

Teen Mystery *Winona Forever* (Graphic Novel) Lands at ALA Chicago

For Immediate Release

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CHICAGO (June 2, 2023) — *Winona Forever*, a graphic novel mystery for middle grades, will celebrate the release of its complete edition at the 2023 American Library Association Conference in Chicago June 23-26. Author Shawn Patrick Boyd will be on hand in booth 1440 of the Artist Alley with copies of the just-released 196-page softcover.

“The story uses details of my own life growing up in Winona, Minnesota, a small, midwest river town,” says Boyd. “I never sought out a powerful relic while being chased by a dangerous secret society within the Catholic Church the way the kids in *Winona Forever* do. But going to Catholic School. Feeling like a misfit. The thrill of first love. I got to explore those themes from my life.”

Illustrated by Portland-based artist Elijah Henry, *Winona Forever* was originally released in four parts between 2021 and 2022. It quickly caught the attention of *Fanboy Planet* — which named it a *Great Comic* of 2021 — and George R.R. Martin’s Bestly Books. “The fact that we’ve been able to publish a complete edition is a testament to the power of old-school word-of-mouth and to the fact that readers and stores are open to indie books that are well done,” reports Boyd.

Libraries feature prominently in *Winona Forever*’s success as well as its plot. Says Boyd, “The Winona Public Library was a second home to me growing up. As a tribute, I have the kids in the story track clues there. I’ve always felt that libraries and librarians are pure magic. Bringing this book to ALA feels like a sort homecoming.”

Winona Forever is a mystery for middle grades and anyone who loves teen mysteries like *Nancy Drew*, *Encyclopedia Brown*, *Goonies* and *Stranger Things*.
winonaforeverbooks.com

Shawn Patrick Boyd is longtime advertising copywriter. *Winona Forever* is his debut in the comic space. Winner of a New Mexico Writers Grant, Boyd lives in Santa Fe, NM with his wife, a singer-songwriter, but his family keeps trying to lure him back to the woods and waters of Minnesota.

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