

ALL THINGS AUDIO

A BOOKLIST NEWSLETTER

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#11 — October 2019

- High Demand Audio Reviews
- Features
- Audio Exclusive Reviews
- Video Reviews

All things readers' advisory. Right to your earbuds.
Tune in now.



[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.

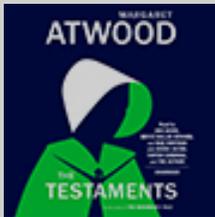
Here, beyond the biggest bestselling names are not just the voices we want, but the diverse voices we *need*, illuminating lives and stories that help us understand one another and ourselves: Jonathan Van Ness tells his vibrant and heartbreaking story, Colson Whitehead's coda appends J. D. Jackson's 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
hbooth@ala.org

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**

By Colson Whitehead. Read by J. D. Jackson and the author. Books on Tape, CD, \$35 (9781984891396).

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 BOOKS ARE AFOOT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 | 1PM CT



Booklist
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★ **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**

By Ann Patchett. Read by Tom Hanks. Harper, CD, \$39.99 (9780062963727).

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-likable self. [read more→](#)



★ **A Better Man**

By Louise Penny. Read by Robert Bathurst. Macmillan, CD, \$39.99 (9781250230881).

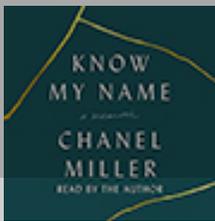
High drama pervades during a spring run-off and frost quake. Chunks of ice thaw, "roiling up decades of refuse and debris," including a missing woman's corpse. Bathurst's narration captures the townspeople's broken tones of terror and foreshadows the convoluted investigation headed by Armand Gamache.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



Over the Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love

By Jonathan Van Ness. Read by the author. Harper, CD, \$59.99 (9781094027180).

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



Listen Up: Full-Cast Audios for Adults

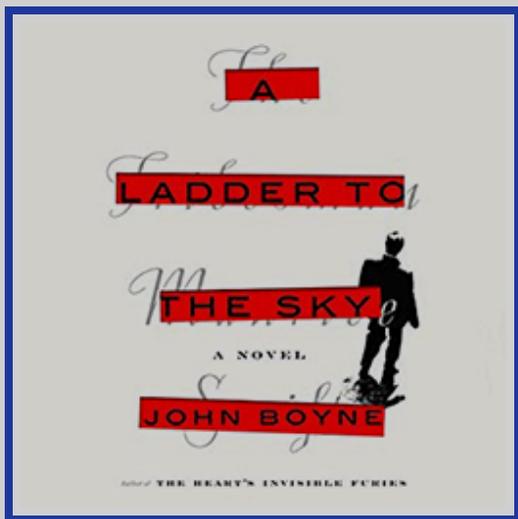
By Heather Booth

This variety of productions is remarkable in scope and style, great for those listeners seeking fresh perspectives. [read more](#)→

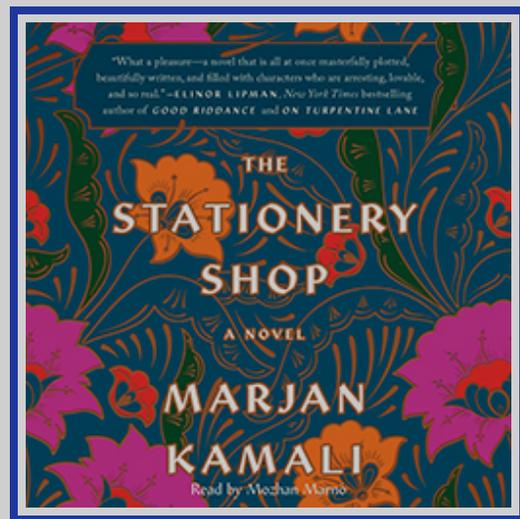
AUDIO EXCLUSIVE REVIEWS

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

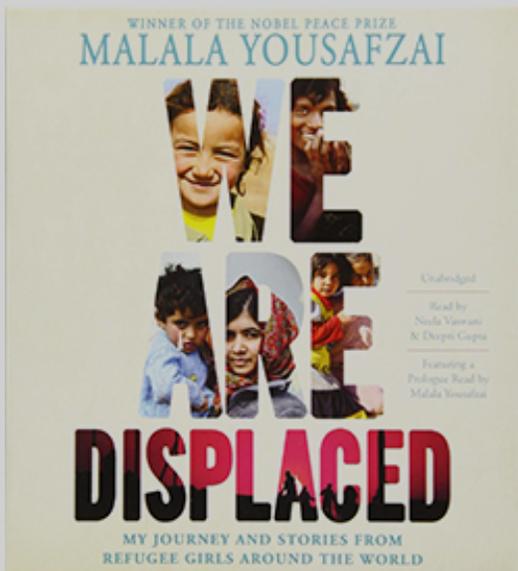
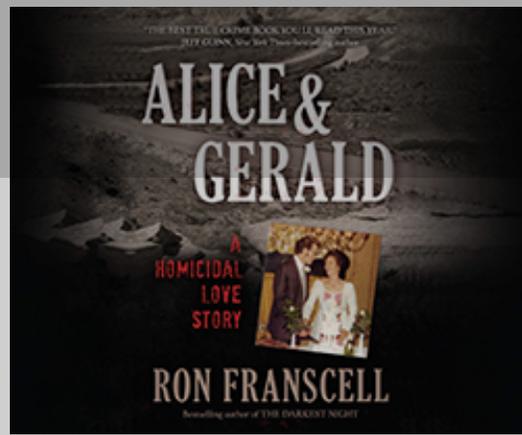
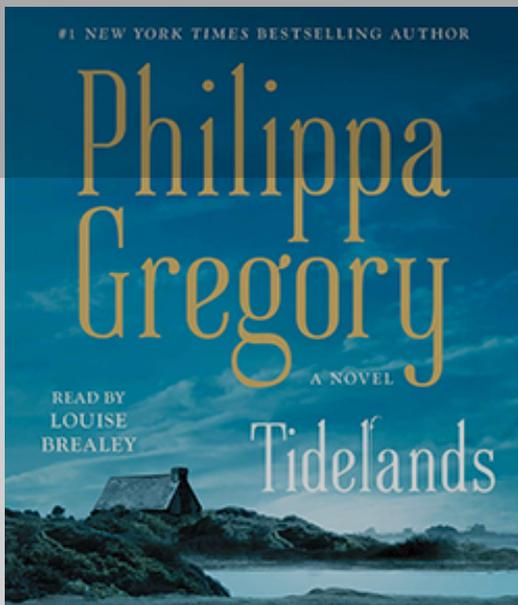
Adult



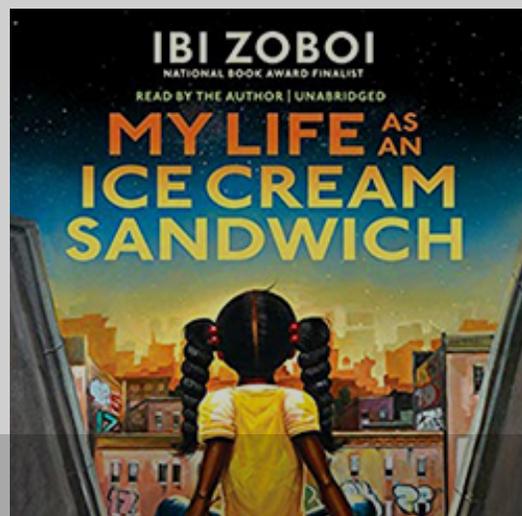
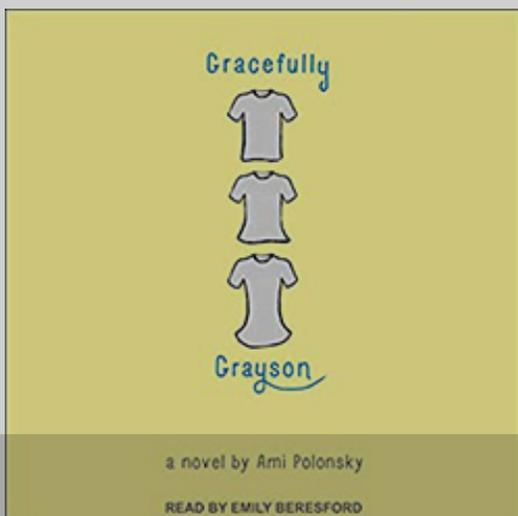
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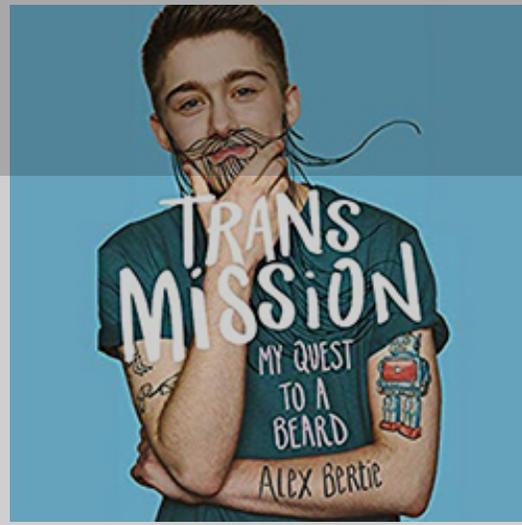
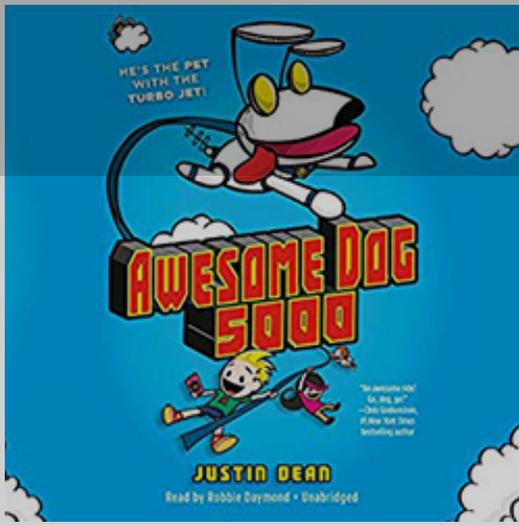


★ STARRED REVIEW

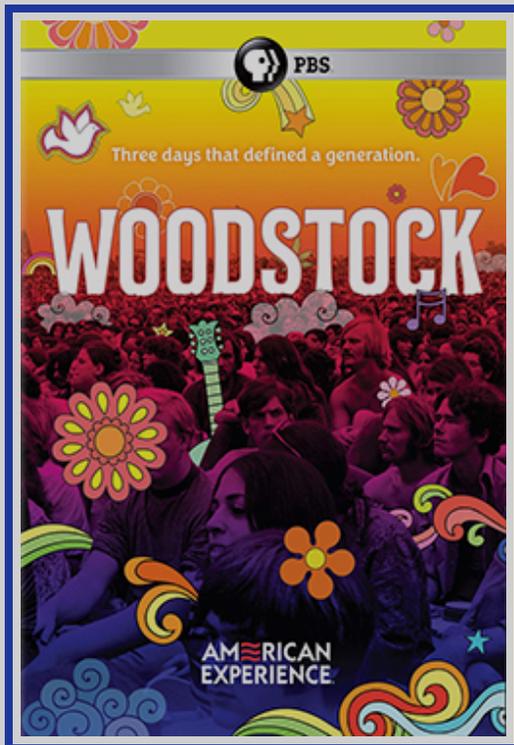


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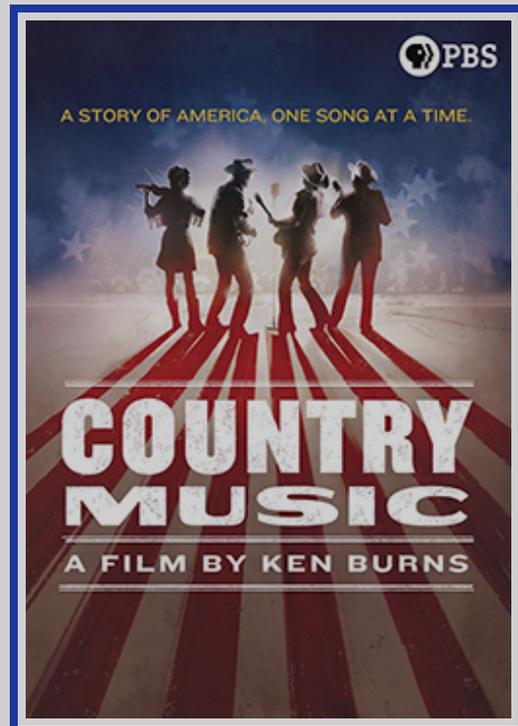




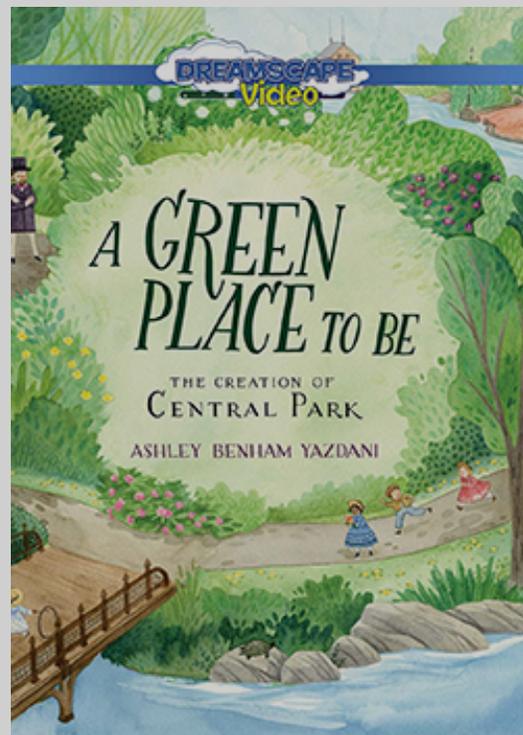
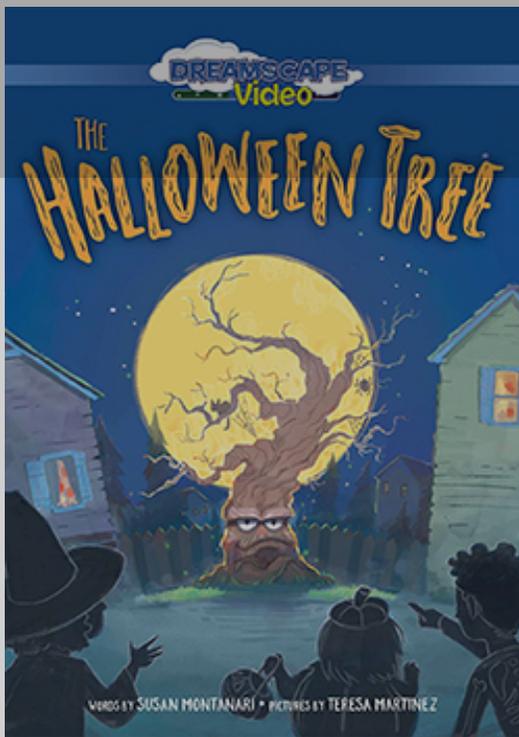
VIDEO REVIEWS



★ STARRED REVIEW



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