Awards & Accolades

- Summer 2018 Kids' Indie Next List
- Junior Library Guild Selection, Fall 2018
- Publishers Weekly Best Books of 2018
- Goodreads Choice Award Nominee and Semifinalist—Best Middle Grade
- Parents Choice Gold Award—Fiction
- Kirkus Best Books of 2018
- New York Public Library Best Books of 2018
- School Library Journal Best Books of 2018
- Chicago Public Library Best Books of 2018
- NPR Best Books of 2018
- Book Page Best Children’s Books of 2018
- San Francisco Chronicle Holiday Gift Guide Pick
- News and Observer Wilde Awards—Best Books of 2018 for Older Children
- NBC News 2018 Best Books for Children and Young Adult Readers
- Booklist Youth Editors’ Choice 2018
- Huffington Post Best Children’s Books of 2018
- 2018 Nerdies of Middle Grade Fiction
- Booklist Top 10 Diverse Fiction for Youth
- Children’s and Young Adult Bloggers Literacy (The Cybils) Award Finalist
- SLJ Heavy Medal Finalist

- 2019-2020 Virginia Readers’ Choice – Masterlist
- 2019 NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People List
- Asian/Pacific American Award for Children’s Literature (Asian/Pacific American Library Association)
- 2018 New York Historical Society Children’s History Book Prize Finalists
- 2020 Rhode Island Children’s Book Award Masterlist
Debut author Yang weaves in autobiographical content while creating a feisty and empowered heroine….Many readers will recognize themselves or their neighbors in these pages.” — Kirkus Reviews, starred review

“A swiftly moving plot and a winsome protagonist make this a first purchase for any collection, especially where realistic fiction is in demand.” — School Library Journal, starred review

“It’s the details that sing in this novel, particularly the small moments that feel like everything when you’re a kid…This book will help foster empathy for the immigrant experience for young readers, while for immigrant children, it is a much-needed and validating mirror….Deserving of shelf space in every classroom and library.” — Booklist, starred review

“Hardship and humor reverberate in this semi-autobiographical novel. A gutsy 10-year old from China helps manage a cheap Anaheim motel, her parents’ American Dream shockingly elusive.” — San Francisco Chronicle

“The author draws upon her childhood experiences in the early 1990s to create a gritty but ultimately optimistic middle-grade novel that shows how, with kindness and resolve, strangers from all corners of the world” might “find each other and reemerge as a new family. Given the country’s current border and immigration issues, this story — with its themes of community, social justice and compassion — seems remarkably timely.” — Washington Post

“Mia’s story is one of indefatigable hope and of triumph over injustice, and her voice is genuine and inspiring.” — Publishers Weekly

“FRONT DESK gifts us with a narrator who remains consistently optimistic through hard times.” — School Library Journal, Heavy Medal Finalist
PRAISE FOR

“Mia’s gradual understanding of racism and prejudice in America and her subsequent activism are at the heart of this triumphant tale. Readers will admire Mia for her audacity and her creativity in finding solutions for seemingly insurmountable situations. Drawing largely on her personal experiences, Yang threads both comedy and social issues through Mia’s relatable and entertaining storyline.” — The Horn Book

“Front Desk is a story about the hardships of immigrant life, the perpetuation of injustice, and a sweet, kind, indomitable young girl who chooses to rise up and fight no matter how hard it gets. Kelly Yang's debut is a stunner.” — Mike Jung, author of Unidentified Suburban Object

“Front Desk delights with its spunky main character who offers young readers lessons in being fearless.” — Book Page

“Mia’s voice is refreshing… Libraries looking for a book on tolerance and a story that offers a diverse cast of characters will want to add this to their collection.” — School Library Connection

“Mia prevails in ways that surprise and delight. Making Mia’s story particularly powerful is the author’s note at the end, explaining that Yang is the daughter of Chinese immigrants and she actually lived many of the incidents in the book.”
— Christian Science Monitor

“Eye-opening, engaging…Mia is an admirable heroine with pluck who has aspirations of being a writer. It doesn’t take her long to make friends with many different types of people and to change lives, eventually concocting a plan that leads to a happy ending for the Tangs in a book that’s simply unputdownable, and chock full of goodwill.”
— Missourian

“Powerful and heart-wrenching.” — Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, starred review