

River Otter's Adventure is A Must Read Picture Book

Mt. Pleasant, SC (June 28, 2021) -- The creators of Arbordale's favorite little river otter have much to celebrate with the announcement of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, Mass Book Awards longlist on June 24th. *River Otter's Adventure* by Linda Stanek and Shennen Bersani joins the list of must-read books for 2021.

Each year the awards recognize fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's/young adult literature by Massachusetts residents. The center will celebrate the titles throughout the summer and announce winners in each category this fall.

River Otter's Adventure was released in the fall of 2020. The story follows a young otter on her adventure through the zoo, looking for a new identity. She tries being a snake, a musk ox, and finally a tiger before realizing that an otter gliding through the river is just where she should be. Animal facts are woven into the story, and the subtle theme of loving yourself resonates with young readers.

Illustrator Shennen Bersani is a Massachusetts resident and does extensive research into each animal she illustrates, sometimes traveling miles from home. Luckily, river otters live nearby, and Shennen visited several local zoos to study all the adorable animals in the book. Shennen's illustrations use vibrant colors paired with realistic style to bring the words to life.

Linda Stanek has written several award-winning titles for Arbordale, all of which are illustrated by Shennen Bersani. She is passionate about animal conservation. Several of her books tell a story about the dangers of losing animal populations, but they also entertain readers with interesting facts. Linda lives near Columbus, Ohio, and is often found sharing her love of writing with students.

The Tejas Star Reading List also honored *River Otter's Adventure* in English and Spanish with a spot on its recommended titles. All editions are available through Arbordale Publishing, independent booksellers, and major retailers. Arbordale titles fit perfectly into curriculum, and the publisher supports classroom use by offering free downloadable resources for all types of educators through their website at www.arbordalepublishing.com.