

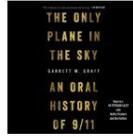
# 2020 Audie Awards (Audio Publishers Association)

<https://www.audiopub.org/winners/2020-audies>

## AUDIOBOOK OF THE YEAR

### **The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11**

by Garrett M. Graff



Narrated by a Full 45-Person Cast with Holter Graham, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

Award-winning journalist and author Graff paints a comprehensive, minute-by-minute account of the September 11 attacks, told in the words of those who experienced that dramatic and tragic day. From the firefighters who streamed into the smoke-filled stairwells of the Twin Towers to the fighter pilots scrambled from air bases with orders to shoot down any hijacked commercial aircraft; from the teachers who held their fear at bay while evacuating terrified children from nearby schools; to the stricken family members trapped helplessly on the ground, Graff weaves together the unforgettable testimonies of men and women caught in an unprecedented human drama.

The judging panel praised this unique production: “*The Only Plane in the Sky* is an extraordinary achievement that takes a gut-wrenching and almost unimaginable text and re-injects its humanness. Graff has created a historical document with the deftness of a poet and this production only builds on it, adding a narrative propulsion that never seems exploitative and an emotional depth that's never overwrought.”

#### Finalist Titles

***Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*** by Tony Kushner, narrated by Andrew Garfield, Nathan Lane, Susan Brown, Denise Gough and a full cast, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***Becoming***, written and narrated by Michelle Obama, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***Charlotte's Web*** by E.B. White, narrated by Meryl Streep and a full cast, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***The Dutch House*** by Ann Patchett, narrated by Tom Hanks, published by HarperAudio

***The Testaments: The Sequel to The Handmaid's Tale*** by Margaret Atwood, narrated by Ann Dowd, Bryce Dallas Howard, Mae Whitman, Derek Jacobi, Tantoo Cardinal, and Margaret Atwood, published by Penguin Random House Audio

## AUDIO DRAMA

### **Angels in America**

by Tony Kushner



Performed by Andrew Garfield, Nathan Lane, Susan Brown, Denise Gough and a Full Cast, published by Penguin Random House Audio

Andrew Garfield, Nathan Lane, and the entire cast recreate their acclaimed performances from the 2018 Tony Award-winning National Theatre revival of *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*. With narration by Bobby Cannavale and Edie Falco, and a musical score by Adrian Sutton, this audiobook is a compelling and immersive theatrical listening experience.

“Intimate, surreal, and devastatingly honest.” —*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles:

***The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey*** by James Lecesne, performed by James Lecesne, published by Audible Originals

***Birthday Suit*** by Lauren Blakely, performed by Andi Arndt, Sebastian York, January LaVoy, Julia Whelan, R.C. Bray, Shane East, Joe Arden, Erin Mallon, Dion Graham, Savannah Peachwood, Jason Clarke, and Robin Miles, published by Lauren Blakely Books

***Have a Nice Day*** by Billy Crystal and Quinton Peeples, performed by Justin Bartha, Annette Bening, Dick Cavett, Auli'i Cravalho, Billy Crystal, Rachel Dratch, Darrell Hammond, Christopher Jackson, Kevin Kline, Robin Thede, and a full cast, published by Audible Originals

**Puss in Boots** by Neil Fishman, Harvey Edelman, and Khristine Hvam, performed by Jim Dale, Mark Aldrich, Barret Leddy, Nick Sullivan, Brian Holden, Al Fallick, Lisa Livesay, Meredith Inglesby, Lynn Norris, John E. Brady, and Johnny Heller, published by HarperAudio

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

### **Becoming**

by Michelle Obama



Narrated by Michelle Obama, published by Penguin Random House Audio

Michelle Obama invites listeners into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her – from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it - in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance.

“This intimate listening experience allows us behind the public exterior and into the warm embrace of private revelations by one of our nation's most beloved role models.” —*AudioFile* magazine

### **Finalist Titles**

**From Scratch**, written and narrated by Tembi Locke, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

**Me: Elton John Official Autobiography** by Elton John, narrated by Taron Egerton and Elton John, published by Macmillan Audio

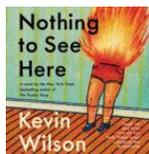
**MotherStruck!**, written and narrated by Staceyann Chin, published by Audible Originals

**Too Much Is Not Enough: A Memoir of Fumbling Toward Adulthood**, written and narrated by Andrew Rannels, published by Penguin Random House Audio

## BEST FEMALE NARRATOR

### **Nothing to See Here**

by Kevin Wilson



Narrated by Marin Ireland, published by HarperAudio

Lillian and Madison were unlikely roommates and yet inseparable friends at their elite boarding school. But then, Lillian had to leave the school unexpectedly in the wake of a scandal, and they've barely spoken since. Until now, when Lillian gets a letter from Madison pleading for her help. Madison's twin stepkids are moving in with her family, and she wants Lillian to be their caretaker. However, there's a catch: The twins spontaneously combust when they get agitated, flames igniting from their skin in a startling but beautiful way. Lillian is convinced Madison is pulling her leg, but it's the truth.

“Drawing from a seemingly endless supply of character voices, Ireland immerses listeners in this magical yet weird family, exquisitely capturing every unusual layer of the story.” —*AudioFile* magazine

### **Finalist Titles**

**All the Lost Things** by Michelle Sacks, narrated by Cassandra Morris, published by Hachette Audio

**The Boy** by Tami Hoag, narrated by Hillary Huber, published by Brilliance Publishing

**Prime Suspect** by Lynda La Plante, narrated by Rachel Atkins, published by Zaffle

**The Ten Thousand Doors of January** by Alix E. Harrow, narrated by January LaVoy, published by Hachette Audio

## BEST MALE NARRATOR

### **Kingdom of the Blind**

by Louise Penny



Narrated by Robert Bathurst, published by Macmillan Audio

When a peculiar letter arrives inviting Armand Gamache to an abandoned farmhouse, the former head of the Sûreté du Québec discovers that a complete stranger has named him one of the executors of her will. Still on suspension, and frankly curious, Gamache accepts and soon learns that the other two executors are Myrna Landers, the bookseller from

Three Pines, and a young builder. When a body is found, the terms of the bizarre will suddenly seem less peculiar and far more menacing.

“Bathurst's distinct voices – a gravelly growl for Ruth Zardo, a genial drawl for a young carpenter – distinguish the most memorable characters, and he imbues all of them with Penny's familiar warmth and humanity.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***The Dutch House*** by Ann Patchett, narrated by Tom Hanks, published by HarperAudio

***Everything Is Illuminated*** by Jonathon Safran Foer, narrated by Robert Petkoff, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

***The Nickel Boys*** by Colson Whitehead, narrated by JD Jackson, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams, narrated by Peter Capaldi, published by Blackstone Publishing

#### BUSINESS/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

##### So You Want to Start a Podcast?



by Kristen Meinzer

Narrated by Kristen Meinzer, published by HarperAudio

This comprehensive step-by-step guide to creating a hit show covers everything from hosting and guest booking to editing and marketing - while offering plenty of encouragement and insider stories along the way. Few know the secrets of successfully creating a knockout podcast better than Kristen Meinzer. An award-winning commentator, producer, and former director of nonfiction programming for Slate's sister company, Panoply, Meinzer has also hosted three successful podcasts, reaching more than 10 million listeners. Here she shares her expertise.

“Kristen Meinzer's energetic narration is well suited to her information-packed account of what it takes to put together a successful podcast and keep it going.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***The Barefoot Spirit*** by Michael Houlihan, Bonnie Harvey, and Rick Kushman, narrated by Alamada Karatihy and a full cast featuring Ed Asner, published by Footnotes Press

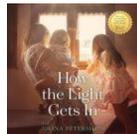
***Calm the F\*ck Down***, written and narrated by Sarah Knight, published by Hachette Audio

***Nine Lies About Work: A Freethinking Leader's Guide to the Real World***, written and narrated by Marcus Buckingham and Ashley Goodall, published by Gildan Media, a division of Recorded Books

***Wolfpack***, written and narrated by Abby Wambach, published by Macmillan Audio

#### FAITH-BASED FICTION & NON-FICTION

##### How the Light Gets In



by Jolina Petersheim

Narrated by Tavia Gilbert, published by Oasis Audio

When Ruth Neufeld's husband and father-in-law are killed working for a relief organization overseas, she travels to Wisconsin with her young daughters and mother-in-law, Mabel, to bury her husband. She hopes the Mennonite community will be a quiet place to grieve and piece together next steps. Ruth and her family are welcomed, and Ruth finds solace in the beauty of the land and healing through hard work and budding friendship. She also encounters the possibility of new love. But an unexpected twist threatens to unseat the happy ending Ruth is about to write for herself.

“Skilled narrator Tavia Gilbert provides a compelling performance as young widow Ruth Neufeld.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***Breathe Again***, written and narrated by Niki Hardy, published by Oasis Audio

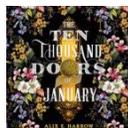
***Conscious***, written and narrated by Annaka Harris, published by HarperAudio

***Dare to See***, written and narrated by Katie Brown, published by Hachette Audio

***Jezebel: The Prequel*** by Jacquelin Thomas, narrated by Janina Edwards, published by The Audio Flow LLC

#### FANTASY

##### The Ten Thousand Doors of January



by Alix E. Harrow

Narrated by January LaVoy, published by Hachette Audio

In the early 1900s, in a sprawling mansion filled with peculiar treasures, January Scaller is a curiosity herself. As the ward of the wealthy Mr. Locke, she feels little different from the artifacts that decorate the halls: carefully maintained, largely ignored, and utterly out of place. Then she finds a strange book. A book that carries the scent of other worlds and tells a tale of secret doors, of love, adventure, and danger.

“January LaVoy's breathtaking narration shines in a fantasy in which Doors offer infinite possibilities for adventure.”—

*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***Beasts of the Frozen Sun*** by Jill Criswell, narrated by Alana Kerr-Collins and Tim Campbell, published by Blackstone Publishing

***Black Leopard, Red Wolf*** by Marlon James, narrated by Dion Graham, published by Penguin Random House Audio

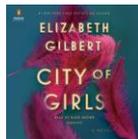
***Ninth House*** by Leigh Bardugo, narrated by Michael David Axtell and Lauren Fortgang, published by Macmillan Audio

***Time's Children*** by D.B. Jackson, narrated by Helen Keeley, published by Dreamscape Media, LLC

## FICTION

### City of Girls

by Elizabeth Gilbert



Narrated by Blair Brown, published by Penguin Random House Audio

In 1940, 19-year-old Vivian Morris has just been kicked out of Vassar College, owing to her lackluster freshman-year performance. Her affluent parents send her to Manhattan to live with her Aunt Peg, who owns a flamboyant, crumbling midtown theater called the Lily Playhouse. There Vivian is introduced to an entire cosmos of unconventional and charismatic characters.

“Brown's straightforward, charming depiction illuminates the vivacious young woman the wistful elderly narrator remembers, and her conversational pacing creates vibrant pictures for the listener.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***The Age of Light*** by Whitney Scharer, narrated by Therese Plummer, published by Hachette Audio

***Cilka's Journey*** by Heather Morris, narrated by Louise Brealey, published by Macmillan Audio

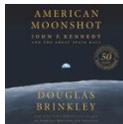
***Colombiano*** by Rusty Young, narrated by Rusty Young and Brian J. Ramos, published by Bolinda Publishing

***The House We Grew Up In*** by Lisa Jewell, narrated by Karina Fernandez, published by Dreamscape Media

## HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY

### American Moonshot

by Douglas Brinkley



Narrated by Stephen Graybill, published by HarperAudio

Douglas Brinkley takes us back to the 1960s to recreate one of the most exciting and ambitious achievements in the history of humankind. *American Moonshot* brings together the extraordinary political, cultural, and scientific factors that fueled the birth and development of NASA and the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo projects, which shot the US to victory in the space race against the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War. A vivid and enthralling chronicle of one of the most thrilling, hopeful, and turbulent eras in our nation's history.

“Graybill's well-paced delivery presents grounded depictions of key figures.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***The First Conspiracy*** by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch, narrated by Scott Brick, published by Macmillan Audio

***Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee*** by Casey Cep, narrated by Hillary Huber, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***The Queen*** by Josh Levin, narrated by January LaVoy, published by Hachette Audio

***Theodore Roosevelt for the Defense*** by Dan Abrams and David Fisher, narrated by Roger Wayne and Dan Abrams, published by Harlequin



## HUMOR

### More Bedtime Stories for Cynics

by Kirsten Kearse, Gretchen Enders, Aparna Nancharla, Cirocco Dunlap, Dave Hill

Narrated by Nick Offerman, Patrick Stewart, Alia Shawkat, Ellen Page, Jane Lynch, John Waters, Anjelica Huston, Wendell Pierce, Mike Birbiglia, Rachel Dratch, Matt Walsh, Nicole Byer, Harry Goaz, Aisling Bea, Gary Anthony Williams, published by Audible Studios

Nick Offerman and his posse of high-profile guests present a series of 12 short stories written in the style of classic kid's tales, but with a decidedly adult approach. If children's literature is any guide, we should all be able to magically fall asleep simply by saying goodnight to the things we can see from our beds. But any adult knows that our work anxieties and shameful memories would rather stay up all night and chat. That's where Offerman and Co. come in – with clever and occasionally downright dark parodies of the classic kids genre.

“Patrick Stewart's gravelly voice laments the indignities of aging in “Acid Reflux Man,” while Angelica Huston's gorgeous voice delivers “The True Queen” with nasty delight.”—*AudioFile* magazine

### Finalist Titles

***Dear Girls: Intimate Tales, Untold Secrets & Advice for Living Your Best Life*** by Ali Wong, narrated by Ali Wong and Justin Hakuta, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***Idiot***, written and narrated by Laura Clery, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

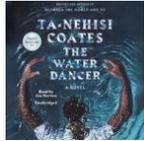
***Riding the Elephant: A Memoir of Altercations, Humiliations, Hallucinations, and Observations***, written and narrated by Craig Ferguson, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***A Woman First: First Woman***, written and narrated by Selina Meyer, published by Penguin Random House Audio

## LITERARY FICTION & CLASSICS

### The Water Dancer

by Ta-Nehisi Coates



Narrated by Joe Morton, published by Penguin Random House Audio

Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her - but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known. So begins an unexpected journey that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia's proud plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness. Even as he's enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, Hiram's resolve to rescue the family he left behind endures.

“Joe Morton doesn't just give a stellar performance of Coates's audiobook. He embodies its characters completely, making the listening experience cinematic.”—*AudioFile* magazine

### Finalist Titles

***Milkman*** by Anna Burns, narrated by Brid Brennan, published by Dreamscape Media

***Mythos***, written and narrated by Stephen Fry, published by Chronicle Books

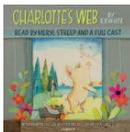
***The Night Tiger***, written and narrated by Yangsze Choo, published by Macmillan Audio

***Red at the Bone*** by Jacqueline Woodson, narrated by Jacqueline Woodson, with Quincy Tyler Bernstine, Peter Francis James, Shayna Small, and Bahni Turpin, published by Penguin Random House Audio

## MIDDLE GRADE

### Charlotte's Web

by E.B. White



Narrated by Meryl Streep and a full cast, published by Penguin Random House Audio

Brought to life by Meryl Streep and a full cast, this beloved book by E. B. White is a classic of children's literature that is “just about perfect” (*New York Times*). Some Pig. Humble. Radiant. These are the words in *Charlotte's Web*, high up in

Zuckerman's barn. Charlotte's spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern, who saved Wilbur's life when he was born the runt of his litter.

“Every portrayal of every character, major and minor, bursts with personality.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***New Kid*** by Jerry Craft, narrated by Jerry Craft, Jesus Del Orden, Nile Bullock, Robin Miles, Guy Lockard, Peyton Lusk, Rebecca Soler, Dan Bittner, Phoebe Strole, Marc Thompson, Miles Harvey, and Ron Butler, published by HarperAudio

***Our Castle by the Sea***, written and narrated by Lucy Strange, published by Scholastic Audio

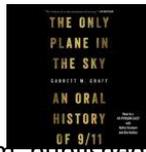
***Roller Girl*** by Victoria Jamieson, narrated by Almarie Guerra and a full cast, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*** by Dan Gemeinhart, narrated by Kristine Hvam, published by Macmillan Audio

#### MULTI-VOICED PERFORMANCE

##### **The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11**

by Garrett M. Graff



Narrated by A Full 45-Person Cast with Holter Graham, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

Award-winning journalist and author Graff paints a comprehensive, minute-by-minute account of the September 11 attacks, told in the words of those who experienced that dramatic and tragic day. From the firefighters who streamed into the smoke-filled stairwells of the Twin Towers to the fighter pilots scrambled from air bases with orders to shoot down any hijacked commercial aircraft; from the teachers who held their fear at bay while evacuating terrified children from nearby schools; to the stricken family members trapped helplessly on the ground, Graff weaves together the unforgettable testimonies of men and women caught in an unprecedented human drama.

“The cast chosen for this oral history, led by Holter Graham, is exceptional. They set the right tone of reverence, respect, and awe.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***200 Women*** by Geoff Blackwell, Ruth Hobday, Sharon Gelman, Marianne Lassandro, and Kieran Scott, narrated by a full cast, published by Chronicle Books

***Daisy Jones & The Six*** by Taylor Jenkins Reid, narrated by Jennifer Beals, Benjamin Bratt, Judy Greer, Pablo Schreiber, and a full cast, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***Dooku: Jedi Lost (Star Wars)*** by Cavan Scott, narrated by Orlagh Cassidy, Euan Morton, Marc Thompson, Pete Bradbury, Jonathan Davis, Neil Hellegers, Sean Kenin, January LaVoy, Saskia Maarleveld, Carol Monda, Robert Petkoff, and Rebecca Soler, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***Hey, Kiddo*** by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, narrated by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Jeanne Birdsall, Richard Ferrone, Jenna Lamia, and a full cast, published by Scholastic Audio

#### MYSTERY

##### **The Chestnut Man**

by Søren Sveistrup



Narrated by Peter Noble, published by HarperAudio

A psychopath is terrorizing Copenhagen. His calling card is a “chestnut man” – a handmade doll made of matchsticks and two chestnuts – which he leaves at each bloody crime scene. Examining the dolls, forensics makes a shocking discovery – a fingerprint belonging to a young girl, a government minister’s daughter who had been kidnapped and murdered a year ago.

“Noble performs this demanding plot with total investment in the story, as if he were as caught in its grip as the characters. Impressive and haunting.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***Along Came a Spider (25 anniversary edition)*** by James Patterson, narrated by Taye Diggs, published by Hachette Audio

***The Boy*** by Tami Hoag, narrated by Hillary Huber, published by Brilliance Publishing

*The Lost Man* by Jane Harper, narrated by Stephen Shanahan, published by Macmillan Audio

*The New Iberia Blues* by James Lee Burke, narrated by Will Patton, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

## NARRATION BY THE AUTHOR or AUTHORS

### **With the Fire on High**

by Elizabeth Acevedo



Narrated by Elizabeth Acevedo, published by HarperAudio

Ever since she got pregnant freshman year, Emoni Santiago’s life has been about making the tough decisions – doing what has to be done for her daughter and her abuela. The one place she can let all that go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness.

“Author Elizabeth Acevedo sounds natural and authentic as Emoni, an immensely likable Philadelphia high school senior with a 2-year-old daughter and a gift for cooking.”—*AudioFile* magazine

### **Finalist Titles**

*Becoming*, written and narrated by Michelle Obama, published by Penguin Random House Audio

*Inside Out*, written and narrated by Demi Moore, published by HarperAudio

*Madame Badobedah*, written and narrated by Sophie Dahl, published by Bolinda Publishing

*Shortest Way Home: One Mayor's Challenge and a Model for America's Future*, written and narrated by Pete Buttigieg, published by HighBridge Audio, a division of Recorded Books

*Tough Love*, written and narrated by Susan Rice, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

## NON-FICTION

### **Grace Will Lead Us Home**

by Jennifer Berry Hawes



Narrated by Karen Chilton, Jennifer Berry Hawes, published by Macmillan Audio

On June 17, 2015, 12 members of the historically black Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina welcomed a young white man to their evening Bible study. He arrived with a pistol, 88 bullets, and hopes of starting a race war. Dylann Roof’s massacre of nine innocents horrified the nation. Two days later, some relatives of the dead stood at Roof’s hearing and said, “I forgive you.” That grace offered the country a hopeful ending to an awful story. But for the survivors and victims’ families, the journey had just begun.

“This audiobook achieves an exceptional performance of an important work on a difficult subject - mass murder and its aftermath.”—*AudioFile* magazine

### **Finalist Titles**

*Mama’s Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us About Ourselves* by Frans de Waal, narrated by L.J. Ganser, published by Recorded Books

*The Perfect Predator* by Steffanie Strathdee, Thomas Patterson, and Teresa Barker, narrated by Christine Lakin with Dan Woren, published by Hachette Audio

*Talking to Strangers*, written and narrated by Malcolm Gladwell, published by Hachette Audio

*We Are the Weather*, written and narrated by Jonathan Safran Foer, published by Macmillan Audio

## ORIGINAL WORK

### **Evil Eye**

by Madhuri Shekar



Narrated by Nick Choksi, Harsh Nayaar, Annapurna Sriram, Bernard White, Rita Wolf, published by Audible Studios

Usha is convinced that the Evil Eye, a curse that brings continuous misfortune, was cast upon her daughter, Pallavi, in the womb. What else could have possibly left her driven, career-oriented daughter edging closer and closer to 30 without a prospective husband? Determined to set Pallavi on the right path, Usha arranges date after date with

potential suitors. In an unexpected turn of events, Pallavi becomes her own matchmaker when she meets – and quickly falls for – Sandeep, a young Indian-American entrepreneur.

“As the story is told through phone calls, voicemails, and direct, natural dialogue, the fine performances and suspense never waver. This production is all that contemporary audio drama should be.” —*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***I Eat Men Like Air*** by Alice Berman, narrated by Elizabeth Evans, published by Audible Originals

***Lustily Ever After: The Audiobook Musical*** by Stephanie Bentley and Miranda Ray, narrated by Stephanie Bentley, Carolyn Jania and Henry Kaiser, with additional vocals from Christiana Lynette and Aaron Wilson, published by ACX

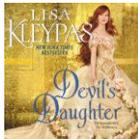
***Nevertheless We Persisted: Me Too***, written and performed by a chorus of voices, published by Blunder Woman Productions

***Our Harlem: Seven Days of Cooking, Music and Soul at the Red Rooster*** by Marcus Samuelsson, narrated by Marcus Samuelsson, published by Audible Originals

#### ROMANCE

##### Devil's Daughter

by Lisa Kleypas



Narrated by Mary Jane Wells, published by HarperAudio

Although beautiful young widow Phoebe, Lady Clare, has never met West Ravenel, she knows one thing for certain: he's a mean, rotten bully. Back in boarding school, he made her late husband's life a misery, and she'll never forgive him for it. But when Phoebe attends a family wedding, she encounters a dashing and impossibly charming stranger... none other than West Ravenel.

“Narrator Mary Jane Wells's rich voice lends itself to the story.” —*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***The Bride Test*** by Helen Hoang, narrated by Emily Woo Zeller, published by Dreamscape Media

***The Friend Zone*** by Abby Jimenez, narrated by Teddy Hamilton and Erin Mallon, published by Hachette Audio

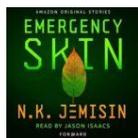
***Gimme Some Sugar*** by Molly Harper, narrated by Amanda Ronconi, published by Audible Studios

***Red, White & Royal Blue*** by Casey McQuiston, narrated by Ramon de Ocampo, published by Macmillan Audio

#### SCIENCE FICTION

##### Emergency Skin

by N.K. Jemisin



Narrated by Jason Isaacs, published by Brilliance Publishing

An explorer returns to gather information from a climate-ravaged Earth that his ancestors, and others among the planet's finest, fled centuries ago. The mission comes with a warning: a graveyard world awaits him. But so do those left behind – hopeless and unbeautiful wastes of humanity who should have died out eons ago. After all this time, there's no telling how they've devolved.

“Narrator Jason Isaacs's voice is the perfect mix of insistent, pedantic, and scornful as he portrays the AI inside the head of an “instrument” that is sent on a mission to gather valuable biological materials on what's left of Tellus – or Earth. This brief but clever tale is truly best enjoyed on audio.” —*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***Hollow Kingdom*** by Kira Jane Buxton, narrated by Robert Petkoff, published by Hachette Audio

***The Last Astronaut*** by David Wellington, narrated by Megan Tusing, published by Hachette Audio

***The Lesson*** by Cadwell Turnbull, narrated by Ron Butler and Janina Edwards, published by Blackstone Publishing

***Permafrost*** by Alastair Reynolds, narrated by Natasha Soudek, published by Macmillan Audio

#### SHORT STORIES/COLLECTIONS



## Full Throttle

by Joe Hill

Narrated by Zachary Quinto, Wil Wheaton, Kate Mulgrew, Neil Gaiman, Ashleigh Cummings, Joe Hill, Laysla De Oliveira, Nate Corrdry, Connor Jessup, Stephen Lang, George Guidall, published by HarperAudio

In this masterful collection of short fiction, Joe Hill dissects timeless human struggles in 13 relentless tales of supernatural suspense, including “In the Tall Grass”, one of two stories cowritten with Stephen King, basis for the terrifying feature film from Netflix.

“A terrific cast of narrators lend their voices to 13 stories by Joe Hill, who himself reads the utterly delightful introduction, remembering his childhood and his path to becoming a successful horror writer.

Booklovers may agree that “Late Returns,” narrated by Wil Wheaton--about a librarian slipping through time to offer the dead one last great read--is the gem of this collection.”—*AudioFile* magazine

### Finalist Titles

***Evidence of the Affair*** by Taylor Jenkins Reid, narrated by Julia Whelan, George Newbern, James Daniels, and Dara Rosenberg, published by Brilliance Publishing

***Forward*** by Veronica Roth, Blake Crouch, N.K. Jemisin, Amor Towles, Paul Tremblay, and Andy Weir, narrated by Evan Rachel Wood, Rosa Salazar, Jason Isaacs, David Harbour, Steven Strait, and Janina Gavankar, published by Brilliance Publishing

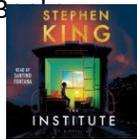
***I'm Telling the Truth But I'm Lying***, written and narrated by Bassey Ikpi, published by HarperAudio

***Kabu Kabu*** by Nnedi Okorafor and Whoopi Goldberg (foreword), narrated by Yetide Badaki, published by Tantor Audio, a division of Recorded Books

### THRILLER/SUSPENSE

#### The Institute

by Stephen King



Narrated by Santino Fontana, published by Simon & Schuster Audio

In the middle of the night, in a house on a quiet street in suburban Minneapolis, intruders silently murder Luke Ellis' parents and load him into a black SUV. The operation takes less than two minutes. Luke will wake up at The Institute, in a room that looks just like his own, except there's no window. And outside his door are other doors, behind which are other kids with special talents - telekinesis and telepathy - who got to this place the same way Luke did.

“A dazzling performance by narrator Santino Fontana. Fontana does wonders with this diverse lineup of young characters who band together to fight their captors. King and Fontana's talents are a winning combination.”—*AudioFile* magazine

### Finalist Titles

***Blood in the Water*** by Jack Flynn, narrated by Dion Graham, published by Recorded Books

***Freefall*** by Jessica Barry, narrated by Hillary Huber, Karissa Vacker, and MacLeod Andrews, published by HarperAudio

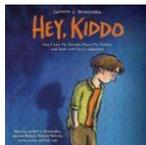
***Lady in the Lake*** by Laura Lippman, narrated by Susan Bennett, published by HarperAudio

***Winter Dark*** by Alex Callister, narrated by Ell Potter, published by Audible Originals

### YOUNG ADULT

#### Hey, Kiddo

by Jarrett J. Krosoczka



Narrated by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Jeanne Birdsall, Richard Ferrone, Jenna Lamia & full cast, published by Scholastic Audio

In this profoundly moving memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, Krosoczka describes his youth. His mom was an addict, in and out of rehab; his father was a mystery; and Jarrett lived with his grandparents - two very loud, loving, opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along.

“A full cast of more than 40 performers brings this powerful graphic novel memoir vividly to life. Narrator pros Jeanne Birdsall, Richard Ferrone, and Jenna Lamia take the roles of the grandparents and the author's birth mother. His father voices himself, reliving the painful memories of their family history. Young Jarrett and his friend Pat are portrayed by

Jarrett's and Pat's children, and Jarrett's aunts deliver their own parts as well, making every interaction incredibly authentic.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***Like a Love Story*** by Abdi Nazemian, narrated by Lauren Ambrose, Vikas Adam, and Michael Crouch, published by HarperAudio

***Lovely War*** by Julie Berry, narrated by Jayne Entwistle, Allan Corduner, Julie Berry, Dion Graham, Fiona Hardingham, John Lee, Nathaniel Parker, and Steve West, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***On the Come Up*** by Angie Thomas, narrated by Bahni Turpin, published by HarperAudio

***With the Fire on High***, written and narrated by Elizabeth Acevedo, published by HarperAudio

#### YOUNG LISTENERS (up to age 8)

##### **The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!**

by Mo Willems



Narrated by Mo Willems, published by Weston Woods

The Pigeon is about to get SCHOOLED. Why does the Pigeon have to go to school? He already knows everything! And what if he doesn't like it? What if the teacher doesn't like him? What if he learns TOO MUCH!?! Ask not for whom the school bell rings; it rings for the Pigeon!

“A winning combination here – Mo Willems narrates the latest installment in his Pigeon books, and a musical score enriches the experience. The elasticity and range of Willems's voice bring pep to the production--mirroring the emotions of the text.”—*AudioFile* magazine

#### Finalist Titles

***How to Read a Book***, written and narrated by Kwame Alexander, published by HarperAudio

***The Lion King*** by Elizabeth Rudnick and Disney Press, narrated by Janina Edwards, published by Blackstone Publishing

***Rumpel Buttercup: A Story of Bananas, Belonging, and Being Yourself***, written and narrated by Matthew Gray Gubler, published by Penguin Random House Audio

***We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*** by Traci Sorell, narrated by Lauren Hummingbird, Agalisiga (Choogie) Mackey, Ryan Mackey, Traci Sorell, and Tonia Weavel, published by Live Oak Media

***The Word Collector*** by Peter H. Reynolds, narrated by Guy Lockard, published by Weston Woods