

New Adult Fiction: 'Cause You're Not a Kid Anymore



What do you read when you aren't a teen anymore and you don't want to read about "old people?" Meet New Adult Fiction. New Adult (NA) author, Sommer Leigh has explained the difference between young adult fiction and new adult fiction in this way: a YA novel is about teens deciding who they want to become, and an NA novel is about becoming that person they aspired to be. The expression, "New Adult," was coined by St. Martin's Press in 2009 when they put a call out for fiction that would appeal to readers aging out of YA titles.

New Adult is aimed at readers between 18-25 years old and oftentimes toward females. While NA novels may deal with some of the issues in YA fiction like peer pressure, substance abuse, etc., they may also deal with problems like moving out on your own, college, college debt, relationships (both good and bad), marriage and children, loss of innocence, life experiences, first adult jobs and more.

The books will often have more sexual content than a YA novel normally has and can be an erotic romance. However these books are as much about friendships as they are about romance, even when the sexual content is pronounced. Molly Wetta at Novelist helps in making recommendations to readers this way: if the reader would want their book to be adapted for television by the HBO network, then they would like New Adult, or if they would like it adapted to the CW network, then they would like older Young Adult titles.

New Adult is a field populated with authors who started in self-publishing and moved to established presses. Authors like Jamie McGuire, Abbi Glines and J. Lynn achieved great sales with independently-published e-books. By releasing new works, often at low prices, the authors built their audiences with passionate book bloggers who spread the word. Molly Birckhead of Morrow notes that these authors are very entrepreneurial about promoting their books in new ways and want to remain involved after they get a traditional contract. Asked by ABC News about profits from her first book, *Losing It*, Cora Carmack said, "Surprisingly a lot, considering most self-published books are priced really low." Laughing, Carmack added "My price point was \$3.99 and I made about \$200,000."

As their sales rise, authors have landed contracts with major publishers for print versions. They also create different versions of their works. The *Vincent Boys* series, by Abbi Glines has an e-book only "full Vincent" version that Simon &

Schuster lists as appropriate for readers over 17. Some authors may write for more than the NA audience. In case you didn't know, J. Lynne is West Virginia author Jennifer Armentrout's NA penname.

Some people see the NA genre as a fad that will go away, but others see fiction dividing into more age groups. In the Publisher's Weekly article, *New Adult Matures* (7/14/14), those interviewed talked about how the genre is expanding. The article notes that not all the NA novels coming out soon will be contemporary novels. There are now paranormal NA novels and other genre crossings. They also see a new group of LGBT novels coming with authors like Anne Tenino and Heidi Belleau.



NA Authors owned by KCPL. Some are print and others are available through WVDeli or HooplaDigital.

Author	Print	Ebook/e-audiobook	Catalog
Abbi Glines	x	X	http://bit.ly/2fzid84
Chelsea M. Cameron	x	X	http://bit.ly/2g2P9SE
Colleen Hoover	X	X	http://bit.ly/2flyhzP
Cora Carmack	X	X	http://bit.ly/2gG9Gh1
Gayle Forman	X	X	http://bit.ly/2fIJfoL
J. A. Redmerski	X	x	http://bit.ly/2fzidVF
J. Lynn (Jennifer Armentrout pseud.)	X	X	http://bit.ly/2gGaaE5
J. Sterling	X	x	http://bit.ly/2gCW2xH
Jasinda Wilder	X	X	http://bit.ly/2fNGqpY
Jay Crownover	X	X	http://bit.ly/2ggAlxB
Jeaniene Frost (paranormal NA)	X	X	http://bit.ly/2gtT2Rf
Jessica Park		X	http://bit.ly/2g2KJeN
Jessica Sorensen	X	x	http://bit.ly/2fNIVIU
K. A. Tucker	X	x	http://bit.ly/2fNkzdk
Kylie Scott	X	x	http://bit.ly/2gGbd6W
Melissa de la Cruz	X	X	http://bit.ly/2fNBGAH
Monica Murphy	X	X	http://bit.ly/2fITHgi
Nichole Chase	X	x	http://bit.ly/2gG886B
Nicole Williams		X	http://bit.ly/2ggzJ0k
Paul Rudnick	X	X	http://bit.ly/2gSLtal
Penelope Douglas	X	X	http://bit.ly/2gFYWhm
Rainbow Rowell	X	X	http://bit.ly/2gG8ydb
Sarah J. Maas (fantasy NA)	X	X	http://bit.ly/2fzhOmq
Shannyn Schroeder		X	http://bit.ly/2gGaPFv
Sophie Jordan	X	X	http://bit.ly/2ggv3ay
Stacey Kade	X	X	http://bit.ly/2ggyL3Z
Tammara Weber	X	X	http://bit.ly/2gtXQ9x



Resources on New Adult Fiction

- New Adult: a book category by twentysomethings for twentysomethings - Publishers Weekly July 11, 2014 (in print called New Adult Matures July 14, 2014 pg. 20)
- <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/publisher-news/article/63285-new-adult-matures.html>
- YA or NA? - Booklist August 2014 pg. 10
<http://www.booklistonline.com/ProductInfo.aspx?pid=6925308&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>
- What is New Adult Fiction, Anyway? By Molly Wetta - Novelist Plus
<https://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/novelist-special/what-is-new-adult-fiction-anyway>
- What's New About New Adult? - Horn Book Magazine Jan/Feb 2014 pg. 41
<http://www.hbook.com/2013/12/choosing-books/horn-book-magazine/whats-new-about-new-adult/>
- New-Adult Fiction on Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New-adult_fiction
- ReadAdv: New Adult Resources <https://readadv.wordpress.com/new-adult-resources/>
- Emerging "New Adult" Book Genre Puts Smut Fiction on the Bestseller Lists- ABC News
http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/emerging-adult-book-genre-puts-smut-fiction-bestseller/story?id=18550587#.UbtvXdDD_EZ
- New Adult at GoodReads <https://www.goodreads.com/genres/new-adult>