

## Top Ten Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults

In addition to the full list of titles (</yalsa/booklistsawards/booklists/amazingaudiobooks/aaya2011>), the committee selected the following as their top ten:

*The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had* by **Kristin Levine**, read by **Kirby Heyborne**. Listening Library, 2010. 7 hours, 9 minutes, 6 discs, ISBN: 9780307710581.

Dit and Emma create a powerful friendship that transcends racial lines in the American South during a time of strife and upheaval. Kirby Heyborne's lilting southern accent brings to life this tender coming of age story.

*Dreamdark Silksinger* by **Lani Taylor**, read by **Cassandra Campbell**. Brilliance Audio, 2009. 13 hours, 18 minutes, 11 discs, ISBN: 978-1-14418-0231-6.

While fleeing the devils that killed the last of her faerie clan, Whisper Silksinger, meets Hirik, a young mercenary with an ancient scimitar and secrets of his own. Campbell's rendition of this mesmerizing story is sure to keep readers engaged to the very end.

*Finnikin of the Rock* by **Melina Marchetta**, read by **Jeffrey Cummings**. Brilliance Audio. 2010, 12 hours, 29 minutes, 11 discs, ISBN: 978-1-4418-8871-6.

Finnikin was only a child when the royal family of Lumatere was brutally murdered, and an imposter seized the throne. Now on the cusp of manhood, he is compelled to join forces with the mysterious Evanjalín who claims that her dark dreams will break the curse that exiled half their kingdom. This engaging epic fantasy is enhanced by Jeffrey Cummings' pacing and captivating voice.

*The Knife of Never Letting Go* by **Patrick Ness**, read by **Nick Podehl**. Brilliance Audio, 2010. 12 hours, 10 discs, ISBN: 978-1-4418-5267-0.

There is no such thing as privacy in New World, a place where men's thoughts are broadcast for all to hear. When Todd discovers a hole of quiet in the chaos, he is forced to run for his life, only to discover that everything he'd been led to believe about New World is untrue. Podehl does a superior job of bringing the cacophonous Noise and the chaos of Todd's escape to life.

*Muchacho* by **Louanne Johnson**, read by **Ozzie Rodriguez**. Listening Library, 2009. 4 hours, 48 minutes, 4 CDs, ISBN: 978-0-7393-8599-9.

Eddie Corazon is smart, angry and bent on finding trouble. Then along comes Lupe, who makes his blood race and sees in Eddie something he doesn't see in himself. Ozzie Rodriguez perfectly captures the voice of a Hispanic teenage male as well as the others who populate this story.

*One Crazy Summer* by **Rita Garcia Williams**, read by **Sisi Aisha Johnson**. Recorded Books, 2010. 5 hours, 15 minutes, 5 discs, ISBN: 978-1-4498-2196-8.

Delphine and her sisters fly to Oakland to meet the mother who abandoned them only to be foisted off on the Black Panthers' community program staff. Sisi Aisha Johnson is convincing as the young Delphine, conveying the emotional impact of this historical novel

*Precious* by **Sapphire**, read by **Bahni Turpin**. Random House, 2009. 5 hours, 5 minutes, 4 discs, ISBN: 0307578119.

Claireece Precious Jones endures unimaginable hardships in her young life. Abused by her mother, raped by her father, she grows up poor, angry, illiterate, fat, unloved and generally unnoticed. Emotionally raw and gut-wrenching, Bahni Turpin's reading renders Precious and each of the supporting characters as distinctly living, breathing human beings.

*Rapture of the Deep* by **L. A. Meyer** read by **Katherine Kellgren**. Listen and Live Audio, 2010. 12 hours, 10 discs, ISBN: 978-1-59316-483-6.

Jacky Faber once again finds herself in the makings of history as she is forced to pioneer the first deep-sea diving bell in pursuit of Spanish treasure. Katherine Kellgren brings the feisty Jacky to life right along with the other colorful characters in this historical fiction offering.

*The Rock and the River* by **Kekla Magoon**, read by **Dion Graham**. Brilliance Audio, 2010. 6 hours, 47 minutes, 6 discs, ISBN: 978-1-4418-5865-8.

Sam, the son of a civil rights leader and brother to a member of the Black Panthers, observes the injustice around him, and tries to decide if he should follow the path of his brother, his father, or to forge his own. Dion Graham's deep, gentle voice fits Sam perfectly as he contemplates the world and his place in it.

*Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by **John Green and David Levithan**, read by **MacLeod Andrews and Nick Podehl**. Brilliance Audio, 2010. 7 hours, 57 minutes, 7 discs, ISBN: 978-1-4418-4260-2.

After fate brings two boys with the same name together, their lives begin to change in unexpected ways. Macleod Andrews and Nick Podehl give brilliant performances in this story of identity, friendship and falling in love. Listeners will be riveted from the opening bars to the final triumphant notes.