



## The Text Publishing Company

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#### For additional information please contact:

##### **Alice Cottrell, Rights Administrator**

The Text Publishing Company

Swann House

Level 10, 22 William St Melbourne

Victoria 3000 Australia

[alice.cottrell@textpublishing.com.au](mailto:alice.cottrell@textpublishing.com.au)

tel: +61 3 8610 4536 fax : +61 3 9629 8621

[www.textpublishing.com.au](http://www.textpublishing.com.au)

##### **Penny Hueston, Senior Editor**

The Text Publishing Company

Swann House

Level 10, 22 William St Melbourne

Victoria 3000 Australia

[penny.hueston@textpublishing.com.au](mailto:penny.hueston@textpublishing.com.au)

tel: +61 3 8610 4500 fax : +61 3 9629 8621

[www.textpublishing.com.au](http://www.textpublishing.com.au)

## Recent Adult and YA Acquisitions

Alexievich, Svetlana	Secondhand Time	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Ball, Jesse	How to Set a Fire and Why	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Knopf
Cole-Adams, Kate	The Sunken Sea	World	Jenny Darling
Down, Jennifer	Convalescence	World	Author
Ferrante, Elena	The Beach at Night	ANZ	Europa Editions
Garner, Helen	The Last Days of Chez Nous <i>and</i> Two Friends	World	Barbara Mobbs
Grenville, Kate	<i>Untitled book on perfume</i>	World	Barbara Mobbs
Kells, Stuart	Shakespeare's Library <i>and</i> Libraries of Wonder	World	The Drummond Agency
Kneen, Krissy	An Uncertain Grace	World	Author
Krasnostein, Sarah	The Trauma Cleaner	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Curtis Brown UK
Kurniawan, Eka	Love and Vengeance	ANZ	Pontas Agency
Lerner, Ben	The Hatred of Poetry	ANZ	Fitzcarraldo Editions
Nelson, Maggie	The Argonauts	ANZ	Melville House
Raymond, Midge	My Last Continent	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Abner Stein
Simsion, Graeme	The Best of Adam Sharp	World	Author
Simsion, Graeme and Buist, Anne	Left, Right	World	Authors
Vickers, Matt	Lecretia's Choice	World	Author

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker	The War that Saved My Life	UK & Comm. (excl. Canada)	Penguin Random House US
Griffin, Paul	When Friendship Followed Me Home	ANZ	Penguin Random House US
Levithan, David	Someday <i>and</i> Yesterday	ANZ	United Agents
Levithan, David and LaCour, Nina	You Know Me Well	ANZ	United Agents
Weston, Paula	The Undercurrent	World	Australian Literary Management

## Recent Adult and YA Publications

Barbery, Muriel	The Life of Elves	Gallimard
Cave, Nick	The Sick Bag Song	Canongate
Clune, Michael W.	Gamelife	Abner Stein
Cook, Kenneth	Fear Is the Rider	Curtis Brown
Down, Jennifer	Our Magic Hour	Author
Gárdos, Péter	Fever at Dawn	Libri
Garner, Helen	Everywhere I Look	Barbara Mobbs
Harrower, Elizabeth	A Few Days in the Country	Author
Jakobsen, Mette	What the Light Hides	Author
Klein, Daniel	Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life They Change It	Penguin Random House US
Lea, Caroline	When the Sky Fell Apart	Peters Fraser + Dunlop
Marani, Diego	The Interpreter	Dedalus UK
Marchant, Jo	Cure	Canongate
Martel, Yann	The High Mountains of Portugal	Canongate
Murnane, Gerald	Something for the Pain	Golvan Arts Management
Raabe, Melanie	The Trap	Random House Germany
Szubanski, Magda	Reckoning	Curtis Brown Australia

Caddy, Meg	Waer	Author
Cohen-Scali, Sarah	Max	Gallimard
Currie, Christopher	Clancy of the Undertow	Author
Hall, Leanne	Iris and the Tiger	Author
Levithan, David	Another Day	Penguin Random House US
Meloy, Maile	The After-Room	Penguin Random House US
Wakefield, Vikki	Inbetween Days	The Drummond Agency

## ***The Road to Winter* by Mark Smith**

*When I get closer I see he's as small as me, thin as a whippet. Rangy. Hair long and ropey right down his back and falling across his face. He's got an old pair of shorts on and a jumper way too big for him.*

*Then he starts talking and it hits me. He's a girl. Voice real high and panicky.*

*'You gotta help me,' she says. 'They're coming. They're tracking me.'*

Since a deadly virus and the violence that followed wiped out his parents and most of his community, Finn has lived alone on the rugged coast with only his loyal dog Rowdy for company.

He has stayed alive for two winters—hunting and fishing and trading food, and keeping out of sight of the Wilders, an armed and dangerous gang that controls the north, led by a ruthless man named Ramage.

But Finn's isolation is shattered when a girl runs onto the beach. Rose is a Siley—an asylum seeker—and she has escaped from Ramage, who had enslaved her and her younger sister, Kas.

Rose is desperate, sick and in need of Finn's help. Kas is still missing somewhere out in the bush.

And Ramage wants the girls back—at any cost.

*The Road to Winter* is an unforgettable novel about survival, honour, friendship and love. It announces an extraordinary new talent in young-adult fiction.

**Mark Smith** works with teenage boys in his job running an outdoor education residential campus on the west coast of Victoria. His writing has won a number of awards and has appeared in *Best Australian Stories*, *Review of Australian Fiction* and the *Big Issue*. *The Road to Winter* is his first book. He is currently writing a sequel.

Young-Adult Fiction

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July 2016

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Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** World

# *The Book of Whispers* by Kimberley Starr

WINNER, 2015 TEXT PRIZE FOR YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S WRITING

*I imagine the rumour already. Through the kitchens, through the sheds where the olives are aged in barrels of brine, through the stable, the words would flow as steadily as that trickle of blood down my father's cheek. People's whispers like rustling poplar leaves.*

Master Luca is having those dreams again. His demon is back.

*I can't let that happen. I can't let people lock me up and exorcise me again. I can't let my father leave on the pilgrimage without me. I have to save him.*

Tuscany, 1096 AD. Luca, young heir to the title of Conte de Falconi, sees demons: red-eyed leathery monsters that follow people everywhere and attach to their items of greatest value. Since no one else can see the demons, Luca must keep quiet about what he sees, or risk another exorcism by the nefarious priest Ramberti.

Luca also has dreams—dreams that seem to predict the future. When Luca sees his father murdered in one such dream, he vows to stop it coming true. Even if he has to go against his father's wishes and follow him on the great pilgrimage to capture the Holy Lands.

When Luca is given an ancient book that holds some inscrutable power, he knows he's been thrown into an adventure that will lead to places beyond his understanding. But with the help of Suzan, the beautiful girl he rescues from the desert, he will realise his true quest: to defeat the forces of man and demon that wish to destroy the world.

The winner of the 2015 Text Prize, *The Book of Whispers* is an exciting adventure story for fans of historical fantasy.

**Kimberley Starr** is a teacher and author based in Melbourne. Her debut novel, *The Kingdom Where Nobody Dies*, won the 2003 Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Best Emerging Author. The Text Prize has unearthed extraordinary, multi-award-winning novels for children and young adults and launched international publishing careers.

Praise for the Text Prize:

'The Text Prize is going from strength to strength...Winners that push the boundaries of young-adult fiction.' *Books+Publishing*

Young-Adult Fiction • October 2016 • Manuscript available August 2016  
**Rights Held:** World

# *Elizabeth and Zenobia* by Jessica Miller

*Witheringe House. I tried it in my mind and found I couldn't like it. The sound of it was too much—*

*'Like a withered limb.' Zenobia finished the sentence for me. 'Like an apple left in the sun so long it turns soft and small.'*

*'I wish you wouldn't do that,' I told her.*

*'I can't help it,' she said.*

*And it was true, she couldn't. Zenobia didn't read minds exactly, but sometimes other people's thoughts passed through her, unbidden, 'the same as a shiver,' she described it to me once.*

*'Like a shrivelled head,' she said softly.*

Elizabeth and her unusual friend Zenobia arrive at Witheringe House, the old manor where Elizabeth's father and his beloved sister Tourmaline lived as children. It's old and grand and mysterious. Zenobia loves it—she's convinced it's haunted and is desperate to communicate with a spirit presence. Elizabeth is not so sure. She's relieved when Zenobia's efforts seem to come to nothing.

But strange things begin to happen at Witheringe House, especially in the East Wing, where Elizabeth and Zenobia have been forbidden to explore.

Why does Mrs Purswell the housekeeper appear from nowhere at the right, or wrong, moments? Who is the gardener preparing plants for grafting? Why do the flowers and vines on the wallpaper in the nursery seem to be alive? Is it something to do with the strange book that tells a different story after midnight? And what really happened to Tourmaline all those years ago?

*Elizabeth and Zenobia* is a wonderfully mysterious middle-grade adventure story about friendship and curiosity and the power of imagination.

**Jessica Miller** is a young Brisbane writer currently living in Germany. *Elizabeth and Zenobia* is her first novel. It was shortlisted for the 2013 Text Prize for Young Adult and Children's Writing.

Children's Fiction • September 2016 • Manuscript available May 2016

**Rights Held:** World

# *A Toaster on Mars* by Darrell Pitt

*An advertising blimp floated past that read, AI's Donut Burgers: Lo Cal Centres! Teenagers on skateboards jumped off walkways, dropped a dozen floors and activated rockets to safely land walkways below.*

*Blake took a deep breath of air, inhaling something that smelt like a cross between burnt plastic and toffee apple.*

Neo City, *Blake thought*. Home sweet home.

Neo City, 2509.

After a series of operational bumbles, as well as the accidental death of his partner, special agent Blake Carter's career at the Planetary Bureau of Investigation is in trouble.

To make matters worse, he's just been assigned a new partner—and the beautiful and brilliant Nicki Steel happens to be a cyborg.

When universe-famous criminal Bartholomew Badde steals a weapon capable of destroying whole planets at a time, Blake and Nicki must work together to recover it, an investigation that takes them to all corners of the weird and wonderful galaxy.

But things get serious when Badde kidnaps Blake's teenage daughter, Lisa. Can Blake prove he's still a first-rate agent—not to mention father—and save Lisa in time?

For fans of Douglas Adams and Terry Pratchett, *A Toaster on Mars* is a hilarious new space-and-time adventure.

Praise for Darrell Pitt and the *Jack Mason Adventures*:

*'The Firebird Mystery* has everything to recommend itself—a boy's own adventure that girls will enjoy too, with never a dull or predictable moment, twists and turns that both satisfy and enthrall.' *Melbourne Review of Books*

**Darrell Pitt** is the author of the *Jack Mason Adventures*, a series of five novels including *The Firebird Mystery* (a Notable Book in the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia awards) and, most recently, *The Lost Sword*. Darrell is married with one daughter. He lives in Melbourne.

Young-Adult Fiction

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June 2016

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Manuscript available

**Rights Held:** World

# *The Undercurrent* by Paula Weston

The near future.

Eighteen-year-old Jules De Marchi is different. As in: she has an electrical undercurrent beneath her skin that stings and surges without warning. She can use it—to spark a fire, maybe even end a life—but she doesn't understand what it is. And she can barely control it, especially when she's anxious.

Ryan Walsh was on track for a stellar football career when his knee blew out. Now he's a soldier—part of an experiment in privatised military services called SecDetQ18—and SecDetQ18 has indentified Jules De Marchi as a threat. Is it because of the weird undercurrent she's tried so hard to hide? Or because of her mother Angie's history as an activist against bio-engineering and big business?

It's no coincidence that Ryan and Jules are in the same place at the same time—he's under orders to follow her, after all. But then an explosive attack on a city building by an unknown enemy throws them together in the most violent and unexpected way.

Paula Weston, author of the much-admired *Rephaim* series, returns with a standalone work: a speculative thriller that is only slightly speculative—but utterly and undeniably thrilling. Great writing, heart-burning characters, probing questions about where technology is taking us—and a plot that zips and zings like an electrical current itself. This is a great young-adult writer at the peak of her powers.

Praise for the *Rephaim* series:

'Late for dinner, late for work, late late late. Thanks so much, Paula Weston. I picked up *Shimmer* and forgot everything else.' *Adelaide Advertiser*

'Superbly written, action-packed fiction with interesting, brilliantly flawed characters.' *Fictional Thoughts*

**Paula Weston** is a Brisbane-based author. She has more than twenty years' experience as a professional writer—first as a print journalist and then as a government communication and media specialist. She co-owns a writing/design consultancy.

[paula-weston.com](http://paula-weston.com)

[twitter.com/PaulaWeston](https://twitter.com/PaulaWeston)

Young-Adult Fiction

• February 2017

• Manuscript available May 2016

**Rights Held:** World

**Option Publishers:** North America—Tundra; Turkey—Ithaki; UK & Comm. excl. ANZ & Canada—Orion.



# *Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars* by Martine Murray



Molly has a strange life. Her mama collects herbs at dawn and makes potions, her father and brothers have gone away, and her house feels like a gypsy caravan.

Molly doesn't want to know anything about herbs and potions. She wishes she could be more like her best friend, Ellen, who has a normal family and a normal house. But she is also secretly interested in Pim, who is inquisitive and odd and a little bit frightening. When Molly's mama makes a potion that has a wild and shocking effect, Molly and Pim look for a way to make things right, and Molly discovers the magic and value of her own unusual life.

Martine Murray's new illustrated middle-grade novel *Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars* is a delightful story about friendship and acceptance and learning to see the freshness and wonder in the world.

'Open-hearted and magical—an utter delight.' Rebecca Stead

'A wonderful tale about friendship that brings whimsy and enchantment into everyday life.'  
*Readings*, Best Middle Fiction Books of 2015

'Wise, whimsical and woven through with magic, it's a story of friendship, home-brewed spells and the courage it takes to be yourself.' Sally Rippin, *Sydney Morning Herald*

**Martine Murray** writes and illustrates picture books, middle-grade fiction and young-adult fiction, including *The Slightly True Story of Cedar B Hartley*, *The Slightly Bruised Glory of Cedar B Hartley* and *How to Make a Bird*. Her books have been published internationally and translated into seventeen languages.

Children's Fiction • July 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights Sold:** North America—Penguin Random House Children's Books (Knopf)

# *Inbetween Days* by Vikki Wakefield

At seventeen, Jacklin Bates is all grown up.

She's dropped out of school. She's living with her runaway sister, Trudy, and she's in secret, obsessive love with Luke, who doesn't love her back. She's stuck in Mobius—a dying town with the macabre suicide forest its only attraction—stuck working in the roadhouse and babysitting her boss's demented father.

A stranger sets up camp in the forest and the boy next door returns; Jack's father moves into the shed and her mother steps up her campaign to punish Jack for leaving, too. Trudy's brilliant facade is cracking and Jack's only friend, Astrid, has done something unforgivable.

Jack is losing everything, including her mind.

As she struggles to hold onto the life she thought she wanted, Jack learns that growing up is complicated—and love might be the biggest mystery of all.

'Wakefield has captured small-town life perfectly. There is the stifling sense of everyone knowing everyone, but also the boredom that comes from being a teenager with nowhere to go. In these claustrophobic conditions, she explores love, death and identity.' *Books+Publishing*

'A gritty, heartfelt read for teens and adult readers alike.' *Readings*

'[Vikki Wakefield] proves again that she's the mistress of YA twisted relationships and disturbed characters, all memorable, all sketched with compassion, wit and insight, the adults as well as teens.' *Australian Book Review*, Books of the Year 2015

'Vikki Wakefield has done it again. She's gone and taken my breath away with another exquisite book...This is the sort of writing everyone who doubts the power of YA should read. Without a doubt, Wakefield is one of Australia's best writers.' *Unfinished Bookshelf*

'An utterly gripping read with authentic, complicated and relatable characters.' *Sydney Morning Herald*, Best Children's Books of 2015

**Vikki Wakefield's** first young-adult novel, *All I Ever Wanted*, won the 2012 Adelaide Festival Literary Award for Young-Adult Fiction, as did her second novel, *Friday Brown*, in 2014. *Friday Brown* was also an Honour Book, Children's Book Council of Australia, 2013. Among other awards, it was shortlisted for the prestigious Prime Minister's Awards in 2013.

Young-Adult Fiction • October 2015 • Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

**Rights sold:** North America—Simon & Schuster

# *Iris and the Tiger* by Leanne Hall

*'Aunt Ursula is very old now and we're worried someone might take advantage of her,' her mum had explained. 'She's always taking in strays. Sometimes she quite fell in love with them.'*

*Iris wasn't really sure what she could do about it, but ten days in Spain would be far better than being stuck in the middle of a winter school term.*

Twelve-year-old Iris has been sent to Spain on a mission: to make sure her elderly and unusual aunt, Ursula, leaves her fortune—and her sprawling estate—to Iris's scheming parents.

But from the moment Iris arrives at Bosque de Nubes, she realises something isn't quite right. There is an odd feeling around the house, where time moves slowly and Iris's eyes play tricks on her. While outside, in the wild and untamed forest, a mysterious animal moves through the shadows.

Just what is Aunt Ursula hiding?

But when Iris discovers a painting named *Iris and the Tiger*, she sets out to uncover the animal's real identity—putting her life in terrible danger.

*Iris and the Tiger* is a magical tale for fans of Neil Gaiman, *The Wildwood Chronicles* and *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place*.

*'Reminiscent of Elizabeth Goudge's classic *The Little White Horse*, full of mystery and an enchanting sense of elsewhere.'* Martine Murray

*'Iris and the Tiger* has all the hallmarks of a classic children's novel...A great adventure novel.'

*Readings*

*'Leanne Hall's charming adventure story for younger readers takes classic tropes of children's literature and gives them a surprising twist.'* *Sydney Morning Herald*

*'Iris and the Tiger* is its own piece of surrealist art...It resonates, and it offers you a glimpse into a new world. And it defies labels, and challenges preconceptions.'

*Children's Book Council of Australia Reading Time*

**Leanne Hall** is the author of two novels for young adults, the Text Prize-winning *This Is Shyness* and its sequel, *Queen of the Night*. Leanne has had shorter pieces published in *Meanjin*, *Age*, *Best Australian Stories* and the anthology *Growing Up Asian in Australia*. Her work plays with the borders of reality and fantasy. Leanne has worked in the arts, educational publishing and as a bookseller, but her enduring passion is for youth literature.

Children's Fiction

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February 2016

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Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

# Waer by Meg Caddy

*As night fell, something stirred the darkness. Birds shrieked, rising into the air as the peace cracked and fell apart. Flashes of crimson uniform cut the smothering black of the woods. The smell of smoke lifted through the boughs and choked the leaves. A drum beat out a steady pulse as soldiers tore over the dead leaf matter, hacking their way through the web of forest.*

*The prisoner ran.*

When Lowell Sencha finds a strange girl called Lycaea lying as if dead on the riverbank, he is startled to find that she is like him: waer. Human, but able to assume the form of a wolf.

Then soldiers descend on the village with fire and sword, searching for her. Lowell and Lycaea are among the few to escape.

Now they must find their way to the city of Luthan. They have to bring down Daeman Leldh, the deranged tyrant whose fantasies of blood purity threaten them all. And they will need help that only Lycaea's former comrades in Luthan can give.

If she can persuade them not to kill her.

This brilliant young-adult fantasy debut from young Australian writer Meg Caddy sees the emergence of an exciting new talent in speculative fiction. *Waer* is a highly original, intricate and thrilling fantasy for fans of Isobelle Carmody, Juliet Marillier and Sarah J. Maas.

*'This novel has all the fast-paced action and enjoyment of the first Eragon novel, but it is far more layered and original.'* *Adventures of a Little Known Writer*

*'This book has broken my heart, collected my soul and has me falling in love with it!'* *Tilly and Her Books*

**Meg Caddy** is a student of Literature and History at the University of Western Australia. In 2013, her young-adult fantasy novel *Waer* was shortlisted for the Text Prize. Meg was the 2013 Young Writer-in-Residence at the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre, and has been mentored by fantasy author Juliet Marillier. For the past five years, Meg has been working with children of all ages.

[www.megcaddy.com](http://www.megcaddy.com)

@MegCaddy1

Young-Adult Fiction

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March 2016

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Finished copies available

**Rights Held:** World

## *Text Classics*

***They Found a Cave* by Nan Chauncy** introduced by John Marsden

Described as an Australian 'Famous Five', *They Found a Cave* is the story of four English orphans who migrate to Tasmania, where they find adventure, danger and intrigue. *They Found a Cave* was made into a popular feature film that won Best Children's Feature at the Venice Film Festival in 1962. Nancy Chauncy won the CBCA Book of the Year Award three times and was the first Australian writer to win the Hans Christian Andersen Diploma of Merit.

**Rights Held:** World

***The Watcher in the Garden* by Joan Phipson** introduced by Margo Lanagan

A girl with a violent temper and a blind old man become friends when she seeks sanctuary from her family and everyday cares in his huge, wild garden. But while the garden gives her a sense of peace, strange forces are at work. *The Watcher in the Garden* received an International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) Honour Diploma.

**Rights Held:** World

***Hills End* by Ivan Southall** introduced by James Moloney

One fateful day in Hills End, a timber-milling town in the mountains of Victoria, seven children and their teacher set off to explore caves in the nearby mountains said to contain ancient Aboriginal rock art. While they are deep inside the mountain caves a storm of tremendous violence all but sweeps the town away and threatens to leave them stranded. Ivan Southall was awarded the Australian Children's Book Council Book of the Year on three occasions. *Hills End* was an American Library Association Notable Book in 1963.

**Rights Held:** World

***Ash Road* by Ivan Southall** introduced by Maurice Saxby

It's hot and dry on Ash Road, where Graham, Harry and Wallace are getting their first taste of independence, camping, just the three of them. When they accidentally light a bushfire, no one would have guessed how far it would go. And they are forced to face a major crisis with only each other to depend on. *Ash Road* was named Children's Book of the Year by the *New York Times Book Review* in 1966. Ivan Southall was the first Australian to be awarded the prestigious Carnegie Medal.

**Rights Held:** World

***I Own the Racecourse!* By Patricia Wrightson** introduced by Kate Constable

A tender novel about a boy with an intellectual disability who believes he has bought a racecourse from an old tramp for three dollars. His friends are horrified, but then things take an unexpected and magical turn. Published in the US in 1968 as *A Racecourse For Andy*.

**Rights Held:** World

## **Text Publishing Agents:**

### **Baltic Region**

Tatjana Zoldnere  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates  
PO Box 77  
Riga LV 1011  
Latvia  
Phone: +371 731 1638  
Fax: +371 227 2231  
Email: zoldnere@anab.apollo.lv

### **Brazil**

Laura Riff  
The Riff Agency  
Avenida Calogeras, no 6, sala 1007,  
20030-070 Centro, Rio de Janeiro RJ  
Brazil  
Phone: +55 21 2287 6299  
Fax: +55 21 2267 6393  
Email: laura@agenciariff.com.br

### **China and Taiwan**

Luisa Yeh  
Bardon-Chinese Media Agency  
3F, No. 150, Roosevelt Rd  
Section 2  
Taipei 100 Taiwan  
Phone: +886 2 23644995 ext. 17  
Fax: +886 2 23641967  
Email: luisa@bardonchinese.com

### **Czech Republic and Slovak Republic**

Kristin Olson  
Kristin Olson Literary Agency s.r.o.  
Klimentaska 24  
110 00 Praha 1  
Czech Republic  
Phone +420 222 580 048  
Fax +420 222 580 048  
www.olson.litag.cz  
Email: kristin.olson@litag.cz

### **France**

Eliane Benisti  
Eliane Benisti Agency  
80, rue des Saints-Pères  
75007 Paris  
France  
Phone: +33 1 42 22 85 33  
Fax: +33 1 45 44 18 17  
Email: eliane@elianebenisti.com

### **German language**

Christian Dittus [adult titles]  
Paul & Peter Fritz AG  
Jupiterstrasse 1  
CH-8032, Zürich, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 1 388 4140  
Fax: +41 1 388 4130  
Email: cdittus@fritzagency.com

Antonia Fritz [children's & YA titles]  
Paul & Peter Fritz AG  
Jupiterstrasse 1  
CH-8032, Zürich, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 1 388 4140  
Fax: +41 1 388 4130  
Email: afritz@fritzagency.com

### **Greece**

Evangelia Avioniti  
Ersilia Literary Agency  
Phone: +30 693 8454 332  
Email: info@ersilialit.com

### **Hungary**

Peter Bolza  
Katai & Bolza Literary Agency  
PO Box 55  
H-1406 Budapest, Hungary  
Phone: +36 1 267 5775  
Fax: +36 1 317 0248  
Email: peter@kataibolza.hu

### **Italy**

Vanessa Maus  
Berla & Griffini Rights Agency  
Via Stampa 4  
20123 Milano, Italy  
Phone: +39 02 80 50 41 79  
Fax: +39 02 89 01 06 46  
Email: maus@bgagency.it

### **Japan**

Maiko Fujinaga  
Japan Uni Agency, Inc.  
1-27 Kanda Jinbo-cho  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0051, Japan  
Phone: +81 3 3295 0301  
Email: maiko.fujinaga@japanuni.co.jp

Hamish Macaskill  
The English Agency (Japan) Ltd.  
Sakuragi Bldg. 4F, 6-7-3 Minami Aoyama,  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062 Japan  
Phone: +81 3 3406 5385  
Fax: +81 3 3406 5387  
Email: hamish@ej.co.jp

**Korea**

Joeun Lee  
KCC (Korea Copyright Center Inc.)  
Gyonghigung-achim, Officetel Rm 520  
Compound 3, Naesu-dong 72, Chongno,  
Seoul 110-070, Korea  
Phone: +82 2 725 3350  
Fax: +82 2 725 3612  
Email: jelee@kccseoul.com

**The Netherlands**

Paul Sebes  
Sebes & Bisseling Literary Agency  
Herengracht 162-2  
1016 BP Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Phone: +31 20 616 09 40  
Fax: +31 20 618 08 43  
Email: sebes@sebes.nl

**Poland**

Urszula Jedrach  
GRAAL Ltd  
Pruszkowska 29 lok. 252  
02-119 Warszawa, Poland  
Phone: +48 22 895 2000  
Fax: +48 22 895 2001  
Email: urszula.jedrach@graal.com.pl

**Romania**

Simona Kessler  
International Copyright Agency Ltd  
Str. banul Antonache 37  
70 000 Bucharest 1, Romania  
Phone: +401 231 8150  
Fax: +401 231 4522  
Email: simona@kessler-agency.ro

**Russia**

Natalia Sanina  
Synopsis Literary Agency  
PO Box 114  
Moscow 129090, Russia  
Phone: +7095 781 0182  
Fax: +7095 781 0183  
Email: nat@synopsis-agency.ru

Elizabeth Van Lear  
The Van Lear Agency  
PO Box 21816  
London SW6 6QP  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 207 751 3386  
Fax: +44 207 751 3387  
Email: evl@vanlear.co.uk

**Scandinavia**

Eva Haagerup  
Copenhagen Literary Agency  
Frederiksholms Kanal 2, 3. sal  
DK – 1220, Copenhagen K  
Denmark  
Phone: +45 33 13 25 23  
Fax: +45 33 13 49 92  
Email: eva@cphla.dk

**Spain & Portugal**

Maribel Luque  
International Editors Agency  
Provenza, 276, 1o  
08008 Barcelona, Spain  
Phone: +34 93 215 8812  
Fax: +34 93 487 3583  
Email: maribel.luque@internationaleditors.com

**Turkey**

Amy Spangler  
Anatolialit Agency  
Cafer Aga Mah.  
Gunesli Bahce Sok. No: 48 Or. Ko Apt. B Blok  
D: 4 34710 Kadiköy, Istanbul, Turkey  
Phone: +90 216 338 7093  
Fax: +90 216 338 7093  
Email: amy@anatolialit.com

**UK**

Sarah Lutyens  
Lutyens & Rubinstein  
21 Kensington Park Road  
London W11 2EU  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 207 792 4855  
Fax +44 207 792 4833  
Email: sarah@lutyensrubinstein.co.uk

**USA & Canada**

Kim Witherspoon / David Forrer  
InkWell Management  
521 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2600  
New York, NY 10175, USAUSA  
Phone: + 212 922 3500  
Fax: + 212 922 0535  
Email: david@inkwellmanagement.com