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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Blink and Harlequin TEEN to Co-Host ALA Annual PopTop Stage Panel on Young Adult Fiction**

*The Changing Face of YA PopTop Stage Panel will take place on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.*

Grand Rapids, MI and New York, NY--- June 25, 2016--- Young Adult fiction is evolving. Is it changing with the times, or is it just time for new voices and styles? How does modern YA compare to YA of the previous generations? And is there a cycle of trends that keep coming back? What can we predict will be the new hot trends of YA in the next year? Blink and Harlequin TEEN will host four popular YA authors for a lively discussion on the changing face of YA during ALA Annual. The panel will be featured during a PopTop Stage event on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. ALA Annual conference attendees are welcomed to come and find out the answers to their YA questions and more in this PopTop Stage panel discussion. The panel will be moderated by Aurora Dominguez, blogger at *Owl Always Be Reading*.

Come prepared to laugh, learn and have your burning YA questions answered!

The authors featured in The Changing Face of YA PopTop Stage Panel at ALA Annual are:  
**Keira Drake**, *The Continent* (Harlequin TEEN), began her career in writing as a copywriter for *Entrepreneur Magazine*, but the desire to connect with individual clients soon led her to 10+ years of success as a freelance marketing consultant. Now, she works part-time with a select clientele, while writing novels, poetry, and music. Keira is an avid gamer with a soft spot for titles that feature epic and astounding storytelling (favorite series include *Fallout*, *Assassin's Creed*, and *Halo*). When not writing or gaming, she is likely reading, napping, painting, drawing, or spending time with her husband and sassy seven-year-old daughter. She lives in Utah, but is a native Californian, and will remind you of that fact at every opportunity.

**Bestselling Author Denise Grover Swank**, *One Paris Summer* (Blink): New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Denise Grover Swank was born in Kansas City, Missouri and lived in the area until she was nineteen. Then she became a nomadic gypsy, living in five cities, four states and ten houses over the course of ten years before she moved back to her roots. She speaks English and smattering of Spanish and Chinese which she learned through an intensive Nick Jr. immersion period. Her hobbies include witty Facebook comments (in own her mind) and dancing in her kitchen with her children. (Quite badly if you believe her offspring.) Hidden talents include the gift of justification and the ability to drink massive amounts of caffeine and still fall asleep within two minutes. Her lack of the sense of smell allows her to perform many unspeakable tasks. She has six children and hasn't lost her sanity. Or so she leads you to believe.

**Lorie Langdon**, *Forever Doon* and *Gilt Hollow* (Blink): Lorie Langdon has over ten years of experience writing online and print advertising for a Fortune 500 company, and left her thriving corporate career to satisfy the voices in her head. Now as a full-time author and stay-at-home mom, she spends her summers editing poolside while dodging automatic water-gun fire, and the rest of the year tucked into her cozy office, Havanese puppy by her side, working to translate her effusive imagination into the written word. Lorie is one-half of the author team that writes the popular DOON series, a YA reimagining of Brigadoon, and her first solo novel, *Gilt Hollow*, will release fall of 2016.

**Amy Lukavics**, *Daughters Unto Devils* and *Women In The Walls* (Harlequin TEEN) Amy Lukavics is a natural storyteller who arrives on the literary scene with an instinctively confident and wickedly original voice. She lurks within the forested mountains of Prescott, Arizona, along with her husband and two precious squiddings. When she isn't reading or writing creepy stories, she enjoys cooking, crafting and

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playing many video games. *Daughters* has been praised by reviewers as Stephen King meets *Little House on the Prairie* and Amy has been lauded for her inimitable writing style while still managing to convey the most frightening and eerie landscapes.

Moderator **Aurora Dominguez** is a high school English teacher, college professor, journalist and blogger for *Owl Always Be Reading* and *Dirty and Thirty*. Aurora was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where her passion for writing, reading and YA books was evident from days when she would devour R. L. Stine, Francine Pascal and Ann M. Martin books. Aurora holds a master's degree in Mass Communications and Journalism from FIU (Florida International University) and has worked at *The Miami Herald*, *Where Magazine* and as a Senior Web Editor for *J-14 Magazine*. Aurora currently resides in South Florida with her husband Sebastian and book-loving kitty, Luna, whose favorite days are Caturdays.

The PopTop Stage is located in the mid-2600 aisle near booth 2653. Attendees can meet with the authors, ask questions, have books signed and pick up cool swag and posters for themselves and their libraries at this event. Librarians, teachers, YA lovers of all ages, teens and those who work with teens are encouraged to attend the panel.

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**About Blink** publishes authentic and immersive content that engages and inspires young adult readers, from cutting-edge plotlines to fantasy to romance to contemporary classics. For more information please visit [BlinkYABooks.com](http://BlinkYABooks.com)

**About Harlequin TEEN** Escape into a world of unforgettable characters and extraordinary stories with Young Adult fiction from Harlequin TEEN. Harlequin TEEN is the home of exciting, authentic fiction for every reader who loves to escape beneath the covers of a great read.

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