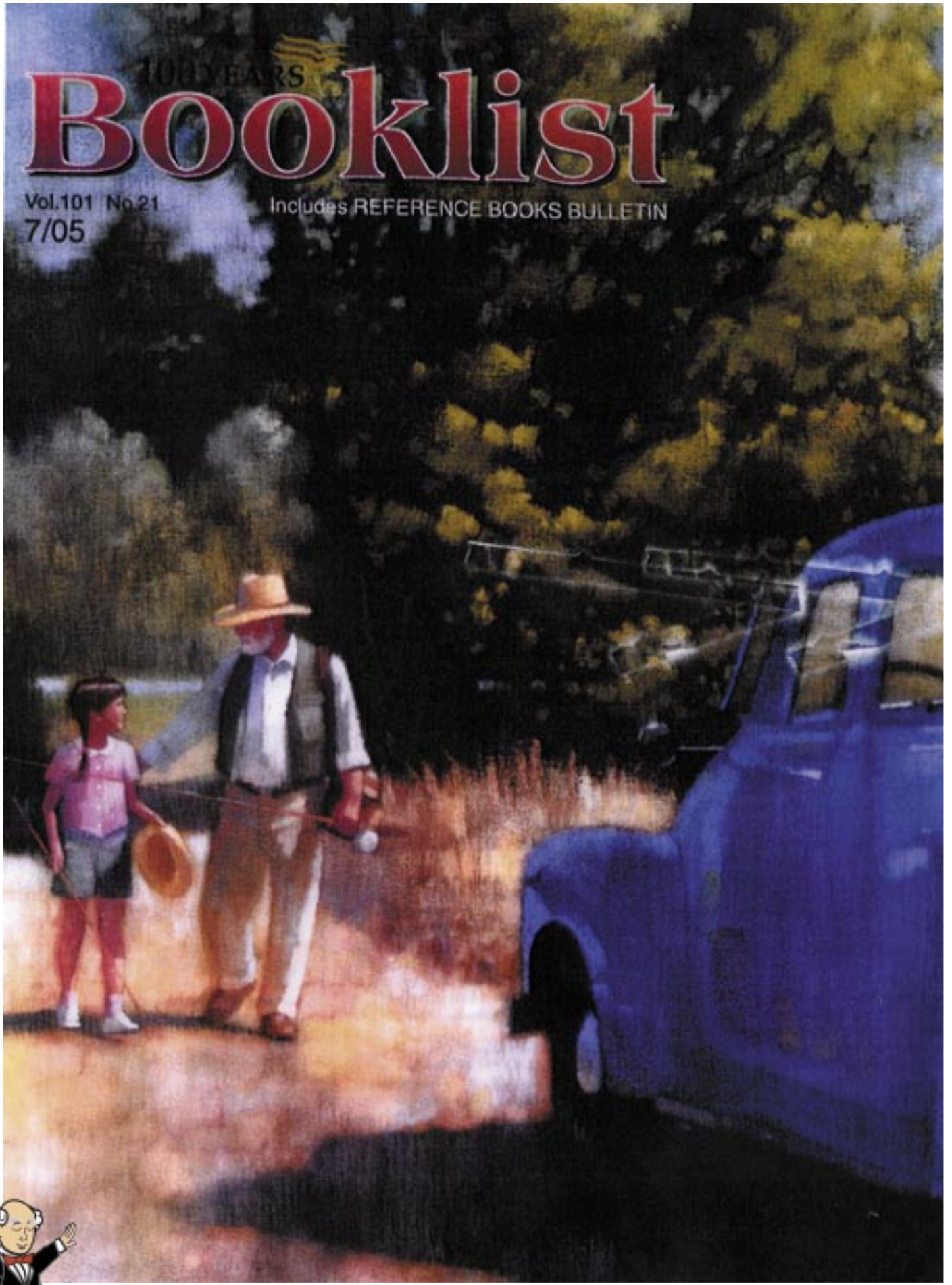


100 YEARS

# Booklist

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Includes REFERENCE BOOKS BULLETIN



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## Audio for Youth

**A Bear Called Paddington.** By Michael Bond. Read by Stephen Fry. 2005. 2.5hr. Harper, CD, \$17.95 (0-06-076071-0).

K-Gr. 3. Fans of Paddington, the hapless bear from darkest Peru, know all about his charming adventures. Add Fry's dry narration to the mix, and you end up with an irresistible audio. At first, the fact that Paddington sounds like a middle-aged man is slightly unnerving. However, it soon becomes clear that he is bear-about-town, prone to fits of indignation and acts of heroism. Sweet and searching tones would not be suitable at all. Fry portrays Paddington seriously and earnestly while giving the supporting cast of characters a dramatic flair. This is the heart of Paddington's existence; he is a simple bear, calmly moving through life as one drama after another humorously unfolds around him. —*Traci Todd*

**Bollywood Babes.** By Narinder Dhani. Read by Nina Wadia. 2005. 5hr. Listening Library, CD, \$30 (1-4000-9938-2).

Gr. 5-8. After succinctly wrapping up the plot of *Bindi Babes* (2004), this novel launches the newest escapades of teenage Dhillon sisters Amber, Jazz, and Geena. One of their projects involves the rescue of a former Bollywood actress who is facing eviction from her flat. After their teacher and aunt join forces to plan a Bollywood-theme fund-raiser for their suburban English school, the siblings' plans to unite the pair are ignited. But then, of course, new problems arise. Even if this chick-lit novel lacks the pizzazz of the first book, Wadia does a good job with the reading, giving actress Molly a snobbish panache and distinguishing the girls' characters with an appropriate British accent. —*Patricia Austin*

**Casey at the Bat.** 2005. 35min. Simon & Simon, CD, \$16.98 (1-932684-01-8). 866-432-7624.

K-Gr. 3. Following *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, this second title in the *Stories in Music* series introduces Ernest Lawrence Thayer's nineteenth-century baseball poem. Conductor and composer Stephen Simon discusses the classic poem, explaining the musical score (performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra) that accompanies the poem. This allows kids to understand how different melodies can change or fit a particular mood and how instruments can enliven a performance and tell a story. Yada narrates the poem, and Bonnie Simon discusses the poem's history. Youngsters are encouraged to march (to the accompaniment of a college band) and sing along to various musical renditions. Suggested for parents and educators seeking an innovative CD that introduces music and literature in a fun and engaging fashion. Includes an extensive study and activity guide. —*Jean Hatfield*

**Toy Trains: The Music.** 2005. 74hr. Audio Bookshelf, CD, \$4.95. 800-892-2822.

Gr. 2. Young train enthusiasts will

find themselves tapping their toes and singing along to songwriter and performer James Coffey in this collection of 32 songs based on the soundtrack from the *I Love Toy Trains* video series. The realistic locomotive sounds, upbeat jazzy melodies, and clever lyrics successfully transport listeners to the world of trains. The musical selections span a wide range of train topics. Youngsters learn about railroad cars ("Streamliners"), history ("Legends of the Rails"), and toy trains ("My Wooden Train"). Youngsters will also savor such classics as "I've Been Working on the Railroad" and "This Train." This charming CD nicely complements the imaginative play of young train engineers. —*Naomi Leibold*

**Morning Girl.** By Michael Dorris. Read by Eliza Duggan, Riley Duggan, and Terry Bregy. 2005. 1.5hr. Audio Bookshelf, CD, \$17.95 (0-9741711-5-8); CD, \$24.95 (0-9741711-6-6).

Gr. 3-5. Dorris' tale of pre-Columbian North America through the eyes of two young siblings—*Star Boy* and *Morning Girl*—highlights the innocence of life in 1492, before European influence. This effect is poignantly heightened by the pitch-perfect performances of siblings Eliza and Riley Duggan. Especially appealing is Riley's sweet, searching, and slightly mischievous portrayal of *Star Boy*, whose unrestrained imagination and verve often land him in trouble. His narration adds an almost heartbreaking level of emotion to the piece. The book's epilogue is an ominous excerpt from Christopher Columbus' diary. Bregy reads these lines almost as an afterthought, and he reads the credits with the same lack of emotion. The Duggans' poignant performances carry the production. —*Traci Todd*

**My Daddy Is Scratchy.** 2005. 47min. Good Mood Records, CD, \$14.98. 212-967-3300.

PreS-Gr. 2. Most of these 11 original songs display composer and singer Jamie Broza's pitch-perfect take on the ambiguous joys of fatherhood, acknowledging that dads can sometimes be problematic. Their faces flower with scratchy stubble, some sing embarrassingly bad, and others are clueless. But it's a two-way street as kids are often recalcitrant, disdain healthy vegetables, develop sudden allergies to school, and moan about chores. In each selection, Broza's underlying affection is evident. As in his debut album, *Bad Mood Mom* (2003), the tunes are stylistically diverse, ranging from rock and jazz to faux show tunes. Broza and accompanying singers are skilled and ingratiating performers. —*Paul Shackman*

**One Stop Past Nowhere.** 2005. 63min. Ray Gray, CD, \$10. 800-347-8679.

Gr. 3-5. Storyteller Ray Gray invites listeners to accompany him on a "bus trip to one place past nowhere." His easygoing conversational style guides children on a storytelling journey to magical places where the fairies live. Gray encourages youngsters to use stories as a vehicle to escape boredom, travel to unknown destinations, and stimulate creativity. This unique

recording, which is both entertaining and informative, intertwines Gray's personal recollections with folktales, including "Goban Soar," from Ireland, and "House in the Wood," from Germany. Philip Orr's original background music adds suspense, aids in pacing, provides sound effects, and supports the folktales' ethnic origins. A good choice for introducing classroom lessons on the benefits of infusing stories with a good dose of imagination. —*Naomi Leibold*

**Time Pieces: The Book of Times.** By Virginia Hamilton. Read by Lisa Pitts. 2005. 4hr. Blackstone, CD, \$34.95 (0-7861-2907-7); CD, \$36 (0-7861-8241-5).

Gr. 4-7. Pitts deliciously portrays the affectionate, folksy slices of Valena's life in this semiautobiographical novel. Though her timing and inflection are sometimes a bit off, she reflects distinct voices and has an ability to deftly capture the characters' sense of wonder. Each chapter closes with a piece of music, and this is where the production suffers some discord. Valena visits an older white neighbor who asks the young black girl to enter through a side door. The neighbor then insults Valena and one of her Native American friends. Although Valena's reaction is appropriately childish, it is also full of hurt and dignity. The music that marks the end of this chapter (a familiar schoolyard taunt played on a harmonica) diminishes the story's impact. On balance, however, the production is robust and warm—a delightful listen. —*Traci Todd*

AWARD WINNING AUDIO BOOK

# Buddha Boy

Kathe Koja

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—*School Library Journal*

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