

FBF 2018: CHILDREN/ YA, selected new titles (Young Adult – Middle grade)

Young Adult



Rebecca Denton
THE PUNK FACTOR

Client: Blake Friedmann Literary, TV and Film Agency Ltd
Publisher: Atom
November 2018

A fresh, fierce and funny YA novel featuring an all-girl punk band scamming their way to glory

17-year-old Frankie is obsessed with what everyone else is thinking. She can keep up with the chat, but when it comes to her own ideas, it's not so easy to hide her lack of confidence.

With the help of her best friend, Haruna, Frankie forms a punk rock girl band to attract the attention of Doc – her spiky-haired, joint-smoking ex-boyfriend. She's got it all sorted; the Instagram page is live, the handmade posters are everywhere, and the band even has a first gig lined up (even if they are playing to a handful of retired bingo fans). But in her efforts to make the band a success and get Doc to notice her, Frankie starts to care less about what he thinks and more about how much she loves making music. She finally feels a glimpse of who she can be, independent of anyone else. Then one day, Doc decides he is going to win her back . . .

Punk is nothing without the freedom to be exactly who you want. But what if you're not sure who that is yet? Can you make your own noise when everyone else seems so much louder than you?

After a brief stint in radio, **Rebecca Denton** moved to London and spent her career travelling the world making Music TV for MTV and Channel 4, and creating award-winning digital content for Cartoon Network, the BBC and ITV. She's worked with diverse talent; from Scooby Doo and The Powerpuff Girls to Gumball to Iggy Pop, Sonic Youth, Jack White and Laura Marling. She now lives between London, Austria and New Zealand, with her young family and freelances in TV and writes YA novels and horror movie scripts.

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Julie Eshbaugh
CROWN OF OBLIVION

Client: Adams Literary
Publisher: HarperCollins
Fall 2019

As the surrogate to Princess Renya, Astrid lives amongst royalty. Her life, however, is far from privileged. If Renya steps out of line, Astrid is the one who gets whipped. It's a nightmare, but Astrid has no choice – she and her family are Outsiders, the lowest class of people, without magic or citizenship.

The only way out is to compete in the deadly Race of Oblivion. First, racers are dosed with the drug Oblivion which wipes their memories. Then they awake in the middle of nowhere with a slip of paper containing the race's first clue. Whoever finds the clues first and crosses the finish line wins. That's the only rule – racers have killed each other in pursuit of the next clue, and the punishing terrain kills even more of them. For Astrid, competing could mean death. But winning could mean freedom.

Julie Eshbaugh once produced an online video series for teens which received several honors from the Webby Awards. Now, she focuses her time on writing. Her debut YA novel, *Ivory and Bone*, was published by HarperTeen in June 2016, and its sequel, *Obsidian and Stars*, followed in June 2017. She is also a contributing author to *Welcome Home*, an Anthology of Love and Adoption.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Gillian French
THE MISSING SEASON

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: HarperTeen
Summer 2019

Look hard enough and you can see anything

There's something in the marshes outside the town of Pender. Whenever another kid goes missing in October, the town's adults are quick to offer excuses. Overdose. Train accident. But the Pender kids know what is really behind it: a horrific monster they have named the Mumbler.

That's what Clara's new crew tells her when she moves to town: Bree and Sage, who take her under their wing; spirited Trace, who has taken the lead on this year's Halloween prank war; and magnetic Kincaid, whose devil-may-care attitude and air of mystery are impossible for Clara to resist, no matter how hard she tries.

Clara doesn't actually believe in the Mumbler—not the way Kincaid does. But as Halloween gets closer and tensions build in the town, it's hard to shake the feeling that there really is something dark and dangerous in Pender, lurking in the shadows, waiting to bring the stories to life.

Gillian French is the author of *Grit* (HarperTeen, May 2017), which was a finalist for the 2018 Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Young Adult; *The Lies They Tell* (HarperTeen, 2018); and *The Door to January* (Islandport Press, September 2017), which was a 2017 Bram Stoker Awards Final Ballot Nominee for Superior Achievement in a Young Adult Novel. Her short fiction has appeared in *Odd Tree Press Quarterly #1*, *EMP Publishing's* anthology *Creepy Campfire Stories* (for *Grownups*), *Sanitarium Magazine*, and *The Realm Beyond*. She lives in Bucksport, Maine with her husband and son.

Contact: Marc Korallnik



Jenny Lee
ANNA K
A Teen Tragedy

Client: Union Literary
Publisher: Flatiron

A mash up of *Anna Karenina*, "Crazy Rich Asian (and other) Teenagers" and *Cruel Intentions*. It is wildly entertaining and poignant

Part *Crazy Rich (Teenage) Asians*, part *Cruel Intentions*, this YA reinvention of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* drips teen angst and sizzles with young love. ANNA K follows our half-Korean it girl caught between her picture-perfect, family-approved boyfriend and the guy who might just be her one true love. From their penthouses on the Upper East Side, to the sprawling estates of Greenwich, all the way to ultra-hip Indio (Coachella anyone?), Anna and her raucous group of friends take us on a wildly entertaining ride full of glitz, glamour, humor, loss, and love.

Jenny Lee is an author, TV Writer, and Producer who has worked on the shows such as *Young & Hungry*, *Ground Floor*, and *Shake It Up* as a writer and a producer. Currently, Jenny is a Co-EP/Writer on Lena Waithe's new TV show based on the 90's Eddie Murphy movie *Boomerang*. She has also co-written a half hour comedy which is set up with Ryan Seacrest Productions and recently sold a kid's TV show pitch to Netflix based on the book series, *My Sister is a Vampire*. Jenny lives in Los Angeles with her husband and Newfoundland, Gemma (yes, that's a *Game of Thrones* reference).

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Claire Needell
THE FIRST TRUE THING

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: HarperTeen
April 2019

“Cover for me. Told Mom I’m w/ you. Senna too.” I stare at the text from Hannah and toss my phone on the bed

In the two weeks since her drunken bike accident on the so-called Death Wish Path, Marcelle has been forced to look deeply at her own life. She’s clean and sober, attending a tough-love version of after-school rehab, and barely hanging out with her user friends. Then one night she gets a mysterious text from her best friend, Hannah.

It’s a small, simple lie. But Marcelle has learned in group therapy not to enable her drug using friends. One lie could lead Marcelle back to a dark, dangerous place. But it’s Hannah: beautiful, messed-up, in-deeper-thananyone-knows Hannah. So Marcelle gives in. The next morning, Hannah is missing. Marcelle was the last one to hear from her...and now she’s lying to everyone – her parents, Hannah’s mom, and Hannah’s troubled boyfriend, Robert Senna. How long can Marcelle go on before she admits to herself what she has to do? If she comes clean about what she knows, can she save Hannah?

Claire Needell’s powerful novel explores the repercussions of substance abuse, and what it means to take control of your life and your future when it seems like the only path forward is the one that will take all of your courage. Sometimes it’s the most difficult struggles that lead us to our truest selves.

Claire Needell is the author of *The Word for Yes* (HarperTeen, 2016), and three short story collections called *Nothing Real: Volumes 1-3* (2014). She is a frequent contributor to The New York Times Sunday Review, and is a former middle school English teacher.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Brynne Rebele-Henry
ORPHEUS GIRL

Client: Vicky Bijur Literary Agency
Publisher: Soho Teen
Fall 2019

ORPHEUS GIRL is the story of Raya’s descent into hell and her struggles to rescue her beloved Sarah. It is a moving examination of what it feels like to be all alone at a tender age and under the control of people who want to change what is most essential about your being

Brynne Rebele-Henry is eighteen years old and has already won the Donald Hall Prize for Poetry awarded by AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs). Her novel, ORPHEUS GIRL, is about two teen-aged girls in a small town who fall in love with each other and are sent off to be “fixed” at terrifying camp where they are supposed to renounce their love.

Raya is seventeen, living with her grandmother in a small town in Texas, where homosexuality is considered a sin. But Raya is in love with her best friend Sarah. They have seen what happens to other gay teenagers in their town: they are sent to “conversion camps,” which are supposed to turn them into heterosexuals by any means necessary. When Raya’s grandmother finds out about Raya and Sarah, Raya also is sent to one of these horrific camps.

Brynne Rebele-Henry is herself eighteen. Her *Autobiography of a Wound* won the AWP Donald Hall Poetry Award and has recently been published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. She was just published for the first time in the American Poetry Review. Her poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have appeared in *Prairie Schooner* and *Denver Quarterly*, among others. PW wrote about her *Fleshgraphs* (Nightboat Books, 2016), “these lyrical experimental, satirical prose fragments enact a potent exploration of queerness, girlhood, and illness against a backdrop of Internet and rape culture.”

Contact: Hannah Fosh



Bushra Rehman
CORONA

Client: Ayesha Pande Literary
Publisher: Tor/Macmillan
2020

"I am not that kind of an Indian," says Razia Mirza, thus uttering all that can and needs to be said. In Bushra Rehman's new collection of short stories, CORONA the author foregrounds the category called experience in its many hues and colors

Razia Mirza is a young Pakistani woman from a tight-knit Muslim community in Corona, Queens. She prays five times a day, reads Quran and goes to extra religious service on the weekends, all the while wearing skin-tight acid wash jeans, feathering her hair and wanting to date boys break-dancing in the schoolyard.

Without her parents knowing it, Razia applies to and gets into Stuyvesant, a specialized high school in the East Village. When she leaves Corona for the first time by herself, Razia is thrown into the larger world of New York City. Razia starts to cut school and explore the city with her friends. When her parents learn about her truant behavior, they decide to take her to Pakistan for the summer. She knows this is code for getting a rushed arranged marriage. Razia must make a difficult choice: stay with her family or run away from home.

Bushra Rehman grew up in Corona, Queens, but her mother says she was born in an ambulance flying through the streets of Brooklyn. Rehman co-edited the anthology, *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism*, which was included in Ms. Magazine's 100 Best Non-Fiction Books of All Time. Her writing has been featured in the New York Times Magazine.

"Rehman gives a warm poetic take on the life of a Muslim girl coming to terms with life in both pre- and post-9/11 America.", PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Eva Rottmann
MATS UND MILAD

Jugendbuch
207 S.

Ein herrlich unterhaltsamer Erstling mit viel Humor und einem sensiblen Blick für die Sorgen, Zweifel, aber auch für die Höhenflüge, die das Teenagersein so mit sich bringt

Mats (eigentlich Mathilda) ist eine der coolsten 15-jährigen, die wir seit langem kennengelernt haben. Auch wenn die Jungs und Mädels in ihrer neuen Schule – Mats und ihre Mutter sind vor kurzem aus Berlin in ein Kaff gezogen, um näher bei Omi zu sein – das nicht sofort merken. Ein peinlicher Zwischenfall genügt und schon ist Mats die doofe neue, der man Milch in den Sportbeutel kippt. Eigentlich zum Glück, denn sonst hätte sie wohl nie Milad kennengelernt. Milad, der aus Syrien geflüchtet ist, und den Mats in einem Moment blinden Mutes von den Bahngleisen rettet. Mats findet in Milad einen guten Freund – vielleicht auch mehr als das, aber die Sache ist natürlich kompliziert. Erst recht, wenn man nicht die gleiche Sprache spricht ...

Eva Rottmann wuchs in Wertheim am Main auf. 2004 begann sie ihr Studium an der Zürcher Hochschule der Künste am Departement Darstellende Künste und Film. Nebenher entwickelte sie zahlreiche Theaterprojekte, vor allem mit Jugendlichen. Ihr erstes Theaterstück Eidechsen und Salamander wurde mit dem Kathrin-Türks-Preis und dem deutsch-niederländischen Jugenddramatikerpreis "Kaas und Kappes" ausgezeichnet. Ihr Stück Skills gewann 2009 den Publikumspreis des Stück-Labor Basel und 2012 den Jugendtheaterpreis Baden-Württemberg. Es folgten weitere Stückaufträge (u.a. Schauspielhaus Zürich, Theater Konstanz), Hörspiele (SRF) und eigene Projektarbeiten. Mit Unter jedem Dach wurde sie 2010 zum Heidelberger Stückemarkt eingeladen und gewann dort ebenfalls den Publikumspreis. Ihr Stück Die mich jagen war 2012 für den Deutschen Jugendtheaterpreis nominiert. Im Sommer 2015 erschien ihr erstes Kinderbuch mit dem Titel Goldkind im Verlag mixtvision. Für ihren Coming-of-age-Roman MATS UND MILAD erhielt sie 2016 einen Werkbeitrag der Literaturkommission Basel Stadt.

Contact: Hannah Fosh

Middle grade



John David Anderson
FINDING ORION

Client: Adams Literary
Publisher: Walden Pond Press
May 2019

Rion Kwirk comes from an odd family. But no one in the family is more odd than Rion's grandfather. Which is why, when his family learns of Papa Kwirk's death and pile into the car to attend his funeral, Rion can't help but feel that that's not the end of his story. He doesn't know how right he is.

The acclaimed author of *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* and *Posted* returns with an unforgettable tale of love and laughter; of fathers and sons; of what family truly means; and of the ways in which we sometimes need to lose something in order to find ourselves.

A graduate of Indiana University and the University of Illinois where he majored in reading *Moby Dick* over and over, **John David Anderson** is the author of several books for middle grade audiences, including *Sidekicked*, *The Dungeoneers*, *Ms. Bixby's Last Day* and *Posted*. Dave believes in the power of books to enrich young people's lives and help them to ask (and answer) deep questions while simultaneously laughing so hard they snarf soda through their noses. When he eventually grows up he wants to be Indiana Jones. Till then, he wants to be a root beer connoisseur. He lives with his wife, two kids, and vast Lego collection in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Kester Grant
GOLDENPAW

Client: Adams Literary
Publisher: Knopf
Spring 2020

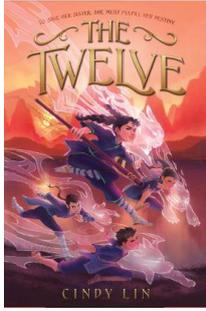
Proposal, Partial available

Kester "Kit" Grant's GOLDENPAW, a middle-grade animal fantasy duology that blends Erin Hunter's WARRIORS with Philip Pullman's NORTHERN LIGHTS—and could be described as an #ownvoices take on THE JUNGLE BOOK

Melanie Nolan at Knopf has acquired, in an exclusive submission, Kester "Kit" Grant's GOLDENPAW—a classic middle-grade animal fantasy series – in a 2-book deal for publication beginning in Spring 2020. Grant, whose young adult trilogy *A Court of Miracles (D: Piper)* was acquired at auction by Nolan and has been licensed already in eight international markets ahead of its Fall 2019 debut, is a Mauritian-Creole author of color who has drawn on her cultural heritage to create the vast world and rich history of GOLDENPAW.

Like all good rebels, British-Mauritian **Kester Grant** was born on November 5, 1984, and subsequently dragged up all over the globe: Africa, Mauritius, France, UK, and the USA are some of her haunts. Kester dreamed of being a writer since the age of 6. She spent most maths classes making up overly dramatic assassin/ superhero/ pirate/ space captain adventures. Kester speaks fluent French and is a foodie, an animal lover, a coeliac, and a dyslexic. She sings 'Le Temps des Cathédrales' every time she sees Notre Dame Cathedral. She can generally be found throwing story problems at her delightful husband.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Cindy Lin
THE TWELVE

Client: Adams Literary
Publisher: HarperCollins
July 2019

Usagi can hear a squirrel's heartbeat from a mile away and soar over treetops in one giant leap. She was born in the year of the wood rabbit, and it's given her extraordinary zodiac gifts. But ever since the mysterious, vicious Dragonlord hunted down her parents and all those with zodiac powers, Usagi has been very careful to keep hers – and those of her rambunctious little sister, Uma – a secret

But when Uma grows too bold with her powers, she is captured by the Dragonguard. Usagi barely escapes, and does so only with the help of the mysterious Heirs of the Twelve, a mystical group of skilled warriors who once protected the land.

As new mysteries unfold, Usagi must decide who she stands with and who she trusts, as she takes on deadly foes on her path to the elusive, dangerous Dragonlord himself.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, **Cindy Lin** is a former journalist with degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Before venturing into the wild world of fiction, she worked as a field producer in television news, a news writer, and an entertainment web producer. She's written and produced many multimedia news features for children, one of which received a Peabody Award. She's also worked at Sony Pictures Entertainment, on Emmy-winning projects at Disney-ABC Television, chased breaking news stories for Nippon Television, and spent two years on the west coast of Japan teaching English for the JET Program, where she picked up Japanese from the 700 high school boys who were her students.

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Tracy Newman
ITZHAK: A BOY WHO LOVED THE VIOLIN

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Abrams
April 2019

An uplifting story of a modern-day icon reminiscent of *A Splash of Red* and *On a Beam of Light*

By age three, Itzhak Perlman knew he had to make music. He loved the rich melodies that emanated from his parents' tiny radio and he begged them for a violin. But soon the unthinkable happened: Itzhak contracted polio. He survived, but his legs would always be paralyzed. He would have to relearn basic tasks like raising his arms and grasping a pencil.

A steady melody played inside Itzhak telling him to keep going, no matter how hard it got. Itzhak chose not to be sad or angry about what he couldn't do. He decided he had a different gift instead—music—and he became even more determined to play the violin. It was hard work learning to fit his fingers onto the strings and master the complex movements, but Itzhak not only persisted, he talked to the music. He imagined how it looked and felt. He lived, breathed, and became the melody, and his skills grew stronger and stronger.

By age six, Itzhak was performing with Israeli orchestras. By age 10 he was giving solo performances. And then an incredible opportunity came. At age 13, Itzhak was chosen to perform on the world-famous Ed Sullivan Show. His performance launched a non-stop journey to stardom that would forever transform his life.

Itzhak Perlman has won 16 Grammys, including a Lifetime Achievement Award, and is the recipient of a US Presidential Medal of Freedom and the 2016 Genesis Prize. Through his beautiful music and relentlessly positive attitude, he has inspired the world.

Tracy Newman is the author of a Jewish holiday board book series with Kar-Ben including *Rosh Hashanah Is Coming!* (2015) and *Shabbat Is Coming!* (2016), a Jewish Book Council selection. She is also the author of the Albert Whitman picture books *Uncle Eli's Wedding* (2015), *The Shabbat Hiccups* (2016), and *Around the Passover Table* (forthcoming in 2019).

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Jennifer Swender
SOLVING FOR M

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: Crown Books For Young Readers
May 2019

When life gets messy, who can you count on?

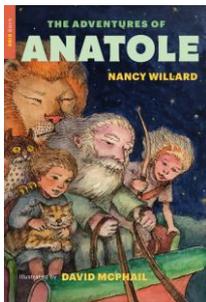
Mika has never been a math person. She's more of an artist. But ever since middle school started, she can't argue with the numbers: 293 = Number of fifth graders at Highbridge Middle School; 28 = Amount of students in Mr. Vann's math class; 25 = Entries in Mika's math journal; 17 = Average science puns Dee Dee makes per day; 1 = Total moles that mom had surgically removed from her leg; ? = How many more doctors visits until Mom is better

Mika is nervous about starting middle school because her classes are all mixed up. In science, she has to write essays, and in art, she isn't allowed to draw. Most confounding is Mr. Vann, Mika's teacher who assigns each student a math journal. Who's ever heard of such a thing?

But when Mika's world gets turned upside down, her math journal becomes the perfect outlet for more than just homework. Through doodles and division, Mika strives to make sense of her her new normal. And when life fails to provide any easy answers, Mika is glad to find she has new friends, family, and one quirky teacher she can count on.

Veteran elementary school teacher **Jennifer Swender** burst on the picture book scene as one half of the husband/wife team that wrote New York City favorite *My Subway Ride* (Gibbs, Smith, 2006; Finalist of 2004 Foreword Magazine Children's Book of the Year) and followed it up with *My Taxi Ride* (Gibbs Smith, 2007). She is also the co-author of the chapter book series *Animal Inn* (Simon & Schuster, 2016) about a pet spa and hotel where the fun-and fur- flies!

Contact: Marc Koralnik



Nancy Willard
THE ADVENTURES OF ANATOLE

Client: The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency Inc.
Publisher: New York Review Books
1974 re: 2018

Winner of the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award & A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

Newbery Medal-winning author Nancy Willard's trilogy of adventure tales for middle grade readers, now in one volume. Children won't be able to put down these stories of the journeys of a boy and his orange cat, Plumpet.

Anatole has a knack for seeking and finding adventure, often with Plumpet, his orange cat, who is accustomed to ghost trains, amnesiac soldiers, flying horses, and wallpaper portals, just a few of the enchantments encountered along the way. From his perilous search for wild fennel to cure his Grandmother's asthma, to his high-stakes game of checkers to save his uncle from a wizard's evil spell, Anatole's missions will keep young readers turning the pages of this omnibus edition of Newbery Medal-winning author Nancy Willard's trilogy of fantasy tales: *Sailing to Cythera*, *The Island of the Grass King*, and *Uncle Terrible*. David McPhail's pen and ink illustrations throughout are beautifully detailed engagements with Willard's world of make believe. Anatole may be small but he is determined to right the wrongs he finds in each of the lands he enters. Whether kindness or evil will prevail is a matter of suspense but Anatole is always on the side of the light.

Nancy Willard was an award-winning children's author, poet, and essayist. In 1982, she won the Newbery Medal for *A Visit to William Blake's Inn*. She wrote dozens of volumes of children's fiction and poetry, including *The Flying Bed*, *Sweep Dreams*, and *Cinderella's Dress*. She was also the author of two novels for adults, *Things Invisible to See* and *Sister Water*, along with twelve books of poetry. Willard was also a professor in the English department at Vassar College.

Contact: Marc Koralnik