

## **The Rights Factory Appoints New Associate Agent Focusing on Children's Authors**

The Rights Factory is expanding its list of Children's authors. Freshly minted Associate Agent, Ali McDonald is ready to submit her first middle-grade and YA projects.

"The fantastic worlds of children's literature transformed my life," says McDonald. "The works of Beatrix Potter, Lewis Carroll, and C.S. Lewis helped define my character. Nothing could be more rewarding than now having the opportunity to bring talented new voices to today's young readers."

She is launching her new list with the following clients and projects:

Kelli McLeod of Shawnigan Lake Private School writes what she knows in her sassy novel *The Secret Keeper of Sansum Prep*. A trailer-park teen at an elite boarding school finds herself the latest "project" of the tyrannous social queen and her clique of clones. Blackmailed into keeping their dirty secrets in order to protect her own, she is determined to discover the identity of her mysterious benefactor, while navigating the uncertain terrain of first love.

Jenna Nelson kicks off her YA urban fantasy series with *Virgin*; a look at what darkness lurks behind the picturesque veneer of small-town America. A sixteen-year old girl uncovers the true identity of the local whack-job and his hottie son as magical beings stranded on Earth, trying desperately to return home. Falling hard for the boy next door, with his magical proclivity, she is inadvertently caught up in a century's old war, at risk of losing much more than her virginity.

Annie Wood, founder of Circle Media and former children's publisher, combines her gift for storytelling and love of travel in her new illustrated series, currently in development.

Ali is actively seeking new talent and is aiming to have 25 clients by year's end. She started at The Rights Factory in January 2009, in an editorial capacity, and after preliminary discussions with president Sam Hiyate, decided to become an agent and started building her list in Fall 09.

"There are really exciting things happening in the children's market. Publishers are embracing debut authors in ground-breaking deals, especially for urban fantasy in the U.S."

About the appointment, Sam Hiyate said, "I wanted our previous successes in children's books – Christine Walde's *The Candy Darlings* and Mariko and Jillian Tamaki's *SKIM* – to be more than one-offs for the agency. I'm delighted to have Ali and her enthusiasm for these books allow us to work with a wider range of talent. I love her first few projects and can't wait to see who she signs next."

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