

Welcome

Welcome to the Choice Magazine Listening Newsletter! Starting with our Fall 2013 issue, we'll be sending you newsletters via email every three months. The purpose will be threefold:

- To alert you that the latest issue of Choice Magazine Listening is available to [download](#).
- To share CML's highlights and [table of contents](#).
- And to keep you up to date on CML news and announcements.

Of course, we welcome any feedback about our newsletter and recordings. We look forward to [hearing from you](#) soon!

Highlights

The editors at CML love short stories. We read dozens before we find one good enough to share with you. In this issue, we have three very different, but equally compelling, stories. **Stephen King** brings us "Afterlife," a parable-type story that asks the question "If cheating death requires you to do it all again, to relive every second of your life exactly as you had just lived it, would you choose to go back and make the same mistakes?"

James Lee Burke writes characters who have made mistakes. In his story "Going Across Jordan," we meet two of the most colorful the West has to offer, making choices from deep recesses of hard-knock experience in love, loss, and living on the run. Can friendship change a life?

And if **Karen Russell's** story "Reeling For the Empire" has anything to say about transformation, it's that intense teamwork can change one's world—even if it's the world of humanoid worms (formerly girls) spinning silk. You'll have to read it and consider the possibilities.

Top Picks

Besides the outstanding fiction, don't miss **Russell Baker** riffing on a book about the convergence of man and the wild—in the backyard. Millions of white-tailed deer spreading Lyme's disease, Canada geese downing jets and fouling suburban lawns, and bears feasting at garbage cans—all these are discussed in "Visitors."

And if travel is something you enjoy, take the trip to Weeki Wachee Springs, Florida, and experience "The Last Mermaid Show" by **Virginia Sole-Smith**. For nearly six decades, these underwater beauties have been mesmerizing audiences. Here you'll meet them up close and personal.

Many Thanks...

To **Stephen H.** from Brooklyn, NY, for taking the time in his busy life to share these kind words: "I can't thank all of you enough... EVER. What you folks do is so darn incredible. I use CML as a reference when I meet and talk to people. I travel a lot and go to Eastern European countries like Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Herzegovina, and they don't have anything like CML. They are so envious."

CML News

Recently the staff at CML came together for a celebratory thank-you luncheon for Sondra Mochson, our Editor in Chief Emerita, who will be leaving us after more than 30 years at CML. Her vast experience in choosing memorable writing and in working through the many media transitions, copyright requirements, and the vicissitudes of the magazine publishing world have been invaluable. We will miss her terribly and wish her a happy retirement.

One of our editors followed a favorite author to "The Glass House" in New Canaan, Connecticut, where he read from a work in progress. **Daniel Mendelsohn**, whose article "A Modern Odyssey" (Travel & Leisure, April 2012), appeared in CML Issue 301 ([Winter 2013](#)), shared the continuing story of his dad and their travels together. The intimate setting made for a memorable afternoon.