

William Sandberg's 'The Golden Codex' Showcases Original Fantasy World-Building at BIBF 2026

Explora Books presented *The Golden Codex* by Canadian author William Sandberg at the 2026 Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF), held June 17–21 at the China National Convention Center (CNCC) in Beijing.



Vancouver, British Columbia Aug 6, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - Displayed at Booth 5A.B14, the debut speculative novel formed part of Explora Books' international showcase, introducing international publishing professionals and readers to an original fantasy world developed through extensive,

independent world-building rather than traditional mythological frameworks.

The Golden Codex follows Piers Ralston, a fourteen-year-old Vancouver teenager whose apprenticeship at an antiques store run by his father's longtime mentor proves to be the beginning of his initiation into Brahan, a system of esoteric practice tied to a cosmology of layered "orbs" of reality. Piers learns he has been entered into the "kravl inventory" of the Kopendres Syndicate, a covert organization trafficking people between worlds, after his father narrowly escaped the same fate years earlier. Across sixteen chapters, Piers evolves from a skeptical apprentice into a reluctant traveler bound for Sunara, the higher orb introduced early in the novel. Rather than ending in conventional triumph, the story closes with sacrifice and transformation, as his body remains on life support while his purified ethesia carries the Codex forward.

The novel roots its cosmology in a recognizable South Vancouver, from the Marpole rail bridge over the Fraser River to the city's antiques district, allowing familiar geography to sharpen the moments when it gives way to the wahan, the hidden tunnels connecting the orbs. That grounding offered an accessible entry point for BIBF's international audience, balancing a distinctly local setting with universal themes of identity, destiny, and discovery. Its blend of grounded realism and philosophical fantasy places it within a broader tradition of literary speculative fiction while remaining uniquely its own.

The fair's 40th-anniversary edition brought together over 1,700 exhibitors from 82 countries and regions, with the United Arab Emirates serving as Guest of Honor under the theme "Community and People." Much of the week's programming centered on artificial intelligence, intellectual property licensing, and cross-media adaptation. Within that context, *The Golden Codex* reflected the richly developed fictional universe that readily lends itself to expansion across multiple creative formats, aligning with the fair's growing emphasis on intellectual property development and international rights exchange. Beyond its adaptation potential, the novel's exploration of secret societies, inherited responsibility, and interconnected worlds also echoed the fair's broader interest in stories that examine how communities—and the knowledge they preserve—shape successive generations.

[*The Golden Codex*](#) is available through Amazon and other major digital bookstores.

About Explora Books

Explora Books is a book marketing firm located in the heart of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The company specializes in self-publishing and marketing, taking pride in its exhaustive research and creative strategies that provide wider avenues for aspiring authors to gain recognition for their works. Explora Books aims to guide authors through the complexities of self-publishing, offering convenient solutions to navigate this process. The firm fosters and redefines creativity and innovation, setting new industry standards. Explora Books is dedicated to empowering authors globally.



Media Contact

Explora Books Ltd

*****@explorabooks.com

(604) 259-9775

700 – 838 West Hastings St.

<http://www.explorabooks.com>

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