

# 2023 Morris Award

The William C. Morris YA Debut Award, first awarded in 2009 by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a Division of the American Library Association, honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature. Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

## 2023 Winner

Blum, Isaac

### **The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen**

YA Blum

Gr. 7 and up

Yehuda "Hoodie" Rosen is a teen whose Orthodox Jewish community has just moved to a quiet, mostly gentile town, and the people – especially the Mayor – aren't especially welcoming. When Hoodie befriends Anna-Marie, the mayor's daughter, his community turns on him for siding with the enemy, especially after a series of escalating anti-Semitic crimes. Hoodie has to decide where he stands and figure out where he belongs.

## 2021 Finalists

Ferguson, Jen

### **The Summer of Bitter and Sweet**

YA Ferguson

Gr. 9 and up

Lou is spending the summer working at her family's Métis ice cream stand when two people reenter her life: a man she never wished to meet and her former best friend she hasn't heard from in years. Both ignite a season of self-discovery of family and identity.

In this complex and emotionally resonant novel about a Métis girl living on the Canadian prairies, debut author Jen Ferguson serves up a powerful story about rage, secrets, and all the spectrums that make up a person—and the sweetness that can still live alongside the bitterest truth.

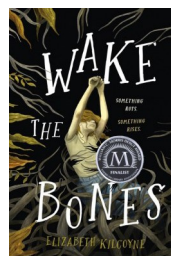
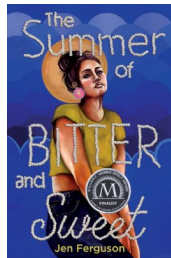
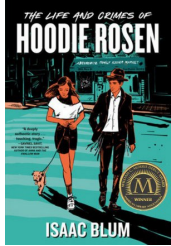
Kilcoyne, Elizabeth

### **Wake the Bones**

YA Kilcoyne

Gr. 10 and up

A dark horror fantasy about Laurel Early, a young woman who drops out of her first year of college to return to the rural Kentucky farm she grew up on, raised by her uncle after her mother's death when she was a baby. There is something haunting and monstrous in the land, looking for Laurel, who has her own magic connection. She and her friends must contend with their own complicated relationship with their home, and whether the darkness will overtake them or not.



Reyes, Sonora

### **The Lesbian's Guide to Catholic School**

YA Reyes Gr.

8 and up

Sixteen-year-old Mexican American Yami Flores starts Catholic school, determined to keep her brother out of trouble and keep herself closeted, but her priorities shift when Yami discovers that her openly gay classmate Bo is also annoyingly cute.

A funny and captivating satisfying read about a found family plus sibling bonds. Great sapphic romance with good representation. Heartwarming coming-of-age story with a perfectly imperfect main character.



White, Andrew Joseph

### **Hell Followed With Us**

YA White

Gr. 9 and up

Sixteen-year-old trans boy Benji is on the run from the cult that raised him—the fundamentalist sect that unleashed Armageddon and decimated the world's population. Desperately, he searches for a place where the cult can't get their hands on him, or more importantly, on the bioweapon they infected him with. But when cornered by monsters born from the destruction, Benji is rescued by a group of teens from the local Acheson LGBTQ+ Center, affectionately known as the ALC. The ALC's leader, Nick, is gorgeous, autistic, and a deadly shot, and he knows Benji's darkest secret: the cult's bioweapon is mutating him into a monster deadly enough to wipe humanity from the earth once and for all. Still, Nick offers Benji shelter among his ragtag group of queer teens, as long as Benji can control the monster and use its power to defend the ALC. Eager to belong, Benji accepts Nick's terms... until he discovers the ALC's mysterious leader has a hidden agenda, and more than a few secrets of his own.

A furious, queer debut novel about embracing the monster within and unleashing its power against your oppressors.

"Morris Award", American Library Association, February 27, 2012.  
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/morris-award> (Accessed May 26, 2023)

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