



**RANDOM HOUSE**

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**LISTENING LIBRARY'S UNABRIDGED AUDIOBOOK  
*HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX*  
TO GO ON SALE JUNE 21, 2003**

(New York, March 18, 2003)—Listening Library, the children's audio imprint of the Random House Audio & Diversified Publishing Group, and the audiobook publisher of the first four Harry Potter novels, has acquired the North American audio publishing rights to J.K. Rowling's *HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX*, the fifth in the series. The audio edition will be released in an unabridged format on cassette and compact disc in the United States and Canada on Saturday, June 21, 2003, simultaneously with the hardcover publication by Scholastic.

Harry Potter is the most successful children's audiobook publishing series in the history of the medium. There are nearly three million copies of the first four Harry Potter titles in print in Listening Library editions. The reader for the new work, its suggested retail list price, and other production details will be announced in the near future.

Listening Library was represented in the acquisition negotiations, which were concluded last week, by David Naggar, President, Random House Audio & Diversified Publishing Group, and Tim Ditlow, Vice President, Publisher, Listening Library. Christopher Little of the Christopher Little Agency in London represented the author. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

In conjunction with the release of the new volume, Listening Library will be redistributing and cross-promoting *HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE* (1999), *HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS* (1999), *HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN* (2000) and *HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE* (2000) to all its retailers and distributors. All four titles are available unabridged on both cassette and CD formats.

Mr. Ditlow acquired the North American audiobook rights in 1999 to the very first J.K. Rowling title, *HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE*, for Listening Library. "It is a privilege for Listening Library and Random House to continue our association with J.K. Rowling, who writes just as magically for the ear as she does for the mind's eye. The new Harry Potter audiobook is as eagerly awaited by listeners as the hardcover is by readers and we are delighted our retailers will have the opportunity to offer the North American listening public our audio version day and date with the print one," said Mr. Ditlow.

Among the accolades earned by previous Harry Potter Listening Library audiobooks have been the Grammy Award in 2000 for "Best Spoken Word Album for Children" and the 2000 Audie Award for "Solo Narration".

The Random House Audio & Diversified Group is a division of Random House, Inc., the U.S. company of Random House, the trade book division of Bertelsmann AG.

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