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**MEGA-BESTSELLING AUTHORS IN YOUNG ADULT BOOK,**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT DARFURI REFUGEES**

**Reston, VA, September 15, 2011 –** Eighteen authors with combined sales of more than 600 million books, including mega-bestsellers R.L. Stine (*Goosebumps*, *Fear Street*), Ann M. Martin (*The Baby-sitters Club*), Alexander McCall Smith (*The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*), Meg Cabot (*The Princess Diaries*), and Cornelia Funke (*Inkheart*) have contributed to *What You Wish For* (ISBN 9780399254543), a collection of stories and poems for ages 12+ that launches today. The Reston-based 501(c)(3) charity Book Wish Foundation organized the book, which is being published by Penguin/G.P. Putnam’s Sons, and will donate 100% of its proceeds to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, to fund libraries in Darfuri refugee camps. UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and Darfur advocate Mia Farrow wrote the foreword.

The all-star roster also features Newbery medalists Karen Hesse (*Out of the Dust*) and Cynthia Voigt (*Dicey’s Song*), National Book Award-winner Joyce Carol Oates (*them*), John Green (*Looking for Alaska*), Francisco X. Stork (*Marcelo in the Real World*), Jeanne DuPrau (*The City of Ember*), and Sofia Quintero (*Efrain’s Secret*); poets Nikki Giovanni, Naomi Shihab Nye, Marilyn Nelson, Gary Soto, and Jane Yolen; and graphic novelist Nate Powell (*Swallow Me Whole*). Their contributions explore the shared theme of wishes in the context of friendship, love, family, bullying and other topics teens care about. The American Library Association’s *Booklist* magazine awards a starred review to the collection in its October 1 issue.

Book Wish Foundation Co-Founder Logan Kleinwaks said that “*What You Wish For* offers literary riches to its readers, and its readers return the gift many times over by helping the Darfuris. By buying this book, anyone can join forces with these incredible authors.” To increase the humanitarian impact of purchases, online bookseller Better World Books (betterworldbooks.com) will donate its net profits from sales of the book.

Authors R.L. Stine, Ann M. Martin, Karen Hesse, Sofia Quintero, Jeanne DuPrau, Marilyn Nelson, and Nate Powell will participate in a book signing at Books of Wonder in Manhattan on October 17, 7:00‑9:00 PM. Earlier in the day, they will be joined via Skype by Meg Cabot, Nikki Giovanni, and Cornelia Funke for an invitation-only panel discussion and Darfur event at the UN’s Dag Hammarskjöld Library. More information about author events, where to purchase *What You Wish For*, and the progress of the refugee camp library initiative can be found at bookwish.org.

*What You Wish For* – ISBN9780399254543, on sale September 15, 2011, ages 12+, hardcover, $17.99.

**Advance praise for *What You Wish For*:**

“...the writers offering stories and poems are a who's who of children's book authors .... There isn't a weak story in the book … Cynthia Voigt's ‘The Stepsister,’ a potent, reimagined version of ‘Cinderella,’ includes a shocking twist during the archetypal shoe fitting … John Green's ‘Reasons,’ told in lists, is a sweet-spirited, inventive, and wistful tale …” –*Booklist*, starred review (to appear Oct. 1)

“Meg Cabot's nerdy hero, seeking a friend, is heartbreakingly funny. … Francisco X. Stork introduces Pablito, Breaker-Breaker and Sherry B in a stellar tale of teens supporting one another in a group home. … As for the poetry, with offerings from Naomi Shihab Nye, Marilyn Nelson, Gary Soto and Nikki Giovanni, even these tiny verses are lovely.” –*Kirkus Reviews*

“Cynthia Voigt’s retelling of Cinderella, which puts her stepfamily at the forefront, is a standout; others include Francisco X. Stork’s heart-wrenching story of a 15-year-old living in a group home while his mother is in prison, and John Green’s profound and funny contribution, told in lists, about a boy who falls for the picture of the orphan his mother is supporting in Kashmir.” –*Publishers Weekly*

**About Book Wish Foundation:**

Book Wish Foundation is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) public charity providing high-impact reading aid for people in crisis, with a current focus on refugees from Darfur and AIDS orphans in Ghana. Created in 2007 by a mother-son team in response to a *Washington Post* article about the lack of books in a Darfuri refugee camp in Chad, Book Wish Foundation has provided requested books, reading glasses, and solar-rechargeable lighting as part of a comprehensive approach to helping highly vulnerable people read the books that matter most to them.

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