

PANELS

SATURDAY

You're a cutie 3.1415

If you got the pun, then you will love this panel celebrating the rom-com genre. Love with a comedic spin is a fan favourite and we can't wait to hear all about some of the 2026 iterations.

Abiola Bello (Chair), Anika Hussain, Beth Reekles, Georgia Bowers

On and off campus

School, college, university. All places for learning. All places for great stories. So much happens during these formative years and our authors love to tell stories within an academic setting. This panel explores what happens both on and off campus.

Elle McNicoll, JS Strange, Kate Weston (Chair), Lauren Willmore, Monica Murphy

Sacred and cultural narratives

Myths, folklore and legends all form part of our cultural history and are celebrated and explored by our panel of authors. What once started as oral history being passed down by each generation can now be found as inspiration for these 21st century books.

Coco Omer (Chair), Clíodhna O'Sullivan, Curtis Jobling, Sabaa Tahir, Sara Jafari

In the presence of dystopia

Dystopian stories have been a stable part of our reading lists for decades and they show no signs of slowing down now. Our authors discuss how the genre is still relevant, what inspires them and what we can learn from stories showing a world we would rather not live in.

Kelechi Okafor, Kelly McCaughrain (Chair), Melissa Welliver, Nisha J. Tuli, Patrick Ness

Heartstopper: the final chapter

Join Alice Oseman in conversation with [INSERT] as we celebrate volume 6 of Heartstoppers and end of Nick & Charlie's amazing love story.

Alice Oseman, TBC (Chair)

Totally horror-fied

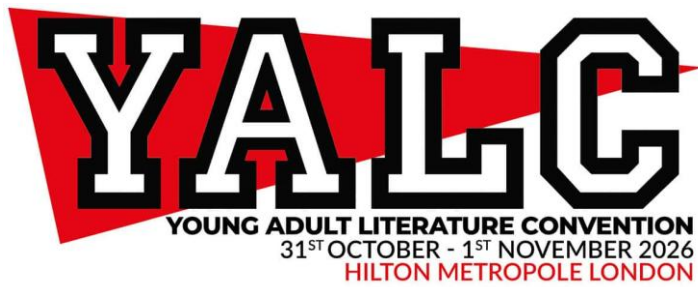
If you love to be scared this Halloween season, then this is the must-see panel for the weekend. We talk all things spooky and terrifying in this horror themed panel.

Allie Nguyen (Chair), Amy Goldsmith, Ann Sei Lin, Bill Wood, Cethan Leahy

Comfort of the cosy fantasy

Sometimes you just want to sit back with a good book and enjoy all that it has to offer. No peril, no death, characters you love, worlds a bit different from your own. The cosy fantasy genre hits the sweet spot, and we have seen a rise in books of this type for 2026 so of course we want to hear all about it from our engaging panel.

Amy Mae Baxter, Bex Hogan (Chair), Helen Comerford, Safa Ahmed



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From adversary to adored

We all know the 'enemies to lovers' trope. It's a device that has been used to tell stories time and time again, yet we cannot get enough of it. Hear the authors discuss why it's such a useful and popular theme, how it can get weaved into a story and how it's especially popular in the romantasy genre.

Hannah Nicole Maehrer (Chair), Charlotte B. Plumb, Lauryn Hamilton Murray, Petra Lord, Shannon J Spann

Peak anticipation

Anticipation builds as you turn every page. Suspense is in the air. Mystery around every corner. You must be reading a YA thriller. Possibly written by one of our talented authors featured in this panel.

Coco Omer (Chair), Denise Brown, Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé, Helen Price, Holly Bourne, Maureen Johnson

Sequential art, sensational stories

There is more than one way to tell a story, and our creative guests have chosen to use graphic novels as their medium. We look at how art adds to the written word to enhance the reader experience and discuss how prose is not the only way to get your message across.

Anna Penn, Dom&Ink, Salomey Doku (Chair), Sam Prentice-Jones, Wren James

A fresh perspective

The authors in this panel have all breathed new life into familiar genres and stories and brought a fresh perspective. From subverting stereotypes, breathing new life into well-known tales or shaking up genre status quo, you will want to hear what these have to say about their inspirations, the responsibility of canon and making things their own.

Ella McLoed (Chair), Erin Edwards, Katja Kaine, Lex Croucher, Melissa Poett

Fishbowl existence

The characters discussed in this panel are living a life under constant scrutiny and judgment, where personal privacy is practically non-existent, a bit like being in a fishbowl. That is one price of fame, yet every day people crave the attention and recognition that celebrity brings. There love to hear their stories, and our panel do it oh so well.

Delphine Seddon, Isabella Galbraith, Kat Ellis, Katherine Webber (Chair), Juno Dawson

Beautiful worlds

Books have the power to transport us anywhere. Where would you go? What would you see? How do you build spectacular environments for others to enjoy? Our panel of amazing authors will share all of this with you and more in our wonderful worlding building panel.

Kestral Gaian (Chair), L.A. Weatherly, Lora Beth Johnson, Tig Wallace

The art of the difficult conversation

Sometimes there are things in your life that you just don't want to talk about, but they are important things that need to be heard and discussed. The authors in this panel have chosen to tackle some difficult subjects head on in their stories and we embrace all that it means and thank them for that.

Amber Smith, G Forsyth-Read, Lisa Williamson (Chair), Sue Divin, Zoulfa Katouh