

# ALL THINGS AUDIO

A BOOKLIST NEWSLETTER

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## #04 — August 2018

- Upcoming on Audio
- LeVar Burton on Narrating *The Good Neighbor*
- New Narrator Showcase
- *Booklist Online* Exclusive SF/Fantasy & Horror Audio Reviews

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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As we all take one last deep breath before the onslaught of another school year brings new audio users into both school and public libraries, we're here to get you ready with a list of early fall audios we can't wait to listen to as well as more features on outstanding narrators and what they've been doing lately.

We begin with an interview with LeVar Burton, who has just narrated the new Mr. Rogers biography, Maxwell King's *The Good Neighbor*, for Oasis Audio. Knowing that Burton and Fred Rogers were both strong advocates for quality children's programming, we wanted to learn more about their friendship as well as hear Burton talk about his experience narrating the story of Rogers' life. Also on the narrator beat, one of our readers asked recently if we could profile new narrators of great promise, and we're happy to do just that in the first installment of a feature called New Narrator Showcase. This time, we share our enthusiasm for the work of Perdita Weeks, who narrated *Circe* for Hachette, and Steven Hartley, who narrated *The Music Shop* for Books on Tape.

In the August issue of *Booklist*, we participated in the magazine-wide Spotlight on SF/Fantasy & Horror with a selection of audio reviews, but we couldn't fit in everything we had on hand. We've compiled those additional reviews here—these genres are so hot that it's no easy thing to keep up with them!

This will be my last newsletter as audio editor here at *Booklist*, and as retirement approaches, I've been making lists of all the audiobooks I haven't had time to listen to! I'll miss *Booklist* and being surrounded with all those audios, but it's with a great deal of pleasure that I hand over the reins to Heather Booth. You may know her for the exceptional work she's done in young adult services and for her fine reviews of YA titles for *Booklist*. Luckily for us, she's an audio expert, too, and brings extensive knowledge of audio for adults as well as youth. My friendship with Heather goes back to 2003, when she and I were colleagues at the Downers Grove (IL) Public Library. Needless to say, I couldn't be happier with this appointment—and I know you will appreciate her skill and expertise.

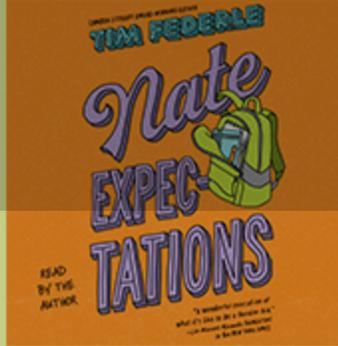
—Joyce Saricks, Audio Editor

[jsaricks@ala.org](mailto:jsaricks@ala.org)

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"The Nate series by Tim Federle is a wonderful evocation of what it's like to be a theater kid. Highly recommended."

—Lin-Manuel Miranda

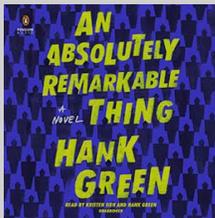


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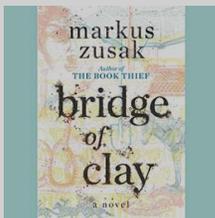
## UPCOMING ON AUDIO

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 September and October, that have that kind of drawing power.



**An Absolutely Remarkable Thing.** By Hank Green. Read by Kristen Sieh and Hank Green. 9.5hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$40 (9780525641803). Sept.

Familiar to fans as John Green's brother, Hank makes his own mark with this sf novel that *Booklist* reviewer Craig Clark called "funny, exciting, and a tad terrifying." Hank joins seasoned narrator Sieh to tell the story.

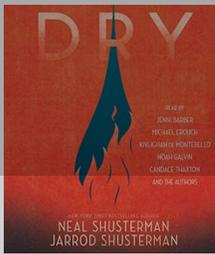


**Bridge of Clay.** By Markus Zusak. Read by the author. 14hr. Listening Library, CD, \$45 (9780307711090). Gr. 9–12. Oct.

Zusak is finally back with a new book that will likely be the sensation that his previous novel, *The Book Thief*, was. It's a gorgeously written story about five brothers, a bridge, and the revealing of family secrets. Both the language and the somber, haunting tone should make it a natural for audio. And Zusak reads it. What more could we ask?

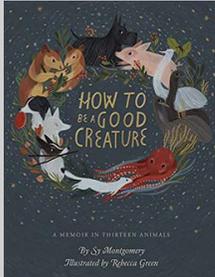
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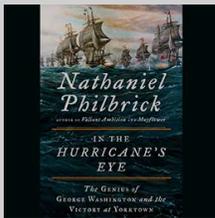
**Dry.** By Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman. Read by Jenni Barber and others. 11hr. Simon & Schuster, CD, \$39.99 (9781508263081). Gr. 9–12. Oct.

Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman have written a novel about ecological horror, as the spigots in California run dry—and young siblings fight to survive. The Shustermans, along with a full cast, including familiar narrator Michael Crouch, read this tale, which is made all the more frightening by its believability.



**How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals.** By Sy Montgomery. Read by the author. 7hr. HighBridge, CD, \$29.99 (9781684414123). Sept.

Montgomery won myriad fans with her powerful and heartfelt reading of *The Soul of an Octopus*. In this memoir, she explores the personalities of 13 animals and reflects on what we can learn from them. Her enthusiasm for her subject is infectious, especially in her own voice on audio.



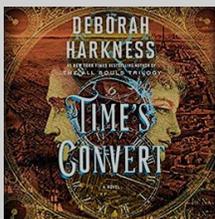
**In the Hurricane's Eye.** By Nathaniel Philbrick. Read by Scott Brick. 10hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9780525641681). Oct.

If it weren't for audiobooks, I'd probably never read nonfiction—a sad statement since nonfiction writing is in its heyday. We can count on Philbrick to provide a fascinating perspective on George Washington and his victory at Yorktown, and I've never been disappointed by Brick's narration of nonfiction. A good match.



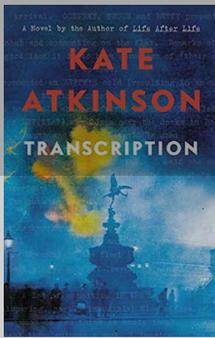
**Odd One Out.** By Nic Stone. Read by Dion Graham and others. 8hr. Listening Library, CD, \$55 (9780525636052). Gr. 9–12. Oct.

Listeners loved Stone's *Dear Martin* and Graham's wonderfully affecting narration. Stone is back with a second provocative novel, rich in dialogue, characters, and issues. Graham shares narrating responsibilities with Kim Mai Guest and the author. It should be fabulous!



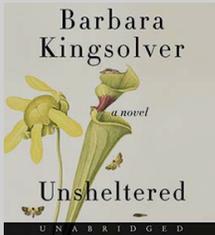
**Time's Convert.** By Deborah Harkness. Read by Saskia Maarleveld. 15hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780525641476). Sept.

Fans of Harkness' popular All Souls Trilogy can rejoice in the return of magic, the supernatural, and vampires in this new title set in present-day Paris and London but with the story beginning in the American colonies. Maarleveld excels in narrating romance, historical fiction, and fantasy, all of which are combined here.



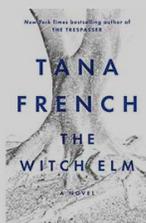
**Transcription.** By Kate Atkinson. Read by Fenella Woolgar. 15hr. Hachette, CD, \$25.98 (9781549141942). Sept.

Atkinson is always intriguing, and this title, a thriller set in the 1940s and '50s and told with wit and empathy, has received uniformly strong reviews. Woolgar narrated *Life after Life*, and her skill with accents, character portrayal, and tone should capture listeners' interest.



**Unsheltered.** By Barbara Kingsolver. Read by the author. 12hr. Harper, CD, \$39.99 (9780062865663). Oct.

Fans have waited six long years for a new novel from Kingsolver, and judging from the starred print review in *Booklist*, they won't be disappointed. Kingsolver always reads beautifully; her clear emotional connection to people, place, and subject creates an unforgettable listening experience.



**The Witch Elm.** By Tana French. Read by Paul Nugent. 20hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$55 (9781984838001). Oct.

That it's a stand-alone and not part of her popular Dublin Murder Squad series won't stop fans from clamoring for this dark and haunting tale of an injured man's forgotten past. Irish actor Nugent may not be familiar to listeners, but this should give him a built-in audience.

## SPEAKING WITH THE NARRATOR: LEVAR BURTON ON NARRATING *THE GOOD NEIGHBOR*

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Even if you've seen this summer's hit documentary film, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, you won't want to miss LeVar Burton's heartfelt reading of *The Good Neighbor*, from Oasis Audio. The book complements the documentary and expands on Fred Rogers' history and his passion for providing the best television for children. Burton, another superstar of children's television programming, has a voice readily recognized by generations of children and parents, and his appreciation of Mr. Rogers and his work shines in his reading of this biography. Burton took time from his busy schedule to answer questions about Mr. Rogers and narrating *The Good Neighbor*.

**SARICKS:** When did you first meet Fred Rogers?

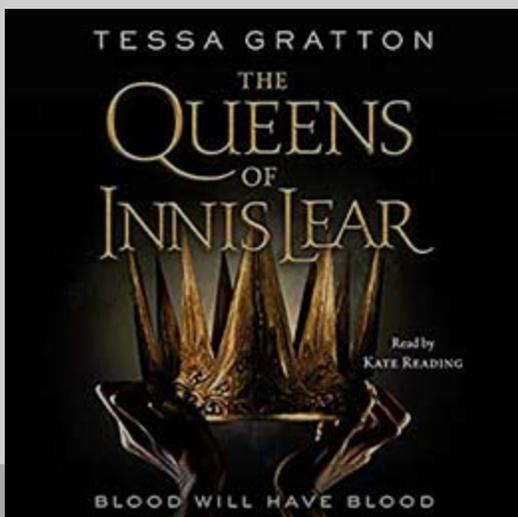
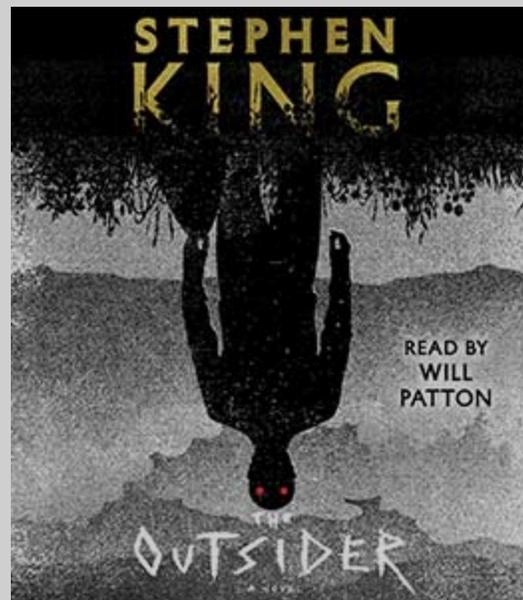
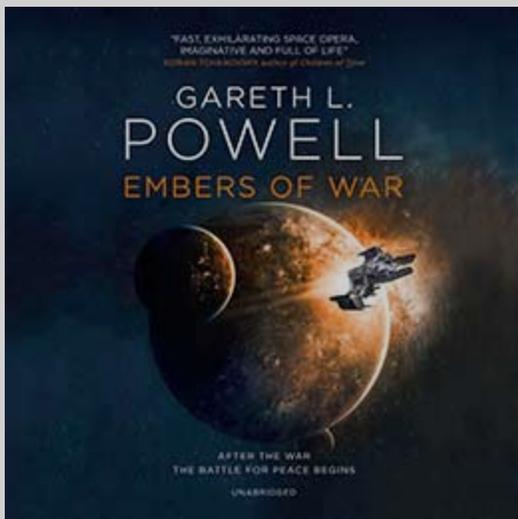
**BURTON:** I first met Fred around 1985 at a PBS gathering in Washington, D.C. I remember being full of excitement and anticipation to meet the man behind the persona of Mr. Rogers. I remember being taken aback at first, as upon meeting him, he greeted me with that direct but quiet way of his, and it didn't take me long to figure out that that was no character that he was playing on *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. They were one and the same. [read more](#)→

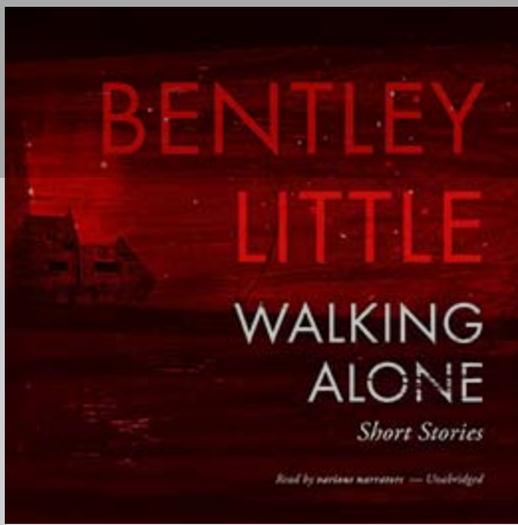


At the request of an *All Things Audio* reader, we'll spotlight new narrators as we discover them. To kick things off, we touched base with Perdita Weeks and Steven Hartley about their first audiobook narrations to appear in the U.S. [read more](#)→

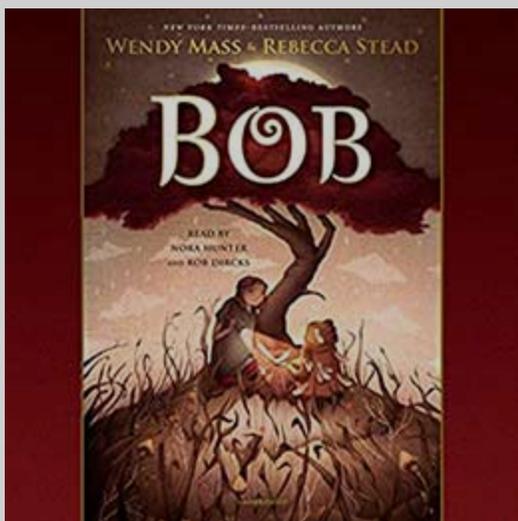
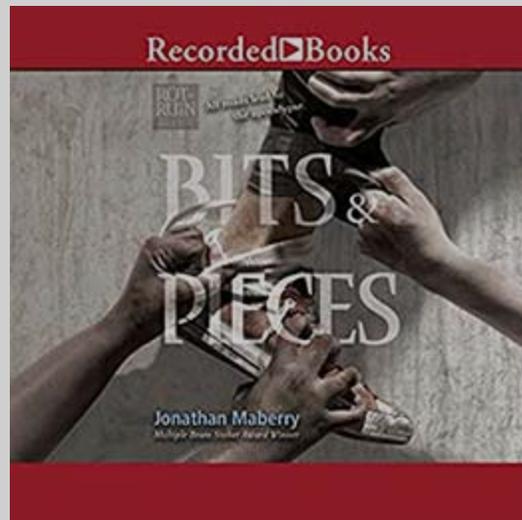
## BOOKLIST ONLINE EXCLUSIVE SF/FANTASY & HORROR AUDIO REVIEWS

Adult

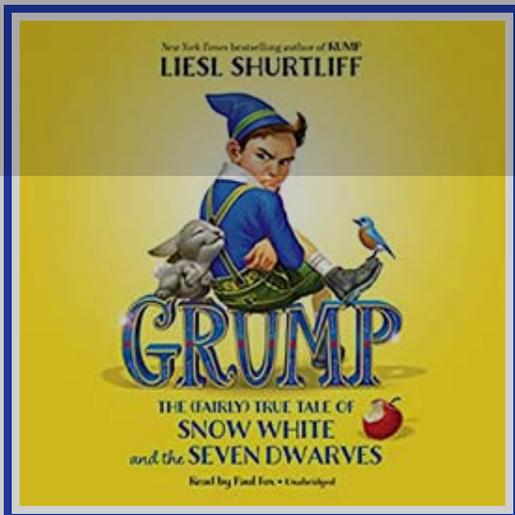




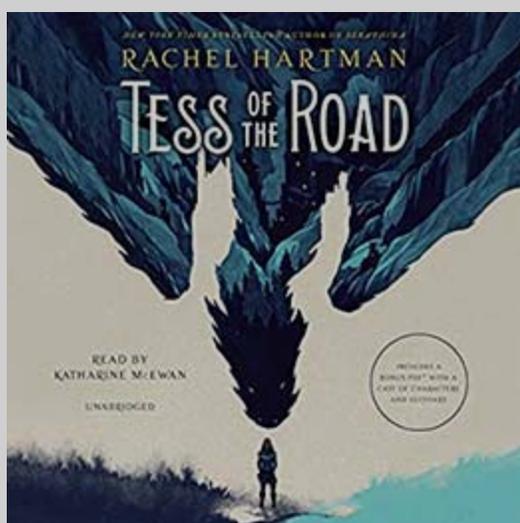
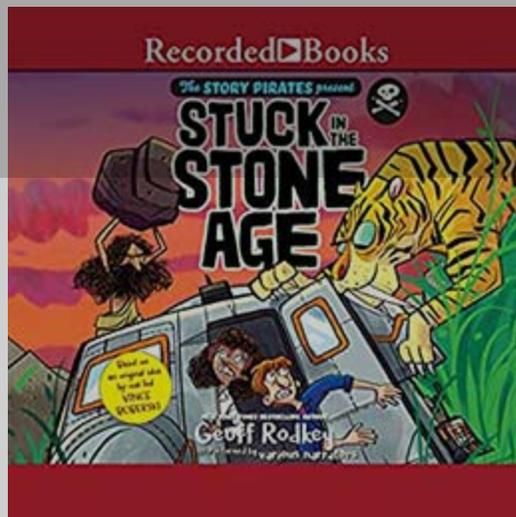
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