



***[A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart](#)* by Zetta Elliott; illustrated by Noa Denmon**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2020

ISBN: 9780374307417 (hardcover)

*Age Range: 4-8

BOOK SYNOPSIS

In this powerful, affirming poem by award-winning author Zetta Elliott, a Black child explores his shifting emotions throughout the year.

Summertime is filled with joy—skateboarding and playing basketball—until his community is deeply wounded by a police shooting. As fall turns to winter and then spring, fear grows into anger, then pride and peace.

In her stunning debut, illustrator Noa Denmon articulates the depth and nuances of a child's experiences following a police shooting—through grief and protests, healing and community—with washes of color as vibrant as his words.

Here is a groundbreaking narrative that can help all readers—children and adults alike—talk about the feelings hiding deep inside each of us.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"A resonant exultation of community and the importance of self-reflection." —[Publishers Weekly](#)

"This book delivers positivity, despite the inclusion of police brutality, a Black Lives Matter protest, and a vigil for the dead—all of which affirm the child's realities . . . A well-crafted, twenty-first-century love poem by two truth-telling Black women artists and activists." —[The Horn Book](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Caldecott Honor Book
- Today Show Best Book for the Holidays
- ALA Notable Book for All Ages
- ALSC Notable Children's Book
- NCTE Notable Poetry Book
- Evanston Public Library's Top 100 Great Book for Kids
- Nerdy Award Winner for Single Poem Picture Book
- Bank Street Best Books of the Year

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MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Author Zetta Elliott Reflects on Her Banned Book](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[Sumner County School Board votes to keep a children's book on shelves, despite calls for a ban](#)

[Hanover school board votes to keep 'A Place Inside of Me' on library shelves](#) (NPR)

[Sumner County Board of Education discuss banning of book from schools](#)

On Sept. 8, the Reconsideration Committee Meeting decided to retain the material in its original location.

The committee based the decision on the following criteria:

- The material meets high standards in literary, artistic, and aesthetic quality; technical aspects and physical format
- The material earned favorable reviews in standard reviewing sources and/or favorable recommendations based on preview and examination of materials by professional personnel
- The material exhibits a high degree of potential user appeal and interest
- The material represents differing viewpoints on controversial issues
- The material provides a global perspective and promotes diversity by including authors and illustrators of all cultures.
- The material demonstrates physical format, appearance and durability suitable to intended use.

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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