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**LION FORGE TO PUBLISH
HAZEL NEWLEVANT'S DEBUT GRAPHIC NOVEL,
*NO IVY LEAGUE***

Recent Ignatz Winner To Release Debut Graphic Novel in 2018

ST LOUIS, MO—Lion Forge will publish Hazel Newlevant's debut graphic memoir, *No Ivy League* in late 2018.

Hoping to make money to see an out-of-town concert, 17-year-old Hazel Newlevant takes a summer job clearing ivy from the forest in her home town of Portland, Oregon. Homeschooled, affluent, and sheltered, Hazel finds her job working side by side with at-risk teens a new world that she has no skill in navigating. She loves hip hop, but spending time with kids who are black and Latino is a new experience for her. As the weeks pass, Hazel's once-comfortable homeschooled skin has become more ill fitting. Things come to a head when she finds herself the butt of a black peer's sexual insult and, instead of trying to work it out, she reports him. The consequences of her actions play out not only for the boy but for Hazel herself, as she's forced to confront the reality of white privilege. This uncomfortable and compelling memoir is an important story of a girl's awakening to the racial insularity of her life, the power of white privilege, and the hidden story of segregation in Portland.

"*No Ivy League* is an extremely vulnerable, close-to-my-heart work, and Lion Forge and Andrea Colvin are the perfect people to publish it" says creator Hazel Newlevant. "I'm excited to send this comic out into the world, where I hope it provokes both enjoyment and self-reflection."

"Many artists gravitate toward autobiography, but Hazel's willingness—and ability—to show those parts of herself that are unlikeable, awkward, even ugly, elevates her craft," says Andrea Colvin, VP and Executive Editor at Lion Forge. "We identify with Hazel, because we know we have those parts of ourselves as well. We cringe with her when



she makes the wrong decision, and ultimately cheer her on as she forces herself to learn from her mistakes.”

“Hazel promises to be a strong voice in the world of graphic novels that grapple with real-life issues like race, gender, class, and sexuality” says Tanya Mckinnon of Mckinnon McIntyre. “I believe this will garner much attention and possibly controversy as it speaks directly to ongoing debates about political correctness and white privilege.”

No Ivy League, a 200 page graphic memoir by Hazel Newlevant will be released in finer comic shops and bookstores everywhere in late 2018.

Hazel Newlevant is the creator of the graphic novellas *If This Be Sin* and *Sugar Town*, and publisher of the anthologies *Comics for Choice* and *Chainmail Bikini: The Anthology of Women Gamers*. Her work as a cartoonist has been honored with the Ignatz Award, Xeric Grant, and Prism Comics Queer Press Grant. Hazel also works as an associate editor at Lion Forge.

About Lion Forge Comics:

Lion Forge Comics strives to publish comics that everyone – regardless of background or ethnicity – can identify with. The original graphic novel *Andre the Giant: Closer To Heaven* was nominated for three Glyph Awards, as well as the Dwayne McDuffie Award for Diversity. Lion Forge Comics also includes the Roar imprint for young adults and the CubHouse imprint for readers twelve and under. It is also home to the Magnetic Collection of premium and critically acclaimed comics and graphic novels, boasting multiple Eisner Award nominees. From licensed properties, including Dreamworks’ *Voltron Legendary Defender*, original work from top independent creators, and the original and all-inclusive Catalyst Prime superhero universe, there is something for every level of comic fan, young and old, across multiple imprints and formats.

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