

AUDIO PARADISO

Seeing the ever-changing audiobook industry through the lens of the 15-year-old Audie Awards

By Raya Kuzyk

It's said that the Audie Awards, or Audies, a competition recognizing excellence in audiobooks and spoken-word entertainment, are to the audiobook industry what the Oscars are to Hollywood. It's a fair analogy.

In near equal degrees in the library and retail channels, audiobook sales have grown steadily over the past decade. The Audio Publishers Association (APA) estimates the size of the industry, based on dollars spent by consumers and libraries, to be in the \$900 million range.

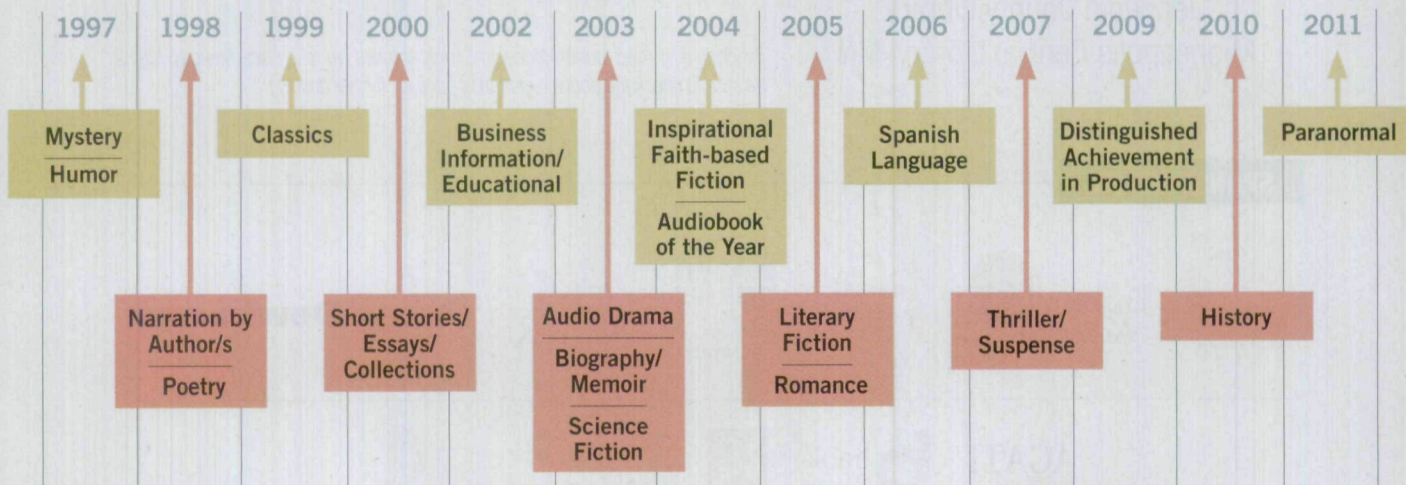
Raya Kuzyk is Media Editor, LJ

The Audies competition, which culminates in a gala held annually and concurrent to BookExpo America, has been honoring the best in audio content, narration, and production since 1996. Its judging committee comprises some 200 audiophiles from all walks of the library, retail, and consumer worlds (see "Sound Judgment," p. 24).

To understand the many and nuanced ways in which the audiobook industry has evolved over the past 15 years, there is no more clarifying lens than the Audies; a survey of the competition's highlights affords a stop-motion view of trends within the overlapping print and audio publishing industries.

What a Difference Each Year Makes

This May, Audie Awards will be bestowed in 30 different categories—that's twice the number of categories as existed in 1996, at the competition's inception. Below are some notable category additions throughout the years.





WINNERS' CIRCLES Hachette Audio staff (l.) celebrate their 2010 Audiobook of the Year (AOTY) Award for Nelson Mandela's *Favorite African Folktales*. At the 2009 ceremony, author Neil Gaiman (ctr.) holds his two Audie wins for *The Graveyard Book*. Beth Anderson and Steve Feldberg (r.) of Audible pose with their 2008 AOTY Award for *The Chopin Manuscript*

The recalibration of categories

Since its 1996 inception, the awards categories have doubled in number, to 30 (see "What a Difference Each Year Makes," p. 20), though the figure has occasionally flitted up and down. Categories have been phased out in favor of alternate ones, consolidated into a single category, or broken out into multiple ones; in some cases, they have crackled in and out of existence.

Solo narration, for example, once a single category, was in 1998 split off by gender. Children's as a category, too, has undergone various mutations, today comprising ages up to eight, ages eight–12, and teens.

The APA board of directors determines the makeup of the categories each year, taking into account input from its members, the balance of entries from previous years, and the popularity and morphing of existing genres as well as the introduction of any new ones.

A veritable time line of cultural change is visible by plotting the appearances of new genres in the competition. Look,

for instance, to the addition of inspirational faith-based fiction as an awards category, in 2004; of Spanish language, in 2006; of history, in 2010; and of paranormal fiction, just this year. While mystery has been a category since 1997, thriller/suspense was added in 2007 to account for the variegated growth in the genre. Abridgments as a category were abolished in 2009, and abridged titles are increasingly rare in many categories.

The drive of digital download

Today's audiobook consumers have a perfect storm of competing formats from which to choose, with audiobooks still being produced on cassette as well as CD; compressed, onto MP3-CDs; preloaded, onto digital devices like Playaway®; and for on-the-go listening, as downloadable MP3 or WMA files, whose sales are growing at the fastest rate.

A survey by digital media distributor OverDrive of its partner schools and libraries indicates that checkouts of download-

LEFT PHOTO BY MARCIA CIRILLO; MIDDLE AND RIGHT PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN WELLS

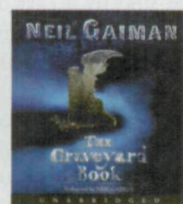
Audiobooks of the Year to Date

2010



Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales narrated by a full cast including Samuel L. Jackson, Helen Mirren, and Don Cheadle (Hachette Audio; an *LJ* Editors' Pick)

2009



The Graveyard Book written and read by Neil Gaiman (HarperAudio/Recorded Bks.)

2008



The Chopin Manuscript: A Serial Thriller by various authors including Jeffery Deaver, Lee Child, and Lisa Scottoline; narrated by Alfred Molina (Audible/Brilliance Audio; *LJ* 2/15/09, starred)

2007



Inspired By...The Bible Experience: New Testament narrated by a full cast including Angela Bassett, Cuba Gooding Jr., and Samuel L. Jackson (Zondervan)

2006



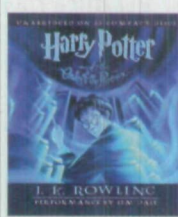
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Tertiary Phase by Douglas Adams, BBC Radio (BBC Audiobooks America [now AudioGO]/Audio Partners Publishing), a BBC Radio production

2005



My Life written and narrated by Bill Clinton (Random Audio/Books on Tape; an *LJ* Best Audio)

2004



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling, narrated by Jim Dale (Listening Library)

able audios rose by 52 percent in 2010 from the previous year, with a total of 6.6 billion minutes of spoken-word audio downloaded.

As more people access digital audio content, so, too, do the number of libraries offering it. According to an American Library Association study titled “Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access” (bit.ly/fn7uMO), the number of U.S. public libraries offering digital audio content rose by 9.6 percent from 2009 to 2010.

The Audies reflect this development. In 2008, a title created exclusively for audio and available exclusively as a download (see “Books Born Digital,” *LJ* 5/15/09, p. 26–28) won Audiobook of the Year: *The Chopin Manuscript* (Audible), a serialized novel written collectively by 15 suspense writers and narrated by Alfred Molina. (Only later was the title released, through Brilliance Audio, in physical formats including CD, MP3-CD, and Playaway®, as well as in ebook form.)

In a move that more deeply integrates digital delivery into the competition, the APA has for the past two years partnered with Audible to distribute Audie nominees digitally to judges.

Surge in YA, social media

In both the print publishing and audiobook markets, YA fiction has seen tremendous growth. Data from a 2010 consumer survey and focus-group sessions conducted by the APA shows, too, that audiobooks are drawn in this demographic in larger numbers than ever before: 23 percent of all audiobook listeners are between the ages of 18 and 24. This may not be due solely to the increase in YA content but to the rise of the downloadable format, which is more popular among younger audiences.

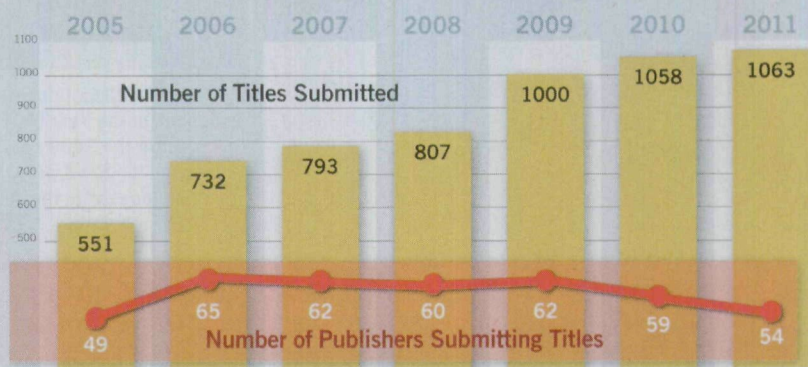
The health and wealth of YA fiction was especially evident at the 2009 Audies, at which L.A. Meyer’s historical YA novel *Curse of the Blue Tattoo* (Listen & Live Audio), read by Katherine Kellgren, won three Audie Awards—in the categories of female solo narration, teens, and distinguished achievement in production—and Neil Gaiman’s YA fantasy novel *The Graveyard Book* (Harp-erAudio/Recorded Bks.), which he read himself, won Audiobook of the Year.

Audies judging chair Ellen Myrick remembers that “the way Neil Gaiman used emerging social media to promote his book in particular and audiobooks in general was very exciting, as was reading his tweets from the ceremony.”

Social media has recently figured

More Audios Every Year

As a testament both to the steady growth of the audio industry of late and the increased standing of the Audie Awards as an arbiter of the best in audiobooks and spoken-word entertainment, the past seven years have seen a record-breaking number of audiobooks entered into the competition for consideration. In the flowchart below, the number of total entries for each of those years is plotted alongside the number of publishers submitting them, ostensibly showing the growth of audio output generally relative to the number of existing audio publishers.



more prominently into the competition, as two of this year’s nominees for best original work—Gaiman’s *Hearts, Keys, and Puppetry*, read by Katherine Kellgren, and Meg Cabot’s *Fashionably Undead*, read by Sarah Drew (both AudioGO)—are each “cowritten” by the Twitterverse.

The more, the merrier

Though multivoiced productions have always had a place in the competition, in recent years they have noticeably gained traction. In 2005, in response to the growing prevalence of multi-cast staged and radio recordings of the type produced by publishers including AudioGO, Blackstone Audio, Galaxy Audio, GraphicAudio, HighBridge Audio, Symphony Space, and L.A. Theatre Works (see Audio Publisher Spotlight, *LJ* 2/15/11, p. 76), the category of audio drama was added to the competition.

Recently, such productions have figured more prominently into the Audies. In 2010, *The Word of Promise Audio Bible* (Thomas Nelson), performed by a cast of over 600 actors, won in the categories of drama, inspirational faith-based nonfiction, and package design. It was also up that year for Audiobook of the Year but lost out to another multivoiced production, Nelson Mandela’s *Favorite African Folktales* (Hachette Audio), a 2009 *LJ* Editors’ Pick performed by a 23-member cast.

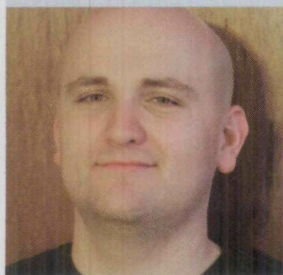
(Interesting side note: that same year, two independent productions of the same title—Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*—were also nominated in the multivoiced category: one, from BBC Audiobooks America [now AudioGO], the other, from Blackstone Audio).

Audies Help Move Collections

Libraries are increasingly looking to announced Audie winners and nominees to encourage deeper exploration of their audiobook collections. Staff at Houston’s Harris County Public Library, TX, for example, posted this year’s finalists on their library’s website (bit.ly/ihjXOY) with an invitation to patrons to “branch out from your usual audiobook selections and try one of these quality guaranteed nominees”; each title listed links to the library catalog, where all formats in which the title is available are itemized, including audio, large print, standard print, and ebook. Users can additionally explore winners from previous years, with the option to access lists in up to nine different categories.

Sound Judgment An Audie Judge Reflects

By Lance Eaton



While many of my teen peers were making mixtapes, I was popping audiobooks like potato chips. In 2003, during my first official audiobook-reviewing stint, for the now-defunct AudiobookCafe.com, the managing editor there invited me to apply to become a judge for the Audies. Naturally, I jumped at the chance.

Having now judged the competition every year since—in categories including adaptation, audio drama, sf, classics, and humor—I have seen firsthand the effect that the growth of the audiobook industry has had on judging criteria and procedure as well as the ways in which it has shaped the nature of the competition overall.

MARKET GROWTH

To wit, today there are twice as many judges (200) as when I first began. There are also now twice as many titles to listen to; not only has the number of titles submitted by publishers for consideration increased (over 1000 this year), but so, too, has the number of titles doled out to the individual judges.

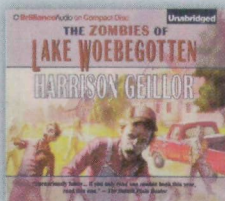
For some of the bigger categories, like fiction, semifinalist judges are split up in order to cover all the material, since each category often contains well over 30 titles (many unabridged, making for 200-plus hours of listening).

The growing prestige and recognition of the Audies, too, is clear. Libraries, bookstores, the blogosphere, and many others recognize the Audies as an established and valid measure of quality audiobooks through special displays, sales, and interviews with those involved in the award-winning productions.

DIGITAL UPSHOT

Digital audio has been a real boon to the Audies, too, lowering overhead costs. Rather than receiving physical audiobooks, most judges now get the titles delivered digitally instead. The ability to download over 20 unabridged audiobooks for the semifinalist round onto an MP3 player has been a great convenience and makes getting through them all much easier. Unfortunately, this means that

Lance Eaton, Peabody, MA, is an LJ audiobook reviewer and contributor (see "Books Born Digital," LJ 5/15/09, p. 26–28). Read his Behind the Mike interview with narrator Simon Jones, p. 60



my local library no longer receives its usual major contribution of audiobooks at the end of judging season.

PERSONAL PICKS

Speculating on this year's winners is a challenge, not only because I haven't listened to all 140 titles across the 28 categories but also because some of my favorite releases from the previous year aren't listed; namely, "Harrison Geillor's" *Zombies of Lake Woebegotten* (Brilliance Audio), with Phil Gigante doing an uncanny impersonation of Garrison Keillor. I'm also surprised that GraphicAudio isn't a contender, given the publisher's consistent output of high-quality full-cast productions.

That said, there are definitely audios I'm rooting for in this year's competition, among them *The Importance of Being Earnest* (L.A. Theatre Works), up for best voiced and best audio drama; Ken Follett's *Fall of Giants* (Penguin Audio), narrated by John Lee and up for best fiction; and the Grammy Award winner *Earth (The Audiobook)*, by the Daily Show with Jon Stewart (Hachette Audio), up for best humor.

PRICELESS PERKS

Regardless of who wins, judging is always an absolute honor and pleasure. It grants me the opportunity to listen to some of the greatest audiobooks produced in the previous year, allows me to be involved in an industry that has added significantly to my life, and broadens the breadth and quality of titles I can recommend to people I may never meet but whose lives will be enhanced through listening.

Among this year's finalists, many titles featuring multiple performers have been nominated in categories other than audio drama. They come from publishers including Audible, AudioGO, Blackstone Audio, Galaxy Audio, Griffin Ink, Hachette Audio, HarperAudio, HighBridge Audio, L.A. Theatre Works, Live Oak Media, Macmillan Audio, Recorded Books, Siren Audio Studios, Straight to Audio Productions, SueMedia, and Symphony Space.

Audio as a standard setter

As audiobooks' place within the publishing market is augmented both in size and definition—the increased prominence of audio originals and staged/radio productions dispelling the

notion of audiobooks as strictly being "recorded books"—the audiobook industry is rewriting the rules of the game. Were it not for the Audies spotlighting especially successful productions through the years, it would arguably be more difficult to notice just how.

Consider, for example, the case of 2010 Audiobook of the Year nominee *The Time of My Life* (S. & S. Audio), which author Patrick Swayze finished recording three weeks prior to his death from pancreatic cancer. Per Myrick, that audiobook, Swayze's last spoken words to his fans, actually drove sales of the print edition—evidence, perhaps, that as formidable as the reader-writer bond is, a more intimate connection is forged between audiences and writers through voice. ▶

2011 Audie Awards: The Contenders

This year's Audie Award-nominated productions include three *LJ* Best Audios, two audio originals cowritten by the Twitterverse, and several downloadable exclusives. Four titles—*Nanny McPhee Returns*, *Rapture of the Deep*, *Vengeance*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*—were each

nominated in two different categories, and authors Cormac McCarthy and Neil Gaiman each have two works vying for the prize.

Simon Vance, Scott Brick, and Dion Graham are among the handful of narrators with as many as three nominations apiece (see Behind the Mike *LJ* 11/15/08, *LJ* 10/15/09, and *LJ* 11/1/09, respectively), but Katherine Kellgren knocks them all out of the park, with a total of ten to her name. Celebrity narrators whose performances receive nods include Laura Bush, Johnny Depp, Sigourney Weaver, and Richard Gere.

Finalists in the Audies' most prestigious categories, Distinguished Achievement in Production and Audiobook of the Year, will be announced in April. All winners will be named and feted at a May 24 gala emceed by author Adriana Trigiani and held concurrent to BookExpo America 2011, at the TimesCenter in New York City. John Waters, whose *Role Models* has been nominated in the category of author narration, will also present; the event will be broadcast live on XM/Sirius Book Radio.



AUDIO DRAMA

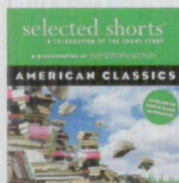
Cormac McCarthy. *Sunset Limited*. Recorded Bks. Narrated by Austin Pendleton, Ezra Knight, & Tom Stechschulte (*LJ* 1/11)

Yasmina Reza. *Art. L.A. Theatre Works*. Performed by Bob Balaban, Brian Cox, & Jeff Perry

A.J. Scudiere. *Vengeance*. Griffyn Ink. Narrated by Kristoffer Tabori, Stephanie Zimbalist, & Don Leslie

George Bernard Shaw. *Saint Joan*. Blackstone Audio. Performed by Amy Irving, Edward Herrmann, & a full cast

Oscar Wilde. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. *L.A. Theatre Works*. Performed by Emily Bergl, Charles Busch, & a full cast



AUDIO ADAPTATION

Georgette Heyer. *Venetia*. Naxos AudioBooks. Narrated by Richard Armitage

Cormac McCarthy. *No Country for Old Men*. Naxos AudioBooks. Narrated by Sean Barrett

NPR: *The First 40 Years*. HighBridge Audio. Featuring NPR hosts & guests (Audio NewsBriefs, *LJ* 12/10)

Various, including Amy Tan & John Cheever. *Selected Shorts: American Classics*. Symphony Space. Narrated by David Strathairn, Stockard Channing, Jerry Stiller, & five others (*LJ* 6/1/10, starred)

Various, including T.C. Boyle & Jonathan Lethem. *Selected Shorts: Even More Laughs*. Symphony Space. Narrated by Stephen Colbert, Parker Posey, Alec Baldwin, & five others (*LJ* 3/15/11, starred)

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR
Carol Burnett. *This Time Together*. Random Audio. Narrated by the author (*LJ* 8/10)

Theresa Flores. *The Slave Across the Street*. Christianaudio. Narrated by Renée Raudman (*LJ* 6/15/10)

Woody Holton. *Abigail Adams*. Tantor Audio. Narrated by Cassandra Campbell

Lisa & Laura Ling. *Somewhere Inside*. HarperAudio. Narrated by the authors

Keith Richards. *Life*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Johnny Depp with Joe Hurley (*LJ* 3/15/11, starred)

BUSINESS/EDUCATIONAL

Timothy Ferriss. *The 4-Hour Workweek* (expanded & updated ed.). Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Ray Porter

Tony Hsieh. *Delivering Happiness*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by the author

John P. Kotter & Lorne A. Whitehead. *Buy-In*. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Tim Wheeler

Geoff Loftus. *Lead Like Ike*. Oasis Audio. Narrated by Mort Crim (*LJ* 9/15/10)

Bill Murphy Jr. *The Intelligent Entrepreneur*. Audible. Narrated by L.J. Ganser & Fred Berman

CHILDREN'S, AGES 8-12

Karen Cushman. *Alchemy and Meggy Swan*. Random Audio/Listening Library. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren

Kate DiCamillo. *The Magician's Elephant*. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson

Jacqueline Kelly. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Natalie Ross

Emma Thompson. *Nanny McPhee Returns*. Macmillan Audio. Narrated by the author

Rita Williams-Garcia. *One Crazy Summer*. Recorded Bks. Narrated by Sisi Aisha

CHILDREN'S, AGES UP TO 8

Annie Auerbach. *Despicable Me: The Junior Novel*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Tim Curry

Karen Ehrhardt. *This Jazz Man*. Live Oak Media. Narrated by James "D Train" Williams

Megan McDonald. *Judy Moody & Stink: The Holly Joliday*. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Barbara Rosenblat

Garth Nix. *One Beastly Beast*. Bolinda Audio. Narrated by Stig Wemyss

Coleen Salley. *Epossumondas Plays Possum*. Recorded Bks. Narrated by Cynthia Darlow

CLASSIC

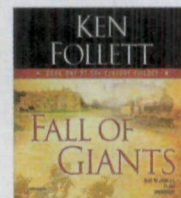
Richard Adams. *Watership Down*. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Ralph Cosham

Wilkie Collins. *The Woman in White*. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Roger Rees, Rosalyn Landor, John Lee, & Judy Geeson

Charles Dickens. *A Tale of Two Cities*. Audio Connoisseur. Narrated by Charlton Griffin

William Faulkner. *Light in August*. Audible. Narrated by Will Patton

Miyamoto Musashi. *The Book of Five Rings*. Tantor Audio. Narrated by Scott Brick



FICTION

Sarah Blake. *The Postmistress*. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Orlagh Cassidy (*LJ* 6/1/10, starred; an *LJ* Best Audio)

Ken Follett. *Fall of Giants*. Penguin Audio. Narrated by John Lee

Steve Hockensmith. *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. Audible. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren

Anna Quindlen. *Every Last One*.

S. & S. Audio. Narrated by Hope Davis (Major Audio Releases, *LJ* 3/15/10)

Brady Udall. *The Lonely Polygamist*. Recorded Bks. Narrated by David Aaron

Daniel Woodrell. *Winter's Bone*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Emma Galvin

HISTORY

George Allan England. *Vikings of the Ice*. Rattling Bks. Narrated by Frank Holden

Fred Kaplan. *1959: The Year Everything Changed*. Audible. Narrated by Joe Barrett

Livy. *The History of Rome*. Vol. 1. Audio Connoisseur. Narrated by Charlton Griffin

Gordon S. Wood. *Empire of Liberty*. Audible. Narrated by Robert Fass

Howard Zinn. *A People's History of the United States*. HarperAudio. Narrated by Jeff Zinn

HUMOR

Alan Goldsher. *Paul Is Undead: The British Zombie Invasion*. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Simon Vance

Justin Halpern. *Sh*t My Dad Says*. HarperAudio. Narrated by Sean Schemmel

Sam Hoffman & Eric Spiegelman. *Old Jews Telling Jokes*. HighBridge Audio. Narrated by the authors & a full cast

David Sedaris. *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by David Sedaris, Elaine Stritch, Dylan Baker, & Siân Phillips (*LJ* 2/1/11)

Jon Stewart & *The Daily Show*. *Earth (The Audiobook)*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Jon Stewart, with Samantha Bee, & three others, and featuring Sigourney Weaver (*LJ* 1/11)

INSPIRATIONAL/ FAITH-BASED FICTION

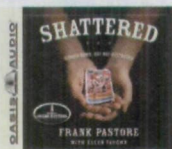
Karen Kingsbury. *Unlocked*. Zondervan. Narrated by Roxanne Hernandez

Tim LaHaye & Craig Parshall. *Edge of Apocalypse*. Zondervan. Narrated by Stefan Rudnicki

Bodie & Brock Thoene. *The Gathering Storm*. Oasis Audio. Narrated by Bodie Thoene

Jennifer Erin Valent. *Fireflies in December*. Recorded Bks. Narrated by Kate Forbes

Karen Young. *Missing Max*. Oasis Audio. Narrated by Laura Merlington



INSPIRATIONAL/ FAITH-BASED NONFICTION

Regina Brett. *God Never Blinks*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Regina Brett

The Dalai Lama. *Toward a True Kinship of Faiths*. Random Audio. Narrated by Richard Gere

Kirk Franklin. *The Blueprint*. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Dion Graham

Frank Pastore & Ellen Vaughn. *Shattered*. Oasis Audio. Narrated by Frank Pastore

Leigh Anne Tuohy & Sean Tuohy. *In a Heartbeat*. Macmillan Audio. Narrated by the authors, Kathleen McInerney, & Rick Adamson

PARANORMAL

Ilona Andrews. *Bayou Moon*. Tantor Audio. Narrated by Renée Raudman

Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl. *Beautiful Creatures*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Kevin T. Collins

Faith Hunter. *Skinwalker: Jane Yellowrock, Bk. 1*. Audible. Narrated by Kristine Hvam

Michael Koryta. *So Cold the River*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Robert Petkoff (*LJ* 10/15/10, starred; an *LJ* Best Audio)

Karen White. *The Girl on Legare Street*. Listen & Live Audio.

Narrated by Aimee Bruneau

LITERARY FICTION

Jonathan Franzen. *Freedom*. Macmillan Audio. Narrated by David LeDoux (*LJ* 11/1/10; an *LJ* Best Book)

Robert Hellenga. *Snakewoman of Little Egypt*. Tantor Audio. Narrated by Coleen Marlo

Oscar Hijuelos. *Beautiful Maria of My Soul*. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Armando Duran

David Mitchell. *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*. Recorded Bks. Narrated by Jonathan Aris & Paula Wilcox (*LJ* 10/1/10)

Philip Roth. *My Life as a Man*. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Dan John Miller (*LJ* 9/15/10)

MULTIVOICED

Deepak Chopra. *The Shadow Effect*. HarperAudio. Narrated by the author, Debbie Ford, & Marianne Williamson

Emma Donoghue. *Room*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Michal Friedman, Ellen Archer, Robert Petkoff, & Suzanne Toren (*LJ* 4/1/11, starred; an *LJ* Best Book)

Adele Park. *Jitters: A Quirky Little Audio Book*. Straight to Audio Prods. Featuring a full cast

Various, including H.G. Wells & Philip K. Dick. *Great Classic Science Fiction*. AudioGO. Narrated by Simon Vance, Katherine Kellgren, Barbara Rosenblat, & five others

Oscar Wilde. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. L.A. Theatre Works. Performed by Emily Bergl, Charles Busch, & a full cast

MYSTERY

Rhys Bowen. *Her Royal Spyness*. Audible. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren

Michael Connelly. *The Reversal*. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Peter Giles (an *LJ* Best Genre Fiction selection)

Elizabeth George. *This Body of Death*. HarperAudio. Narrated by John Lee

John le Carré. *Our Kind of Traitor*. Penguin Audio. Narrated by Robin Sachs (*LJ* 2/15/11)

Chris Mooney. *The Dead Room*. Isis Publishing. Narrated by Regina Reagan

David Rosenfelt. *Dog Tags*. Listen & Live Audio. Narrated by Grover Gardner

NARRATION BY AUTHOR

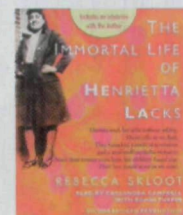
Thomas Cobb. *Crazy Heart*. HarperAudio

Garrison Keillor. *A Christmas Blizzard*. HighBridge Audio

Emma Thompson. *Nanny McPhee Returns*. Macmillan Audio

Alice Walker. *The Color Purple*. Recorded Bks.

John Waters. *Role Models*. Tantor Audio (*LJ* 9/15/10; *LJ* Editors' Spring Pick)



NONFICTION

Deborah Blum. *The Poisoner's Handbook*. Tantor Audio. Narrated by Coleen Marlo

John Heilemann. *Game Change*. HarperAudio. Narrated by Dennis Boutsikaris

Harry Markopolos. *No One Would Listen*. Audible. Narrated by Scott Brick, Harry Markopolos, Frank Casey, & four others

Rebecca Skloot. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Random Audio. Narrated by Cassandra Campbell with Bahni Turpin (an *LJ* Best Book)

Bob Woodward. *Obama's Wars*. S. & S. Audio. Narrated by Boyd Gaines (*LJ* 3/1/11)

ORIGINAL WORK

Paolo Bacigalupi & Tobias S. Buckell. *The Alchemist and the Executioness*. Audible. Narrated by Jonathan Davis & Katherine Kellgren

Meg Cabot & the Twittiverse. Fashionably Undead. AudioGO. Narrated by Sarah Drew

Max Allan Collins, from a story by Mickey Spillane & the author. The New Adventures of Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer. Vol. 2: The Little Death. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Stacy Keach and a full cast

Neil Gaiman & the Twittiverse. Hearts, Keys and Puppetry. AudioGO. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren (Audio NewsBriefs, *LJ* 11/15/09)

Adapted for radio by Renee Pringle with Sue Zizza. William's Leap for Freedom. SueMedia. Performed by Dion Graham, Mirron E. Willis, & a full cast



PACKAGE DESIGN

Bob Elliott & Ray Goulding. The Very Best of Bob & Ray. HighBridge Audio. Featuring Elliott & Goulding (Audio NewsBriefs, *LJ* 1/11)

Malcolm Gladwell. The Box Set. Hachette Audio. Narrated by the author

Martin Luther King Jr. The Essential Box Set. Hachette Audio. Featuring Martin Luther King Jr. and narrated by Keith David & Jay Gregory (*LJ* 5/1/10, starred)

William Shakespeare. Shakespeare the Essential Tragedies. Vol. 1. AudioGO. Performed by a full cast

Bill Willingham. Peter & Max. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Wil Wheaton

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ray Guarendi. Good Discipline, Great Teens. St. Anthony Messenger. Narrated by the author

Queen Latifah. Put on Your Crown. Hachette Audio. Narrated by the author

David Foster Wallace. This Is Water. Hachette Audio. Narrated by the author

Victor L. Wooten. The Music Lesson. Tantor Audio. Narrated the author (*LJ* 10/15/10)

Zig Ziglar's Leadership & Success Series. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by the author

Gary Zukav. Spiritual Partnership. HarperAudio. Narrated by the author

ROMANCE

Linda Lea Castle. By King's Command. Siren Audio Studios. Narrated by a full cast

Eloisa James. A Kiss at Midnight. HarperAudio. Narrated by Susan Duerden

Syrie James. The Secret Diaries of Charlotte Brontë. Recorded Bks. Narrated by Bianca Amato

Stephanie Laurens. The Elusive Bride. HarperAudio. Narrated by Simon Prebble

J.D. Robb. Fantasy in Death. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Susan Ericksen [Note: *LJ* would categorize this title as a mystery/thriller]

SF/FANTASY

Mira Grant. Feed. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Paula Christensen & Jesse Bernstein

Harry Harrison. The Stainless Steel Rat. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Phil Gigante

Kim Harrison. Black Magic Sanction. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Marguerite Gavin

Robert J. Sawyer. WWW: Watch. Audible. Narrated by Jessica Almasy, Marc Vietor, & three others

Various, including Tobias S. Bucknell & B.K. Evenson. Halo: Evolutions. Macmillan Audio. Narrated by Steve Downes, Holter Graham, Frank O'Connor, & Jen Taylor

John Wyndham. The Day of the Triffids. Macmillan Audio. Narrated by Graeme Malcolm

SHORT STORIES/ COLLECTIONS

Jeffrey Archer. And Thereby Hangs a Tale. Macmillan Audio. Narrated by Gerard Doyle

Ray Bradbury. Long After Midnight. Tantor Audio. Narrated by Michael Prichard (Audio NewsBriefs, *LJ* 8/10)

Sloane Crosley. How Did You Get This Number. Penguin Audio. Narrated by the author

Neil Gaiman & Al Sarrantino. Stories. HarperAudio. Narrated by Jonathan Davis, Katherine Kellgren, & three others

John Grisham. Ford County: Stories. Random Audio. Narrated by the author (*LJ* 2/15/10)

Charlaine Harris. A Touch of Dead. Recorded Bks. Narrated by Johanna Parker (*LJ* 4/1/10)

L. Ron Hubbard. A Matter of Matter. Galaxy Audio. Performed by Corey Burton, R.F. Daley, & three others



SOLO NARRATION, FEMALE

Laura Bush. Spoken from the Heart. S. & S. Audio. Narrated by the author (Major Audio Releases, *LJ* 4/15/10)

Paul Crilley. The Invisible Order. Audible. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren

Kate DiCamillo. The Magician's Elephant. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson

Doris Lessing. The Golden Notebook. Naxos AudioBooks. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson

Bernice McFadden. Glorious. Audible. Narrated by Alfre Woodard

L.A. Meyer. Rapture of the Deep. Listen & Live Audio. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren

SOLO NARRATION, MALE
Arthur Conan Doyle. The Complete Stories of Sherlock Holmes. Vol. 2. Audio Connoisseur. Narrated by Charlton Griffin

Hans Fallada. Every Man Dies Alone. Recorded Bks.

Narrated by George Guidall

Mathias Malzieu. The Boy with the Cuckoo-Clock Heart. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Jim Dale (*LJ* 1/15/10, starred)

Scott Turow. Innocent. Hachette Audio. Narrated by Edward Herrmann (Major Audio Releases, 4/15/10)

Robert Paul Weston. Zorgamazoo. Penguin Audio. Narrated by Alan Cumming



TEENS

Victoria Bond & T.R. Simon. Zora and Me. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Channie Waites

John Green & David Levithan. Will Grayson, Will Grayson. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by MacLeod Andrews & Nick Podehl

Kekla Magoon. The Rock and the River. Brilliance Audio. Narrated by Dion Graham

L.A. Meyer. Rapture of the Deep. Listen & Live Audio. Narrated by Katherine Kellgren

Walter Dean Myers. Here in Harlem. Live Oak Media. Performed by a full cast

THRILLER/SUSPENSE

Stieg Larsson. The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest. Random Audio. Narrated by Simon Vance (*LJ* 9/15/10, starred)

Gayle Lynds. The Book of Spies. Blackstone Audio. Narrated by Kate Reading (*LJ* 7/10, starred; an *LJ* Best Audio and an *LJ* Best Genre Fiction selection)

Thomas Perry. Dead Aim. Tantor Audio. Narrated by Michael Kramer

A.J. Scudiere. Vengeance. Griffyn Ink. Narrated by Kristoffer Tabori, Stephanie Zimbalist, & Don Leslie

Neal Stephenson & J. Frederick George. Interface. Audible. Narrated by Oliver Wyman ■

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