

Faculty Bios



Eliza Berkowitz, Senior Editor, Sterling Publishing.

One of the things Eliza likes best about her job is the freedom to acquire and create books across many different categories. One morning she might be shaping the text for a nonfiction book about real-life dog and wolf best friends, and come afternoon she could be brainstorming ideas for a pop-culture book for tweens. In particular, she loves working on picture books, especially picture books about cats! Eliza lives in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, with her husband, 8-year-old daughter (for whom she not-so-secretly wants to make all those cat books), and cat (confusingly named Bunny). In terms of the types of picture books she likes the most, Eliza leans toward the more quirky/funny/silly. She loves a book with a strong message, but also finds value in a book being fun for fun's sake.



Victoria Doherty-Munro, Agent, Writers House.

Victoria started at Writers House as an intern in 2010 and, after graduating from Wellesley College in 2011, was hired as the assistant to senior agent Daniel Lazar. She began building her own list in 2015 and represents MG, YA, and adult authors. For YA, she's a huge fan of unreliable narrators and plot twists that take her so completely by surprise that she gasps out loud, or any book that gets at the uniquely tumultuous, confusing, and exciting experience of being a teenager. Really, she wants her heart to hurt at least once before the final page. When it comes to middle grade, Victoria gravitates to anything with heart at the center. To break it down a little further: quirky adventures, laugh-out-loud hilarity, and contemporary or historical stories that fully engage the reader in a world that is simultaneously familiar and new to them. She's also a sucker for retold fairytales, or any stories that captures the kind of classic fantasy feeling of the books she adored at that age.



Alice Jerman, Associate Editor, HarperCollins Children's Books.

Alice acquires middle grade and YA. Her middle grade list includes illustrated series The Zombie Chasers and the upcoming MONSTERS UNLEASHED series by John Kloefer; SAVING LUCAS BIGGS and CONNECT THE STARS by Marisa de los Santos and David Teague. In YA, her list includes historical fiction WAIT FOR ME by Caroline Leech, and the upcoming historical fantasy BEYOND A DARKENED SHORE by Jessica Leake. What draws her to a manuscript is a strong voice, a well-developed world, and whether the manuscript is bringing something new and important to the genre. What she's mainly looking to add to her list is diversity, own voices, romantic YA fantasy, any YA with a forbidden romance, middle grade with heart, stories about friendship, stories about small towns, and anything with a ghost!



Liz Kossnar, Associate Editor, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Liz mostly acquires middle grade and picture books but occasionally works on young adult novels and nonfiction. While working at Simon & Schuster, she has had the privilege of working with authors such as Daniel Miyares, Stuart Gibbs, Jessica Lawson, Michelle Hodkin, and many others. She most enjoys reading whimsical, diverse middle grade, and subversive, contemporary young adult fiction, or any work of fiction that inspires a sense of empathy or makes me learn something I didn't know before. Anything feminist is a plus. Liz is not the best match for animals, sentimentality, or traditional romance. You can follow her on Twitter @liz_adventures.

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Victoria Marini, Literary Agent, Irene Goodman agency.

Victoria represents an eclectic list including literary fiction, thriller/suspense, mystery, Young Adult and Middle Grade fiction (fantasy, sci-fi and contemporary), narrative non-fiction, and memoir. Her clients range from bestsellers to debut novelists to graphic memoirists, and she's always eager for fiction and non-fiction that haunts her.



Sean McCarthy, Owner, Sean McCarthy Literary Agency.

Sean founded his own full-service literary agency in 2013. He began his publishing career as an editorial intern at Overlook Press and then worked at the Sheldon Fogelman Agency as the submissions coordinator and permissions manager before becoming a full-time literary agent. He works on children's books for all ages, and is actively looking to build his client list. Sean graduated from Macalester College with a degree in English-Creative Writing, and is grateful that he no longer has to spend his winters in Minnesota. He is drawn to flawed, multifaceted characters with devastatingly concise writing in YA, and smartly paced mysteries or adventures in MG. In picture books, he looks more for unforgettable characters, off-beat humor, and especially clever endings. He is not currently interested in issue-driven stories or query letters that pose too many questions.



Lauren Spieller, Literary Agent Assistant, TriadaUS.

Lauren comes to TriadaUS with a background in literary scouting and editorial consulting. She has a sharp editorial eye, and is passionate about author advocacy. Lauren's main focus is middle grade and Young Adult but she also acquires picture book manuscripts and author/illustrator dummies. In Middle Grade, she's drawn to heartfelt contemporaries, contemporary fantasy and magical realism, and exciting adventures. In YA, she'd love to find authentic teen voices in any and all genres. She is especially fond of fantasy, magical realism, and space operas; contemporary stories with a hook; and anything with a feminist bent. For more information on how to query, please visit <http://www.triadaus.com/agents.html>



Erin Stein, Publisher of Imprint, part of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Erin publishes commercial fiction for all ages, develops new intellectual property, and partners with brands to develop original content. Before launching Imprint, she was at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, HarperCollins Children's Books, TOKYOPOP and Time Inc. Custom Publishing. Erin loves page-turning action and romance of all genres, twisty thrillers, fresh concepts, universal truths and laugh out loud, clever picture books. She most enjoys subverting stereotypes.