*

❄️ **FRACTURE** by Megan Miranda (Greenhouse): “The fluid writing, empathetic characters, and big questions raised elevate this paranormal romance into a haunting

meditation on what it means to be human and to truly live.” —*Publishers Weekly (starred)*

❄️ **DARK INSIDE** by Jeyn Roberts (Greenhouse): “Readers will be fully immersed in this brutal and twisted novel that begs for a discussion about humanity’s penchant for both good. . . and evil.” —*Amazon.com's WHAT'S HOT FOR FALL top 5*

❄️ **FIRES OF NEW SUN** by Michael Kinch (*Blending Time 2*, STNY): “For some great action, this can’t be beat.” —*Kirkus*

❄️ **INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN** by Thanhha Lai (Stimola Literary) —National Book Award for Young People’s Literature

❄️ **CHESHIRE CHEESE CAT** —*Kirkus Book Reviews Top Pick of 2011*

❄️ **EVERYTHING ON IT** by Shel Silverstein (Edite Kroll Literary Agency)—a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2011

❄️ **NOTHING** by Janne Teller (Gyldendal)—*ALA* Notable Book of 2011

❄️ **DEAD END IN NORVELT** by Jack Gantos (FSG)—*A Publisher’s Weekly* Best Book of 2011

❄️ **THE REAL REBECCA** by Anna Carey (O’Brien Press)—Children’s Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards

❄️ **OKAY FOR NOW** by Gary D. Schmidt (Clarion)—a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2011

Alexandra: “I’m a big fan of historical fiction and over the holidays, I’m indulging that love with the new Alice Hoffman novel *The Dovekeepers* about four incredible women in ancient Israel, as well as *The Scottish Prisoner*, the latest from Diana Gabaldon’s addictive series.”

Rachel: “I’ve got *Hunger Games* on my Kindle to take me away from the dystopia of the London Underground. On my nightstand is *The 19th Wife* by David Ebershoff and in between I’m indulging in *Everything I Know About Love I learned from Romance Novels* by Sarah Wendell.”

WHAT WE’RE READING

Alex: “My current book group read is *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* by Kim Edwards, which in a group full of parents will make for an interesting discussion! And I’m also loving *Purls of Wisdom* by Jenny Lord - a great book for winter knits, and very timely as the cold weather comes in.”

Allison: “I was delightfully surprised by comic Sarah Silverman’s hilarious and heartfelt reading of her own audio book, *The Bedwetter: Stories of Courage, Redemption,*

and Pee. Also, I’ve put away my Kindle for a hardcover novel (a rarity!) —Jeffrey Eugenides’ *The Marriage Plot*, a book that’s making me nostalgic for my days in college English class and studying abroad.”

Caroline: “I do read non-dog books but I have saved *Ordinary Dogs: A Story of Two Lives* by Eileen Battersby, Literary Correspondent of The Irish Times as my holiday treat. And I am also going to re-read Mary Stewart’s *Airs Above the Ground*, inspired to do so by a recent weekend in Vienna and a visit to the Spanish Riding School to watch the famous Lippizaner stallions perform.”

❄️ Chocolate Cupcakes with Peppermint Icing ❄️

Ingredients:

200g dark chocolate
340g butter
2-1/4 cups sugar
8 eggs
1-1/4 cup flour
1/4 cup cocoa powder, unsweetened
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
pinch of salt

Directions: Melt chocolate and butter together in a double boiler. Remove from heat and stir in sugar; let stand for 10 minutes. Beat in an electric mixer for 3 minutes, then add the eggs one at a time, mixing for 30 seconds between each (the batter will now start to come together). Sift in the remaining ingredients and mix until well blended. Bake in cupcake cases at 350F/180C for 20-25 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean. For the icing, add a drop or two of peppermint extract to buttercream icing.



From the Kitchen of Rachel Richardson