

**Collins Literary Agency
Rights Guide/September 2009**

Upcoming Projects / Fiction

DANIELLE EVANS

BEFORE YOU SUFFOCATE YOUR OWN FOOL SELF (stories) and THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES (novel).

A luminous collection of stories about young African-American women struggling to transcend their pasts and coming to difficult conclusions about what to keep, what they must give up, and what they can never really leave behind. One of the stories, "Virgins", was published in the Fall 2007 *The Paris Review*. Danielle's fresh and subtle take on race is one of the truly original elements in her writing, something which places her firmly in a new generation of African-American writers.

Danielle Evans was born in 1983 in Northern Virginia. She received a B.A. from Columbia University, and an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She was the 2006-2007 Carol Houck Smith Fellow at The Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing at The University of Wisconsin, Madison, and will be a Spring 2008 University of Iowa Lakeside Fellow. Her story "Virgins" was selected by Salman Rushdie for inclusion in *Best American Short Stories 2008*. Her short fiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Public Space*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *Phoebe* and *The L Magazine*.

North American – Riverhead/Sarah McGrath, pub. Fall 2010

UK and translation rights – Collins Literary

PATRICIA ENGEL

"Gloriously gifted and alarmingly intelligent Engel writes with an almost fable-like intensity, whether she is describing suburban New Jersey or urban Colombia or some other lost place . . . her ability to pierce the hearts of her crazy-ass characters, to fracture a moment into its elementary particles of yearning, cruelty, love and confusion will leave you breathless. Here, friends, is the debut I have been waiting for." – Junot Díaz

VIDA (stories)

The stories in VIDA follow a single narrator, Sabina, as she navigates her shifting identity as a daughter of the Colombian diaspora through her relationships with other children of exile. The stories are assembled as an internal map of immigration and transitory communities, exploring the loneliness and connections formed among the displaced. Many of these stories have been published including "Lucho" and "Desaliento" which both appeared in *Boston Review*.

RUE DU BAC

For thirty years, the Countess de Beaumont rented out rooms in a wing of her Left Bank mansion to girls from around the world who came to Paris to study, learn the language, and unofficially, to fall in love. The novel, RUE DU BAC, depicts the friendships, rivalries, adventures, tragedies, parties, and love affairs of the international residents who range from the ages of 18 to 24, and hail from the US, Sweden, Spain, Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Thailand, England, Bahrain, Japan, and Morocco. As strangers in a strange land, the girls confront and cultivate their identities against the backdrop of Paris until the aging Countess unexpectedly dies in her sleep. Her descendants declare an inheritance war over the hôtel particulier, and the girls are informed they will be its last tenants. The novel is narrated by Luna Vélez, an American Latina and the first member of her family to attend college. While studying art in Paris, Luna falls in love with a French yachtsman and must decide between joining him in the French Caribbean or fulfilling her immigrant family's dreams for her future and returning home at the end of her year abroad.

Patricia Engel was born to Colombian parents and raised in New Jersey. She earned a degree in French and Art History from New York University, and lived in Manhattan and Paris before moving to Miami with

a fellowship to complete her MFA at Florida International University. Patricia has been awarded the 2008 *Boston Review* Fiction Prize, a 2009 Florida Artist Fellowship in Literature, a 2008 Artist Enhancement Grant, distinctions from *Narrative*, *Glimmer Train*, Salem College International Literary Awards, and is the recipient of scholarships and residencies from Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Key West Literary Seminar, Summer Literary Seminars, and Hedgebrook among others. In 2007, she was selected and introduced by Junot Díaz as Featured Emerging Fiction Writer for CLMP Periodically Speaking at the New York Public Library. Her stories have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Atlantic*, *Boston Review*, *Quarterly West*, *Guernica*, *Slice Magazine*, *Harpur Palate*, *Nimrod*, *Driftwood*, and other journals.

World—Grove/Atlantic, Lauren Wein, pub. Fall 2010

SHILPI SOMAYA GOWDA

SECRET DAUGHTER.

A poignant narrative about three women, a mother in rural India who is forced to give up her baby girl; the American doctor who adopts her; and Asha, the secret daughter, who sets out to discover who she is and changes their lives forever.

Shilpi Somaya Gowda was born and raised in Toronto to parents who migrated there from Bombay. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was awarded a Morehead Scholarship, and an MBA from Stanford University. After moving to Dallas in 2006, she enrolled in the SMU Novel Writing series. On the basis of her manuscript, she was selected to participate in the New York Writers' Seminar. She lives in Dallas with her husband and two daughters, and is working on a second novel.

World English—William Morrow/HarperCollins, Carrie Feron, pub. Spring 2010

Translation rights—Collins Literary

SHEBA KARIM

SKUNK GIRL

A young adult novel about a Pakistani-American girl growing up in a small town in upstate New York and grappling with being Muslim, being hairy, and being in love. Some excerpts of reviews can be found on Sheba's website: www.shebakarim.com, click 'Press'.

Sheba Karim is a graduate of the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop. She is currently working on a novel about Razia, the daughter of a Sultan in India, who became a Sultan herself and a collection of linked short stories.

North American—FSG Books for Young Readers/Janine O'Malley- pub. April 09

Translation Rights—Collins Literary

Subsidiary Rights deals—Italy/Rizzoli; Sweden/Tilden; Denmark/Carlsen

JUSTIN KRAMON

FINNY

A sparkling, witty, and sweeping debut novel tracing the tumultuous coming-of-age of its incorrigible heroine Finny Short.

We meet Finny Short as an impish fourteen-year-old, whose sly sense of humor can't hide the fact that she simply doesn't belong. Finny's socialite mother can't understand her, her father quotes Nietzsche over pancakes, and her brother's too busy to sympathize. The only person who makes her feel normal is her neighbor Earl Henckel, but his life is anything but normal... When turmoil at home results in Finny's

deportation to Thorndon boarding school, she finds herself catapulted into an even stranger landscape, populated by a Dickensian array of eccentric characters, including a seductive New York heiress, a mercurial dorm-mother named Poplan, and a narcoleptic piano teacher whose own mysterious past will prove to bear on Finny's future. The entertaining, wickedly funny odyssey that follows propels Finny into a unpredictable world of intrigue and adventure, spanning twenty years and two continents, where she learns to navigate the treacherous waters of adulthood and is forced to rethink her loyalties to both family and friends. A charming and hilarious debut with a deeply-felt love story at its core, Finny introduces us to both an unforgettable young woman, and to a talented and excitingly original new literary voice.

Justin Kramon is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He has been the recipient of many awards and honors for his fiction, including a Michener-Copernicus Society of America Award, mention in Best American Short Stories, and a Hawthornden Writers Fellowship. His work appears in *Glimmer Train*, *Boulevard*, *Story Quarterly*, *Fence*, and *Harvard Summer Review*. Now twenty-seven years old, he lives in New York City.

North American--Random House/Kate Medina, pub. Summer 2010
Translation Rights—Collins Literary
Subsidiary Rights deals--Spain/Ediciones Destino

PREETA SAMARASAN

EVENING IS THE WHOLE DAY

The already acclaimed debut of a promising young Indian-Malaysian author, this masterful gothic novel transports us to Malaysia circa 1980, as the prosperous Rajasekharan family of Big House, Ipoh, slowly peels away its closely-guarded secrets. Winner of the University of Michigan's Hopwood First Novel Award, Preeta Samarasan's spellbinding first novel opens with the Rajasekharan family's dismissal of Chellam, a rubber-plantation servant girl, for unnamed crimes. Circling through years of family history, *EVENING IS THE WHOLE DAY* illuminates the family's layers of secrets and lies, while exposing the sordid underbelly of post-colonial Malaysia. *EVENING IS THE WHOLE DAY* is a mesmerizing and vital achievement sure to earn Preeta Samarasan a place in the postcolonial pantheon.

Preeta Samarasan was born and raised in Malaysia, but moved to the United States to finish high-school and to complete her education. She recently received her M.F.A. from the University of Michigan, where this novel received the Hopwood Novel Award; she also recently won the Asian American Writer's Workshop short-story award (judged by Monique Truong).

North American-Houghton Mifflin/Anjali Singh-Pub May 08

Translation Rights –Collins Literary

Subsidiary Rights Deals—Spain/Suma de las Letras; Italy/Einaudi; Norway/Aschehoug; Germany/Ullstein; UK/Fourth Estate; India/HarperCollins; Australia/HarperCollins; Netherlands/Arena; Denmark/Gyldendal ; Israel/Kinneret; Brazil/Rocco; Catalan/Edicions62; France/Actes Sud; Portugal/Edicoes ASA II; Hungary/Ulpus Haz Kiado

MICHAEL SHILLING

ROCK BOTTOM

Once, Blood Orphans had it all: a million-dollar recording contract from Warner Brothers, killer hooks, and cheekbones that could cut glass. Four pretty boys from LA, they were supposed to be the next big thing. But something happened on the way to glory, and now, two years later, Blood Orphans have hit bottom, the yellow brick road of fame having long since turned into a tar pit of incompetence, jealousy, and really bad luck. A pitch-black comedy set in Amsterdam, *BLOOD ORPHANS* spans the last day of the band's last tour, as the band and their manager, a brassy, fast-talking impressariette, try to keep the dream alive through misadventure, cunning, and a truly crooked sense of loyalty. *BLOOD ORPHANS* received the

MFA Thesis Prize from the University of Michigan, given by the MFA faculty each year to the thesis judged most accomplished.

Michael Shilling is a Lecturer at the University of Michigan, where he received his MFA in Creative Writing. He graduated from NYU, worked as a copywriter in Seattle and played the drums in numerous bands, including The Long Winters, with whom he spent three years on the road, sharing stages with Death Cab for Cutie, Nada Surf, and They Might Be Giants, to name a few. He is currently working on a novel that takes place in Victorian England.

World English-Little Brown/Reagan Arthur-Pub January 09
Translation Rights – Collins Literary
Subsidiary rights deals: Performance rights—Landless Theatre Company
Film rights--The Filardi Brothers' Clift Street Productions

LOLA SHONEYIN

THE SECRET LIVES OF BABA SEGI'S WIVES

“When Baba Segi woke up with a bellyache for the sixth day in a row, he knew it was time to do something drastic about his fourth wife’s childlessness.” Thus begins **THE SECRET LIFE OF BABA SEGI’S WIVES**, the riveting debut novel by Lola Shoneyin, a fresh young voice from Nigeria. For Baba Segi, his collection of wives and gaggle of children are the symbol of prosperity, success and a validation of his manhood. Everything runs smoothly in the patriarchal home, until wife number four intrudes on their cozy family arrangement. Baba’s three wives hate Bolanle from the start. Their husband’s glee at having bagged a college graduate, and the preferential treatment he singles her out for make her an instant object of resentment. Then there is the fact that she doesn’t seem to know her place—at the bottom of the totem pole. And, to top it all, she wants to teach them to read! But Bolanle’s arrival threatens to do more than simply ruffle feathers. Unwittingly, she’s about to expose the wives’ long-guarded secret—and they are not going to sit idly by and let her ruin what they’ve worked so hard to protect. In **THE SECRET LIFE OF BABA SEGI’S WIVES**, Lola Shoneyin has created a compelling, witty and enormously sympathetic portrait of a contemporary Nigerian family caught within the net of polygamy.

Lola Shoneyin was born in Ibadan, Nigeria, and spent her childhood in Nigeria and at boarding school in Edinburgh. She studied English at Ogun State University. She currently lives in the UK where she teaches English and Drama at a local secondary school. She writes a weekly blog for Next newspapers, which was founded by Pulitzer Prize winner, Dele Olojede and also contributes articles in UK newspapers including The Times of London. She was a fellow of the Iowa International Writer's Program and has published two volumes of poetry and numerous short stories. She is married to Ola Soyinka, the son of Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka. They have four children.

World (excluding Commonwealth)-William Morrow/HarperCollins/Carrie Feron-Pub Winter 10
UK/Commonwealth-Serpent’s Tail-pub. Spring ‘10
Nigeria and Anglophone West Africa-Cassava Republic Press Pub Fall 09

Upcoming Projects / Non-Fiction

ASALE ANGEL-AJANI

A LEAGUE OF SAINTS AND SINNERS: STORIES FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE GLOBAL DRUG TRADE

A chronicle of the lives of two African women - one a drug mule, the other the head of major drug cartel - as they traverse three continents and survive wars, poverty, and shattered families, bringing readers deep inside the hidden world of the global drug trade.

Asale Angel-Ajani earned her doctoral degree in Anthropology from Stanford University based on the research she conducted for this book. As one of the few international experts on women, African organized crime, and global markets, specifically the underground traffic in women and drugs, she has worked with many International Non-Governmental Organizations and human rights groups. She is a member of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Until recently, she was the Associate Director for Research and Policy for the Institute for Human Rights Policy as well as a professor of Globalization and Anthropology at New York University. She is the author of over twenty articles on the transnational traffic in women and women's roles in trafficking drugs. As the daughter of drug smugglers, no one is more qualified to write this book.

North American—Seal Press/Perseus Books, Brooke Warner—Pub Fall 2010
UK and translation rights—Collins Literary

ARIEL GLUCKLICH

A TASTE FOR HEAVEN

A book about the relationship between bliss and religion and what aspects of religion drive terrorists to do what they do.

Ariel Glucklich is a professor of religion at Georgetown University, Washington DC. His previous books include *Climbing Chamundi Hill* and *Sacred Pain*.

World—Harper San Francisco/Eric Brandt—Pub Feb 2010

NATALIE MCNEAL

THE FRUGALISTA FILES

When Natalie McNeal opened her January 2008 credit card statement, she was appalled to find that her holiday spending had tipped her credit card debt into the land of five figures. Despite being single and earning a decent living, her spending habits meant that she was living from paycheck to paycheck. She had to admit it: she was a spending slut—and she was ready to change her ways. She decided to take a vow of frugality—and thus her blog, “The Frugalista Files” was born, anchored at the Miami Herald and the response was phenomenal. THE FRUGALISTA FILES will chronicle Natalie's path from spending slut to frugalista.

Natalie P. McNeal is an award-winning journalist who writes extensively on personal finance issues. Her reporting as a journalist covering immigrant communities earned her a United Nations Fellowship to Belo Horizonte, Brazil. She is a Don W. Reynolds Business Fellow. Natalie's blog “The Frugalista Files” has a top Google ranking, has received international acclaim and reaches thousands of people daily through Twitter, her Facebook group and her blog. “The Frugalista Files” has been featured in *The New York Times*,

Financial Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Essence.com, Miami Herald (home team advantage), *Philadelphia Inquirer, Tallahassee Democrat, NBC-6 and CBS-4*. Natalie has been featured on CNN six times as “The Frugalista.” CNN anchor Betty Nguyen flew to Miami to do a story on her frugal and fabulous lifestyle. William Safire named “Frugalista” the word of the year. The Oxford University Press named “Frugalista” finalist for its annual word of the year and linked to the blog as an example of a Frugalista. Natalie has served as an expert guest on NPR’s “Talk of the Nation” twice. OnlineMBA.net named The Frugalista Files one of the top 100 Financial Planning blogs in 2009.

North American—Harlequin Nonfiction/Sarah Pelz—Pub Jan 2011
Translation rights—Collins Literary
Film and tv rights—Fine Print Literary/Brendan Deneen

NAOMI ORESKES/ERIK CONWAY

MERCHANTS OF DOUBT: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming

The troubling story of how a cadre of influential scientists have clouded public understanding of scientific facts to advance a political and economic agenda

The U.S. scientific community has long led the world in research on such areas as public health, environmental science, and issues affecting quality of life. Our scientists have produced landmark studies on the dangers of DDT, tobacco smoke, acid rain and global warming. But at the same time, a small yet potent subset of this community leads the world in vehement denial of these dangers.

MERCHANTS OF DOUBT tells the story of how a loose-knit group of high-level scientists and scientific advisors, with deep connections in politics and industry, ran effective campaigns to mislead the public and deny well-established scientific knowledge over four decades. Remarkably, the same individuals surface repeatedly; some of the same figures who have claimed the science of global warming is “not settled” denied the truth of studies linking smoking to lung cancer, coal smoke to acid rain, and CFCs to the ozone hole. “Doubt is our product,” wrote one tobacco executive. These “experts” supplied it.

Oreskes and Conway, historians of science, roll back the rug on this dark corner of the American scientific community, showing how ideology and corporate interests, aided by a too-compliant media, have skewed public understanding of some of the most pressing issues of our era.

Naomi Oreskes is a Professor of History and Science Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Her study “Beyond the Ivory Tower,” published in *Science*, was a milestone in the fight against global warming denial and was cited by Al Gore in *An Inconvenient Truth*. Erik Conway is the resident historian at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

World English—Bloomsbury USA/Peter Ginna—Pub May 2010. Final ms expected in Oct 2009
Translation rights—Collins Literary

MAURICE YOUNG, AKA TRICK DADDY, AND PETER BAILEY

MAGIC CITY: Trials of a Native Son

Chronicles the harrowing story of the greatest rap artist Miami has every produced, as captured by Miami *Herald* writer Peter Bailey. It is an extraordinary story of a childhood marked by poverty, a crime-laden adolescence, an incarceration, a meteoric rise to fame, and a struggle with a potentially fatal disease. It’s the story of a boy whose father was a pimp; who, left to his own devices, learned to hustle to survive and whose only role model was his brother, the drug dealer he watched plying his trade on the block.

Miami bad boy **Trick Daddy** exploded onto America's pop culture landscape as one of the pioneers of Dirty South rap. His 2001 album, *Thugs Are Us*, established him, as one critic wrote, "alongside Ludacris and Mystikal as one of the few nationally championed Dirty South rappers, and ... catapulted him onto the playlist of every urban radio station in America, not to mention MTV." Widely credited with infusing hip hop with new life, he has been one of the most prolific southern talents since his introduction on Uncle Luke's timeless 1996 dance floor staple, "Scarred". Over a twelve-year career, he's released two platinum selling albums and numerous Billboard chart toppers. Trick's label, Dunk Ryders, recently merged with the high profile Cash Money Records, the home of Li'l Wayne and other platinum-selling stars, along with the upcoming release of the debut Dunk Ryders group album.

Peter Bailey joined the *Miami Herald* in June 2005, covering education and urban affairs. In February 2008 he won an Associated Press Sports Editors award for investigative writing. His ongoing series, *On The Margins*, won multiple awards, including "best education reporting" in Florida by the Society of Professional Journalists which also awarded him "best criminal law reporting" for the series, *Dying Young*. He was awarded "best enterprising reporting" by the National Association of Black Journalists. Before joining the *Herald*, Bailey worked as a reporter for *Time Magazine*. His work also has appeared in the *Village Voice*, *Army Times* and *Wilmington News Journal*.

North American—MTV Books/Pocket/Jacob Hoyer—Pub Spring 2010. Final ms expected Oct 2009
UK and translation rights—Collins Literary
Film rights—Hotchkiss & Associates