

# Frankfurt Book Fair 2023

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS GUIDE

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**Linda Kaplan**  
[linda@defliterary.com](mailto:linda@defliterary.com)  
212 925 7744 x 106

# STEFI AND THE SPANISH PRINCE

**Donna Freitas**

Harper Teen, June 2024

**In Barcelona, the beach is beautiful, the tapas are delicious, and the boys are plentiful.**

Good thing, because Stefi's nursing a broken heart after a disastrous breakup. Excited to reinvent herself in a magical city where no one knows her, she hopes a summer in Barcelona will do wonders for her love life, her Catalan language skills, and her pastry-making repertoire after she enrolls at Catalunya's famed culinary institute.

Another thing Barcelona has? A secret prince. The heir in question, Xavi Borges, helps his mother run a popular tapas spot. After Stefi stops at their counter, Xavi can't get the beautiful American girl off his mind. His life is way too complicated for romance, but doesn't he deserve to enjoy his final summer of anonymity before assuming his royal duties?

Part bodyguard, part confidante, Santiago is tasked with keeping Xavi out of trouble. Santiago knows Xavi and Stefi's budding relationship can't last once Xavi's real identity becomes public. But soon Santiago is crushing on Xavi's best friend, Diego, and his focus shifts from royal protection duties to the possibility of enjoying a romance of his own.

With so many sparks flying, a threat to expose Xavi's royal secret goes unheeded, and when the news blows up, it threatens to burn down all of their lives.

*Category:* Young Adult  
*Editor:* Tara Weikum  
*Agent:* Miriam Altshuler  
*DeFiore & Co. Controls:* Translation  
*Material:* Manuscript



**Donna Freitas** is the author of several young adult and middle grade novels. She is also the author of the adult novel *THE NINE LIVES OF ROSE NAPOLITANO*. She has appeared on NPR, *The Today Show*, CNN, and many other news media outlets, and she has lectured about her research at over two hundred colleges and universities across the United States. She lives in Brooklyn and Barcelona. [www.donnafreitas.com](http://www.donnafreitas.com)

# NOT QUITE A GHOST

*A Novel*

**Anne Ursu**

Harper Collins, January 2024

The house on Katydid Street seems to sit apart from the others, silent and alone, like it doesn't fit among them. For Violet Hart—whose family moves into the house—little feels like it fits anymore. Like her old home, too small since her mother remarried and the new baby arrived. Or her friend group, which since middle school began is no longer enough for Violet's best friend, Paige. But maybe, Violet tells herself, change is sometimes okay. Then Violet sees her new room.

The attic bedroom is shadowy, creaky, and wrapped in faded wallpaper covered with twisting vines and sickly flowers. After moving in, Violet falls ill, and days turn into weeks without any improvement. Her family grows more confused and her friends wonder if she's really sick at all.

Violet finds herself more and more alone in the room with the yellow wallpaper, the shadows moving in the corners, wrapping themselves around her at night. But soon, she starts to suspect that she might not be alone in the room at all....

From award-winning author Anne Ursu comes a dark, deeply-felt story of illness, of growing up, and of the ghosts that lurk just beyond our sight—as well as the ones we carry with us.

*Category:* Early Middle Grade

*Agent:* Elise Howard

*DeFiore & Co. Controls:* Translation

*Material:* PDF

**Author's previous titles sold to:**

**Cronus Chronicles series (Simon & Schuster):**

Editorial Everest (**Spanish**), Wydawnictwo Dolnoslaskie (**Czech**)

**Breadcrumbs (Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins, 2011):**

Seuil Jeunesse (**French**), Aladin Verlag (**German**), Beijing Juvenile and Children's House (**simplified Chinese**)

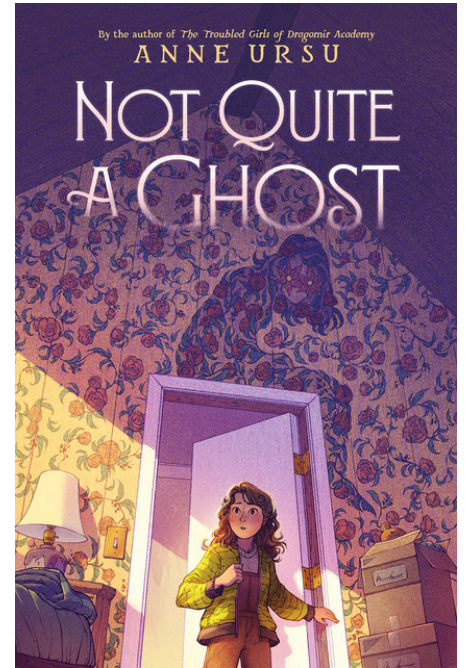
**The Real Boy (Walden Pond, 2015):**

Beijing Juvenile and Children's House (**simplified Chinese**)

**The Lost Girl (Walden Pond, 2020):**

Art Grup (**Romanian**)

**Anne Ursu** is the author of the acclaimed novels *The Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy*, *The Lost Girl*, *Breadcrumbs*, and *The Real Boy*, which was longlisted for the National Book Award. The recipient of a McKnight Fellowship Award in Children's Literature, Anne lives in Minneapolis with her family and an ever-growing number of cats.



# THE DOOR IS OPEN

Edited by Hena Khan

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, April 2024

Discover stories of fear, triumph, and spectacular celebration in a small New Jersey town, where the local kids gather at the community center to discover new crushes, fight against ignorance, and even save a life. Cheer for Chaya as she wins chess tournaments (unlike Andrew, she knows stupid sugary soda won't make you better at chess), and follow as Jeevan learns how to cook traditional food (it turns out he *can* cook sabji-- he just can't eat it).

These stories, edited by bestselling and award-winning Pakistani-American author Hena Khan, are filled with humor, warmth, and possibility. They showcase a diverse array of talented authors with heritage from the Indian subcontinent, including beloved favorites and rising stars, who each highlight the beauty and necessity of a community center that everyone calls home. From contributors Sayantani Dasgupta, Reem Faruqi, Veera Hiranandani, Simran Jeet Singh, Supriya Kelkar, Ranjani Laroocca, Maulik Pancholy, Mitali Perkins, Aisha Saeed, and N.H. Senzai.

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|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Category</i>                    | Middle Grade    |
| <i>Editor:</i>                     | Farrin Jacobs   |
| <i>Agent:</i>                      | Matthew Elblonk |
| <i>DeFiore &amp; Co. Controls:</i> | Translation     |
| <i>Material:</i>                   | Manuscript      |

**Hena Khan** is a Pakistani-American writer. She is the author of the middle grade novels *Amina's Voice* and *More to the Story* and picture books *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*, *Under My Hijab*, and *It's Ramadan*, *Curious George*, among others. Hena lives in her hometown of Rockville, Maryland, with her basketball-loving family. You can learn more about Hena and her books by visiting her website at [HenaKhan.com](http://HenaKhan.com) or connecting with her @HenaKhanBooks.



# JUST BECAUSE

Matthew McConaughey, illustrated by Renée Kurilla  
Viking Children's Books, September 12, 2023

"I wrote *Just Because* for your kids, for my kids, and for the kid in all of us. We're all as young as we're ever gonna be, so let's just keep learning."

After selling millions of copies of *Greenlights* worldwide since its launch in 2020, Matthew McConaughey is known no longer just as an Oscar winner, but as an accomplished and unique storyteller. And as a father of three, he's now turned his talents to a new book born from watching his children first make sense of the world in simple terms, and then maturing into understanding the more subtle realities of life—the innuendos, context, and poetry in people's actions and feelings.

JUST BECAUSE explores life's little complexities and contradictions through the eyes of children and encourages the spirit of fun, imagination, adventure and discovery that brings out the best in kids—and in all of us.

*Just because I'm in the race,  
doesn't mean I'm fully ready.  
Just because I'm shaking,  
doesn't mean that I'm not steady.*

*Have you ever felt worried and excited at the same time?*

*Have you ever had your feelings hurt but forgiven someone anyway?*

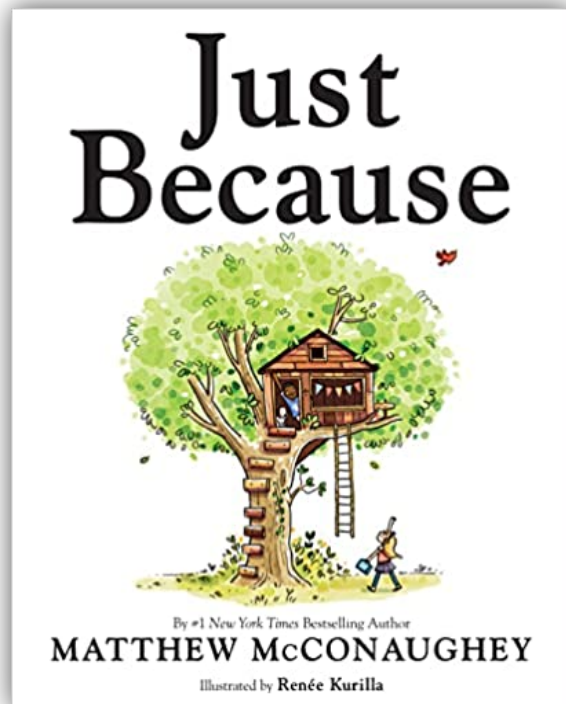
*Have you ever thought there was more than one right answer to a question?*

*That's because contradictions are all around us. And they make us who we are.*

Filled with his trademark humor and wisdom, *Just Because* is a soulful and irreverent children's picture book that serves as a "guidebook" for life. Through a series of rhyming couplets, McConaughey dismantles assumptions and candidly expresses how we are capable of experiencing a broad spectrum of emotions. Revealing that our contradictions are what make us our most honest selves, *Just Because* empowers readers of all ages and celebrates how we are full of possibility.

- Ages 4-8
- Trim Size: 8.5 inches x 10.5 inches
- 32 pages
- Interior paper is matte and jacket is matte with spot UV gloss

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Category:               | Picture Book  |
| Editor:                 | Tamar Brazis  |
| Agent:                  | Matthew Elblonk   |
| DeFiore & Co. Controls: | UK & Translation  |
| Materials:              | Interior spreads  |
| Sold to:                | Penguin Random House Australia, Grimm Press ( <b>Complex Chinese</b> ), Pedio ( <b>Greek</b> ), XXI. SZÁZAD ( <b>Hungarian</b> ), La Nave di Teseo ( <b>Italian</b> ) |



**GREENLIGHTS sold to:** Living Publishing House(**Albania**), Bard Publishing House (**Bulgaria**), Infotress Publishing (**Complex Chinese**), Beijing Xiron Culture Group (**Simplified Chinese**),Skolska Kniga (**Croatia**) Media Rey (**Czech Republic**), Tanapaev (**Estonia**), Werner Soderstrom (**Finland**),Editions du Seuil( **France**),Ullstein (**Germany**), Pedio (**Greece**), XXI Szazad (**Hungary**), La Nave di Teseo (**Italy**), Oversight Publication (**Korea**), Helios Kirjastus (**Latvia**), Alma Littera (**Lithuania**), Marginesy (**Poland**), RAO (**Romania**), Azbooka-Atticus (**Russia**), Motyl (**Slovakia**), PRH Grupo Editorial( **Spanish**), FORS Ukraine (**Ukraine**)



Matthew McConaughey is the Academy Award–winning actor and #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Greenlights*. He also created *Greenlights: Your Journal, Your Journey*, a guided companion that inspires readers to write down and reflect on their feelings, adventures, and dreams.

Matthew and his wife, Camila, founded the just keep livin Foundation, which is dedicated to empowering high school students by providing them with the tools to lead active lives and make healthy choices for a better future. He is a professor of practice and a Minister of Culture for the University of Texas at Austin, where he lives with his wife and three children. Matthew is a storyteller, a tree house builder, and a pickle expert. You can visit Matthew on Instagram @OfficiallyMcConaughey or on Twitter @McConaughey.

Renée Kurilla is the author and illustrator of many books for young readers. She has a BFA in illustration and a minor in graphic design from Lesley University College of Art and Design. She lives outside of Boston with her husband, daughter, and a fish named Yoshi. You can visit Renée at Kurillastration.com or on Instagram and Twitter @ReneeKurilla.

# WHITE HOUSE CLUBHOUSE

Sean O'Brien

Norton Young Readers, October 2023

"In his debut novel, Sean O'Brien creates a wildly unique club every kid will want to join. With a blend of suspenseful action, laugh-aloud humor, solid history, and a White House insider's knowledge, *White House Clubhouse* is a page-turning time-travel romp. It's deft, fun, and full of surprises."

— **Peter Lerangis**, *New York Times*-bestselling author of the *Seven Wonders* and *Throwback* series

"I had a blast journeying through time and across America with Marissa, Clara, and their historic companions in Sean O'Brien's delightful (or DEEE-lightful!) debut, *White House Clubhouse*. The story was suspenseful, propulsive, and a lot of fun. O'Brien masterfully weaves together history, adventure, and purpose, to convey the power of action and daring—of being in the arena—in a way that is both inspiring and accessible to kids."—**Ruby Shamir**, award-winning author of *What's the Big Deal About Elections*

**From a former White House speechwriter: a middle grade series following two First Daughters who team up with historical presidential children to save the nation.**

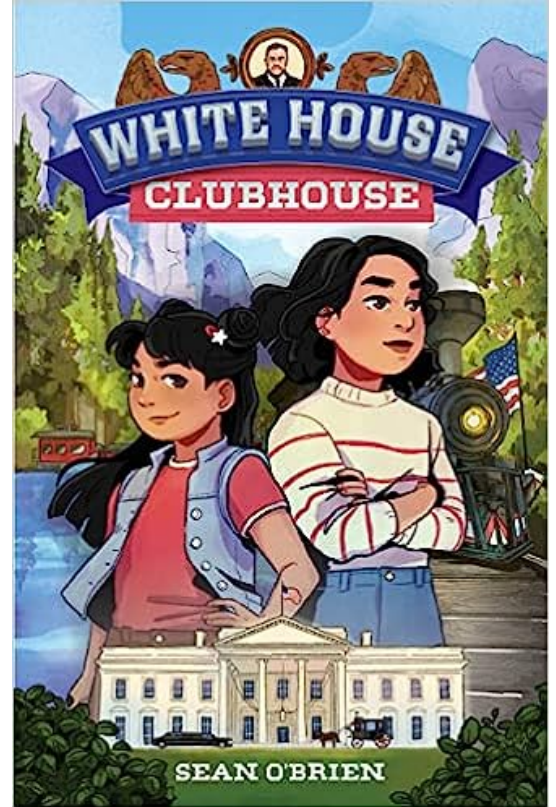
Marissa and Clara's mom is the newly elected President of the United States, and they haven't experienced much freedom lately. Then, they discover a hidden tunnel in the White House that leads to an underground clubhouse full of antique curiosities, doors heading in all directions—and a mysterious document addressed to them. So they sign it.

Suddenly, the lights go out, and Marissa and Clara find themselves at the White House in 1903. There they meet Quentin, Ethel, Archie, and Alice, the irrepressible children of President Theodore Roosevelt. To get back home, Marissa and Clara must team up with the Roosevelt kids "to help the President...and to make a difference."

*White House Clubhouse* is a thrilling and hilarious adventure that takes readers on an action-packed, cross-country railroad trip, back to the dawn of the twentieth century and the larger-than-life president at the country's helm.

**Category:** Middle Grade  
**Editor:** Simon Boughton  
**Agent:** Reiko Davis  
**DeFiore & Co. Controls:** Translation  
**Material:** PDF

***White House Club House* Book 2 coming Fall 2024**



**SEAN O'BRIEN** is a former White House speechwriter who now teaches at Georgetown University. He served as Director of Speechwriting to Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden, and Special Assistant to President Barack Obama. He lives in Washington, DC.

Teddy Roosevelt said, "I don't think any family has enjoyed the White House more than we have." With six kids and over two dozen pets, that's probably true, but Sean's family has been lucky enough to enjoy some great times there as well, from rolling eggs on the South Lawn to admiring the massive gingerbread house displayed on the wooden eagle table. His kids Jay and Clare also had fun wondering what else might be hidden—maybe there's a secret passageway under that table. Where would it lead to? They wrote this book to find out!

# ANYBODY HERE SEEN FRENCHIE?

Leslie Connor

Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins Children's Books, January 2022, paperback August 2023

Eleven-year-old Aurora Petrequin's best friend has never spoken a word to her. In fact, Frenchie Livernois doesn't talk.

Aurora is bouncy, loud and impulsive— "a big old blurter." Making friends has never come easily. When Frenchie, who is autistic, silently chose Aurora as his person back in third grade, she was all in. In fact, she chose him back. They make a good team, sharing their love of the natural world in coastal Maine.

In the woods, Aurora and Frenchie encounter a piebald deer, a rare creature with a coat like a patchwork quilt. The piebald is alluring and mysterious. Whenever it appears, Aurora feels compelled to follow.

At school, Aurora looks out for Frenchie, who has been her classmate until this year. One morning, Frenchie doesn't make it to his classroom. Aurora feels she's to blame. The entire town begins to search, and everyone wonders: how is it possible that nobody has seen Frenchie?

Or have they?

Award-winning author Leslie Connor has created another big-hearted, beautiful, and funny novel about the meaning of being a true friend and the collective effervescence that lifts a community in times of need.

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Category                | Middle Grade              |
| Editor:                 | Katherine Tegen           |
| Agent:                  | Miriam Altshuler          |
| DeFiore & Co. Controls: | Translation               |
| Material:               | Final PDF                 |
| Sold to:                | Hanser ( <b>Germany</b> ) |

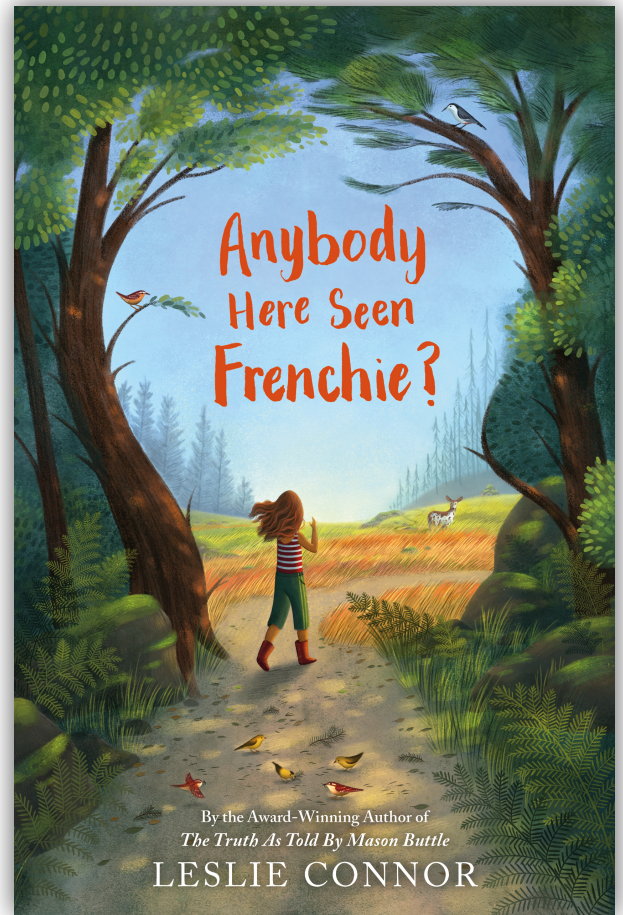
## Also Available:

A HOME FOR GODDESSES AND DOGS

THE TRUTH AS TOLD BY MASON BUTTLE sold to: Beijing White Horse (**Simplified Chinese**), Lemniscaat (**Dutch**), Hanser (**German**), Il Castoro (**Italian**), Balgeunmirae (**Korean**), Corint Books (**Romanian**), Anaya (**Spanish**), Panama Publishing (**Turkish**), Ubook (**Brazilian Portuguese audio**)



**Leslie Connor** is the author of many award-winning books for children, including *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*, National Book Award finalist and winner of the ALA Schneider Family Book Award; *Waiting for Normal*, winner of the ALA Schneider Family Book Award; *A Home for Goddesses and Dogs*; *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*; and *Crunch*. She lives in the Connecticut woods with her family and three rescue dogs. You can visit her online at [www.leslieconnor.com](http://www.leslieconnor.com).



# AMINA'S SONG

Hena Khan

S&S Books for Young Readers, March 2021

## **Praise for AMINA'S SONG:**

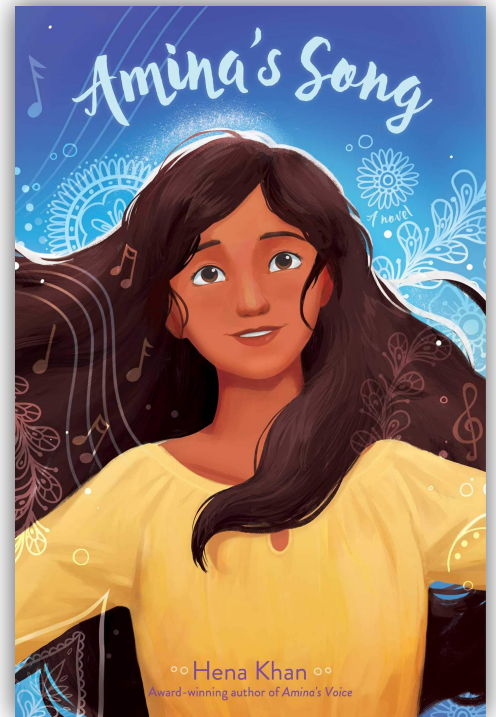
"An uplifting story about relationships, especially those that strengthen us and help us grow... A beautiful story for middle graders discovering who they are."

—*School Library Journal*, starred Review

"Khan excellently weaves together complex issues of feeling torn between two parts of one's identity, illness in the family, helping others, and finding out that growing up does not have to mean growing apart. Highly recommended for all collections." —*Booklist*, starred Review

"Readers will enjoy being along for the ride as Amina sorts through mild middle school turbulence and finds satisfying ways to express and share her true self... A sweet sequel." —*Kirkus Reviews*

**In the companion novel to the beloved and award-winning *Amina's Voice*, Amina once again uses her voice to bridge the places, people, and communities she loves—this time across continents.**



It's the last few days of her vacation in Pakistan, and Amina has loved every minute of it. The food, the shops, the time she's spent with her family—all of it holds a special place in Amina's heart. Now that the school year is starting again, she's sad to leave, but also excited to share the wonders of Pakistan with her friends back in Greendale.

After she's home, though, her friends don't seem overly interested in her trip. And when she decides to do a presentation on Pakistani hero Malala Yousafzai, her classmates focus on the worst parts of the story. How can Amina share the beauty of Pakistan when no one wants to listen?

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Category:               | Middle Grade    |
| Agent:                  | Matthew Elblonk |
| DeFiore & Co. Controls: | Translation     |
| Material:               | Final PDF       |

**AMINA'S VOICE sold to:** Bayard (**French**), Seedbook (**Korean**)

## **PRAISE FOR AMINA'S VOICE:**

"For inspiring empathy in young readers, you can't get better than this book." —**R. J. Palacio**, author of #1 New York Times bestseller *Wonder*

"Amina's middle school woes and the universal themes running through the book transcend culture, race, and religion. A perfect first book for this new Muslim imprint." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"A universal story of self-acceptance and the acceptance of others. A welcome addition to any middle grade collection." —*School Library Journal*, starred review

"Written as beautifully as Amina's voice surely is, this compassionate, timely novel is highly recommended for all libraries." —*Booklist*, starred review

**Hena Khan** is a Pakistani-American writer. She is the author of the middle grade novels *Amina's Voice* and *More to the Story* and picture books *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*, *Under My Hijab*, and *It's Ramadan*, *Curious George*, among others. Hena lives in her hometown of Rockville, Maryland, with her basketball-loving family. You can learn more about Hena and her books by visiting her website at [HenaKhan.com](http://HenaKhan.com) or connecting with her @HenaKhanBooks.

# Co-Agents

## **Brazil:**

Laura Riff  
The Riff Agency  
[laura@agenciariff.com.br](mailto:laura@agenciariff.com.br)

## **Italy/Portugal, Spain and Latin America**

Barbara Barbieri/Juliana Galvis  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (London)  
[bbarbieri@nurnberg.co.uk](mailto:bbarbieri@nurnberg.co.uk)  
[jgalvis@nurnberg.co.uk](mailto:jgalvis@nurnberg.co.uk)

## **Bulgaria, Romania & Serbia:**

Mira Droumeva  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Sofia)  
[mira@anas-bg.com](mailto:mira@anas-bg.com)

## **China:**

Jackie Huang  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Beijing)  
[jhuang@nurnberg.com.cn](mailto:jhuang@nurnberg.com.cn)

## **Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia:**

Lucie Poláková  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Prague)  
[polakova@nurnberg.cz](mailto:polakova@nurnberg.cz)

## **France**

Eliane Benisti  
Agence Eliane Benisti  
[eliane@elianebenisti.com](mailto:eliane@elianebenisti.com)

## **Germany:**

Sabine Pfannenstiel  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (London)  
[spfannenstiel@nurnberg.co.uk](mailto:spfannenstiel@nurnberg.co.uk)

## **Greece:**

John Moukakos  
JLM Literary Agency  
[jlm@jlm.gr](mailto:jlm@jlm.gr)

## **Hungary & Croatia:**

Judit Hermann  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Budapest)  
[j.hermann@nurnberg.hu](mailto:j.hermann@nurnberg.hu)

## **Israel:**

Beverley Levit  
The Israeli Association of Book Publishers Ltd.  
[rights1@tbpai.co.il](mailto:rights1@tbpai.co.il)

## **Japan:**

Ken Mori & Manami Tamaoki  
Tuttle-Mori  
[ken@tuttle Mori.com](mailto:ken@tuttle Mori.com), [manami@tuttle Mori.com](mailto:manami@tuttle Mori.com)

## **Korea:**

Henry Shin  
Eric Yang Agency  
[henryshin@ericyangagency.co.kr](mailto:henryshin@ericyangagency.co.kr)

## **Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Estonia:**

Tatjana Zoldnere  
Eastern European and Asian Rights Agency  
[zoldnere@earagency.com](mailto:zoldnere@earagency.com)

## **The Netherlands and Scandinavia:**

Lester Hekking  
Sebes and Bisseling Agency  
[hekking@sebes.nl](mailto:hekking@sebes.nl)

## **Poland:**

Marcin Biegaj  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Warsaw)  
[marcin.biegaj@nurnberg.pl](mailto:marcin.biegaj@nurnberg.pl)

## **Russia:**

Olga Lutova  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Moscow)  
[olga@lit-agency.ru](mailto:olga@lit-agency.ru)

## **Taiwan:**

Whitney Hsu  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Taipei)  
[whsu@nurnberg.com.tw](mailto:whsu@nurnberg.com.tw)

## **Turkey:**

Dilek Kayi  
Kayi Agency  
[dilek@nkliteraryagency.com](mailto:dilek@nkliteraryagency.com)

## **Ukraine:**

Dominika Bojanowska  
Andrew Nurnberg Associates (Kyiv)  
[dominika.bojanowska@nurnberg.pl](mailto:dominika.bojanowska@nurnberg.pl)