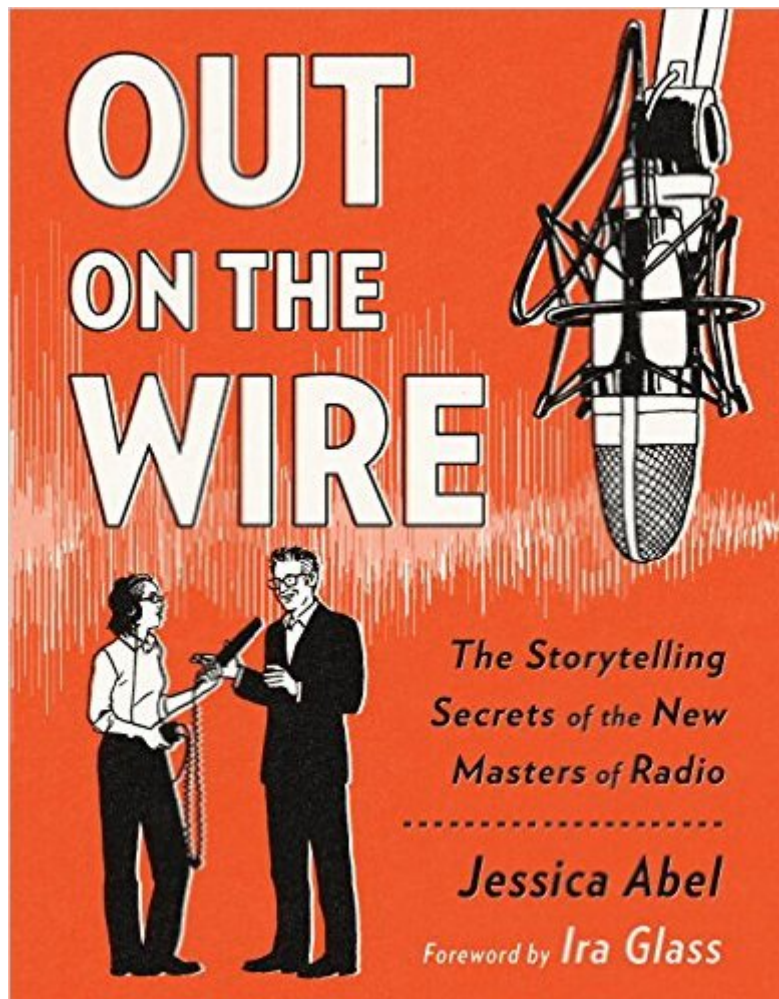


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# Out On The Wire: The Storytelling Secrets Of The New Masters Of Radio



## 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

OUT ON THE WIRE is one of the most creative books I have read in recent times. Plus, it's just flat-out fun to read. The author, Jessica Abel, combines her love for radio with her expertise in

design of comics. The artwork and illustrations are really well done. (Of course, one would expect this from an author with it with extensive experience in in explaining how to write comics.) One of the fun things I learned from this book was the existence of several radio studios that happen to be located near me. I actually looked up two of the studios: "99 Percent Invisible" and Snap Judgment." They both happen to be located in Oakland, very close to where I live. It turns out, they produce some really innovative programs; glad I found out about them! On the practical side, the author discusses the importance of audio quality in conducting interviews. It never occurred to me that the microphone was all that important, but the author explains why that is so. I did not know, for example, that one must always use an external microphone--not one of the cheap microphones built into your smartphone. Oops! Honestly, I had never thought of that. As another example of the practical takeaways from this book, Jessica explains the fine details of microphone placement. I did not know for example, that in order to avoid the "pops" from a microphone you have to place the microphone below the interviewee's mouth. Another great tip. Jessica takes the reader behind the scenes to a number of different radio studios. You get to see what actually happens in the "edits" (i.e., editing sessions) as they are called. It turns out that a tremendous amount of time and energy goes on behind the scenes for even a short radio broadcast.

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