



Audio Publishers Association

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## **Announcing the Audie Award® Finalists for Audiobook of the Year and Excellence in Design, Marketing, and Production**

Philadelphia, PA – The Audio Publishers Association (APA) has announced Audie Award® finalists for Audiobook of the Year and Excellence in Design, Marketing, and Production. The winners of the Excellence Awards will be announced at the Audio Publishers Association Conference (APAC) on May 10, 2016 in Chicago. The winner of the Audiobook of the Year Awards will be announced at the Audie Awards® Gala on May 11, 2016, at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. Award-winning comedian, author, and commentator Paula Poundstone will emcee the event.

The Audiobook of the Year Award recognizes the audiobook that, through quality, innovation, marketing and sales, has had the most significant impact on the industry. Each nominated title is distinguished by excellence in production as well as their ability to create new interest in the audiobook format through creative marketing.

“We are excited to recognize the wide range of skills and talents it takes to create a successful audiobook,” says APA Executive Director, Michele Cobb. “This high level of achievement is seen clearly in our Audiobook of the Year finalists which are recognized not only for their outstanding audio production values, but also for their creative marketing and strong sales. This year’s group is an excellent reflection of how bringing all these elements together helps to raise the profile of the industry as a whole.”

### **The four titles competing for Audiobook of the Year are:**

- ***The Girl on the Train*** by Paula Hawkins; narrated by Clare Corbett, Louise Brealey, and India Fisher (Penguin Audio / Books on Tape)
- ***Go Set a Watchman*** by Harper Lee; narrated by Reese Witherspoon (HarperAudio)
- ***The Nightingale*** by Kristin Hannah; narrated by Polly Stone (Macmillan Audio)
- ***The Water Diviner*** by Andrew Anastasios and Meaghan Wilson-Anastasios; narrated by Jack Thompson (Bolinda Publishing Pty Ltd)

**This year's Judges provided their comments and insight into the selection of the Audiobook of the Year Finalists:**

***The Girl on the Train*** (Penguin Audio / Books on Tape)

“A trio of skilled narrators pulls listeners into the psychological suspense of Paula Hawkins’ *The Girl on the Train*. The ‘trust no one’ twists and possible unreliability of the three central women compel the listening experience and make this a great choice to recommend to audiobook fans or newcomers to the format. With storytelling this good, it’s clear to see why the audiobook continues to gain fans across a broad market.”

***Go Set a Watchman*** (HarperAudio)

“Reese Witherspoon ably applies her skills as an actress to this performance of *Go Set a Watchman*. Her Nashville upbringing and careful interpretation of the text allow her to bring out a believable Southern accent that supports the dialogue of Harper Lee's famous characters. Witherspoon's pacing and plain-spoken delivery are hallmarks of her professionalism and truly bring this book to life.”

***The Nightingale*** (Macmillan Audio)

“Polly Stone's heartfelt reading of *The Nightingale*, a World War II sibling drama, opens a window onto an oft-neglected story – how women survive during wartime. With remarkable detail, and polished story-telling skills, Kristin Hannah sets out a poignant portrait of France during the Nazi occupation. Stone's careful voicing of the two sisters, impulsive Isabelle and practical Vianne, establishes their differences while building a powerful emotional bond.”

***The Water Diviner*** (Bolinda Publishing Pty Ltd)

“The emotional power of *The Water Diviner* is enhanced by truly expert narration from veteran Australian film star Jack Thompson. He conveys the exotic settings with dust in his voice, and scenes of raw emotion with his heart in his throat. The appeal of this program reaches across borders, shedding light on the tragedy of Gallipoli and the human losses that are always suffered by both sides in any bloody conflict.”

The award for Excellence in Design recognizes the product design for packaging or display art.

**The five finalists competing for Excellence in Design are:**

***The Art of War*** by Sun Tzu; design by Alex Odulio (Audible Studios)

***Bill O'Reilly's History Collection: Audiobook Boxed Set*** by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard; package/cover design by Margo Goody (Macmillan Audio)

***Forces from Beyond*** by Simon R. Green; cover design by Ashlee Sasscer (Recorded Books)

***The Hunger Games Trilogy Collection*** by Suzanne Collins; package/cover design by Kathlyn Miller (Recorded and published by Scholastic Audio, and distributed by Brilliance Publishing, Inc.)

***Locke & Key*** by Joe Hill; design by Matthew Angorn, Kari Niles, Nick Horvath, Gabriel Rodriguez, Diane Chang, and Amil Dave (Audible Studios)

The award for Excellence in Marketing recognizes the promotional campaign that contributed most to generating attention and bringing new listeners to spoken word.

**The five finalists competing for Excellence in Marketing are:**

*Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee; narrated by Reese Witherspoon (HarperAudio)

*Locke & Key* by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez; narrated by Haley Joel Osment, Tatiana Maslany, Kate Mulgrew, and a full cast (Audible Studios)

*Read Proud Listen Proud* LGBTQ literature awareness campaign (Penguin Random House Audio)

*Welcome to Night Vale* by Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor; narrated by Cecil Baldwin, Dylan Marron, Retta, Therese Plummer, and Dan Bittner (HarperAudio)

The award for Excellence in Production recognizes a production that represents the best the format has to offer in listening excellence.

**The five titles competing for Excellence in Production are:**

*Amok* by Sebastian Fitzek; narrated by Natascha McElhone, Adrian Lester, Rafe Spall, Peter Firth, Brendan Coyle, and Hugh Skinnert (Audible Studios)

*Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee; narrated by Reese Witherspoon (HarperAudio)

*Locke & Key* by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez; narrated by Haley Joel Osment, Tatiana Maslany, Kate Mulgrew, and a full cast (Audible Studios)

*The Patriot Threat* by Steve Berry; narrated by Scott Brick with special bonus "writer's cut" read by Steve Berry (Macmillan Audio)

*Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book: The Mowgli Stories* by Rudyard Kipling; narrated by Bill Bailey, Richard E. Grant, Colin Salmon, Tim McInnerny, Bernard Cribbins, Celia Imrie, and Martin Shaw (Audible Studios)

Additional information can be found online at [www.theaudies.com](http://www.theaudies.com).

For more information about the Audies Gala, contact Rachel Tarlow Gul at Over the River Public Relations: 201-503-1321 or [tarlowgul@nj.rr.com](mailto:tarlowgul@nj.rr.com).

To purchase tickets, visit [www.audiopub.org](http://www.audiopub.org).

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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](http://www.audiopub.org) for more information.