



Audio Publishers Association

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***The Only Plane in the Sky* named the 2020 Audiobook of the Year**

The Audie Awards® recognized the best in audiobook and spoken word entertainment and Stephen King was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Audies' 25th anniversary celebration.

(New York, NY—March 3, 2020) The Audio Publishers Association (APA) announced 24 Audie Award® winners, the premiere award for the audiobook industry, including the prestigious Audiobook of the Year, at last night's **2020 Audie Awards® Gala** at Guastavino's in New York City. The Audies recognizes outstanding achievement from authors, narrators, publishers, and producers across a wide array of genres and categories. The **2020 Audiobook of the Year** was given to **The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11** by Garrett M. Graff, narrated by a full cast with Holter Graham, published by Simon & Schuster Audio.



Garrett Graff



Garrett Graff and Holter Graham

The judges who chose *The Only Plane in the Sky* as this year's Audiobook of the Year based their selection on criteria such as narrative performance and author intent. Judge Emma Straub commented: "The narrators were incredible." Judge Adam Silvera noted: "It was the most transporting experience." Judge R. Eric Thomas concurred, calling the work "an extraordinary achievement," adding, "Graff has created a historical document with the deftness of a poet and this production only builds on it, adding a narrative propulsion that never seems exploitative and an emotional depth that's never overwrought."



Stephen King

Another evening highlight was the Lifetime Achievement Award given by the APA to Stephen King in recognition for his achievements in the audiobook industry. His son, bestselling author

Joe Hill, said in his introduction: “Stephen King is the best damn ambassador for audiobooks that anyone could ever wish or hope for. His love for the form goes back decades. I know. I was there.” In his acceptance speech, King noted:

“I listen to my own books –the reason why is because you can hear everything you did right and everything you did wrong. This is the most honorable form of storytelling there is.”

It was a celebratory evening with many memorable moments, hosted by Mo Rocca, “CBS Sunday Morning” correspondent, author, and host of the “Morbituaries” podcast. Rocca said of audiobooks and The Audies: “Part storytelling, part acting, wholly engaging with an unseen audience with your voice, heart and soul ... all while doing your best not to “pop your P’s”. I am proud to help celebrate all of tonight’s nominees.”

Another notable category winners included Michelle Obama’s BECOMING, narrated by the author, for Autobiography/Memoir (Penguin Random House Audio); Douglas Brinkley’s AMERICAN MOONSHOT, narrated by Stephen Graybill, for History/Biography (HarperAudio); and Ta-Nehisi Coates’ THE WATER DANCER, narrated by Joe Morton, for Literary Fiction & Classics (Penguin Random House Audio). Full list of winners below.

You can find photos from the event here: [link](#). (Photo credit for all: Sean Zanni for Getty)

FULL LIST OF 2020 Audie Award® WINNERS

AUDIOBOOK OF THE YEAR

The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11

By Garrett M. Graff, narrated by a full cast with Holter Graham
Simon & Schuster Audio

AUDIO DRAMA

Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes

By Tony Kushner, performed by Andrew Garfield, Nathan Lane, Susan Brown, Denise Gough, Beth Malone, James McArdle, Lee Pace, Nathan Stewart-Jarrett, Bobby Cannavale, and Edie Falco
Penguin Random House Audio

AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

Becoming

Written and narrated by Michelle Obama
Penguin Random House Audio

BEST FEMALE NARRATOR

Nothing to See Here

By Kevin Wilson, narrated by Marin Ireland

HarperAudio

BEST MALE NARRATOR

Kingdom of the Blind

By Louise Penny, narrated by Robert Bathurst
Macmillan Audio

BUSINESS/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

So You Want to Start a Podcast?

Written and narrated by Kristen Meinzer
HarperAudio

FAITH-BASED FICTION & NON-FICTION

How the Light Gets In

By Jolina Petersheim, narrated by Tavia Gilbert
Oasis Audio

FANTASY

The Ten Thousand Doors of January

By Alix E. Harrow, narrated by January LaVoy
Hachette Audio

FICTION

City of Girls

By Elizabeth Gilbert, narrated by Blair Brown
Penguin Random House Audio

HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY

American Moonshot

By Douglas Brinkley, narrated by Stephen Graybill
HarperAudio

HUMOR

More Bedtime Stories for Cynics

By Kirsten Kearse, Gretchen Enders, Aparna Nancherla, Cirocco Dunlap, and Dave Hill,
narrated by Nick Offerman, Patrick Stewart, Alia Shawkat, Ellen Page, Jane Lynch,
John Waters, Anjelica Huston, Wendell Pierce, Mike Birbiglia, Rachel Dratch, Matt
Walsh, Nicole Byer, Harry Goaz, Aisling Bea, and Gary Anthony Williams
Audible Originals

LITERARY FICTION & CLASSICS

The Water Dancer

By Ta-Nehisi Coates, narrated by Joe Morton
Penguin Random House Audio

MIDDLE GRADE

Charlotte's Web

By E.B. White, narrated by Meryl Streep and a full cast
Penguin Random House Audio

MULTI-VOICED PERFORMANCE

The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11

By Garrett M. Graff, narrated by a full cast with Holter Graham
Simon & Schuster Audio

MYSTERY

The Chestnut Man

By Søren Svestrup, narrated by Peter Noble
HarperAudio

NARRATION BY AUTHOR OR AUTHORS

With the Fire on High

Written and narrated by Elizabeth Acevedo
HarperAudio

NON-FICTION

Grace Will Lead Us Home

By Jennifer Berry Hawes, narrated by Karen Chilton and Jennifer Berry Hawes
Macmillan Audio

ORIGINAL WORK

Evil Eye

By Madhuri Shekar, narrated by Nick Choksi, Harsh Nayyar, Annapurna Sriram,
Bernard White, and Rita Wolf
Audible Originals

ROMANCE

Devil's Daughter

By Lisa Kleypas, narrated by Mary Jane Wells
HarperAudio

SCIENCE FICTION

Emergency Skin

By N.K. Jemisin, narrated by Jason Isaacs
Brilliance Publishing

SHORT STORIES/COLLECTIONS

Full Throttle

By Joe Hill, narrated by Zachary Quinto, Wil Wheaton, Kate Mulgrew, Neil Gaiman,
Ashleigh Cummings, Joe Hill, Laysla De Oliveira, Nate Corddry, Connor Jessup,
Stephen Lang, and George Guidall
HarperAudio

THRILLER/SUSPENSE

The InSTITUTE

By Stephen King, narrated by Santino Fontana
Simon & Schuster Audio

YOUNG ADULT

Hey, Kiddo

By Jarrett J. Krosoczka, narrated by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Jeanne Birdsall, Richard Ferrone, Jenna Lamia, and a full cast
Scholastic Audio

YOUNG LISTENERS

The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!

Written and narrated by Mo Willems
Weston Woods

Additional information can be found at www.theaudies.com

AUDIE AWARDS® The Audie Awards® is the premier awards program in the United States recognizing distinction in audiobooks and spoken-word entertainment. Publishers and rights holders enter titles in various categories for recognition of achievement. Finalists are selected, and from that group of finalists one winner is awarded. The Audie Awards® is a registered trademark of the Audio Publishers Association.

ABOUT THE APA 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.

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