

# ALL THINGS **AUDIO**



*A Booklist Newsletter*

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

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Welcome to the second issue of *All Things Audio*. This month, in addition to a sampling of *Booklist Online* exclusive audio reviews, you'll find a cornucopia of feature articles.

The spring publishing season is upon us, and in May and June we'll see a wealth of much-anticipated titles. We've included a selection in our Upcoming on Audio roundup: these are titles we're particularly excited about, not only for the books themselves but also for the great matching of content to narrator. Since April is Poetry Month, we've also put together a list of audios that should please even those who think they don't much like poetry, one of those categories that, for many, is better heard than read.

The April 1 issue of *Booklist* featured many of ALA's award winners, but we've saved the Notable Children's Recordings list for this newsletter. It's a fabulous group of 27 recordings for youth up to age 14—you're guaranteed to find memorable titles and favorite narrators there. Finally, we are reprinting former *Booklist* audio editor Sue-Ellen Beauregard's poignant remembrance of Katherine Kellgren, which appeared originally in *The Booklist Reader*.

To ensure that this free newsletter always arrives in your in-box, [subscribe now](#), and if you have ideas about what you'd like to see in upcoming issues, please email me ([jsaricks@ala.org](mailto:jsaricks@ala.org)) or my coeditor, Annie Bostrom ([abostrom@ala.org](mailto:abostrom@ala.org)).

—Joyce Saricks, Audio Editor

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**Four Steps to Improve Equity and Close the Digital Gap with a Shared eBook & Audiobook Collection**

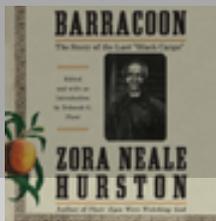
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## UPCOMING ON AUDIO

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Sometimes it's the author, sometimes it's the narrator, and sometimes both make you want to drop everything and get your hands (and ears) on that new audiobook. Here are some upcoming titles, published in May and June, that have that kind of drawing power.



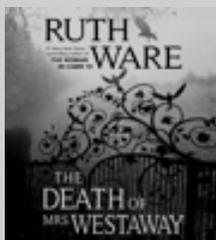
**Barracoon.** By Zora Neale Hurston. Read by Robin Miles. 5hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$17.99 (9780062748232). May.

What a great choice of reader to perform Hurston's never-before-published novel! With Miles' skill with accents and dialects and her ability to realize characters, we should expect nothing less than a mesmerizing performance.



**Calypso.** By David Sedaris. Read by the author. 8.5hr. Hachette, CD, \$35 (9781478964179). May.

Even those of us who generally don't approve of authors reading their own books know that the rule doesn't apply to Sedaris. With perfect timing to capture the moment, he can be counted on to use his signature deadpan delivery to highlight the absurdity in everyday life.



**The Death of Mrs. Westaway.** By Ruth Ware. Read by Imogen Church. 14hr. Simon & Schuster, CD, \$39.99 (9781508251705). May.

In Ware's latest, a young woman learns she has inherited a substantial fortune, but claiming it puts her life in peril. Expect Church to set the tone and ensnare listeners in this twisty tale, just as she has in Ware's previous chilling novels of psychological suspense. The genre is so hot—fans won't want to miss this!



**The Golden Bowl.** By Henry James. Read by Juliet Stevenson. 25hr. Naxos, CD, \$128.98 (9781781981320). June.

What could be better than the incomparable Stevenson reading James' sublime prose? Even listeners familiar with this novel—James' last and an examination of the clash between British and American cultures, with a menacing twist—won't want to miss Stevenson's skill at imbuing complex text with real emotion and flawlessly interpreting the author's words and tone.

## REPLACING KATHERINE KELLGREN

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**The Incurrigible Children of Ashton Place: The Long-Lost Home.** By Maryrose Wood. Read by Fiona Hardingham. 8hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$23.99 (9780062683526). June.



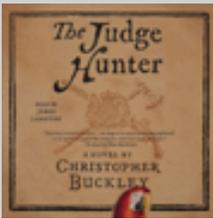
**My Plain Jane.** By Cynthia Hand and others. Read by Fiona Hardingham. 10.5hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$26.99 (9780062841667). June.

What does a publisher do when it loses a beloved narrator, a familiar reader of a popular series? HarperAudio's response to the tragic death of award-winning narrator Katherine Kellgren is to turn to the talented Hardingham to pick up these two series. Wood's novel concludes her delightful mystery-adventure series for middle-schoolers, while Hand et al. take on *Jane Eyre* in the second in the linked series of humorous fantasies for older readers. We look forward to these new series entries, knowing that Hardingham's comic timing and talent with voices and accents bode well for the transition.



**Jane Seymour: The Haunted Queen.** By Alison Weir. Read by Rosalyn Landor. 16hr. Recorded Books, CD, \$123.75 (9781501906145). May.

The extraordinary Landor returns to narrate this third of Weir's historical novels featuring Tudor queens, the wives of Henry VIII. Landor's elegant, intense, and emotional reading is the perfect match to Weir's dramatic storytelling.



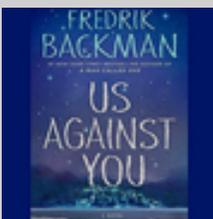
**The Judge Hunter.** By Christopher Buckley. Read by James Langton. 9hr. Simon & Schuster, DD, \$17.99 (9781508255673). May.

After his last humorously biting novel, *The Relic Master*, Buckley offers another comic historical romp, set this time in the seventeenth century and involving, among others, a young Samuel Pepys. Langton is back, too, channeling Buckley's quirky characters and satirical barbs.



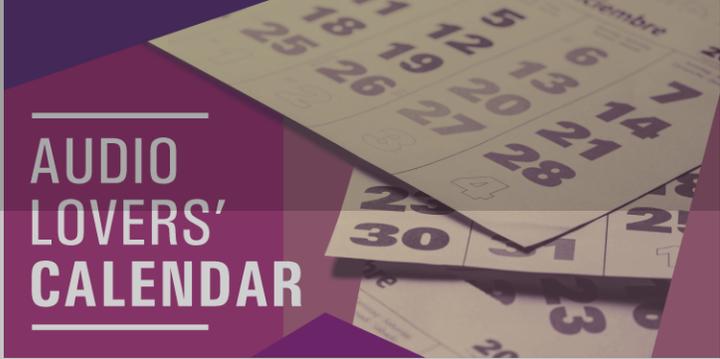
**Love and Ruin.** By Paula McLain. Read by January LaVoy. 11.5hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$40 (9780525634836). May.

McLain's second biographical novel featuring one of Hemingway's wives stars gifted war-correspondent Martha Gellhorn (wife number three). LaVoy should prove an excellent match for this tale—she smartly handles intense scenes, whether emotional or action-packed, and she'll likely be able to call on her skill with accents as Gellhorn covers battlegrounds in the 1930s and '40s.



**Us against You.** By Fredrik Backman. Read by Marin Ireland. 10.5hr. Simon & Schuster, CD, \$39.99 (9781508251736). June.

Backman and Ireland revisit Beartown, the remote Swedish village where hockey rules. This sequel to Beartown continues the story and once again explores the nature of communities. Ireland has demonstrated her uncanny ability to capture the intensity of the story and embody Backman's characters and the dilemmas they face.



## AUDIO LOVERS' CALENDAR

- **Watch for the Mystery Showcase** in the May 1 *Booklist*. It includes a special section of new crime fiction on audio as well as our selection of the top 10 crime novels on audio from the past 12 months.

- **If you're in the Chicago area**, we hope you'll join us at Skokie Public Library on May 16 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. for "RA Conversations," sponsored by NoveList. This latest in *Booklist's* Live Event series will focus on audio RA. Expect useful tips and a chance to ask questions and share strategies. If you can't attend in person, tune in on Facebook Live or watch for the video in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

- **On May 24**, at 1:00 p.m. CDT, *Booklist* is hosting an audiobooks webinar featuring presentations of new titles by a variety of publishers. Stay tuned for more information, and look for an announcement soon about another special audio webinar coming this summer.

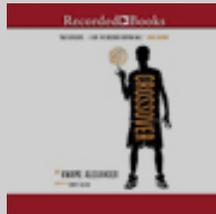
- **On May 31**, the winners of the Audie Awards will be announced at a gala in New York City. You'll find the full list in *The Booklist Reader* on June 1.

- **June brings our annual Audio Showcase** in the June 1 & 15 issue of *Booklist*. This year, we'll be featuring an interview with the 2018 "Voice of Choice" winner as well as our Fall Audio Preview, the latest installment of Mary Burkey's Voices in My Head column, and a top 10 audio biography list.

- **Finally, if you're going to ALA's Annual Conference** in New Orleans at the end of June, you won't want to miss the Odyssey Awards program, on Monday, June 25. Meet the authors and narrators of the winning and honor titles. (And don't forget: of all the wonderful award celebrations at ALA and elsewhere, the Odyssey is one of the few that features professional performers doing what they do like no one else!) Watch future issues of *Booklist* and this newsletter for all the details about place and time.

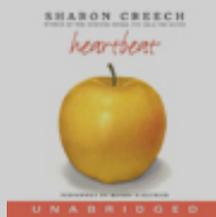
Here it is Poetry Month, and I have to confess that I've never really learned to appreciate poetry. Or at least not when I read it silently. Poetry heard, however, offered a new world of pleasures and opened up my imagination to the play of cadence and words. On a cloudy day in a seminar room at the University of Toronto, I listened to Marshall McLuhan read T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land." It shook my world and changed my understanding of the power of well-read audio to transform text. I had read the poem dozens of times, but for the first time I could "see" Cleopatra on her barge; I could visualize the images and appreciate the poem on another level.

*Booklist* serves as a rich resource for poetry fans. For decades, we've reviewed poetry on audio, selecting stars to guide listening, and we continue to do so today. If you, like me, appreciate the seductive cadences of poetry more when heard than read, here are some titles to enjoy for readers of all ages.



**The Crossover.** By Kwame Alexander. Read by Corey Allen. 2014. 2.5hr. Recorded Books. Gr. 6–12.

Skilled narrator Allen's warm voice personifies 13-year-old African American twins Josh (aka Filthy McNasty) and Jordan "JB" Bell and their family in this paean to all things basketball and life. Selections in various forms of poetry include humorous rhymed couplets and some hip-hop.



**Heartbeat.** By Sharon Creech. Read by Mandy Siegfried. 2004. 2.5hr. Harper. Gr. 3–6.

Percussive thump-thump-thumps punctuate this free-verse prose poem about transformation, and a steady heartbeat mirrors the constant changes in 12-year-old Annie's life as she adjusts to her mother's pregnancy, her grandfather's forgetfulness, and her best friend's moodiness. Siegfried sensitively reads in thoughtful, gentle tones that perfectly reflect adolescent Annie's growing awareness of her fears and uncertainties.



**Iliad.** By Homer. Tr. by Stanley Lombardo. Read by Stanley Lombardo and Susan Sarandon. 2007. 15hr. Parmenides.

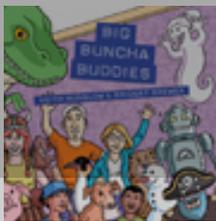
Whether new to Homer's *Iliad* or familiar with its riches, listeners are in for an unexpected treat with this award-winning audio of Lombardo's 1998 translation, which employs modern language and colloquial jargon without sacrificing the majesty of the classic poem or the narrative's well-loved images and metaphors. Caught in the cadence of Lombardo's splendid narration and the language of Homer, listeners become immersed in the ancient story of one man's anger and the consequences of his emotions.

[read more→](#)

## **NOTABLE CHILDREN'S RECORDINGS: 2018**

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The Notable Children's Recordings list, prepared by a committee of ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), includes recordings for children 14 years of age and younger of especially commendable quality that demonstrate respect for young people's intelligence and imagination; exhibit venturesome creativity; and reflect and encourage the interests of children and young adolescents in exemplary ways.



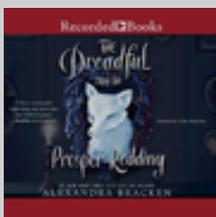
**Big Buncha Buddies.** Needlenose Productions, CD, \$12. Ages 4–8.

Keith Munslow, Bridget Brewer, and their band explore a wide variety of musical styles on this recording; their songs are delightfully silly, clever, and catchy.



**A Boy Called Christmas.** By Matt Haig. Listening Library, CD, \$30. Ages 6–12.

Stephen Fry's captivating narration chronicles Nikolas' transformative journey from boy to Father Christmas. A 2018 Odyssey Honor title.



**The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding: A Fiendish Arrangement.** By Alexandra Bracken. Recorded Books, DD, \$79.99. Ages 10–14.

Kirby Heyborne's vast range of voices makes each character vivid in this darkly humorous tale of making deals with a demon.

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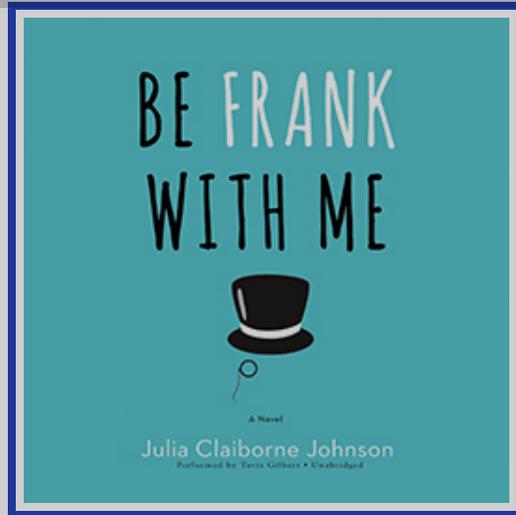
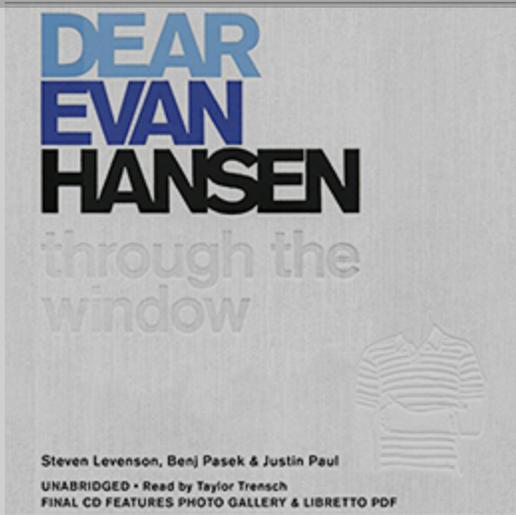
## Remembering Katherine Kellgren

Posted: 16 Jan 2018 11:30 AM CST

By Sue Ellen Beauregard

The extraordinary reader of more than 250 audiobooks, Katherine Kellgren passed away on January 10 at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York following a nearly four-year battle with a rare and aggressive form of cancer. [read more →](#)

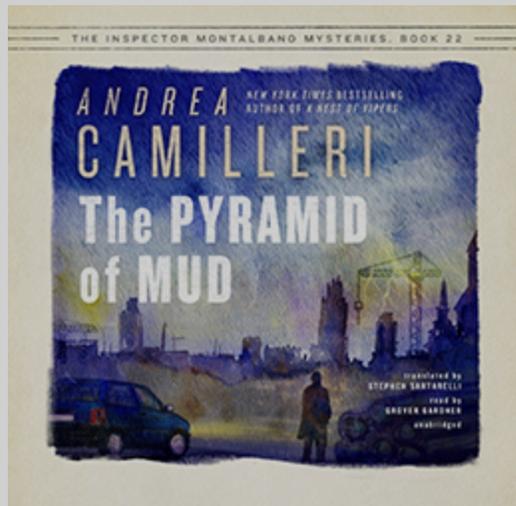
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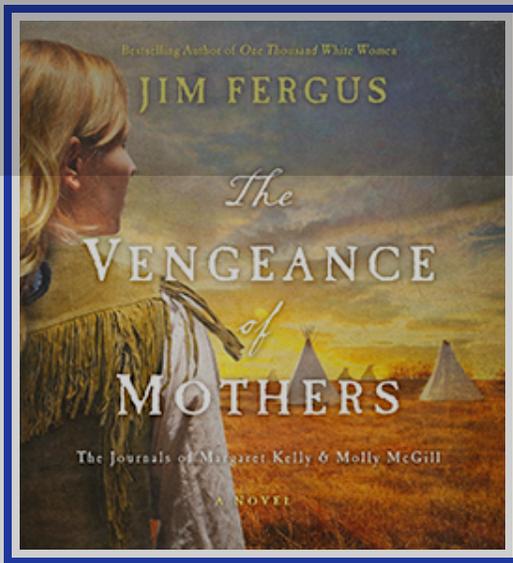


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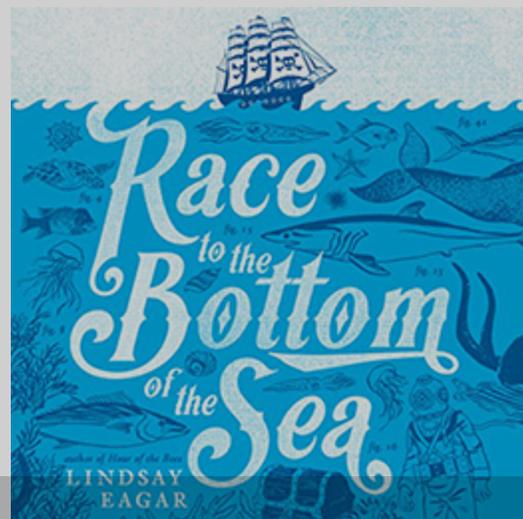
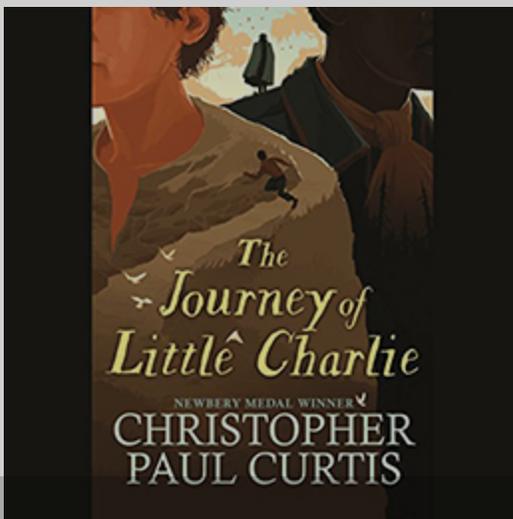
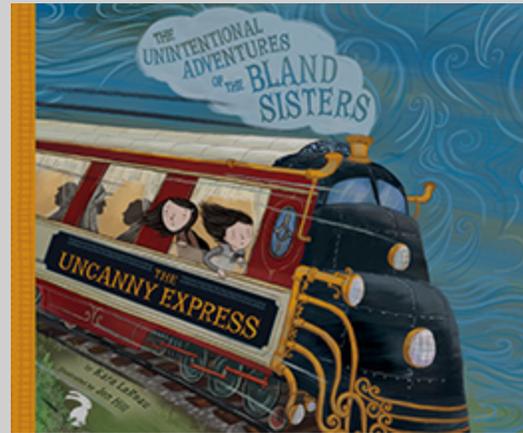




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### Youth



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