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Cece Bell's *EL DEAFO* named a 2024 Odyssey Award audiobook; Pedro Martín's *MEXIKID* recognized as an Odyssey Honor

NEW YORK, NY (January 22, 2024) – The American Library Association's Odyssey Award committee named Cece Bell's **EL DEAFO** the 2024 Odyssey Award winner for children (Listening Library; available now) and Pedro Martín's **MEXIKID** an Odyssey Honor audiobook (Listening Library; available now). Both audiobooks are graphic novel adaptations performed by full casts were recognized during the ALA's Youth Media Awards livestream this morning.

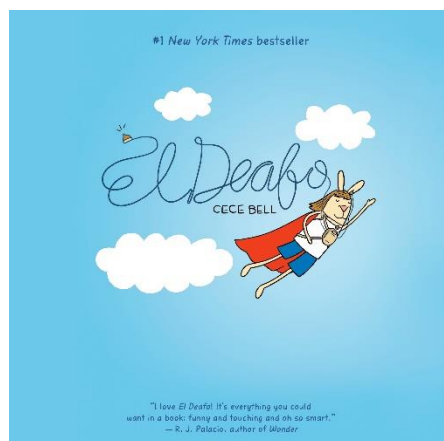
Cece Bell's Newbery Honor-winning graphic novel **EL DEAFO** was adapted for audio with a full cast and sound effects, produced by Matie Argiropoulos and narrated by Sarah Tubert, Lexi Finigan, Jennifer Aquino, Fred Berman, Bailey Carr, Nicky Endres, Matt Godfrey, Avi Roque and Sanya Simmons. Starting at a new school is scary, especially with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom but anywhere her teacher is in the school—in the hallway . . . in the teacher's lounge . . . in the bathroom! This is power. Maybe even superpower! Cece is on her way to becoming El Deafo, Listener for All. Can Cece channel her powers into finding the thing she wants most, a true friend? The audiobook production adapts speech Cece hears when she is not wearing her hearing aids for listeners with a modulated effect. An animated screen adaptation of **EL DEAFO** is now streaming on Apple TV+.

[Listen to a clip from *EL DEAFO*](#)

Pedro Martín's **MEXIKID**, also a 2024 Newbery Honor winner, is poignant, hilarious, and unforgettable graphic memoir adapted for audio; produced by Diane McKiernan and Olivia Langen and narrated by Oscar Emmanuel Fabela, Omar Leyva, Cynthia Farrell, Kevin Orduño, Elena Rey, Avi Roque, Christophe Landa, Daisy Guevara, Alejandro Vargas-Lugo and Fernando Monroy. **MEXIKID** is about a Mexican-American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their abuelito back from Mexico to live with them. Pedro Martín has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito—his legendary crime-fighting, grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all, Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough! Still, Pedro piles into the Winnebago with his family for a road trip to Mexico to bring Abuelito home, and what follows is the trip of a lifetime, one filled with laughs and heartache. Along the way, Pedro finally connects with his abuelito and learns what it means to grow up and find his *grito*.

[Listen to a clip from *MEXIKID*](#)

The ALA's Odyssey Award is given to the producer of the best audiobook produced for children or young adults, available in English in the United States. The award's name is taken from the Greek *Odyssey* epic, which was originally told and passed down in the oral tradition. The ALA also awards the prestigious Caldecott, Carnegie and Newbery Medals and Printz Award for excellence in children's literature. Penguin Random House Audio titles have earned 6 Odyssey Awards and 22 Honors.



EL DEAFO

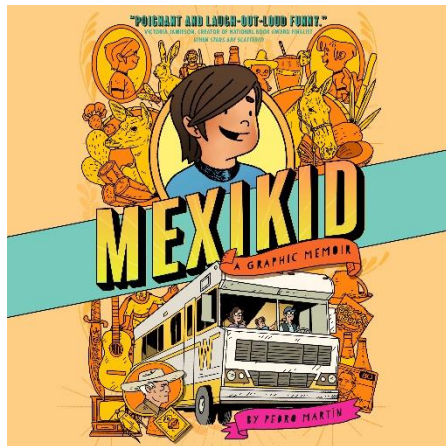
by Cece Bell, read by Sarah Tubert, Lexi Finigan, Jennifer Aquino,
Fred Berman, Bailey Carr, Nicky Endres, Matt Godfrey, Avi Roque and Sanya Simmons
Audio Download ISBN: 9780593748596 | Library Audio Download ISBN: 9780593748602
Listening Library | On sale 6/27/2023

Also available in print from Harry N. Abrams.

Praise for *El Deafo* on audio:

“With the vibrant performances of the cast and the careful attention to production, this audiobook is sure to engage listeners young and old.” — [AudioFile](#)

“This utterly superb production also proves to be a transformative lesson in immersive empathy. Through a combination of thoughtful acting and meticulous technical control of volume and clarity, listeners can actually experience an approximation of being hearing-challenged, from garbled language to fading modulation.” — [School Library Journal](#), starred audio review



MEXIKID

by Pedro Martín, read by Oscar Emmanuel Fabela, Omar Leyva,
Cynthia Farrell, Kevin Orduño, Elena Rey, Avi Roque, Christophe Landa,
Daisy Guevara, Alejandro Vargas-Lugo and Fernando Monroy
Audio Download ISBN: 9780593681572 | Library Audio Download ISBN: 9780593681589
Listening Library | On sale 8/1/2023

Also available in print from Dial Books for Young Readers

Praise for *Mexikid* on audio:

“Lively characters and relatable family relationships make this a great addition to youth collections.”— [Booklist](#)

About Listening Library

Since publishing its first audiobook in 1955, Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*, Listening Library has grown into one of the biggest names in the youth audio industry, earning more than 500 ALSC and YALSA Audiobook Awards, 27 Odyssey Awards and Honors, 22 Audie® Awards, and two GRAMMY® Awards. Listening Library publishes bestselling authors like R.J. Palacio, Christopher Paolini, Nic Stone, Sabaa Tahir, and Jacqueline Woodson; beloved classics such as *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White, *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle; enduringly popular series like *Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne; and dozens of Newbery and Printz award-winning authors including Christopher Paul Curtis, Kate DiCamillo, Tae Keller, Malinda Lo, and Daniel Nayeri.