

VWS Agent Panel Introduction
September 8th, 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.

Welcome to the Agent Panel Webinar! My name is Haydyn Wallender, the Visiting Writers Series Intern. I'm coming to you from Pullman, WA. Washington State University is located on the homelands of the Niimípuu (Knee-ME-poo) and the traditional homeland of the Pelúuc (pell-LOO(SE)) people. We acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial and recognize their continuing connection to the land, to the water, and to their ancestors.

Our common reading book for this year is Trevor Noah's memoir Born of Crime. In order to get the book published, Noah had to first get an agent and get the book revised through an editor; then the agent would then sell the book to a publisher in order for us to have it in our hands. We have two agents, Taryn Fagerness and Kayla Lightner, and an editor/agent assistant, Anne Horowitz, here today to talk about the mysterious process.

Taryn Fagerness Agency was established in March 2009, and Taryn Fagerness has worked in foreign rights since 2004. She's sold hundreds of books to foreign markets. Taryn has experience selling subsidiary rights for *New York Times* bestselling authors, first time authors, and everyone in between, in nearly all genres including literary fiction, thriller/suspense, commercial fiction, romance, history, self-help, business, and children's. She has exceptional relationships with foreign co-agents, foreign publishers, and scouts, and she handles all aspects of selling foreign rights from international fair-going to submission, negotiating, and tracking titles through publication and beyond.

Prior to joining Ayesha Pande Literary, Kayla Lightner worked as an assistant at Liza Dawson Associates. A Georgia native, she earned her B.A. in English from Vassar College. Before finding her way to publishing, she held various positions including a fashion market assistant at *Harper's Bazaar*, and a freelance writer at Creative Loafing Atlanta. An adventurous reader, Kayla loves stories—across commercial fiction, literary fiction, and nonfiction—that masterfully straddle the line between story-telling and teaching her something new. She's particularly enamored with speculative fiction that centers black voices, humorous essay collections, and compelling family sagas. When Kayla's not reading, she can be found writing, performing stand-up, and reminiscing on her rugby days.

Anne Horowitz is a Brooklyn-based freelance book editor. Her clients for developmental or line editing include: Creative Nonfiction, Tin House Books, Milkweed

Editions, Seal Press, and The Experiment. She enjoys working with both established and first-time authors, and she's comfortable operating in a traditional publishing framework as well as with authors exploring other paths toward publication. As an editor, she strives to be the best reader she possibly can be for the writers she works with: thoughtful, constructive, clear-eyed, sympathetic, and supportive. She works as editor with agent Reneé Zuckerbrot at Massie & McQuilkin Literary Agents and is a mentor for the Emerging Writers Fellowship at the Center for Fiction.

Before we begin, I want to take a moment to remind you of our next event hosted by WSU's Visiting Writer Series, which brings noted poets and writers of fiction and nonfiction to campus for creative readings, class visits, workshops, and collaborative exchanges across intellectual and artistic disciplines. On September 23rd, we have the pleasure of welcoming Kelly Yang, an NYTimes bestselling author of Young Adult and Middle Grade Fiction. If you check the chat, we've put a link to that YouTube Live Event where you can set a reminder. No registration is necessary for this event, which is free and open to everyone. We hope to see you there!

Lastly, you'll see at the bottom of your screen a small button that says "Q & A": that is the place where we would like you to ask any questions of the panelist, and I will relay the questions to them.

I am going to ask Taryn, Kayla and Anne to tell us what they do as an agent and a editor/agent assistant to kick us off. While they are talking, please make sure to use the "Q & A" button for all questions you have. There are no stupid ones! We are so lucky to have these agents here with us today. Please take this opportunity because we don't have this happen very often.

Without further ado, please join me in welcoming Taryn, Kayla and Anne!