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#11 — October 2019
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FROM THE EDITOR
Listeners clamor for bestsellers on audio (see below!). But it took me more than two weeks to steel myself and start listening to Chanel Miller tell her story in *Know My Name*. Then, her steady, thoughtful voice reinforced again the power of audiobooks. While the written word remains on the page, an audiobook can follow us throughout our day. It won't be ignored. The sound of the spoken word surrounds us.

Here, beyond the biggest bestselling names are not just the voices we want, but the diverse voices we need, illuminating lives and stories that help us understand one another and ourselves: Jonathan Van Ness tells his vibrant and heartbreaking story, Colson Whitehead’s coda appends J. D. Jackson’s narration of *The Nickel Boys*, and Ms. Miller steps forward, her voice a beacon leading other survivors into their own brave futures.

Also in this issue, *Terry Hong* interviews prolific narrator Priya Ayyar and we share two display-ready Listen Up lists. Finally, don’t miss the new audiobook and video reviews—including several stars!—that conclude this issue.

—Heather Booth, Audio Editor
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**HIGH DEMAND AUDIO REVIEWS**

Check your holds for these bestsellers on audio.

⭐️ **The Testaments**
By Margaret Atwood. Read by a full cast. Books on Tape, DD, $95 (9780525590484).

This audio is an experience to savor. Ann Dowd of the Hulu adaptation of *The Handmaid’s Tale*—making her audiobook debut—is Aunt Lydia all over again! "If you are reading," she addresses us directly, "this manuscript at least will have survived." An arresting full-cast production of one the year’s most hotly anticipated titles.  
[read more→](#)

⭐️ **The Nickel Boys**

Jackson narrates Whitehead’s latest deliberately, his voice measured and nuanced, avoiding over-performing through even the most graphic, disturbing passages. His control enhances Whitehead’s relatively spare story of two boys whose lives intersect at the Nickel Academy, a reform school that proves to be an institution of abuse, torture, and even death.  
[read more→](#)
The Secrets We Kept
By Lara Prescott. Read by a full cast. Books on Tape, DD, $95 (9781984885937).

Based on a true story, points of view range from Doctor Zhivago author Boris Pasternak and his mistress to two CIA typists turned spies. Complementing the numerous perspectives in the novel, the audio is performed by a full cast, with each narrator bringing a unique tone and style to the work. read more→

The Dutch House

Hanks couldn't be a more affable, ‘let's-enjoy-this-together' narrator for Patchett's marvelous latest. From the title all the way through to the ending credits, Hanks never, ever falters, always performing his charming, ever-so-likeable self. read more→

A Better Man

High drama pervades during a spring run-off and frost quake. Chunks of ice thaw, "roiling up decades of refuse and debris," including a missing woman's corpse. Bathurst's narration captures the townspeople's broken tones of terror and foreshadows the convoluted investigation headed by Armand Gamache. read more→

Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love

Jonathan Van Ness delivers an honest and uplifting memoir, full of happy, fun moments that we expect to hear from the effervescent Queer Eye star, but also full of deeper issues. This is a raw portrait of a flamboyantly gay man that tugs at your heart strings and will make you root for him even more than before. read more→
Know My Name
By Chanel Miller. Read by the author. Books on Tape, DD, $95
(9780593172193).

The woman known as "Emily Doe" reads her own story of survival and triumph, building on her widely read victim-impact statement in the Brock Turner campus sexual assault case. read more→

FEATURES

The Booklist Interview: Priya Ayyar
By Terry Hong

Narrator Ayyar has become the go-to voice for young, South Asian, and Arab American characters. We highlight her standout work in the November 1 issue of Booklist; get the inside scoop on her career and process in this extended interview with Booklist reviewer Terry Hong, and check out two Booklist Online Exclusive reviews of her new narrations here:

Count Me In (Listening Library)
By Varsha Bajaj

More to the Story (Simon & Schuster)
By Hena Khan
Listen Up: Atmospheric Accents
By Heather Booth

Our new print feature, "Listen Up," collects audiobooks into display-ready themed lists. These recent audios feature narrations that highlight stellar accent work to take you away or vibrantly create a sense of place and time. Start with two Booklist Online Exclusive reviews below, then check out the full list for a quick set of titles to freshen up your fall displays.

★★ Beijing Payback (Harper)
By Daniel Nieh

★★ Old Drift (Books on Tape)
By Namwali Serpell

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.

Adult

★★ STARRRED REVIEW

★★ STARRRED REVIEW
Youth

Tidelands

We Are Displaced

Diamond Doris

Gracefully Grayson

My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich
VIDEO REVIEWS

★ STARRED REVIEW

AWESOME DOG 5000

★ STARRED REVIEW

TRANS MISSION

★ STARRED REVIEW

WOODSTOCK

★ STARRED REVIEW

COUNTRY MUSIC

A STORY OF AMERICA. ONE SONG AT A TIME.
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