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TOKYOPOP® RETURNS TO PUBLISHING ORIGINAL MANGA IN APRIL 2017

Sophie-chan's "Ocean of Secrets" to be Released By the Publisher Who Inspired It

LOS ANGELES, CA — Expanding upon the success of the media company's Disney Manga program, TOKYOPOP, the pioneer of manga in the North America, will publish the first volume of the fantastical *shojo manga* series, *Ocean of Secrets* in April 2017.

Ocean of Secrets is written and drawn by Sophie-chan, discovered through POP Comics, a mobile-first manga and comics platform, allowing users the ability to upload, read, and connect with original comics and their creators on any smartphone or tablet.

After being ship wrecked, Lia, an orphan girl joins the cold-hearted Captain Albert on a mission to escape powerful knights from Lyronaz. She engages with a magic power beyond her wildest dreams and discovers how the murder of Lyronaz's queen is related to Albert.

Artist and writer Sophie-chan was born in Iraq and became infatuated with shojo manga at the tender age of seven. Determined to fulfill a dream of creating her own manga, she taught herself to draw, even as she studied to become an engineer. In 2008 she started a YouTube channel to show off her artwork, which has since amassed an audience of 370k subscribers, with fans of her original creations all around the world!

"TOKYOPOP opened my eyes to the world of *manga*, and here I am 12 years later publishing my *manga* to the world through them," says Sophie-chan.

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Now living in Canada with her family, Sophie-chan proves that with hard work, patience and sheer determination you can realize your dreams and continues to inspire others with her incredible story. TOKYOPOP is delighted to support her work with the release of the first volume of *Ocean of Secrets* in April.

“Through her YouTube channel and how-to-draw books, Sophie-chan is an inspiration for many aspiring artists as well as a talented manga creator in her own right” says TOKYOPOP founder, Stu Levy. “We at TOKYOPOP are thrilled to introduce her debut work *Ocean of Secrets* to readers worldwide.”

Additionally, from the pages of the company’s *Rising Stars of Manga* anthology series, fans of M. Alice Legrow’s *Bizenghast* can expect to see volumes 2 and 3 of the brand new collector’s edition on shelves in February and May.

Detailed information can be found below:

Title: *Ocean of Secrets*, Volume 1

ISBN: 978-1-4278-5714-9

eISBN: 978-1-4278-5715-6

SRP: \$10.99

eSRP: \$6.99

Pages: 160

Softcover color w/ B&W interiors

Release date: April 2017

About POP Media Holdings

Founded in 1997 by filmmaker and entrepreneur Stu Levy, POP Media Holdings brings Asian Pop Culture to Hollywood and beyond. Its publishing company TOKYOPOP® established the market for *manga* in North America, introducing the term to the English language in the process. Over its history, POP has published thousands of books, distributed anime and Asian films on home video and television, licensed merchandise to consumer goods companies, created graphic novels of major brands and led the way digitally in social media, e-commerce and user-generated content, including the mobile publishing platform POP Comics®. POP expanded internationally with offices in Europe and Japan and a network of over 160 partners in more than 50 countries and 30 languages. Its production arm has produced live-action and animated film and television content based on its extensive intellectual property library, including *Priest*, *America’s Greatest Otaku*, *Van Von Hunter*, and a slate of projects currently in development. Visit POP at www.TOKYOPOP.com, www.TOKYOPOP.de, www.POPcomics.com,

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