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**ABRAMS ANNOUNCES SURELY BOOKS,
A NEW LINE OF GRAPHIC NOVELS CELEBRATING QUEER STORIES
AND CREATORS CURATED BY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR MARIKO TAMAKI**

***Inaugural List Releases in Spring 2021 with Titles
from Leading and New Voices in the Comics Community***

New York, NY – October 2019 – ABRAMS is launching **Surely Books**, a new line of graphic novels dedicated to expanding the presence of LGBTQIA creators and content in the comics world, as part of its celebrated **Abrams ComicArts** publishing program. It was announced today by Andrew Smith, Senior Vice President and Publisher of Abrams ComicArts. Launching in spring 2021, **Surely Books** is being curated by the bestselling, Eisner Award–winning author **Mariko Tamaki**, with the goal of featuring stories—both fiction and nonfiction—by LGBTQIA creators to highlight the activism, achievements, and struggles of the LGBTQIA community in books that combine strong narratives with stunning illustrations.

Smith collaborated with Tamaki to bring this new line to ABRAMS. Charlotte Greenbaum, Editor, will assist Tamaki in overseeing the editorial process for **Surely Books**, which will encompass a variety of genres including memoir, comedy, fantasy, horror, history, and educational titles that focus on activism and social justice.

The name **Surely Books** celebrates the assurance, confidence, and positivity of the queer community and their stories, as well as being quirky and just plain fun to say. It will “surely” expand the presence of LGBTQIA creators and stories in the comics world by sharing new voices and untold stories about queer lives that lend context and perspective to the current political and social situations affecting the community.



“My partner came up with the idea of doing this line that at first was so intimidating to me. It’s still intimidating, but I also think it’s an amazing challenge. I am so excited to have this opportunity to take on a new role in the creative process, to learn more with the writers and artists I’m working with, to find new ways to support queer creators and queer stories, new voices in our community,” says Tamaki.

“For 10 years Abrams ComicArts has been publishing groundbreaking, acclaimed graphic novels that showcase comics as art. We’re thrilled and honored to be working with Mariko Tamaki on this exciting new graphic novel list that will expand our program in new, exciting, and unexpected ways, and we look forward to amplifying the many and varied creative voices within the Queer queer community,” says Smith.

With the goal to release two to three titles per season, the inaugural list of Surely Books will include a biography of Patricia Highsmith—one of the most famous suspense authors of all time—written by Grace Ellis; an account of Revolutionary War hero and openly gay general Baron von Steuben, by

Josh Trujillo and Levi Hastings; and a fictional story about a group of friends who learn a surprising secret one summer, by Terry Blas and Claudia Aguirre.

ABOUT MARIKO TAMAKI

Mariko Tamaki is a *New York Times* bestselling and multiple-award-winning author. In 2008 she wrote the groundbreaking queer coming-of-age graphic novel *Skim*, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki, which was selected by the *New York Times* as one of the best illustrated children's books of the year. She has also written *This One Summer*, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki, which was a Printz Honor Book and Caldecott Honor Book as well as the recipient of several other honors. Mariko has also worked with blockbuster comics series such as *She-Hulk*, and *Archie and Sabrina*, and she is the author of original stories for the middle-grade fiction series Lumberjanes based on the BOOM! Studios comics. Visit her at marikotamaki.blogspot.com. She lives in Oakland, California.



Founded in 1949, ABRAMS was the first company in the United States to specialize in publishing art and illustrated books. The company continues to publish critically acclaimed and bestselling works in the areas of art, photography, cooking, craft, comics, interior and garden design, entertainment, fashion, and popular culture as well as narrative non-fiction and new works of fiction for adults; children's books ranging from middle grade to young adult fiction to picture books to board books. ABRAMS creates and distributes brilliantly designed books with the highest production values under the following imprints: Abrams; Abrams ComicArts; Abrams Image; Abrams Press; The Overlook Press; Abrams Books for Young Readers; Amulet Books; Abrams Appleseed; and a gift and stationery line, Abrams Noterie. ABRAMS also distributes books for Booth-Clibborn Editions, Cameron + Company, Alain Ducasse Édition, Getty Publications, Ludion, Lucky Spool, The Museum of Modern Art, Obvious State, SelfMadeHero, Tate Publishing, V&A Publishing, and The Vendome Press.