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 Beastly 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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