

CHOICE MAGAZINE LISTENING

SELECTED MAGAZINE ARTICLES, STORIES AND POETRY • RECORDED FREE FOR THE BLIND • PROJECT OF LUCERNA FUND

November 12, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paul Rabin
psrabin@verizon.net
(516) 503-0271

Choice Magazine Listening editors on the lookout for exceptionally well written magazine selections

Editors, not apps, seek quality writing for the visually impaired community

PORT WASHINGTON, NY – In a world driven by algorithms and apps, what takes place in the offices of [Choice Magazine Listening](#) is practically an anachronism. Three professional editors gather in a room to discuss the thousands of articles they collectively read from nearly 100 magazine titles over the last three months to decide the table of contents of their next issue.

It's not an exact process. Rather it's the scope of the offerings that make it challenging. With no set criteria other than requiring their selections to be well written while demonstrating an impact on the human experience, the editors go about their subjective task of gathering exceptional literature found in magazines. The end result is a quarterly audio anthology consisting of 12 hours of literature recorded by professional narrators. The service is completely free for subscribers who are either blind, visually impaired, dyslexic, or physically disabled.

Their subscribers love it.

"I have been listening to these (recordings) for twenty years, and when they arrive, it's still the best thing that happens to me that week," wrote one subscriber from Brooklyn recently. "You have the best stories, and I love the science and adventure articles. Please keep up the good work!"

"I have been wanting to call you and let you know how much I appreciate Choice Magazine Listening," wrote another subscriber, from Grand Haven, Michigan. "I recall one special article—it covered the landing of an airplane on the Hudson River. Such a good overview of the whole situation. An excellent article. Also another article about a young mother, I think, in Somalia. I thought of her effort in trying to get enough water for her family. It takes an article like that to bring people to a better understanding of what's going on. I have been turning off shower heads since then. You know something. Water is not available to a lot of people. I just had to call and say thank you."

The staff of Choice Magazine Listening strives for such feedback. For more than 50 years, the experienced editors here have been selecting unabridged articles, stories, poems, and essays for their quarterly audio anthologies provided free of charge to a special audience of blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled adults.

The praise continually pours in from delighted listeners:

-More-

CHOICE MAGAZINE LISTENING

SELECTED MAGAZINE ARTICLES, STORIES AND POETRY • RECORDED FREE FOR THE BLIND • PROJECT OF LUCERNA FUND

Choice Magazine Listening -- 2

“You guys are awesome,” wrote yet another subscriber, from Tucson, Arizona. “I wish CML came out twice a month. That’s the only complaint I have, that I don’t get it often enough. My wife asks where I learned all kinds of stuff and I tell her, Choice Magazine Listening!”

To get a sense of what all the fuss is about, one has only to look at CML’s most recent newsletter, which highlighted these three short stories:

- Stephen King’s “Afterlife,” a parable-type story that asks the question “If cheating death requires you to do it all over again, would you choose to go back and make the same mistakes?”
- James Lee Burke’s “Going Across Jordan.” As Burke often writes about people who have made mistakes, here we meet two of the most colorful characters the West has to offer, making choices from deep recesses of hard-knock experience in love, loss, and living on the run. But can friendship change a life?
- Karen Russell’s story “Reeling for the Empire” also talks about transformation, even if it’s in the world of humanoid worms spinning silk. But you’ll have to read it yourself to consider the possibilities.

“These are just a few of the dozens we read through that made the cut,” said Annie Kyrkostas, an associate editor at CML. “Many of our subscribers compliment us on the finished product, and most aren’t aware of all the work that goes into finding these literary gems. But the cliché applies: It’s a labor of love.”

Pamela Loeser, the Editor in Chief of Choice Magazine Listening, agrees.

“It’s really one of the best jobs around,” said Ms. Loeser, “especially as it entails reading through mountains of magazines in search of excellent literature. When Choice Magazine Listening started more than 50 years ago, we were among the very few services that offered any kind of reading material for the blind, visually impaired, or physically disabled. But print-disabled people have choices now, especially in this era of talking Kindles, iPhones, androids, tablets, etc. A great *quantity* of writing is available. It’s nice to know our subscribers have come to expect *quality* from us.”

About Choice Magazine Listening:

Choice Magazine Listening was founded in 1962 by LuEsther T. Mertz, one of the original principals of Publishers Clearing House. Throughout its more than 50 years of service, Choice Magazine Listening has shared the finest magazine writing with its special audience. From an original source list comprised of five of LuEsther’s favorite magazines, to the almost 100 distinguished magazines and literary journals that the editors read today, CML has consistently showcased the best current writing by the finest contemporary authors. Through selectively chosen poems, short stories, interviews, essays and in-depth nonfiction articles, read, unabridged, by talented narrators, the aim of CML has always been to expand the human mind: to inform, entertain and enlighten. Each 12-hour quarterly issue is an opus for the ear.