

RECORDED BOOKS

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECORDED BOOKS CAPTURES RECORD NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR 2005 AUDIE AWARDS

Prince Frederick, MD – March 8, 2005 —Recorded Books, the world’s premier publisher of unabridged audiobooks since 1979 and a fully owned Hights Cross Communications company, said it has been selected as a finalist in 12 categories in the upcoming annual awards – “The Audies” -- for excellence by the Audio Publishers Association. “The Audies,” now in its ninth year, is the only awards program in the United States entirely devoted to recognizing distinction in audiobooks and spoken word entertainment. The gala award ceremony will be held on June 3, 2005, in New York City.

Brian Downing, Recorded Books’ Publisher, said: “We are delighted the Audio Publishers Association has once again recognized Recorded Books as a producer of high-quality audiobooks. We congratulate our authors, narrators, and our superb production team both here at our Maryland headquarters and our Manhattan production studio. Recorded Books offers one of the strongest collections of audiobooks in the industry and our new 2005 titles will further strengthen our leadership.”

Recorded Books audiobooks were finalists in 12 of 31 awards categories. The categories and finalist titles are:

- Children’s Titles for Ages 8+: **Keesha’s House** – by Helen Frost; narrated by Richard Ferrone, Kate Forbes, Kevin Free, Julia Gibson, Dion Gra.
- Classics: **Bless Me Ultima** – by Rudolfo Anaya; narrated by Robert Ramirez.
- Inspirational/Faith-Based Fiction: **The Negotiator** – by Dee Henderson; narrated by Tom Stechschulte.
- Literary Fiction: **The Crimson Petal and the White** – by Michael Faber; narrated by Jill Tanner.
- Multi-Voiced Performance: **My Sister’s Keeper** – by Jodi Picoult; narrated by Julia Gibson, Jenny Ikeda, Barbara McCulloh, Andy Paris.
- Non-Fiction, Unabridged: **His Excellency: George Washington** – by Joseph Ellis; narrated by Nelson Runger.
- Non-Fiction, Unabridged: **The Island at the Center of the World** – by Russell Shorto; narrated by L.J. Ganser.
- Personal Development/Motivational: **The Happiest Toddler on the Block** – by Harvey Karp and Paula Spencer; narrated by Johnny Heller.

- Romance: **The Perfect Lover** – by Stephanie Laurens; narrated by Simon Prebble.
- Science Fiction: **Horizon Storms** – by Kevin Anderson; narrated by George Guidall.
- Short Stories/Collections: **Heavenly Date** – by Alexander McCall-Smith; narrated by Simon Prebble, Lisette Lecat, Susan Lyons.
- Solo Narration – Female: **The Full Cupboard of Life** – by Alexander McCall-Smith; narrated by Lisette Lecatte.

About Recorded Books:

Recorded Books was founded in 1979 and is the world’s largest independent publisher of unabridged audiobooks. Recorded Books provides unabridged books on cassette and CD for consumer markets, libraries, and schools. For more information, visit www.recordedbooks.com.

About Hights Cross Communications:

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross Communications is a premier educational and library publisher dedicated to creating the finest books, audio products, periodicals, software and online services, serving the following markets: K-12 supplemental education, public and school library publishing, audio books, and medical continuing education publishing. Hights Cross companies include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing (Iowa City, IA), Options Publishing (Merrimack, NH), Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Chelsea House Publishers (Northborough, MA). For more information, visit www.hightscross.com.

Safe Harbor Statement: This press release contains forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “potential” and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. These risks, uncertainties and other factors may cause our actual results, performances or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements include, among others, changes in external market factors, changes in our business or growth strategy, or an inability to execute our strategy due to changes in our industry or the economy generally, the emergence of new or growing competitors and various other competitive factors. In light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the events and circumstances described in forward-looking statements contained in this press release will in fact occur. You should read this press release completely and with the understanding that our actual results may be materially different from what we expect. We will not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.
