

City of Lewiston Press Statement April 28, 2021

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The Lewiston Read – A Community Read of *Dragons in a Bag*

For the entire month of May, the Lewiston Public Library is inviting all of Lewiston to participate in a city-wide community read program, the Lewiston Read.

The Lewiston Public Library is planning a variety of activities for readers of all ages to engage with the chosen book, Zetta Elliott's **Dragons in a Bag**. In addition to reading the book, participants will be encouraged to post selfies reading the book on social media accounts with the hashtag **#TheLewistonRead**, join the Mythical Creatures Family Virtual Trivia Night on May 20th, watch an interview with Zetta Elliot on the LPLKids Facebook page, and grab a dragon-themed take & make kit for kids at the Library, with more fun surprises in the works. **Dragons in a Bag** book displays will be up in the public and school libraries and in businesses all over town.

The Lewiston Read program is a partnership between the Lewiston Public Library, Lewiston Public Schools, and the City of Lewiston. **"The goal,"** states LPL Children's Librarian Sara Turner, **"is for our community to come together through reading."** Copies of the book are available for checkout at the Library, as an ebook or audiobook on statewide cloudLibrary app for those with a Lewiston library card, and at all Lewiston elementary school libraries.

Dragons in a Bag is about a boy named Jaxon, who is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma. He finds out she's *not* his grandmother—but she *is* a witch, and she needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe. There are two rules when it comes to the dragons: don't let them out of the bag, and don't feed them anything sweet. Before he knows it, Jax and his friends Vikram and Kavita have broken both rules! Will Jax get the baby dragons delivered safe and sound? Or will they be lost in Brooklyn forever?

The author of the book, Zetta Elliott, was born in Canada and moved to the US to pursue her PhD in American Studies at NYU. Her poetry has been published in several anthologies, and her plays have been staged in New York, Chicago, and Cleveland. She is the author of over twenty books for young readers, including the award-winning picture book *Bird*. Three books published under her own imprint, Rosetta Press, have been named Best Children's Books of the Year by the Bank Street Center for Children's Literature. Rosetta Press generates culturally relevant stories that center children who have been marginalized, misrepresented, and/or rendered invisible in traditional children's literature. Elliott is an advocate for greater diversity and equity in publishing.

The Lewiston Read is free, open to the public, and no registration is required. For more information, contact the LPL Children's Department Desk at 513-3133 or LPLKids@LewistonMaine.gov. Visit the Lewiston Read website page <http://lplonline.org/the-lewiston-read/> for updates and more information. ###