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# Radio: An Illustrated Guide



## Synopsis

Radio: An Illustrated Guide is a comic book that explains how to make a radio program. Specifically, it explains how to make the public radio program This American Life. In comic book form, the producers of This American Life explain how to find a story, how to do an interview, how to edit sound, how to write for radio and how to mix a radio story. It also explains how the narrative structure of a radio story works, and how it's different from other kinds of stories. This American Life is the most popular documentary program on American radio, with a weekly audience of over a million listeners, on more than 380 public radio stations nationwide. It's produced at WBEZ Chicago and distributed by Public Radio International.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ira Glass Ira Glass is the host and producer of "The American Life." The program is heard by over a million people on over 380 public radio stations every week. Glass began working in public radio at the age of 19, in 1978, as an intern at National Public Radio's network headquarters in Washington. After that, he worked for NPR as a tape cutter, production assistant, associate producer, editor, newswriter, reporter and host. He won numerous awards as a producer and reporter. He began producing "This American Life" as a weekly program in 1995 at WBEZ Chicago. The show is the only program in the history of broadcasting to win serious journalistic honors - the Peabody and Dupont awards - and also be invited to perform at HBO's Aspen Comedy Festival. Jessica Abel Jessica Abel started making comics in college, at the University of Chicago. Her early efforts appeared in the student anthology Breakdown. After college, in 1992, she won the infamous "Stinky

Date" contest in Hate comics, and, since she had arranged to meet Hate's creator Peter Bagge at the Chicago Comics Convention, she decided to put together a sampler of her comics to show him and the rest of the crew from Fantagraphics Books, his publisher. She printed 50 copies of Artbabe #1, but Fantagraphics publisher Gary Groth, who claims not to remember this encounter, didn't take the bait. Four issues (and four years) later, she won a Xeric grant, put out the first full-sized and professionally printed issue of Artbabe, thus finally appearing on Groth's radar, and beginning a new volume of Artbabe with Fantagraphics in 1997. Abel won the 1997 "Best New Talent" Harvey and Lulu awards and she completed Artbabe Volume 2 in early 1999. Abel currently lives in Mexico City with boyfriend Matt Madden, where she has been working on her Spanish and making a few minicomics.

This book makes me smile. It's a cute little illustrated piece and it is still able to touch on the basics of radio production. If you need a start, this is it.

If you have ever entertained the notion of trying to slow society's slide into stupor by giving your take on things some sort of voice, this is a great manual for using radio as your format. The format, as an illustrated guide, takes on the feel of a Boy Scout manual or some other type of DIY instruction. and you can't beat the price. Ira Glass' walkthrough of producing his show "This American Life" for NPR is boiled down to a primer on first focusing on the work to be presented, then the technical aspect of broadcasting it - an itemized list that can be applied to nearly ANY endeavor with a little metaphorical flexibility. Jessica Abel is a very competent caricaturist and graphic artist, whose presentation of a very technical (and occasionally wordy) subject matter added greatly not only to the understandability, but made it an enjoyable read and browse. I pick this up and look at it all the time. I have to give it four stars because it's not really for every body - BUT! If you are thinking of doing radio because you love it and you can't imagine not doing it (because there's no money, apparently) this is a great map to set you on your way, and a sensible guide to assembling tools and techniques. If you are a fan of "this American Life," maybe this is the final factor in your own transition from radio listener to radio contributor.

Pretty much everything I wanted out of this. Short, well-illustrated and straight to the point.

Having read "Radio", I can say it is packed with information not only on the production, but on how to tell a story. My son is a natural conversationalist, I asked him how does he put together his

stories. He said he didn't know and I suggested wouldn't it be cool to understand how the dynamics/mechanics of storytelling work. He simply shrugged his shoulders and said, "I dunno". He works for me in the summer and I told him I would pay him to read this book in lieu of working. He liked that idea. He read the story in about an hour. Now he has the rhyme to the reason. This comic is a great read and should be required for any collegiate types.

I didn't know what to expect when I ordered this. All I knew was that I knew nothing about radio. This little comic has changed that however. With its easy to read format and great illustrations I was able to understand the fundamentals of radio production in about an hour. I'm not going to be producing any award winning series anytime soon but I will be able to mumble an 'affirmative' grunt here and there should the topic ever arise in a conversation. Overall, it was worth the money. I gave it a 4 star rating rather than a 5 only because I wish there was more of it. If you want to know the absolute basics of production then buy it.

Even including shipping, it is much much cheaper to buy from this American Life. A little annoying that it is over 4 times the price on here, that doesn't seem right. Plus I would rather give my money to TAL directly than (much as I do like )

I recently started a one-man show on a community radio station. I quickly learned it isn't hard to do, but it's very hard to do very well. Wanting some tips on the cheap, I found this book. It reads like a good Ira Glass story - the small picture blending seamlessly into the big one. I particularly appreciated sections on how to interview effectively, and basics of how to edit tape on a home computer. If you love This American Life, or want to try your own radio show, or both, this is the best four bucks you will ever spend.

The team at "This American Life" tell stories as well as anyone in the media. This book was recommended to me during a seminar on multimedia storytelling for photographers, so its value is not limited to those who only want to do radio. It's a comic book, but not shallow. Anything but. Ira Glass and his team at Chicago Public Radio go through how a particular week's show, Do-Gooders, was produced as well as basic tip for anyone wanting to do documentary audio work. This is a little gem.

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