

Tina Coccolina
Canta e si diverte
cantando





Tina Cocolina

Queen of the Cupcakes



by Pablo Cartaya and Martin Howard
illustrated by Kirsten Richards

RANDOM HOUSE  NEW YORK

Text copyright © 2010 by Pablo Cartaya and Martin Howard
Illustrations copyright © 2010 by Kirsten Richards

All rights reserved.

Published in the United States by Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York.

Random House and the colophon are registered trademarks of Random House, Inc.

Visit us on the Web! www.randomhouse.com/kids

Educators and librarians, for a variety of teaching tools, visit us at www.randomhouse.com/teachers

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cartaya, Pablo.

Tina Cocolina: queen of the cupcakes / by Pablo Cartaya and Martin Howard ; illustrated by Kirsten Richards.
— 1st ed.

p. cm.

Summary: Tina Cocolina is a cupcake searching for her perfect topping so that she can compete in the annual Cream of the Top Cupcake contest.

Includes recipes for cupcakes and toppings from award-winning pastry chef Martin Howard.

eISBN: 978-0-375-98330-6

[1. Cup cakes—Fiction. 2. Icings, Cake—Fiction. 3. Individuality—Fiction. 4. Contests—Fiction.] I. Howard, Martin. II. Richards, Kirsten, ill. III. Title.

PZ7.C24253Tin 2010 [E]—dc22 2008034175

Random House Children's Books supports the First Amendment and celebrates the right to read.

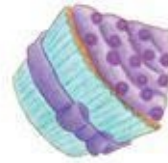
v3.1

*To Penelope,
my original cupcake princess
—P.C.*

*To my mother,
who always kept the cookie jar full of tasty homemade treats
—M.H.*



CONTENTS



[Title Page](#)

[Copyright](#)

[First Page](#)

[Recipes](#)

[About the Author](#)

At the Gingersnap Academy for Rising Cupcakes in southern Charleston, most of the cupcakes had found their toppings.



Tina Cocolina had not. What was worse, the Cream of the Top Cupcake contest was tonight, and everyone knew that cupcakes without toppings could not compete!



Tina's classmate Candyce Cremeire, last year's Cream of the Top Cupcake Queen, found her spicy buttercream topping while scratching out a recipe during snack time!



Billy Barry Blue, a red velvet cupcake from Marietta, found his frosting while rolling in a patch of ripe berries on a dare!



Even Carmella du Chocolat, a French exchange cake who was a whole year younger, found her triple berry fudge swirl while playing the viola in music class one day.



But poor Tina Cocolina had not the slightest idea what to wear as her topping. She searched everywhere.



She wandered through the peanut butter brownie patch. But peanut butter just wasn't *her*.



She trotted to the chocolate fudge sauce stream and dipped her head in, hoping the fudge would stick.
Sticky as it was, it didn't stick to her!



Then Tina went to the weeping caramel tree and looked up into its branches, glistening with delicious, gooey sauce. What an *excellent* topping it would make!



But the branches stuck to her head and she couldn't get down! She had to kick and swing herself every which way to pull herself free.



It was only two hours until the contest, and still Tina Cocolina had not found her topping. Sadly, she dragged herself home.



She went into the kitchen and flung her pastry bag onto the counter. Mamma Cocolina was busy making supper.



Mamma Cocolina was a beautiful cupcake. When she was a girl, she had won the Cream of the Top Cupcake contest three times! She had found her favorite topping—raspberry buttercream with toasted almonds—while cheering for the school team, the Mixed Fruit Tarts.



“What’s the matter, sweetie?” Mamma asked.

“Mamma, why haven’t I found my topping yet?” Tina asked.

