

There once was a boy who thought he detested audiobooks because he had made the erroneous attempt (for his tastes) to visually read a novel whilst simultaneously listening to its audiobook.

Years went by as this boy grew into a young man holding the same limiting belief based solely on one misguided experience. Little did he know at the time that this tightly held belief was barring the door to an exquisitely rich world of emotion, detail, and wisdom.

One fateful day, on a whim, he decided to give audiobooks another go because he so desperately wanted to catch up on *The Wheel of Time*. His most beloved series which he had started as a youth in high school yet stopped reading by *Lord of Chaos* despite four more available books. This time, prepared with the decision to simply listen to the voice on the other end he, admittedly, struggled through the prologue but was determined to keep going as something within him urged him onward. Then, within moments of the first chapter of "*The Eye of the World*," this young man, just a year and a half out of university, fell completely and utterly in love with the strong, kind, comforting yet dynamic male voice reading his most treasured book series. It was this voice and this experience that forever cemented his love for audiobooks. (With the caveat the narrator lives up to even a tenth of this - at the time - unnamed male voice).

Then, if it were even possible, there dawned another singular and unique crepuscular ray shining brilliantly from within the already expertly woven tapestry that was and is *The Wheel of Time* read by - the now known to this young man - Michael Kramer. That new ray of light was Kate Reading. The young man could not at that time comprehend the mastery and counterpoint he was hearing between these two voices, for he had nothing else with which to compare them but with the passing of years, he would grow to comprehend and fully grasp the sheer brilliance of these two narrators who established his forever love of audiobooks.

To this day, he experiences sudden sparkling moments of gratitude for these two beautiful humans who walk the earth in this time. Who no doubt, like all of us, have encountered their fair share of joys, sorrows, humbling mistakes, and regretful actions. It is the lessons of these encounters that sing through their narration of the pages and pages ... and pages of their work to the ever so fortunate hearts of their listeners.

Thank you to you both from the depths of my heart and soul. You've transformed the quality of my life in ways that despite our mutual love for words and their use - fail to capture the true nature and expanse of my gratitude.

<3 Nathan