2023 Printz Award

The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature. It is named for a Topeka, Kansas school librarian who was a long-time active member of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association. Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

2023 Printz Award Winner:

Tahir, Sabaa
All My Rage
YA Tahir
Gr. 9 and up
Lahore, Pakistan. Then. Misbah is a dreamer and storyteller, newly married to Toufiq in an arranged match. After their young life is shaken by tragedy, they come to the United States and open the Clouds' Rest Inn Motel, hoping for a new start. Juniper, California. Now. Salahudin and Noor are more than best friends; they are family. Growing up as outcasts in the small desert town of Juniper, California, they understand each other the way no one else does. Until The Fight, which destroys their bond with the swift fury of a star exploding. Now, Sal scrambles to run the family motel as his mother Misbah's health fails and his grieving father loses himself to alcoholism. Noor, meanwhile, walks a harrowing tightrope: working at her wrathful uncle's liquor store while hiding the fact that she's applying to college so she can escape him--and Juniper--forever. When Sal's attempts to save the motel spiral out of control, he and Noor must ask themselves what friendship is worth--and what it takes to defeat the monsters in their pasts and the ones in their midst. From one of today's most cherished and bestselling young adult authors comes a breathtaking novel of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness--one that's both tragic and poignant in its tender ferocity. Tahir deftly tackles Islamophobia, addiction, and abuse in this story of seniors who are struggling in a world that does not seem to want them.

2023 Printz Honor Books:

Anderson, Lily
Scout's Honor
YA Anderson
Gr. 8 and up
The Ladybird Scouts are knitting-needle-wielding huntresses of beasts who feed on human emotions. After a traumatic event, Prue quits the scouts, but is tasked with training a new crop of junior scouts when a monster starts terrorizing the area. Prue agrees, if only to acquire The Tea of Forgetting.

Graziadei, A. L.
Icebreaker
YA Graziadei
Gr. 9 and up
Mickey James III is following in his father's (and grandfather's) skates by playing hockey at Hartland University, but he is not enjoying the situation: for one thing he is seriously depressed, unsure of anything, even whether he can make it as a hockey player (or wants to); more troubling his rival, Jaysen Caulfield, is also on the team and seems to bitterly resent him--and Mickey actually finds Jaysen very attractive and does not know how to deal with that.

Lamb, Sasha
When the Angels Left the Old Country
YA Lamb
Gr. 6 and up
From Warsaw to America, an angel, a demon, and a rejected teenager figure out who they are, their place in the world, and how to care for the people they love. Brilliantly queer, with authentic Jewish representation, this book validates the truth and horror of the immigrant experience before, during, and after Ellis Island.

Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality
By Eliot Schrefer
YA 591.562 Sc
Gr. 8 and up
Penguins are queer. So are dolphins, bonobos, fish, birds, and even deer. Queer Ducks sets the record straight--or queer, by highlighting the wonders of same-sex animal behavior to prove that queerness is not, and has never been, "unnatural"--and is instead the most common thing under the sun.


Compiled by Jan T. Kamiya
Young Adult Librarian
McCully-Mō'ili'i Public Library
Hawaii State Public Library System
May 2023
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