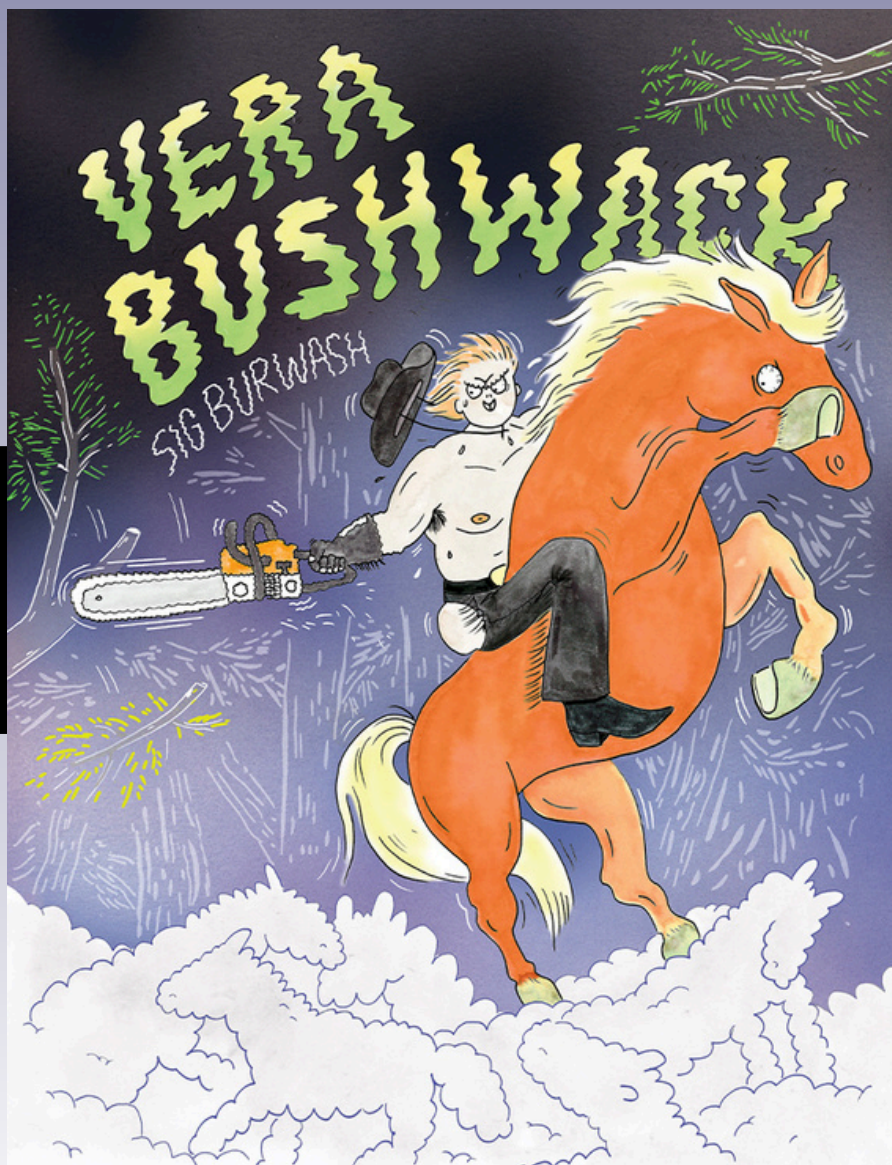


VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY AWARD



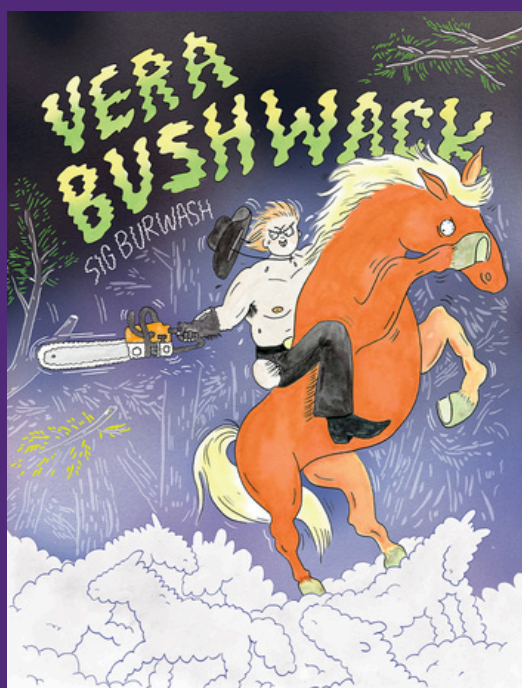
ADULT SELECTIONS

2025 WINNER, HONORS, AND OVERFLOW



VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY AWARD 2025 ADULT WINNER

The Virginia Library Association Graphic Novel Diversity Award (GNDA) celebrates diversity captured within the pages of graphic novels. The Graphic Novel Diversity Award Committee is proud to announce the winners and five honor books selected for the ninth year offering the award.



ADULT WINNER

**VERA BUSHWACK
BY SIG BURWASH**

Drawn and Quarterly
ISBN: 9781770467118

Vera Bushwack is the story of Drew who is building a cabin in the woods on their own in the wilderness of Nova Scotia. When Drew fires up their chainsaw they are transported into their alter-ego Vera Bushwack—a fearless renegade in assless chaps. Astride their noble steed, nothing is impossible for Vera to overcome. Through this alter-ego Drew explores past trauma, joy, anger, and grief as they ride toward self-acceptance in a world full of men who would love to tell them what to do. Sig Burwash uses pencil drawings and a limited color palette to share this imaginative tale of resilience.

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY AWARD ADULT HONORS



VICTORY PARADE by Leela Corman

Schocken, ISBN: 9780805243444

Theme: PTSD, Feminism, Nationality, Immigration, Religion

Victory Parade, written and illustrated by Leela Corman, explores the brutal realities of World War II at the home front in Brooklyn and the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. The stories told include Rose—a welder in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Ruth—a German Jewish refugee who becomes a wrestler, and Sam—a war veteran having flashbacks to the horrific experience of liberating Buchenwald. Using grotesque hand drawn and watercolor illustrations with a nonlinear narrative, Corman wrenches readers into the harsh and unpredictable reality of the human experience.



FIREBUGS by Nino Bulling

Drawn and Quarterly, ISBN: 9781770467057

Theme: LGBTQIA+, Mental health

Firebugs is a meditative exploration of a year spent in early gender transition in the queer European party scene. As Ingken's days blur into their nights and global crises fill the headlines, they become more disconnected from the world around them. A palpable sensation of dysphoria rises from the minimalist illustrations, opening the reader's eyes to the experience of loss and dissociation felt by many in the transgender community when they first realize who they truly are. Bulling's airy dialogue and limited color palette infuse the work with the aching detachment, yet keeps thread of hope alive as Ingken takes the first steps into becoming who they were always meant to be.



GOOD: FROM THE AMAZON JUNGLE TO SUBURBIA AND BACK by FLuX

NBM Publishing, ISBN: 9781681123301

The personal account of David Good, the son of an indigenous Yanomami woman and an American anthropologist. FLuX weaves a narrative between the black and white images of David's upbringing in a primarily white community and the vivid colors of his mother's recollections of her lost home. This juxtaposition, along with the fascinating story, draw the reader in and cheering for David as he struggles to understand the dichotomy of his life.

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY AWARD ADULT HONORS



PROXY MOM: MY EXPERIENCE WITH POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION by **Sophie Adriansen**

NBM Publishing, ISBN: 9781681123349

Theme: Postpartum depression

Portrayed with authenticity and care, Proxy Mom, chronicles the experience of Marietta, a new mother who suffers from postpartum depression. Adriansen uses simple but attractive illustrations to effectively portray the emotions and experiences of a new mother grappling with society's (and her own) expectations of how a mother should feel and behave.



HUNGRY HEART (VOL 1) by **Jem Milton**

Andrews McMeel Publishing, ISBN: 9781524893095

Theme: LGBT+ (specifically Trans)

Foodies and romance fans will enjoy this heartwarming love story. After an awkward initial meeting, food writer Laurie conducts a series of interviews profiling celebrity chef Oryan. Over the course of these interviews, they become closer while learning more about one another. Themes of mental health and eating disorders are portrayed with authenticity through cheerful and colorful illustrations and easy to follow text.

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY AWARD ADULT OVERFLOW



HARLEM

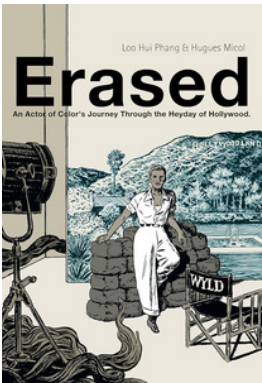
by Mikael

NBM Publishing

ISBN: 9781681123288

Themes: Race, Immigration, Trauma

Harlem tells the inspiring story of Stephanie St. Clair, a powerful Black immigrant woman and racketeer who defied racial and gender barriers in Depression-era New York while fighting corruption and reshaping overlooked American history.



ERASED: AN ACTOR OF COLOR'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE HEYDAY OF HOLLYWOOD

by Loo Hui Phang; art by Hugues Micol

NBM Publishing

ISBN: 9781681123387

Theme: Race

Erased follows Maximus Wyld, a multiracial actor navigating 1930s-1950s Hollywood, whose unique identity and political beliefs expose the racial and political tensions of the era, challenging the myths of American cinema through a striking film noir lens.



GODFELL

by Chris Sebela; art by Ben Hennessey

Vault Comics

ISBN: 9781638492016

Theme: Color/Race/Ethnicity/Nationality, LGBTQ+

Godfell is a fantasy epic following war-weary soldier Zanzi Vuiline as she journeys home through the fallen corpse of a god, navigating deadly factions and strange alliances in a vividly illustrated, war-torn world.



WIFWULF

by Dailen Ogden and Collin Kelley; art by Jackson Lanzing

Vault Comics

ISBN: 9781638491941

Theme: Trauma

A folktale reimagining the werewolf myth as a story of survival, transformation, and reclaiming power after abuse, asking whether love can reveal the humanity we thought we'd lost.

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY AWARD ADULT OVERFLOW



EAT YOUR HEART OUT VOL. 1

by Terry Blas and Matty Newton; art by Lydia Anslow

Oni Press

ISBN: 9781637154540

Themes: Color/Race/Ethnicity/Nationality, LGBTQ+

A heartfelt coming-of-age tale about Blanca, an aspiring fashion designer who runs away to New York to chase her dreams, finding friendship, purpose, and conflict as she builds a new life while her determined mother tries to pull her back.



DYING INSIDE

by Hannah Klein and Pete Wentz (Yes, *that* Pete Wentz);

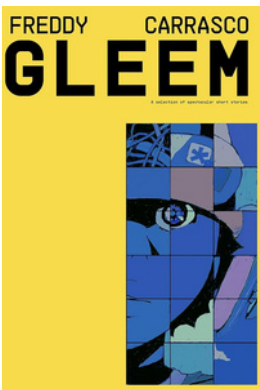
art by Lisa Sterle

Headshell

ISBN: 9781638492467

Theme: Color/Race/Ethnicity/Nationality

A darkly funny, pop-punk-infused tale of a suicidal teen who accidentally becomes immortal, sparking an unexpected journey of friendship, internet chaos, and self-discovery as she fights to reclaim control over her life.



GLEEM

by Freddy Carrasco

Drawn and Quarterly

ISBN: 9781770467101

A visually striking collection of three Afrofuturistic, cyberpunk tales that blend surreal adventures, youthful rebellion, and unexpected bursts of color to explore identity, technology, and imagination in bold new ways.