



Audio Publishers Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Audio Publishers Association is thrilled to announce
BETH FISH READS is
THE 2016 AUDIOBOOK BLOGGER OF THE YEAR!

April 6, 2016—The Audio Publishers Association (APA) is proud to announce that Candace Levy, who runs the literary blog, "*Beth Fish Reads*," has been chosen as the 2016 Audiobook Blogger of the Year--an honor awarded to her through a competition sponsored by the APA. Levy's prize for winning the competition is 2 tickets to the black-tie Audie Awards® Gala, which will be held on Wednesday, May 11th at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. Levy will be recognized for her achievement at the Gala and have her photo taken with Audies emcee, comedian Paula Poundstone, and contest judge Katherine Kellgren.

“This contest was created to recognize the valuable contribution of independent audiobook listeners who review and promote the format online,” says APA President Linda Lee. “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 bloggers were invited to submit entries for consideration by a 5-member panel of judges including three APA members, APA Executive Director Linda Lee, and award-winning audiobook narrator Katherine Kellgren. 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. "It was a really great and diverse group of entries this year, making it hard to pick just one winner. *Beth Fish Reads* impressed us as both a thoughtful reviewer of audiobooks and a wonderful advocate for the format," said Samantha Edelson of Macmillan Audio, an APA member and contest judge.

Candace Levy of *Beth Fish Reads* is a longtime and beloved audiobook advocate, whose thoughtful, articulate voice has become an essential one, both to industry professionals and audio fans alike. It's a joy to be able to celebrate her.

Levy had this to say about her new title: "Audiobooks have been at the core of my reading life for decades, and I'm thrilled to have seen the growing popularity of the medium. With so much love for audiobooks in the online community, it's an amazing honor to be recognized by the APA as the 2016 Audiobook Blogger of the Year. I'm still a bit stunned that my advocacy for audiobooks has been acknowledged by the industry with this award."

This year's contest entries celebrated the wonderful diversity of audiobooks. There were strong candidates who were passionate about young adult, romance, sci-fi and horror, fiction and non-fiction.

"There were so many exciting and inspiring entries this year that I know it was both a pleasure and an education for myself and for the committee to look through them all," added Katherine Kellgren. "Bloggers are reaching out in new and innovative ways, and engaging their audience in multiple formats, each with their own distinctive voice. Above all, a passion for audiobooks shines through, and their enthusiasm is wonderfully catching! From the insight and humor of *The Geeky Bloggers Book Blog*, to Pippi the Librarian, whose *Adolescent Audio Adventures* blog has introduced so many young listeners to audio (and entertained so many older ones like me), to *Today In Jen's Library*, which is reaching out to new audiences through vlogs on YouTube. Each and every entrant had something unique and valuable to offer, and looking at their work reminds me anew of how much we all love the medium of audiobooks, which sends us daily into studios and production offices across the country, and gathers us together for events like The Audies Gala."

The two runners up, [Geeky Bloggers Book Blog](#) and [Today in Jen's Library](#), will also be rewarded for their intriguing entries with \$100 gift cards to purchase their favorite audiobooks!

"This year's competition was stiff! Those of us returning to the judging panel were surprised at how much more difficult it was to make the determination of the top candidates," said Megan Fitzpatrick of Hachette Audio, an APA member and contest judge. "Every entrant had its own special charms, with different strengths and focuses. We thoroughly enjoyed all of the sites, and look forward to seeing them flourish, hopefully coming back to the competition next year."

<p>For further information, please contact Jennifer Richards at Over the River Public Relations: 201-242-9637, jennifer_richards@me.com.</p>

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.