July 22, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a publisher for more than ten years with more than 40 titles (reviews by Kirkus, The Horn Book blog, *School Library Journal*, *ForeWord Reviews*; distribution by most major distributors). I have a M.A. in international relations and a B.A. in journalism. I regularly provide work opportunities for artists. I teach media at a state college, and I present regularly on publishing, story creation, and copyright law.

For me, copyright law is not an abstract legal issue, but the basis on which my livelihood rests. Our copyrights are the products we license. Infringing our work is like stealing from us. It is vital to our business that we remain able to determine voluntarily how and by whom our work is used; our work does NOT lose its value upon publication. Everything painstakingly created becomes part of our business inventory. In the digital era, our inventory is more valuable than ever before.

Please do not void our Constitutional right to the exclusive control of our work, nor "privilege" the public's right to use our work, nor "pressure" us to register our work with commercial registries.

Likewise, do not "orphan" unregistered work or make orphaned work available for commercial infringement by "good faith" infringers. Do not allow others to alter our work and copyright these "derivative works" in their own names--now or ever--domestically or abroad.

Sincerely,

Karl Beckstrand
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