

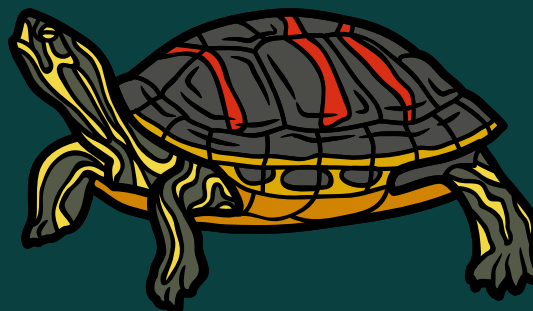
Graphic Novels



by



*Indigenous
Authors*

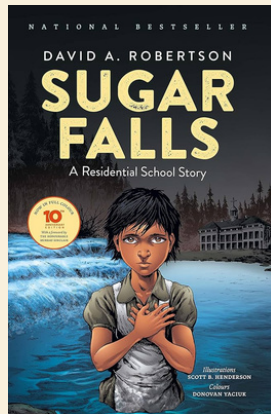




If I Go Missing by Brianna Jonnie

Combining graphic fiction and non-fiction, this young adult graphic novel serves as a window into one of the unique dangers of being an Indigenous teen in Canada today. The text of the book is derived from excerpts of a letter written to the Winnipeg Chief of Police by 14-year-old Brianna Jonnie — a letter that went viral and was also the basis of a documentary film. In her letter, Jonnie calls out the authorities for neglecting to immediately investigate missing Indigenous people and urges them to "not treat me as the Indigenous person I am proud to be," if she were to be reported missing.

Available at:
[Pima County Public Library](#)



Sugar Falls by David Robertson

Inspired by true events, this story of strength, family, and culture shares the awe-inspiring resilience of Elder Betty Ross.

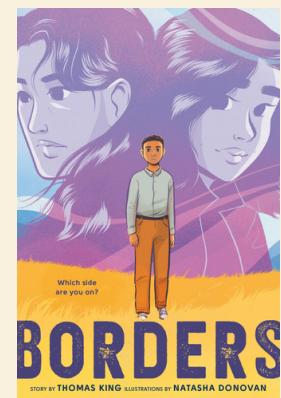
Abandoned as a young child, Betsy is adopted into a loving family. A few short years later, at the age of 8, everything changes. Betsy is taken away to a residential school. There she is forced to endure abuse and indignity, but Betsy recalls the words her father spoke to her at Sugar Falls—words that give her the resilience, strength, and determination to survive.

Available at:
[Pima County Public Library](#)
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Borders by Thomas King

Borders is a masterfully told story of a boy and his mother whose road trip is thwarted at the border when they identify their citizenship as Blackfoot. Refusing to identify as either American or Canadian first bars their entry into the US, and then their return into Canada. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity and to each other.

Borders explores nationhood from an Indigenous perspective and resonates deeply with themes of identity, justice, and belonging.



Available at:
[Pima County Public Library](#)



Moonshot, vols. 1 and 2 by Hope Nicholson

MOONSHOT: The Indigenous Comics Collection brings together dozens of creators from North America to contribute comic book stories showcasing the rich heritage and identity of indigenous storytelling. From traditional stories to exciting new visions of the future, this collection presents some of the finest comic book and graphic novel work on the continent.

Also features story introductions, sketchbooks, and biographies of the writers and illustrators.

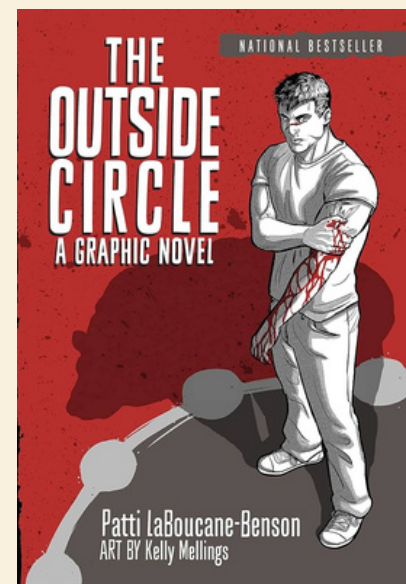
Available at:
Pima County Public Library
[Volume 1](#)
[Volume 2](#)

The Outside Circle by Patti LaBoucane-Benson

In this important graphic novel, two brothers surrounded by poverty, drug abuse, and gang violence, try to overcome centuries of historic trauma in very different ways to bring about positive change in their lives.

Pete, a young Indigenous man wrapped up in gang violence, lives with his younger brother, Joey, and his mother who is a heroin addict. One night, Pete and his mother's boyfriend, Dennis, get into a big fight, which sends Dennis to the morgue and Pete to jail. Initially, Pete keeps up ties to his crew, until a jail brawl forces him to realize the negative influence he has become on Joey, which encourages him to begin a process of rehabilitation that includes traditional Indigenous healing circles and ceremonies.

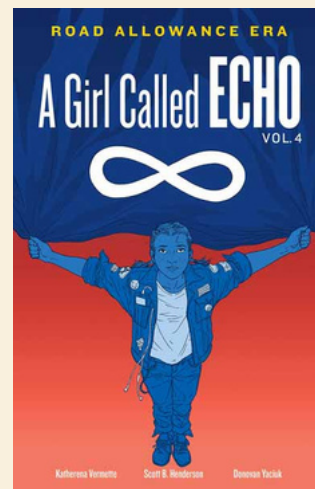
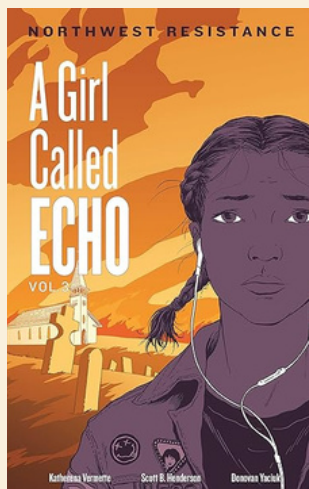
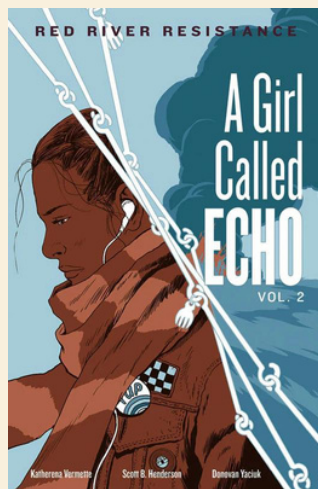
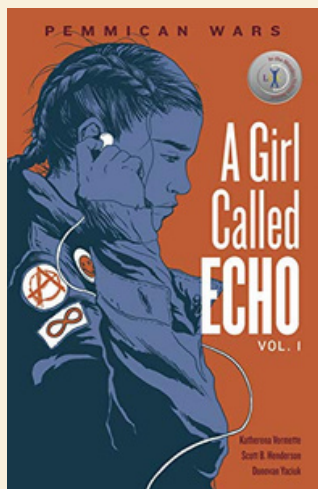
Powerful, courageous, and deeply moving, The Outside Circle is drawn from the author's twenty years of work and research on healing and reconciliation of gang-affiliated or incarcerated Indigenous men.



Available at:
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A Girl Called Echo by Katherena Vermette

Métis teenager Echo Desjardins is struggling to adjust to a new school and a new home. When an ordinary history class turns extraordinary, Echo is pulled into a time-travelling adventure. Follow Echo as she experiences pivotal events from Métis history and imagines what the future might hold.



All Volumes Available at:
[Pima County Public Library](#)
[Hoopla](#)

Red by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas



Available at:
[Pima County Public Library](#)
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Referencing a classic Haida oral narrative, this stunning full-color graphic novel documents the tragic story of a leader so blinded by revenge that he takes his community to the brink of war and destruction. Consisting of 108 pages of hand-painted illustrations, Red is a groundbreaking mix of imagery from the indigenous Haida culture and Japanese manga. Red is the prideful leader of a small village in the islands off the northwest coast of British Columbia. His sister was abducted years ago by a band of raiders, and when news comes that she has been spotted in a nearby village, Red sets out to rescue his sister and exact revenge on her captors.

Tragic and timeless, it is reminiscent of such classic stories as Oedipus Rex and Macbeth. An action-packed and dazzling graphic novel, Red is also a cautionary tale about the devastating effects of rage and retribution.

***This Place* by Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm**



Explore the past 150 years through the eyes of Indigenous creators in this groundbreaking graphic novel anthology. Beautifully illustrated, these stories are an emotional and enlightening journey through Indigenous wonderworks, psychic battles, and time travel. See how Indigenous peoples have survived a post-apocalyptic world since Contact. Each story includes a timeline of related historical events and a personal note from the author.

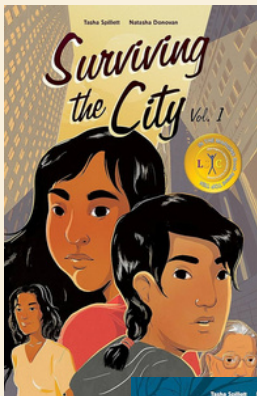
This is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter initiative.

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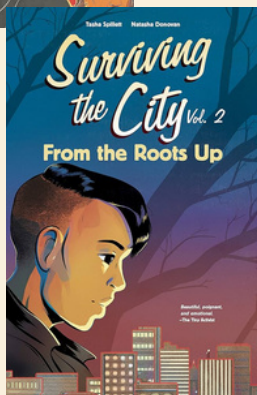
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***Surviving the City (vols. 1 and 2)* by Tasha Spillett**



Vol. 1: Tasha Spillett's graphic novel debut, *Surviving the City*, is a story about womanhood, friendship, colonialism, and the anguish of a missing loved one. Miikwan and Dez are best friends. Miikwan is Anishinaabe; Dez is Inninew. Together, the teens navigate the challenges of growing up in an urban landscape. However, when Dez's grandmother becomes too sick, Dez is told she can't stay with her anymore. With the threat of a group home looming, Dez can't bring herself to go home and disappears. Will Dez's community find her before it's too late? Will Miikwan be able to cope if they don't?



Vol. 2: Dez's grandmother has passed away. Grieving, and with nowhere else to go, she's living in a group home. On top of everything else, Dez is navigating a new relationship and coming into her identity as a Two-Spirit person. Miikwan is crushing on the school's new kid Riel, but doesn't really understand what Dez is going through. Will she learn how to be a supportive ally to her best friend? Will Dez be comfortable expressing her full identity? And will her community relearn the teachings and overcome prejudice to celebrate her for who she is?

All Volumes Available at:

[Pima County Public Library](#)

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Archive.org

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Thriftbooks

Is a marketplace for new and used books that collaborates with booksellers across the country. Customers can select the format and condition of the book, with prices adjusted accordingly.

Indigenous-owned booksellers

For those who want to support independent, Indigenous-owned booksellers. This list is not comprehensive of all Indigenous-owned bookstores in the U.S., but based on website availability and shipping times.

Birch Bark Books, Minneapolis, MN

Books and Burrow, Pittsburgh, KS

Resistencia Books, Austin, TX