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Acquisitions Project
23 April 2024

Lucy Wang and the Dragon Resistance

XXX Sun-Li

Selling Points:

- Dragon-human shapeshifter, Lucy Wang, joins the rebellious group of the Dragon Resistance against human society but soon finds out that there is more to humans and dragons than just their outer shells.
- Gripping, vivid, and effective use of imagery.
- The dragons feel as if they walked off the page and are sitting right in front of you.
- Witty, stubborn, and well-fleshed characters cause the reader to keep turning the pages.
- A consistent ebb and flow with the pace, encouraging you to keep reading, and maybe even rooting for the Resistance.
- Breadcrumbs of flashbacks are listed throughout, pushing not only the characters but the reader through Lucy's journey.
- An innovative twist on real-life conflicts, like identity crises and trying to fit into a world that is a scary/unknown place but with a fantasy twist, with a blend of Chinese culture.

Author Bio:

XXX Sun-Li is a Chinese American author and a recent graduate from Simmons University with both an MA in Children's Literature and an MFA in Writing for Children. Before finding Simmons University to continue her education, XXX spent two years teaching English to students in Taiwan. While teaching students, she also studied Mandarin Chinese over the expanse of the years. Her debut picture book, *Mr. Chow's Night Market*, was recently contracted by Penguin Random House and will be released in the Spring of 2026. Her fantastical and whimsy writing style suits kids of all ages. Not only is she well-versed in Children's Literature, but XXX has also been writing poetry over the years. You can find her poetry published under Button Poetry, Molecule, and Rigorous. Her prose has been recognized by the City of Boston, YoungArts Foundation, and Voyage YA. If you can find XXX not typing vigorously away at a new writing project, she will mostly likely be traveling, catching up with friends, drinking milk tea, or at a local bookstore.

Comp Titles: with the idea of bumping up Lucy's age

1. *Fire With Fire*, by Destiny Soria
 - a. Published June 8, 2021 by Clarion Books
 - b. Hardcover Price \$17.99/Paperback Price \$13.99
 - c. Premise Statement: The extremely different Rivera sisters were born to hunt dragons, but after being forced into opposing sides, the sisters learn about the truth and the strength of family.
 - d. This comp title similarly follows two sisters in a human/dragon world. However, it has a harsh focus on the human against dragon-world than XXX's novel. It does not hold the same shapeshifting abilities as Lucy Wang but lies about both the human species and dragon species run rampant in the turmoil of this book. It is also classified as a young adult fantasy novel. While Lucy Wang focuses on learning about the truth behind the human world, Fire by Fire focuses on learning the truth about the intelligent dragon species. It is about sacrifices, identity, and the importance of family, all similar themes in Lucy Wang, but told in a different light and with a focus heavy on the human world.
 - e. Editorial Review: "Hits all the marks for an absorbing and high-spirited read." – Kirkus Reviews
2. *Dragon's Fire: Rise of the Elementals* by Neftali Hernandez
 - a. Published August 16, 2023, by Neftali Hernandez (self-published)
 - b. Paperback price: \$17.99
 - c. Premise Statement: Ezekiel is thrust into a war between dragons and dragon slayers, learning how to wield his shape-shifting dragon powers, and battling to survive.
 - d. While this book also deals with human-dragon shapeshifters, the plot is vastly different. It feels like the prologue/legend of Lucy and the Dragon Wars. Following a male main character instead, this story focuses more on war and battle than sly rebellion which is visible in Lucy's story. It dives more into the history of who the main characters' ancestors are but has similar themes of self-

discovery and making hard decisions/standing up for what you believe in, regardless of the consequences. While there are several slight differences, it is similar enough in the market for me to tag as a comp title.

- e. Editorial Review: “A gripping tale of courage, sacrifice, and the battle for survival.” – School Library Journal

3. *The Dragon’s Promise* by Elizabeth Lim

- a. Published August 30, 2022, by Knopf Books for Young Readers
- b. Hardcover Price: \$19.99/Paperback Price: \$12.99
- c. Premise Statement: After promising to return the dragon pearl to its owner, Princess Shiori learns about political turmoil and how to protect herself in the dragon world.
- d. While this novel is a bit more high fantasy stakes than *Lucy Wang*, the main character must make a dangerous journey to the dragon world. Once again, not a young adult book that contains the same shapeshifting ability as *Lucy Wang*, but still includes political and past turmoil while fighting for a cause. Princess Shiori is only completely on this treacherous journey to protect her family and loved ones. She may not hold a shapeshifting secret, but she does hold the secret of containing great power. Another strong female main character taking the ropes. People who pick up this book would also be a similar audience member for *Lucy Wang*.
- e. Editorial Review: The writing is vibrant and colorful, as with the descriptions of palaces both on land and sea, for readers seeking sincere romance and quests, this fulfills its promise.” -Kirkus Reviews

Promotion:

XXX Sun-Li will first begin her promotion for *Lucy Wang and the Dragon Resistance* by revisiting Simmons University as a guest author speaker for the MFA program. They will interview, ask questions, and prompt XXX to speak of this newly released book and how the university helped shape her writing style. Not only do I think it will draw attention to her book, as fellow peers and teachers would be intrigued to see what her book looks like as a published

piece, but it will also inspire hope to others in the MFA program. Another potential college spot she could be interviewed at would be Emerson College, as she participated in the Book Editing class with Raquel Pidal and her students with her drafted manuscript. Since her book is YA, college students would be interested in reading her novel as well as professors. Finally, the last college spot for her to hit for her book tour/promotion would be the University of Pennsylvania where she taught English Literature to undergraduate students. Again, these are places where she is a familiar face and are all places that were important to her stepping stone of this published product.

In between college tours, XXX Sun-Li could also visit local and small business bookstores in Boston. Here she could do a Q&A along with a signing event. XXX and the partnered bookstore businesses will be responsible for ensuring that they are advertising the event in the weeks to come. This will help sell tickets and books, and make XXX well known to the community. It will increase her readership for her next release after *Lucy Wang and the Dragon Resistance*. Some bookstores could be Trident Booksellers, who frequently do release parties and author events, Beacon Hill Books, who recently have blown up on TikTok, and Park Street Books & Toys, which is highly commended for its unique design and status.

Of course, the author will also post on her website and her social media about her new novel. She will be included in an online, live, Tiktok release party considering the age of her audience. Young adults are consistently on social media, and it would be a great way to kick off the promotional tour. Arcs will be sent to booktubers, like Haley Pham, so they can read and review before the release date with the hopes that they will post a blurb online for XXX. Haley Pham is known for enjoying young adult fantasy novels and her reviews are highly respected with a massive following online. Not only will XXX be active on social during these times, but she will also be doing a book giveaway of her new young adult release with her children's storybooks included as well. By participating in this versatile giveaway, she is showing her readers and the community that she is a diverse author for many ages. This will help her build a relationship with her followers as well as trust. Hopefully, parents will see that XXX is an author for their children at a young age and as they grow up!

Types of Publishers:

One publishing company I noticed popping up several times during my acquisitions journey was Knopf Books for Young Readers. They are currently taking submissions, but only if submissions are sent over by agents. XXX would have to ensure that her agent would be willing to reach out to Knopf Books for Young Readers but most of their young adult books contain 15-16-year-olds.

Another publisher who is on the docket is Page Street Publishing which is accepting submissions without an agent. They work with picture books, middle grade, young adult, and LGBTQIA+, as well as several different genres. Page Street Publishing is a diverse publishing company that would suit XXX's manuscript regardless of which age range she decides to make Lucy. It is an indie publishing company that is mid size that I think would show great interest in XXX's manuscript.

Although I believe that XXX's book would excel in a mid size publishing house, Penguin Random House may also show an interest in XXX since they have already signed a contract with her to publish Children's books. However, she was published under Penguin Workshop which is strictly a storybook publication. She could potentially submit her manuscript to Crown Publishing Group, but an agent would be required.

Reader Audience:

With this specific novel in mind for the audience, XXX's readers will be a diverse and inclusive group. With *Lucy Wang* holding Chinese mythology and LGBTQIA+ themes, her stories will reach a vast audience. Her ideal readers will be in the 16-18 range, who enjoy non-high stakes fantasy novels, and dragons, enjoy witty and quirky banter, morally gray main characters, could be associated with the LGBTQIA+ community, could identify as Chinese and/or Chinese American, and enjoy strong female main characters. Her audience will find out about new books through social media like TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. They are also the type of individuals to trust book recommendations from strangers and friends as reading is a big part of their lives. They are the type to read books online and in print, but most likely online first before picking up a physical copy unless a book signing is taking place. But when they do buy books, boy do they buy books. A large majority of her readership will most likely come from Boston followers, especially after her promotional tour.