

emotions in general. It is impossible not to root for this heroine who will do anything for the people she loves and her hero, who is an unabashed fan of romance novels. Narrator Ione Butler does an excellent job giving distinct voices to the diverse cast of characters. **VERDICT** This delightful novel, worthy of all the superlatives, features one of the funniest, sexiest, sweetest romances in the genre. This audiobook is sure to be popular and is recommended for all general fiction collections.—Nicole Williams, Englewood, NJ

★ **North, Alex. *The Shadows*. 8 CDs. Macmillan Audio. 2020. 9:05 hrs. ISBN 9781250754585. \$39.99. Digital download. F**

After 25 years away, Paul Adams reluctantly returns to Gritten, the small English community where he grew up, because his mother is dying there in a hospice facility. Paul cannot escape his memories of the horrible crime his friends committed, which solidified his vow never to return once he left for university. A strange discovery in the house where he grew up adds to the flood of memories and contributes to Paul's fright. At the same time, Detective Amanda Beck, of the nearby town of Featherbank, notices similarities and connections between a child's murder in her town and the murder that haunts Paul. Amanda discovers there is an online following for the mysteries surrounding the Gritten murder of a quarter century ago. She believes that at least one participant in the internet chat is encouraging copycat crimes. The listener is led to understand what happened and what is happening through the past and present narratives of those involved then and now. Narrators Hannah Arterton and John Heffeman do a superb job. **VERDICT** North is a master at the twists and turns of horror-laced suspense. This novel is full of surprises and will satisfy the most ardent sleuths.—Ann Weber, Bellarmine Coll. Prep., San Jose, CA

★ **Rochon, Farrah. *The Boyfriend Project*. digital download. Hachette Audio. 2020.**

**9:41 hrs. ISBN 9781549183256. \$24.98. F** When three women, all strangers, find out that they've all been dating the same guy, there's a public confrontation and a viral video. Samiah, London, and Taylor become fast friends following the intense hype surrounding their minute of fame. Each of the three vow to work on themselves and avoid men for six months. The main focus of this novel is Samiah, and narrator Je Nie Fleming's rich and expressive voice perfectly captures Samiah's emotions, humor, and worries: the struggle with a competitive coworker, fierce loyalty to her new friends, and her growing passion for Daniel, the

incredibly handsome and thoughtful new hire at her firm. But what's Daniel really doing at the company? **VERDICT** Corporate intrigue, snappy dialogue, and spicy romance will have listeners rooting for Samiah in this fresh workplace rom-com with depth and complexity.—Maureen Roberts, Baltimore Cty. P.L.

## NONFICTION

**Anthes, Emily. *The Great Indoors: The Surprising Science of How Buildings Shape Our Behavior, Health, and Happiness*. 7 CDs Dreamscape Audio. 2020. 8:07 hrs. ISBN 9781662002823. \$22.99. soc sci**

Humans spend the vast majority of our lives inside buildings, but few of us stop to think about how these indoor spaces impact our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Thankfully, science journalist Anthes is here to synthesize the complex research areas and industry practices that shape our indoor living experiences. Quick-moving chapters cover important spaces such as homes, schools, offices, and hospitals while peppering in attention-grabbing facts that keep listeners engaged. How do the lighting, window placement, and other room characteristics affect inpatient recovery time in a hospital? What is the impact on productivity when supervisors let their employees control the thermostat in their work spaces? Suzie Althens's narration is perfectly paced with a flow that captures the depth of this work while not leaving listeners feeling bogged down in the details. **VERDICT** Recommended for fans of popular science titles and especially those interested in architecture and related topics such as smart technology.—Sean Kennedy, Univ. of Akron Lib., OH

★ **Birbiglia, Mike & J. Hope Stein. *The New One: Painfully True Stories from a Reluctant Dad*. 5 CDs. Hachette Audio. 2020. 5:09 hrs. ISBN 9781549183072. \$35. Digital download. HUMOR**

Comedian Birbiglia knocks it out of the ballpark with his second collection of humorous essays and insights. After his first volume discussing his hilariously terrifying sleepwalking troubles (*Sleepwalk with Me*), he's graduated to a scarier topic: parenthood. His latest chronicles the journey Birbiglia and his wife, Jennifer Hope Stein, take, from denial that they'll ever want kids of their own, grim acceptance when his wife decides that she actually does want a baby, to creating an entirely new lifestyle subject to their child Oona's needs. Peppered throughout are Stein's poems about their daughter, their marriage, their fears, and their love. The poems complement her husband's insights and help balance the story of their forays into parenthood. The anec-

dotes are poignant, moving, and humorous. Fantastically narrated by both the authors, this is a book that all parents will easily relate to and laugh along with. **VERDICT** This highly entertaining and engaging listen is ideal for library collections and would make a great gift for new (and old!) parents and comedy fans.—Erin Cataldi, Johnson Cty. P.L., Franklin, IN

**Kearse, Bettie. *The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family*. 7 CDs. Recorded Books. 2020. 7:47 hrs. ISBN 9781980068310. \$77.75. Digital download. HIST**

Retired pediatrician Kearse, her family's eighth griot (storyteller/historian/genealogist), traces her lineage over two centuries: "Always remember—you're a Madison. You come from African slaves and a president," her predecessors instilled. The fourth U.S. president, James Madison, never had biological children with wife Dolley. He did, however, according to Kearse's griot ancestors, father a son with his enslaved half-sister, Coreen. Enhancing the meticulous, often disturbing, history she tenaciously uncovers, Kearse also writes in the imagined first-person voice of Coreen's mother, Mandy, the family's African progenitor, kidnapped, transported, owned, and raped by Madison. Karen Chilton reads Kearse's peripatetic explorations (through Ghana, Portugal, Lagos, and, of course, Madison's own famed Montpelier) with solemnity and gravitas; her convincing presentation never falters. **VERDICT** Will satisfy listeners seeking historical enlightenment. Libraries should provide easy access to this title in multiple formats.—Terry Hong, Smithsonian BookDragon, Washington, DC

**Maharaj, Joshna. *Take Back the Tray: Revolutionizing Food in Hospitals, Schools, and Other Institutions*. digital download. ECW. 2020. 7 hrs. ISBN 9781773056500. \$19.99. soc sci**

Dismayed by the often lackluster food served by institutional kitchens, Canadian chef and activist Maharaj made it her mission to show how institutions can provide nutritious, appealing, and economical meals. She provides a behind-the-scenes view on exactly what it takes to enact meaningful change and the challenges. In this well-documented work, she details with frankness and conciseness not only how to make the changes, but why it is vital to do so. Maharaj's authoritative voice lends itself perfectly to the narration. **VERDICT** This audiobook will be thoroughly enjoyed by fans of Dan Barber and Michael Pollan, and anyone interested in food activism.—Donna Bachowski, Grand Island, FL