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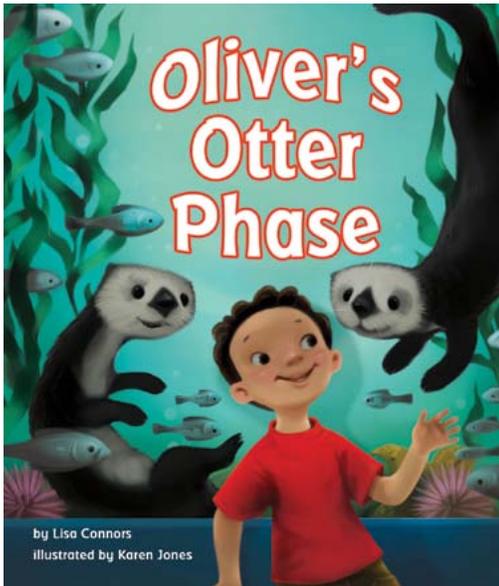
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Press Release

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Local Author Dives into Being an Otter

Lisa Connors debuts her picture book Oliver's Otter Phase

What is it like to be an otter? Oliver knows, and he spends the whole day convincing his parents that an otter's life is just for him in Lisa Connors' new picture book *Oliver's Otter Phase* releasing to bookshelves across the country with art by Karen Jones on February 10th from Arbordale Publishing.

Meet Connors as she reads and signs her new book at Books and Co...Toys Too! in Lexington, Virginia on February 11th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The celebration will include Oliver's favorite food, otter facts booklets to make and a chance to win door prizes, including a sea otter adoption kit from the Vancouver Aquarium.

When young Oliver visits the aquarium, he falls for the otters and takes in all the information he can about these playful creatures. The next day he declares to be an otter and tries to eat food from his belly, ties a line of "kelp" to prevent getting lost, and even takes a cookie to the bath. While this works great in the sea for an otter, it is not so easy for a boy! Young readers learn all about sea otters through Oliver's funny scenarios and then learn even more in the book's "For Creative Minds" educational section.

Connors' love of nature led her to a degree in environmental studies and teaching, now she spends her days writing about the natural world in hopes of inspiring young readers. She recently won the Virginia Outdoor Writer's Association Excellence in Craft Award for her book *Milkweed Matters: A Close Look at the Life Cycles within a Food Chain*. Connors' dedicates her time to writing and revising with more than 25 manuscripts in the works and a new life cycle book on the way.

Jones was a perfect fit as the illustrator for *Oliver's Otter Phase* for her love of research at local aquariums, zoos, and museums. The whimsical illustrations animate young Oliver's follies as he becomes an otter. Jones has illustrated several books for Arbordale including the math series *My Even Day, One Odd Day, My Half Day*, and most recently *Midnight Madness at the Zoo*.

Readers will find *Oliver's Otter Phase* in hardcover (9781607184515, \$17.95), paperback (9781607184621, \$9.95), ebook (9781607184843, \$6.95) and dual-language, read-aloud, and interactive ebook (9781607185154, \$6.95). A Spanish language edition *Nico: Nutria por un dia* is available in paperback (9781607184676, \$9.95), ebook (9781607184898, \$6.95), and dual-language, read-aloud, and interactive ebook (9781607185208, \$6.95). All formats are available from local booksellers and online retailers beginning February 10, 2018.