

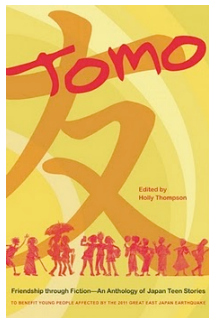
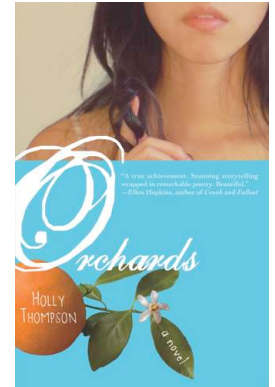
# Author Holly Thompson

## **ORCHARDS** by Holly Thompson

**Delacorte/Random House, February 2011**

After a bullied classmate commits suicide, Kana Goldberg is sent to her family's home in Japan for the summer. Kana wasn't the bully, not exactly, but she didn't do anything to stop what happened, either. As Kana begins to process the pain and guilt she feels, news from home sends her world spinning out of orbit all over again.

- Nominated title for **ALA YALSA 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults**
- Nominated for a **2012 Sakura Medal** and **2012 Red Dot Award**
- "A fast-paced page-turner that explores the rippling effects of suicide." —*Kirkus Reviews*
- **\*STARRED REVIEW\*** "The narrative is rich in authentic cultural detail and is complemented by attractive woodcut illustrations of Japanese imagery to evoke the story's setting. Thompson has crafted an exquisite, thought-provoking story of grief and healing that will resonate with teen readers and give them much to discuss." —*School Library Journal*



## **TOMO: Friendship through Fiction—An Anthology of Japan Teen Fiction**

**edited by Holly Thompson**

**Stone Bridge Press, March 10, 2012**

Tomo, which means "friend" in Japanese, aims to bring Japan stories to young adult readers worldwide. Writers in Japan and around the globe have contributed 36 stories, including 10 in translation. Tales of friendship, mystery, love, ghosts, magic, sci-fi and history will take readers to Japan past and present and to Japanese communities abroad. Proceeds from sales will go to organizations that assist teens affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

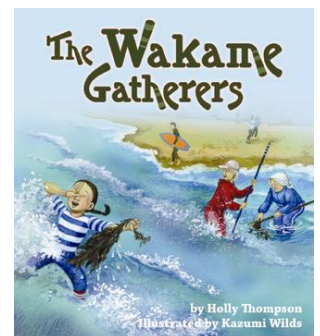
Visit the *Tomo* blog: [TomoAnthology.blogspot.com](http://TomoAnthology.blogspot.com)

## **THE WAKAME GATHERERS** by Holly Thompson, illustrated by Kazumi Wilds

**Shen's Books, 2007**

Nanami, a bicultural girl in Japan goes wakame seaweed gathering with her Japanese and American grandmothers. Nanami must serve as translator for the two women, whom she comes to understand were at war when they were her age. Included after the story are an author's note about wakame, a glossary of Japanese words used, and recipes for wakame by Nanami and each of her grandmothers.

- **A Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2009** selected by the National Council for the Social Studies in cooperation with the Children's Book Council
- "A heartwarming example of how being from different cultures, countries, and races and speaking another language are not really barriers to appreciation and acceptance..."—*Multicultural Review, Fall 2008*
- "Nanami is the translator when her Japanese and American grandmothers harvest wakame, a seaweed eaten in Japan. Their pleasant collaboration inspires each woman's memories of seaside living and World War II. Though their granddaughter is momentarily upset by her conflicted heritage, all three quickly promise 'to protect the peace.'"—*School Library Journal, East Meets West, April 2008*



## **ASH** a novel by Holly Thompson

**Stone Bridge Press, 2001**

Caitlin Ober is back in Japan teaching English in remote Kagoshima, opposite the increasingly active volcano Sakurajima. Beneath clouds of ash, Caitlin travels her school rounds with waning enthusiasm, and she concocts lies and self-deceptions to prevent a tragic childhood incident in Kyoto from intruding on her present. Then Caitlin encounters a half-Japanese teenager, Naomi, wrangling with her double identity. Naomi seems to require Caitlin's rescue, and by degrees the two swap morsels of self-truths. Ultimately they travel to Kyoto during the summer festival of O-Bon, when the spirits of the dead revisit the living. There, amid bonfires, temple rites, and ghostly memories, Caitlin begins to embrace her future.

- "Backed by meticulous research, Thompson's novel introduces a variety of topics that can be usefully pursued by high school or college level students studying contemporary Japan: details of geography and daily life, the role of O-Bon and beliefs about death, the challenges faced by bicultural and bilingual children growing up in Japan, and the double vision developed by expatriate Caitlin herself."—**Jean Kushida, Education About Asia, Spring 2004**
- "*Ash* is a standout in the growing body of literature written by non-Japanese and set in Japan. Richly and precisely observed, it resonates with the kind of phrases you want to linger over."—*Daily Yomiuri, December 23, 2001*
- "With phrasing as delicate as that of a Haiku, first-time novelist Holly Thompson crafts a deeply moving story that crosses cultural, emotional and even sexual barriers. A wonderful debut."—*January Magazine's Best of 2001*



*Holly Thompson, raised in New England and a longtime resident of Japan, teaches creative and academic writing at Yokohama City University. She serves as Regional Advisor of the Tokyo chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). Her fiction often focuses on the complexities of intercultural identity and the impact of cross-cultural matters on personal lives.*

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