

NJ SCBWI: 2017 Autumn Breeze



Critiquing Key:

PB: Picture Books, MG: Middle Grade, YA: Young Adult, Illo: Portfolios



AGENTS

Linda Epstein (Literary Agent at Emerald City Literary Agency)

<https://emeraldcityliterary.com/>

Linda Epstein is the east coast eyes and ears of [Emerald City Literary Agency](https://emeraldcityliterary.com/), which is based in Washington State. She represents picture books, middle grade and young adult novels, as well as children's non-fiction. She likes stories for kids that deal with issues of identity, history, sexual politics, feminism, and culture. Some of her other interests also include art, food, and the environment. She looks for the offbeat, quirky, and left of center, with bonus points given if you keep your sense of humor. She is actively seeking to represent projects that give voice to work by and about marginalized people. Linda blogs at theblabbermouthblog.com and you can find her on Twitter @LindaEpstein.

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA



Larissa Helena (Literary Agent at Pippin Properties)

<http://www.pippinproperties.com/>

Larissa Helena's passion is fiction: between Brazil, France and the United States, her only certainty is that she wants to be around books. Larissa has been an Executive Editor, a Translator, a Researcher, a Foreign Rights Manager and an Agent. She's open to books for all ages, and wants diverse narratives of all kinds. Voices rarely seen in literature, unconventional stories, quirky characters. Her favorite kind of book doesn't try to follow a pattern or play by the rules. Favorite genre? Genre bending. Twitter: @larilena

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA



Meg LaTorre-Snyder (Literary Agent Apprentice at Corvisiero Literary Agency)

<http://www.corvisieroagency.com/>

Meg likes to think of herself as an avid book nerd with an exceptional taste for mac and cheese. This oxford comma and em dash enthusiast has had her nose plunged into a book before kindergarten and scribbled down her first stories not too long thereafter. Currently, Meg the editor of a magazine and has a background in journalism, medical writing, and website creation. She has written for print and digital publications, such as *Writer's Digest* and *Savvy Authors*, on a variety of topics, including novel writing, nutrition, healthy living, startup companies, pharmaceuticals, and more.

Seeking: Meg is partial to the realm of fiction novels, specifically MG, YA, NA, and adult: fantasy, historical fiction, romance, space opera, steam punk, and thrillers (with magical elements). She loves books written in third-person with multiple POVs, quirky, realistic characters, and rich descriptions.

Critiquing: MG, YA



Rachel Orr (Literary Agent at Prospect Agency)

<http://www.prospectagency.com/>

Rachel Orr is celebrating her tenth year at Prospect Agency, where she represents both authors and illustrators in projects ranging from picture books through YA. She previously worked for eight rewarding years at HarperCollins Children's Books, and uses those editorial skills to help prepare her clients' work for submission. Her clients include Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen (*The Adventures of Caveboy*), Cori Doerrfeld (*Maggie & Wendel: Imagine Everything!*), Leeza Hernandez (*Cat Napped!*), Jason Kirschner (*Mr. Particular*), Jennifer Latham (*Dreamland Burning*) and Kim Zarins (*Sometimes We Tell the Truth*). Rachel lives in Hoboken, New Jersey, with her husband and two young children. She has no spare time—but, if she did, she would spend it dancing, running and reading, of course. Follow her on Twitter @rachelprospect.

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA



Amy Stern (Literary Agent at Sheldon Fogelman Agency)

<http://sheldonfogelmanagency.com/home.htm>

Amy Stern started at the Sheldon Fogelman Agency in 2010 as an agent assistant and has spent the past seven years taking on additional responsibilities while not quite believing that she gets to work with children's books as her job. After receiving degrees in English and creative writing at Bryn Mawr College and masters degrees in children's literature and library science at Simmons College, she interned at Writers House and fell in love with the industry. In her copious spare time, she mentors writing students at Simmons's Center for the Study of Children's Literature. She is currently accepting picturebook, middle grade, and young adult submissions from authors and illustrators, particularly if the work explores underrepresented identities. She's not your best bet for a heterosexual romance or historical fiction, but is open to pretty much anything else. She has probably looked at your Tumblr..

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA

EDITORS



Ellen Cormier (Assistant Editor at Dial Books/PenguinRandomHouse)

<http://www.penguin.com/publishers/dialbooksforyoungreaders/>

Ellen Cormier is an assistant editor at Dial Books for Young Readers, acquiring picture books, middle grade, and YA fiction and nonfiction. She is a graduate of Smith College and the Columbia Publishing Course, and prior to joining Dial in 2014, she was a member of the **Macmillan Children's Publishing Group marketing team. Ellen is on the lookout for stories that feel like an immersive escape to a fully-realized world—fantastical or not—and introduce readers to characters they want to return to again and again.** Ellen is not a good fit for hard sci-fi, romances, or horror but is open to just about everything else.

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA



Katie Heit (Assistant Editor at Greenwillow, Imprint of HarperCollins)

<https://www.harpercollins.com/search-results/?imprint=greenwillow-books>

Katie is an assistant editor with Greenwillow, an imprint of HarperCollins. She has been with HarperCollins since 2014 and started out as the Greenwillow Books intern in 2013. She has worked closely with many acclaimed authors and artists, including Kevin Henkes, Christie Matheson, Victoria Schwab, Lynne Rae Perkins, and Heidi Heilig. She has a background in art, with degrees in both English and graphic design from Notre Dame, and she works closely with picture books at Greenwillow. She is always on the lookout for middle grade and young adult manuscripts, especially those with strong female friendships. She loves anything that has a memorable voice and a compelling story.

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA



Chris Hernandez, (Associate Editor at HarperCollins Children's Books)

<https://www.harpercollins.com/>

Chris edits books for all ages. His list includes the adventurous middle grade series *Going Wild* by Lisa McMann, the thrilling YA novel *Dreamfall* by Amy Plum, and Jaye Robin Brown's critically acclaimed *Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit*. Forthcoming, he has the adorable picture book *Good Dog* by Cori Doerrfeld and *The Wishmakers*, a hilarious series by Tyler Whitesides. Chris likes picture books that are funny and subversive or offer a tried-and-true hook in a new and clever way. In middle grade, he's interested in books that have multi-layered humor, have well-crafted mysteries, are out-of-the-box, or make magic feel like it's right in our backyard. In YA, he's looking for witty voices and/or unreliable narrators, groundbreaking thrillers and adventures, literary science fiction, and beautiful magical realism. Chris also has a passion for illustration across all ages and would love to find a great graphic novel. Above all, Chris wants to amplify diverse creators. Find out more at <http://www.manuscriptwishlist.com/mswl-post/christopher-hernandez>.

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA



Nicole Otto – (Assistant Editor at Imprint, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group)

<https://us.macmillan.com/publishers/imprint/>

Nicole Otto is an assistant editor at Imprint, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group. She works with fiction across all formats and genres, with a particular focus on fantasy. She is originally from sunny south Florida and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In spirit, she's a Ravenclaw from the Shire.

Critiquing: PB, MG, YA



Christina Pulles (Editor at Sterling Children's Books)

<https://www.sterlingpublishing.com/>

Christina Pulles joined Sterling Children's Books in June 2015, and before that worked at Simon & Schuster's Simon Spotlight imprint. Realistic middle grade holds a soft spot in her heart (recent projects include *Howard Wallace, P.I.* by Casey Lyall and *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling), but she acquires everything from clever, narrative picture books to nonfiction and activity books. She's open to magical realism or a fantastic bent to a story, but wouldn't be the right editor for high fantasy or science fiction, and isn't looking for YA fiction.

Critiquing: PB, MG

ART DIRECTORS



Chad W. Beckerman (Creative Director, Abrams)

<http://www.abramsbooks.com/>

Chad W. Beckerman is an award-winning designer and creative director at ABRAMS, where he oversees the design of picture books, novels and graphic novels under the Abrams Appleseed, Abrams Books for Young Readers, Amulet Books, and Abrams ComicArts imprints. He is the designer behind such successful children series as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Origami Yoda*, *NERDS Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*, *Frank Einstein* and *The Terrible Two*. In addition to

Bryan Collier's *Coretta Scot Kind* and Caldecott Honor book *Trombone Shorty*.

He has been a judge for several illustration competitions such as Society Of Illustrators Annual 53, [Communication Arts Illustration](#) Annual 54: 2013, American Illustration 32, 2014 SCBWI New York Show Illustration Judge and the New York Book Show 2104

He studied illustration at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Follow him @chadwbecks on Instagram and Twitter www.chadwbeckerman.com

Critiquing: I/Ilo

Irene Vandervoort (Art Director, Sterling Children's Books)

<https://www.sterlingpublishing.com/>



Irene Vandervoort is currently Art Director at Sterling Children's Books. She began her design career as an intern and freelancer working with Fred Woodward and Gail Anderson at Rolling Stone, and then as a Senior Designer at WBMG design studio with Walter Bernard and Milton Glaser before joining Dutton Children's Books as a Senior Designer in 2001. During her close to fifteen years at Penguin, she has worked with such artists as Sophie Blackall, Shane Rebenschied, Thor Wickstrom, Jed Henry, Hugh D'Andrade, Kelly Murphy, and Anna Bond. She designs both covers and interiors in a variety of formats including picture books and middle grade novels.

Critiquing: I/Ilo
