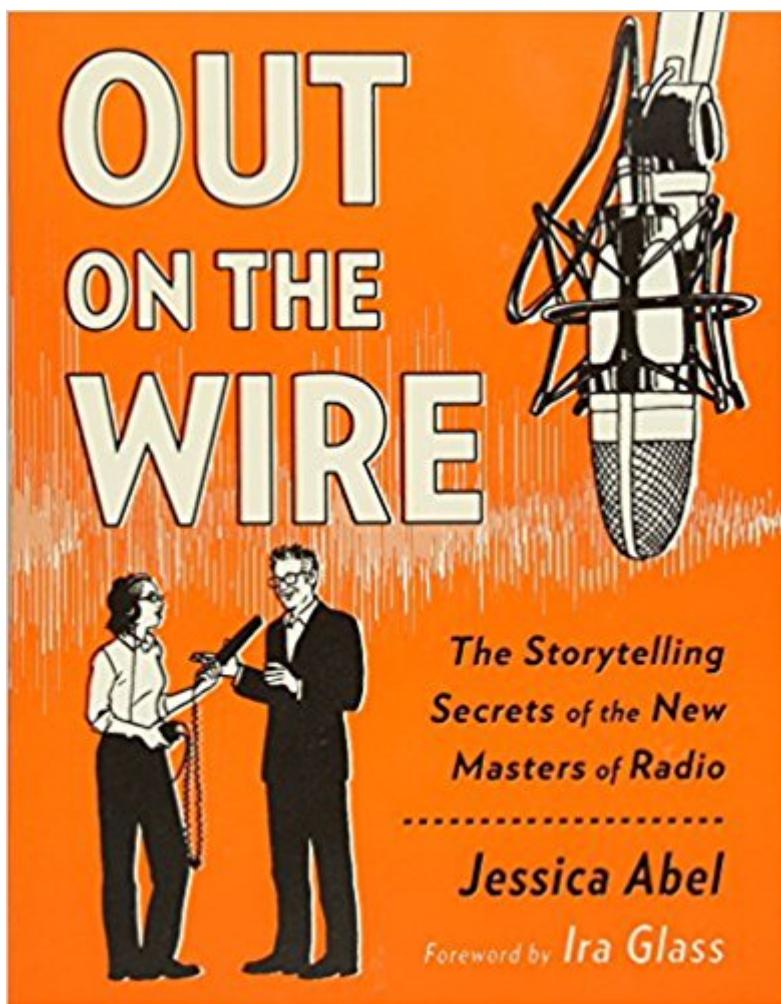


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# Out On The Wire: The Storytelling Secrets Of The New Masters Of Radio



## Synopsis

A Library Journal Best Book of 2015 Go behind the scenes of seven of today's most popular narrative radio shows and podcasts, including *This American Life* and *RadioLab*, in graphic narrative. Every week, millions of devoted fans tune in to or download *This American Life*, *The Moth*, *Radiolab*, *Planet Money*, *Snap Judgment*, *Serial*, *Invisibilia* and other narrative radio shows. Using personal stories to breathe life into complex ideas and issues, these beloved programs help us to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. Each has a distinct style, but every one delivers stories that are brilliantly told and produced. *Out on the Wire* offers an unexpected window into this new kind of storytelling—one that literally illustrates the making of a purely auditory medium. With the help of *This American Life*'s Ira Glass, Jessica Abel, a cartoonist and devotee of narrative radio, uncovers just how radio producers construct narrative, spilling some juicy insider details. Jad Abumrad of *RadioLab* talks about chasing moments of awe with scientists, while *Planet Money*'s Robert Smith lets us in on his slightly goofy strategy for putting interviewees at ease. And Abel reveals how mad—really mad—Ira Glass becomes when he receives edits from his colleagues. Informative and engaging, *Out on the Wire* demonstrates that narrative radio and podcasts are creating some of the most exciting and innovative storytelling available today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Jessica Abel's *Out on the Wire* A Library Journal and Kirkus Reviews' Best Book of

2015A Tech Times Best Comic of 2015Ã¢ ¯Ã“A boundary-pushing comic, a love letter from one blossoming new media to another...Out on the Wire is a terrific book for radio superfans and would-be producers, a niche audience that isn't so niche anymore.Ã¢ ¯Ã¢ ¯â •Los Angeles TimesÃ¢ ¯Ã“With comics and podcasts both on the rise, itÃ¢ ¯â„cs a perfect time for a media collision: Abel investigates modern narrative radio and its stars.Ã¢ ¯Ã• Ã¢ ¯âœEntertainment WeeklyÃ¢ ¯Ã“One of fall's coolest graphic reads...Consider the 240 pages a documentary comic and Abel your host.Ã¢ ¯Ã•Ã¢ ¯â •Marie ClaireÃ¢ ¯Ã“What makesÃ¢ ¯ [Out on the Wire]Ã¢ ¯ especially fascinating is its use of visuals to represent an aural form; not only are we reading behind-the-scenes stories of what we eventually hear, but we get a rare glimpse of what the people and places in them look like thanks to the not-often-enough-used comics journalism.Ã¢ ¯Ã•Ã¢ ¯â •Chicagoreader.comÃ¢ ¯Ã“This instructive, impassioned, and educational volume uses a deliberate and friendly approach in the vein of Scott McCloudÃ¢ ¯Ã| A must-read not just for listeners of todayÃ¢ ¯â„cs great flowering of audio storytelling but for those who want to learn how to do it themselves.Ã¢ ¯Ã•Ã¢ ¯â •Publishers WeeklyÃ¢ ¯Ã“A richly engaging graphic narrative about radio storytelling and storytelling in generalÃ¢ ¯Ã| A spirited work whose readership should not be limited to those who make radio narrative or love to listen to it.Ã¢ ¯Ã•Ã¢ ¯â •Kirkus Reviews [starred]Ã¢ ¯Ã“Abel (La Perdida) has performed a metamasterpiece by reporting with visual finesse and detail the complicated and sometimes precarious process behind public radio shows such as Radiolab and This American LifeÃ¢ ¯Ã| Indispensible for communications collections and a valuable asset for anyone considering a career in media.Ã¢ ¯Ã•Ã¢ ¯â •Library Journal [starred]

Cartoonist and writer JESSICA ABEL is the author of two textbooks about making comics,Ã¢ ¯ Drawing Words & Writing PicturesÃ¢ ¯ andÃ¢ ¯ Mastering Comics, written in collaboration with her husband, the cartoonist Matt Madden. She is also the author of the graphic novelÃ¢ ¯ La PerdidaÃ¢ ¯ and a new science fiction comics series calledÃ¢ ¯ Trish Trash: Rollergirl of Mars.

Was so looking forward to reading this tome, but it has proven absolutely nearly impossible on my kindle paperwhite. Do yourself a favor and order the physical copy. Incredibly disappointed with the formatting -- it doesn't do the book justice.

An excellent explanation on the art of interviewing and what goes on behind the scenes of

producing a radio series. It is equally valid to podcasting, which is the area that I am particularly interested in. There are also excellent references to relevant websites and other sources of information. Well done Jessica.

Talking about audio in a decidedly non-audio medium might seem counterintuitive, but the different perspective proves to be highly effective. I picked up a copy of Abel's "Radio: An Illustrated Guide" back in 2001 and although it represents a similar approach, this is a much more in-depth study that really goes beyond radio to talk about the creative process.

This is wonderful! I'm doing a lot of Storytelling in my community....mostly at Libraries, and Loved the stories and information here...what's not to like? Enjoy!Best,Julie

I was hoping to learn something...but instead it was OK reading. Entertaining but not informative

This is, without question, one of the best books on the writing process available. It is straight-shooting, no-nonsense, practical advice that you can follow and learn how to become a better writer. The chapters on the German Forest and Editing are worth their weight in gold. Every writer, no matter what genre or media they write for, should read this book. Just ignore the few parts about ridiculous last-minute deadlines and the one crazy-making producer who I wouldn't work with for any amount of money. There's no reason you should ever have to work in a situation that makes you cry with anxiety. That is just bulls\*\*\*. I'm sorry that part was included and not called out for the crock of s\*\*\* that it is because the rest of the book is amazing.

Really unique. I'm a radio producer and got a lot of great applicable info from this book, presented in a super creative way.

There is a lot to appreciate about 'Out on the Wire' by Jessica Abel. The illumination of narrative journalistic radio technique and process, access to the origin stories of new radio, her clever illustrations that expand and extend perspective... but my favorite part is actually sitting in on Ms. Abel's process of understanding the pull of audio and the why's behind making it. Her exploration offers a vernacular - and a series of very helpful metaphors - to those of us who are in love with this medium but experience misunderstanding from our friends who don't get it (yet). It's like she's given us a new means to understand ourselves and invite others into the conversation. A complete gift.

Highly recommended.

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