

For information about the award, please contact Kevin Clement, 2016 Chair  
diversityawardchaireven@gmail.com  
(757) 410-7139

To submit a nomination, the form can be accessed at  
<http://www.vla.org/2016-vla-graphic-novel-diversity-award>.

### Eligibility

- Book should feature a diverse protagonist (casual or issue-based), a diverse character that impacts the story, or a diverse subject.
- Book must be published in English by a United States "publisher" in the year that will be honored. Self-published nominations are accepted.
- Book can be a stand-alone or a story arc. The last volume of a story arc must have been published in 2016.
- Book must fall into one of these age divisions: Youth (ages 6-17) or Adult (ages 18 and up).

### Definition of diversity

Differences both visible and invisible that may separate an individual from the mainstream. The concept of *diversity* encompasses acceptance and respect.

Eligibility for the award may be based on color/race, nationality, disability (mental or physical), feminism, ageism, religion, forced minority status, and LGBTQ/sexual orientation. (Forced minority status is when a character not normally considered a minority is placed in a situation where the character becomes a minority.)

### Selection

The VLA Graphic Novel Diversity Award Division Judges select the winning books. The 2015 committee had three members for each division: Adult and Youth. There will be five judges on all future division panels. The Diversity Award Chair acts as a facilitator and collects data from the judges. The chairperson has no part in the final selection of the winners.

### 2015 VLA Graphic Novel Diversity Award Committee

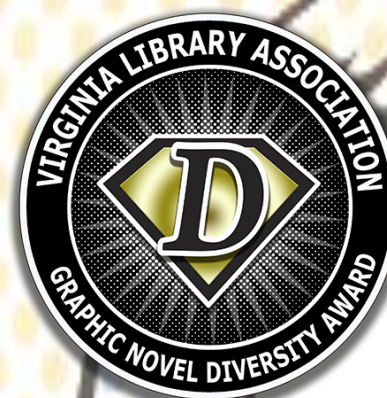
Kevin Clement, Chair  
Maryska Connolly-Brown, Youth  
Sara Gustafson, Youth  
Jason Margolies, Youth  
Laura Morales, Adult  
Shalor Toncray, Adult  
Anthony Wright de Hernandez, Adult



## GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY

### AWARD

2015



Presented by  
Diversity & Inclusion Forum  
of the Virginia Library Association



# VLA GRAPHIC NOVEL DIVERSITY

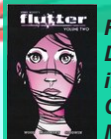
## Youth Division



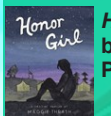
**March, Book 2** by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell. Top Shelf Productions. (Race)

*March* goes far beyond the dry recounting of textbook history by taking the reader along on the freedom rides, lunch counter sit-ins, and demonstrations of the Civil Rights Movement. Lewis and Aydin skillfully weave a narrative that takes the reader on a journey from the streets of Tennessee and Alabama in the 1960s to Washington, DC in 2009, linking two pivotal events: the famous "I Have a Dream" speech of Dr. Martin Luther King and the inaugural speech of President Barak Obama. Powell's powerful artwork brings to life the most painful and hopeful moments of our nation's history in bold black and white panels and dynamic facial expression.

### Honor Books



**Flutter, Volume Two: Don't Let Me Die Nervous** by Jennie Wood, illustrated by Jeff McComsey and Chris Goodwin. 215 Ink. (Forced Minority)



**Honor Girl** written and illustrated by Maggie Thrush. Candlewick Press. (LGBTQ+)



**Princeless: Raven the Pirate Princess, Book One: Captain Raven and the All-Girl Pirate Crew** by Jeremy Whitley, Rosy Higgins and Ted Brandt. Action Lab Entertainment. (Feminism)

## Adult Division



**Bitch Planet, Volume 1: Extraordinary Machine** by Kelly Sue DeConnick, illustrated by Valentine De Landro. Image Comics. (Feminism, LGBTQ+, Race)

*Bitch Planet* explores a futuristic world that has swapped the glass ceiling for prison bars. Women found to be non-compliant are sent to live the rest of their lives on a prison colony out in space. Any range of offenses can cause a woman to be labeled as such, from murder, to not obeying their husbands, to just existing in a way that does not conform to society's desires, a category that hits women of color the hardest. Writer Kelly Sue DeConnick intentionally flexes recognizable stereotypes but never reduces her characters to caricatures, and artist Valentine De Landro gives each character strength and individuality.

### Honor Books



**The Infinite Loop** by Pierrick Colinet, illustrated by Elsa Charretier. IDW Publishing. (LGBTQ+)



**Virgil** by Steve Orlando, illustrated by JD Faith. Image Comics. (LGBTQ+)

## Diversity Overfloweth

Notable titles

### Youth

**Baba Yaga's Assistant** by Marika McCoola, illustrated by Emily Carroll. Candlewick Press. (nationality)

**Nelson Beats the Odds** by Rodney Sidney II, illustrated by Traci Van Wagener. Creative Medicine: Healing Through Words, LLC. (disability)

**Nimona** written and illustrated by Noelle Stevenson. HarperTeen. (Feminism, disability, LGBTQ++)

**Oddly Normal, Book 1** written and illustrated by Otis Frampton. Image Comics. (Race)

### Check out these titles and the whole series

**Amelia Cole and the Impossible Fate** (book 4 in the *Amelia Cole* series) by Adam P. Knave & D. J. Kirkbride, artwork by Nick Brokenshire, IDW Publishing. (Race)

**Princeless: Be Yourself** (volume 4 in the *Princeless* series) Jeremy Whitley, artwork by Emily Martin, Brett Grunig. Action Lab. (gender)

## Adult

**The Completely Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green** written and illustrated by Eric Orner. Northwest Press. (LGBTQ+)

**Postal, Volume 1** by Bryan Hill and Matt Hawkins, illustrated by Isaac Goodhart. Image Comics. (Disability)

**The Story of My Tits** written and illustrated by Jennifer Hayden. Top Shelf Productions. (Feminism)



For more information on these titles and their creators, please visit the VLA Graphic Novel Diversity page at <http://bit.ly/2aWTY2G>