

Dear Judge,

Thank you for participating as an Audies judge and welcome to the judging for Audiobook of the Year.

As you know, Audiobook of the Year recognizes a title with high-quality content and production values that stands as a benchmark of excellence for the industry.

In this round, you will listen to each assigned audiobook in the APA Audible library and select seven exemplary titles to move forward to the Finalist Round. **This judging category has TWO waves** – the titles listed below, and another batch you'll receive in mid-November.

**We ask that you evaluate these titles and rank your top 7 by January 9th** so that we may select a group of finalists to pass on to the next round of judges.

We are relying on you as an experienced judge to not only give each title a fair shake, but determine when to discontinue listening if/when you realize the title does not meet our stringent standards for Audiobook of the Year.

**As you consider the worthiness of each title, please keep the following in mind:**

- The Audiobook of the Year should serve as a worthy ambassador to new and current listeners, and be a paragon of the audiobook art.
- The success of the title in its marketing and publicity, visibility, impact, commercial success, and recruitment of new listeners to the format.
- The underlying content is excellent, and all elements combine to provide a compelling listening experience.
- The narration is a professional performance that is believable and convincing.
- Characters are clearly, consistently differentiated through tone, inflection, pacing, etc.
- Pace is maintained throughout and the plot flows without interruption.
- The recording is free of blatant edits and technical flaws and is of good quality.
- If used, music and/or sound effects are a positive enhancement, not a distraction.
- Consider ... does this audiobook remain true to, expand on, or complement the author's intent through an outstanding performance by the narrator?

Each submitter for Audiobook of The Year also submits a supplemental form with more information about the title and its impact. **Only after ascertaining that a title meets the highest audio qualities should you then consider the supplemental forms to make your final decision for which titles move forward.**

Supplemental forms, along with instructions to access the judging portal will be shared with you when your next set of titles is distributed.

These forms will answer the following questions and assist you in determining why a title should be considered for Audiobook of the Year.

- Why should this title be considered the Audiobook of the Year?
- What impact has it had on the audio publishing industry?
- Were there any unique challenges or stories behind this casting/editing/recording/producing process?

If you have questions, concerns, or issues with Audible just let us know by emailing [audies@audiopub.org](mailto:audies@audiopub.org) – we will connect you with the appropriate person to troubleshoot your problem.

As always, we are grateful for your careful expertise!

Caitlin Augusta  
Audies Judging Chair

**Audible account for Audiobook of the Year**

Username: Audiobookoftheyear2@yahoo.com

Password: audible

**NOTE:** When logging in to audible for the first time, you may be asked to confirm your account via a link sent to [Audiobookoftheyear2@yahoo.com](mailto:Audiobookoftheyear2@yahoo.com). If that happens, you may log in to [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) using the credentials below. Or you may contact Emma at the APA office for help ([eharris@audiopub.org](mailto:eharris@audiopub.org)).

**[yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) account log in**

Username: Audiobookoftheyear2@yahoo.com

Password: Audible1

**Available via [dropbox](#):**

The Deep Magic of Daily Consistency: A Life Changing Way to Set Your Greatness Free  
Isles of the Emberdark: A Cosmere Novel

**Your titles in the Audiobook of the Year category available in Audible:**

Billy Budd, Sailor

Good Game, No Rematch

Onyx Storm

Outlander

Pride and Prejudice

Shield of Sparrows: Book 1 in the Shield of Sparrows series

Sunrise on the Reaping

The Echo Machine: How Right-Wing Extremism Created a Post-Truth America

The Let Them Theory

This Inevitable Ruin

Truth Matters: A Dialogue on Fruitful Disagreement in an Age of Division

Variation