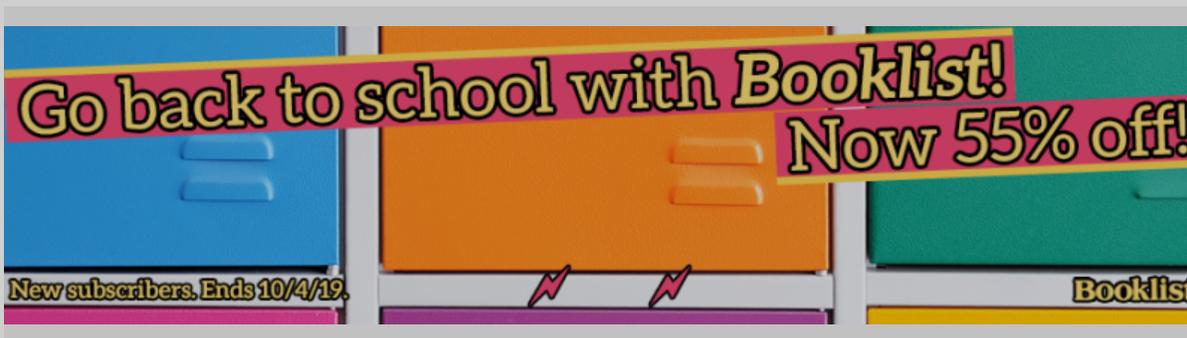




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#### #10 — August 2019

- [Classics Corner Spotlight](#)
- [The Last Word, Part 2](#)
- [Listening for a Sense of Place](#)
- [Audio Exclusive Reviews](#)
- [Video Reviews](#)



#### [FROM THE EDITOR](#)

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When I was a kid, August was always vacation month. Summer school had ended, summer ball had wrapped up, we had all come home from camps, and so we packed up the car, threw a well-stocked cooler in the back, and headed off. Any direction would do—one of the perks of living in the Midwest—and as long as I had a few books, the distance didn't matter at all.

Summer as an adult is never as relaxing as it used to be, or seems like it used to be, but we can all get a little virtual vacation in through an audiobook. This month, we have a [Classics Corner Spotlight](#) from David Wright, who gives an in-depth look at Gerald Durrell's Corfu series, the basis for the MASTERPIECE! series *The Durrells in Corfu*, the final season of which debuts on PBS next month. If the Durrells' travels aren't enough for you, keep reading for [a Listen-alikes list](#) featuring audios with a well-developed sense of place.

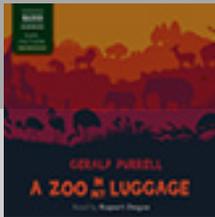
But hey, let's get real. It's not all sunshine and travel, as Terry Hong so pointedly illustrates in [part two of her Last Word series](#), which features books recorded after the demise of their authors and is rich with poignant impact. I love the otherworldly layer to these audiobooks, giving voice to the dead and their final written words.

As always, our [video reviews](#) finish off this issue. I'd love to hear about what kinds of DVDs are popular at your library, outside of feature films. Drop me an email or tweet me [@Booklist\\_Audio](#)

In print, be sure to check out the [Top 10 SF/Fantasy and Horror on Audio](#) from the past two years in our August issue, and stay tuned for September and the return of two *Booklists* a month! I'll also be making an appearance on an upcoming [Shelf Care podcast](#) with Susan Maguire to talk about a personal favorite audiobook genre, an easy sell to library patrons, and a whole lot of fun: celebrity memoir.

—Heather Booth, Audio Editor  
[hbooth@ala.org](mailto:hbooth@ala.org)





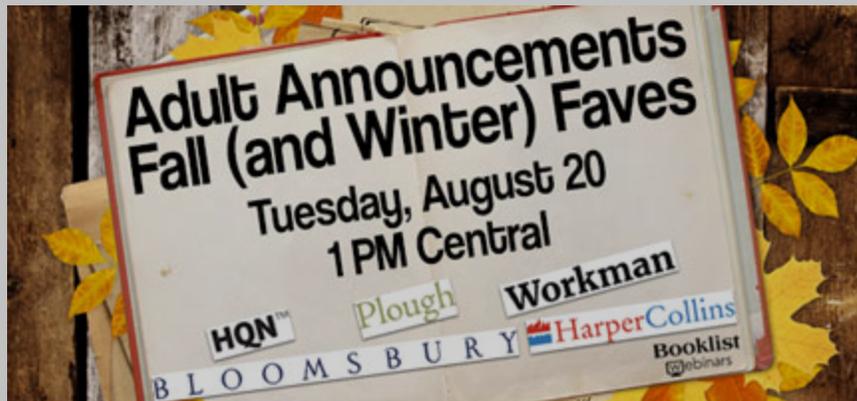
**A Zoo in My Luggage.** By Gerald Durrell. Read by Rupert Degas. Jan. 2019. 5.5hr. Naxos, DD, \$17.50 (9781781982303).

**The Whispering Land.** By Gerald Durrell. Read by Rupert Degas. 6hrs. Naxos, DD, \$17.50 (9781781982327).

**Beasts in My Belfry.** By Gerald Durrell. Read by Rupert Degas. 6hrs, Naxos, DD, \$17.50 (9781781982341).

**The Aye-Aye and I.** By Gerald Durrell. Read by Rupert Degas. 6hrs, Naxos, DD, \$17.50. (9781781982365).

Between 1953 and 1995, Gerald Durrell wrote over two dozen lighthearted books describing his encounters with exotic animals and colorful people around the world. The best known of these is his memoir *My Family and Other Animals*, which helped form the basis for the currently popular British television series *The Durrells in Corfu*. This Spring, Naxos audiobooks produced four travelogues spanning Durrell's career, expertly narrated by Rupert Degas. [read more →](#)



## THE LAST WORD: AUDIOS OF POSTHUMOUSLY PUBLISHED BOOKS – PART 2

By Terry Hong

The one thing in life that's guaranteed is, well, death. But books are certainly a lasting legacy. And sometimes, when we get the books after their creator has passed on, an audiobook can breathe new life into the text, animating from beyond. A bittersweet legacy, indeed, but we're grateful to have them at all.

In the April 29, 2019 issue of *All Things Audio*, we shared a half-dozen of those audiobooks. Here, in part 2, we've got a handful more of these posthumously published titles in their aural incarnations, linked to their *Booklist* reviews when available.



**The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying.** By Nina Riggs. Read by Cassandra Campbell and Kirby Heyborne. 2019. 7.5hr. Simon & Schuster Audio, CD, \$34.99 (9781508281993).

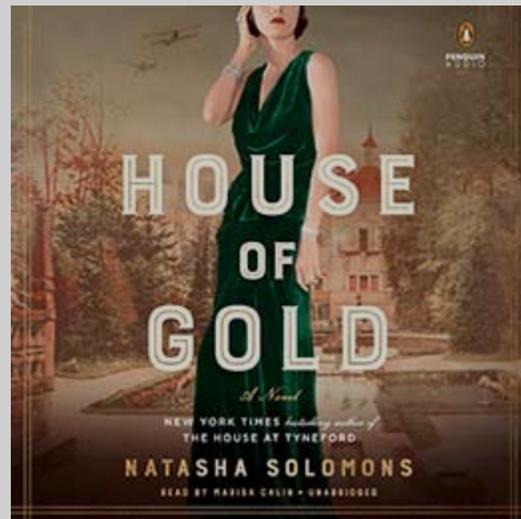
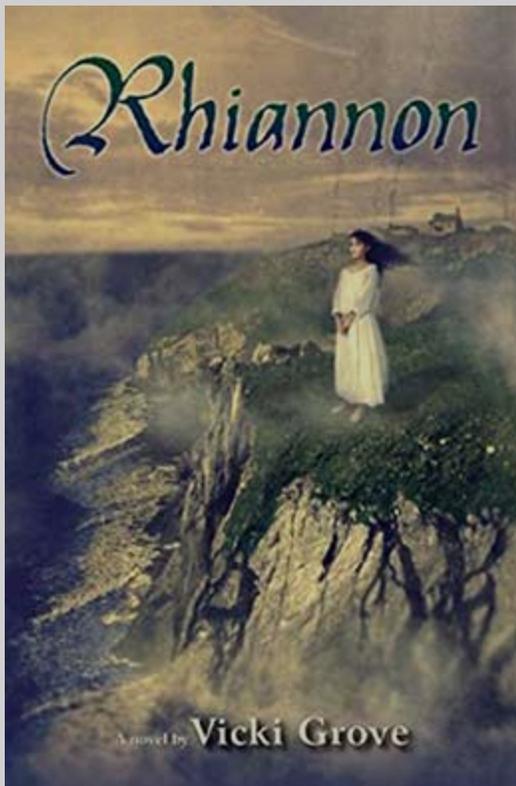
For a book about fatal diseases—Riggs was diagnosed at 37 with breast cancer, her mother with multiple myeloma from which she died just months before her daughter—*The Bright Hour* is exactly that, bright with joy, laughter, and enveloping love. Riggs never loses sight of what inspires her, nurtures her, even as her “days are filled with imagining how to wind things down.” Riggs finds calm in the writings of her great-great-grandfather, Ralph Waldo Emerson (a heavy legacy she occasionally eschewed), twinned with 16th-century philosopher Michel de Montaigne’s meditations. Her ruminations about her diagnosis, treatments, and losses are honest with pain and frustration, but grace and courage prevail. Campbell gently narrates most of the work, until Heyborne takes over to read the afterword by Riggs’s husband, John, and shatters your heart.

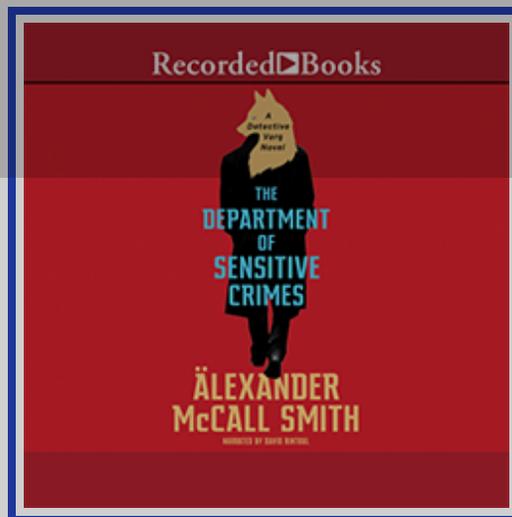
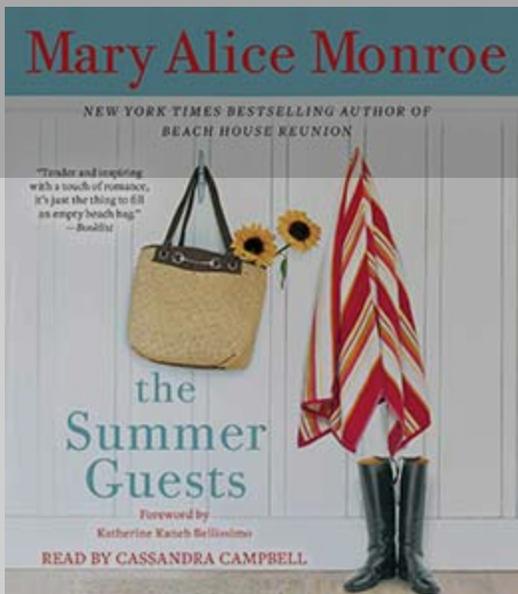
[View list on Booklist Online →](#)

## LISTENING FOR A SENSE OF PLACE

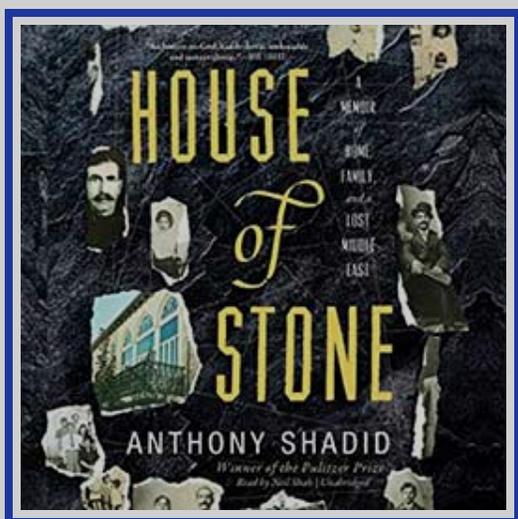
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Eager for more audios that are rich with a sense of setting and descriptive language like [Gerald Durrell’s Corfu series](#)? These are ideal for some last-minute virtual travel.

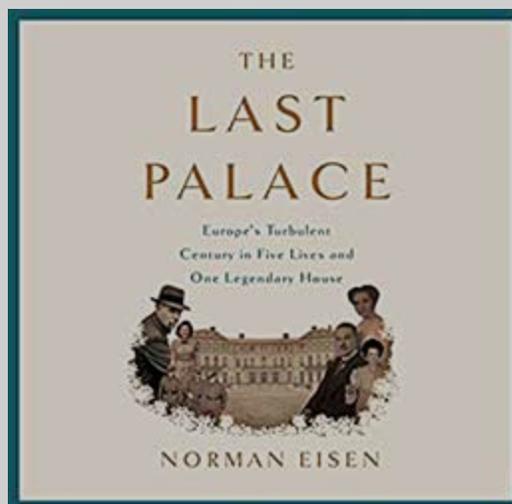




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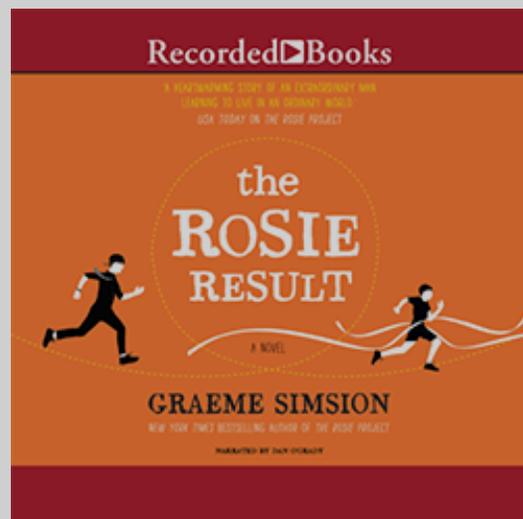
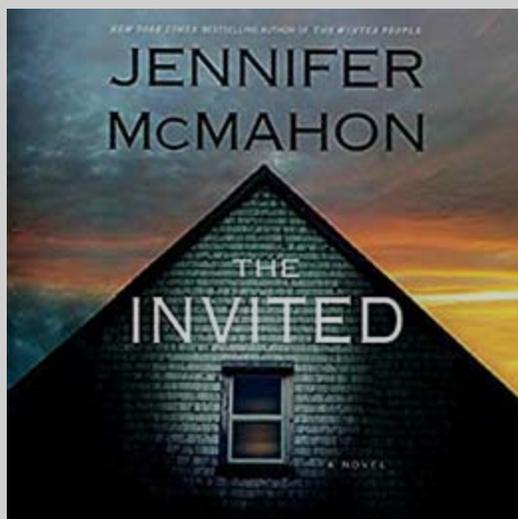
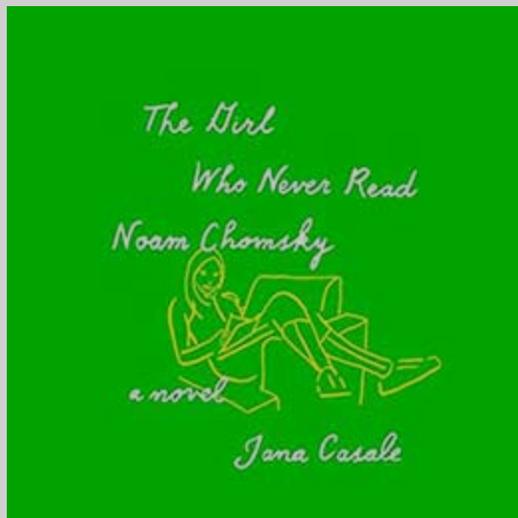
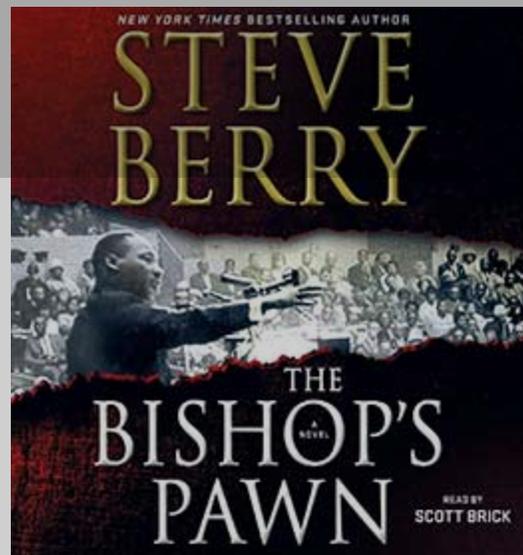
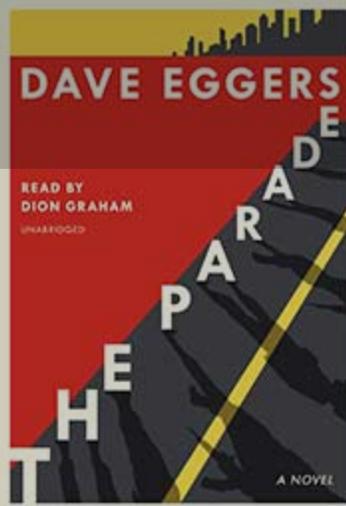
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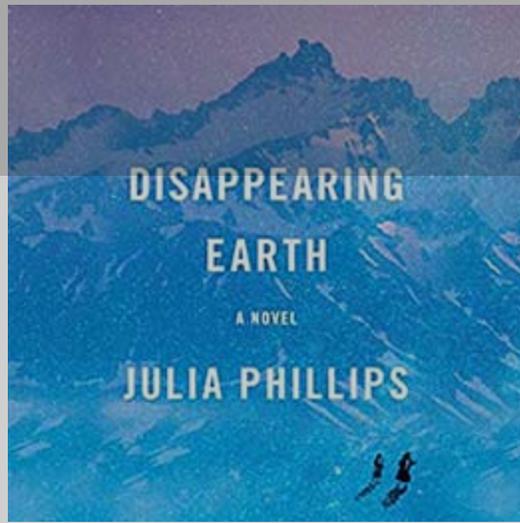
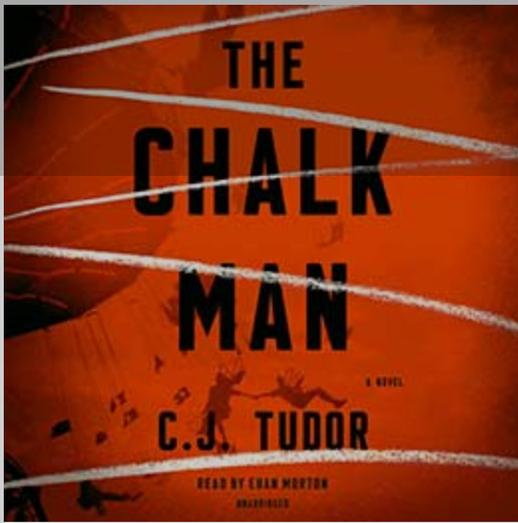


## AUDIO EXCLUSIVE REVIEWS

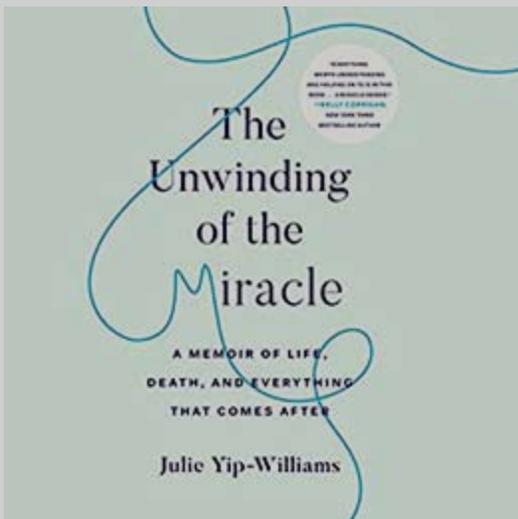
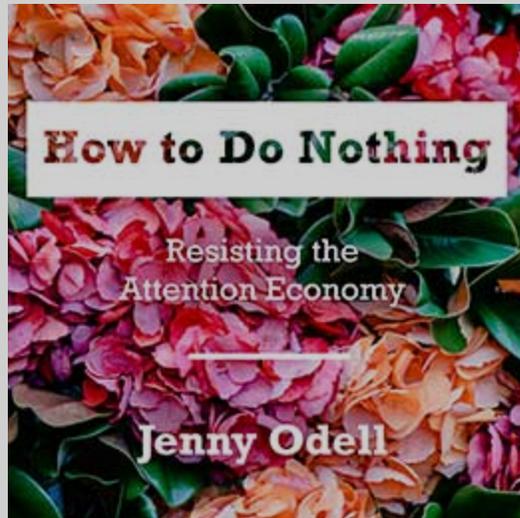
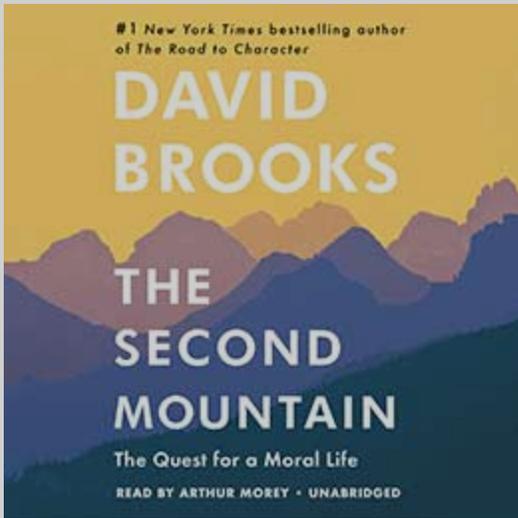
Each issue of *All Things Audio* features a bonus selection of audio reviews that did not appear in the print edition of *Booklist*.

### Fiction

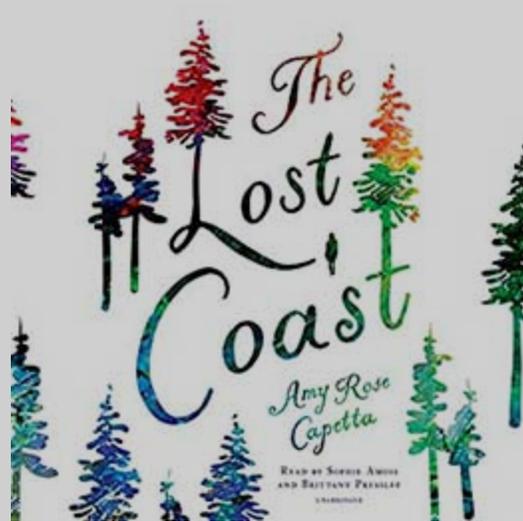
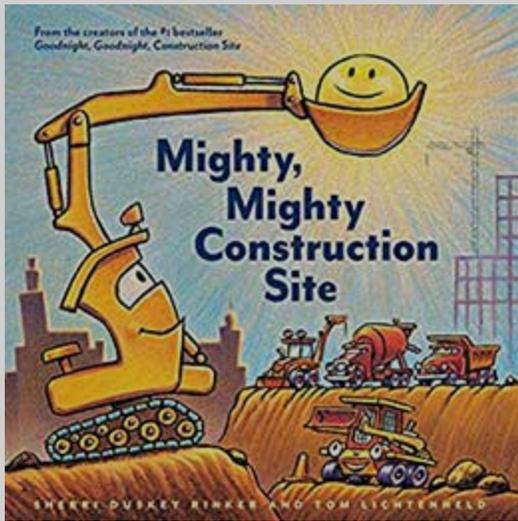
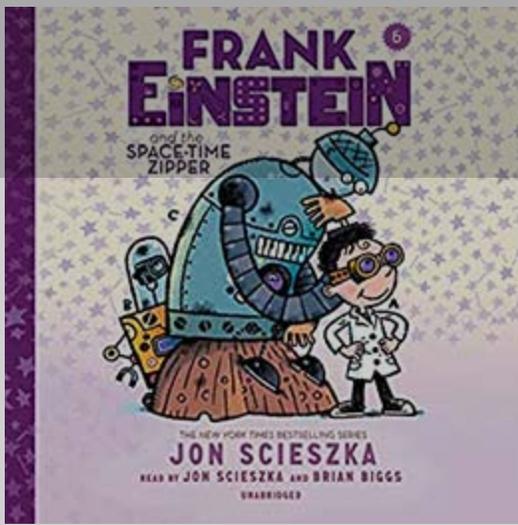




Nonfiction

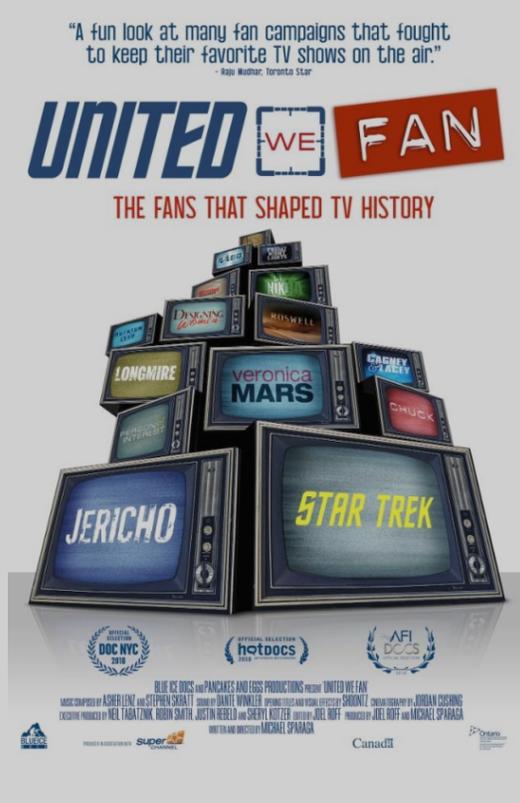
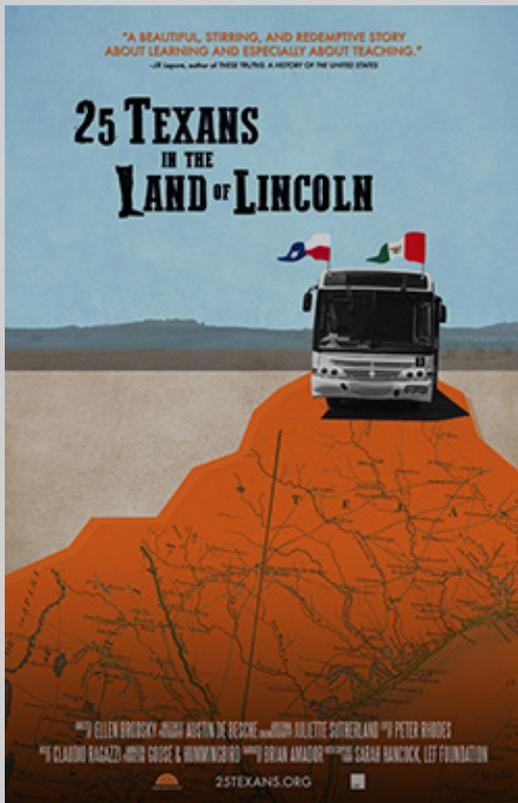
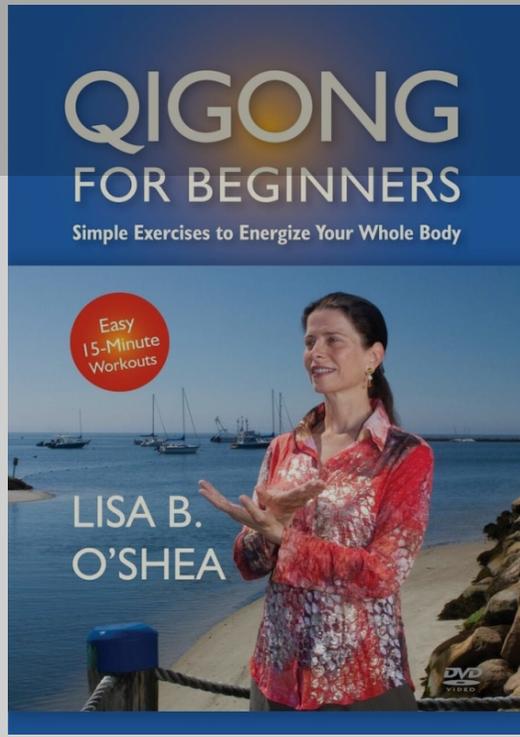


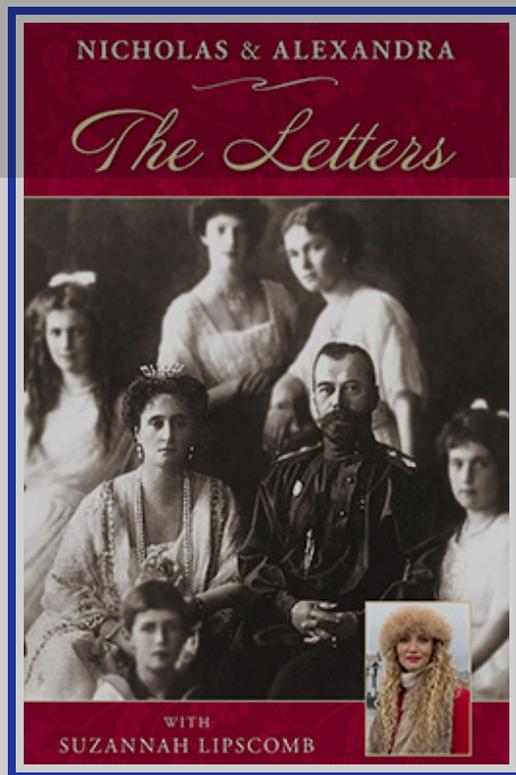
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## VIDEO REVIEWS

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