



Audio Publishers Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Audio Publishers Association announces
THE GEEKY BLOGGER'S BOOK BLOG as
THE 2017 AUDIOBOOK BLOGGER OF THE YEAR!

April 11, 2017—The Audio Publishers Association (APA) is excited to announce that Felicia Sparks, who runs the literary blog, [*The Geeky Blogger's Book Blog*](#), has been chosen as the 2017 Audiobook Blogger of the Year -- an honor awarded to her through a competition sponsored by the APA. Sparks' prize for winning the competition is two tickets to the 2017 Audie Awards® Gala on Thursday, June 1 in New York City at the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF). Sparks will be recognized for her achievement at the Gala and have her photo taken with Audie Awards® emcee, comedian Paula Poundstone, and celebrity contest judge Scott Brick.

APA President Linda Lee declares, "Each year it gets harder and harder to pick a winner as the quality and diversity of the contestants increases. This trend reflects the amazing growth in our industry and it was a pleasure to review the works of all those that submitted. Kudos and thanks to all of them!"

The Audiobook Blogger of the Year Contest was created to recognize the valuable contribution of independent audiobook listeners who review and promote the format online. It is an opportunity to not only reward their work, but also to increase engaging discussions about audiobooks on the web and to encourage new bloggers to join the conversation.

For the competition, which is in its third year, bloggers were invited to submit entries for consideration by a five-member panel of judges including three APA members, APA President Linda Lee, and award-winning audiobook narrator Scott Brick. Entrants were judged on three review posts submitted for consideration; on the overall review coverage and aesthetics of their site; on their social media presence and interaction with the online community and fellow bloggers; and on a personal statement.

"*The Geeky Blogger's Book Blog* was a real treat for me to read. I was impressed by the scope of her focus: not merely on reviews, but also her tutorials about listening platforms. Bravo!" said Scott Brick.

Felicia Sparks of *The Geeky Blogger's Book Blog* is an enthusiastic supporter of audiobooks, and her playful, engaging blog reflects that passion. In addition to writing thoughtful audiobook reviews, she also highlights the many benefits of audiobook listening. She shares her views on the power of excellent narration, offers tutorials on how to use different audio listening formats, and divulges her favorite places to listen to audiobooks. It is a pleasure to reward her.

Sparks had this to say about her new title, "I am so honored to be chosen as the 2017 Audiobook Blogger of the Year. I have been a huge fan of audiobooks since I received my very first ones in the mid-70s -- *The Hobbit* and *Pete's Dragon* on record. I still have both of them. This is a true honor and I am proud to be a champion of audiobooks, particularly for the romance genre. It is hard to believe that my hobby resulted in an industry award but I will take it. Truly, thank you to all the narrators and authors for the hundreds of hours of entertainment. My life just would not be the same without them!"

This year's candidates artfully expressed their personal preferences a wide variety of audiobooks, including romance, thrillers, young adult, sci-fi and horror, fiction and non-fiction. "Picking a winner was no easy task, but it was wonderful to see so many great outlets talking about audiobooks. Congratulations to *Geeky Bloggers Book Blog*, and thank you to all who entered," said Samantha Edelson of Macmillan Audio, an APA member and contest judge.

Scott Brick added, "Book bloggers sit beside librarians on the list of my favorite people on Earth. I love their passion and their originality—there are so many unique approaches they bring to their love of books. We in the audiobook world are always looking for new listeners, always on the lookout for ways to introduce new people to the medium, and book bloggers are the perfect avenue for achieving that."

The two runners up, [Shelf Addiction](#) and [AudioBook Reviewer](#) will also be rewarded for their captivating entries with gift cards to purchase their favorite audiobooks!

"Like last year, each entry was a delight to consider, with different strengths and focuses," said Megan Fitzpatrick of Hachette Audio, an APA member and contest judge. We look forward to seeing their online presence flourish and inspire others, and we do hope each will come back to the competition next year."

For further information, please contact Jennifer Richards at Over the River Public Relations: 201-242-9637, press@audiopub.org.

ABOUT THE AUDIO PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

The Audio Publishers Association (APA) is a not-for-profit trade organization whose primary goals are to promote awareness of the audiobook industry, gather and disseminate industry statistics, encourage high production standards and represent the interests of audiobook publishers. Since 1986, the APA has worked to bring audio publishers together to increase interest in audiobooks. Please visit www.audiopub.org for more information.