

PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF BENICIA
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Brian Fies, Author of “A Fire Story” Speaks at the Benicia Public Library April 22

Benicia, CA (April 12, 2019) — The Benicia Public Library hosts a reading and presentation with author Brian Fies, whose new graphic nonfiction book, “A Fire Story” on Monday, April 22 at 7 p.m., in the Library’s Doña Benicia Room, 150 East L St.

Fies, a writer and cartoonist whose past projects include the graphic novels “Mom’s Cancer” and “Whatever Happened to the World of Tomorrow,” and the webcomic “The Last Mechanical Monster,” has authored a personal story of the devastation wrought by the Tubbs Fire in Napa and Sonoma Counties in 2017. The book has garnered widespread acclaim.

“Fies’s firsthand account of this tragic event is an honest, unflinching depiction of his personal experiences,” said Library Director David Dodd. “We are lucky to have him come to the Benicia Library.”

Fies lost his house and every possession he and his wife had that didn’t fit into the back of their car. In the days that followed, as the fires continued to burn through the area, he hastily pulled together “A Fire Story” and posted it online—it immediately went viral.

He is now expanding his original webcomic to include environmental insight and the fire stories of his neighbors and others in his community. “A Fire Story” is an honest account of the wildfires that left homes destroyed, families broken, and a community determined to rebuild.

Fies’s work in comics has received several honors, including the comic industry’s Eisner and Harvey awards as well as the American Astronautical Society’s Eugene M. Emme Award. In June 2018, an animated version of his original Fire Story produced by San Francisco PBS station KQED won an Emmy Award.

No advance registration is required for this event. Bookshop Benicia will be at the Library to sell books, and Fies will gladly autograph the book after the event.

Attachments: Book jacket, author photo, and sample page.

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