Storytelling does not always need the page, and there is one medium that has experienced an astonishing surge in popularity and accessibility over the last few years: audiobooks. Recognizing the immense potential of this format, Publishing Scotland is proud to unveil the five fabulous books that have been taken through our first Audiobook Project.

_Elena Knows_ by Claudia Piñeiro
Translated by Frances Riddle
Published by Charco Press
Narrated by Sally Masterson

_Elena Knows_ is the story of a mother on the hunt for the truth about her daughter’s death while she deals with her own health struggles.

Charco has had ambitions to explore producing audiobook editions for our titles for some time, but as a small publisher the cost and resource of entry can be daunting and prohibitive. This initiative by Publishing Scotland has allowed us to take the first step with this format, and bring one of our most popular titles, _Elena Knows_, to a new audience. It is an exciting moment for us. – Samuel McDowell, Charco Press

Every sentence in _Elena Knows_ matters. Laden with detail, the reader is forced to experience a full range of emotions from shock, to anger and indignation. It was a privilege to have the chance to be so vocally immersed in such a poignant and thought-provoking novel. – Sally Masterson

In collaboration with Offbeat Productions, a renowned production company based in Edinburgh, five independent publishers – 404 Ink, Saraband, Ringwood Publishing, Charco Press and Haunt Publishing – were selected to participate in this project with the aims to both support them in creating high-quality audiobooks and provide them with valuable experience and insights in this rapidly growing market.

The books, from both new writers and award-winning authors, encompass a diverse range of genres, including literary thriller, memoir, true crime, and horror. These are genres that perform well with audiobook listeners, providing the opportunity for the publishers to reach a wider audience.
Over the last 5 years, the audiobook market has grown with a year on year average of 11.7%, and, in 2022, its market share was worth £205.4m. The ease with which people can now download audiobooks, onto phones and other handheld audio devices, means that this format for storytelling will only continue to build an audience. It is vital that Scotland’s publishers make the most of these opportunities.

How to Survive Everything by Ewan Morrison
Published by Saraband
Narrated by Olivia Caw

*How to Survive Everything* is a literary thriller of a family trying to survive a deadly pandemic.

I was thrilled when *How To Survive Everything* was selected for this project! The book is a rollercoaster of emotions, fast-paced, full of twists, funny and subversive and at times quite dark – vintage Ewan Morrison. I’d previously thought it would be a very difficult project to produce: nigh on impossible to find a narrator who could do all this convincingly as a teenage girl. But Iain at Offbeat found our narrator and she nailed it. They were an unstoppable team! I couldn’t have been happier with the outcome, and the whole process was great. – Sara Hunt, Saraband

Bringing Ewan’s wonderful work to life for this audiobook has been a joy. Getting to know the intricate but familiar characters and giving them a voice was a pleasure. The story is a rollercoaster, and I hope people will enjoy listening as much as we enjoyed recording. The opportunity by Publishing Scotland has opened doors that were tight shut prior to being cast. – Olivia Caw

Offbeat Productions, with its wealth of experience and expertise in audiobook production, has been a brilliant collaborator, guiding both Publishing Scotland and the publishers throughout the project.

Iain McKinna at Offbeat said: *When Publishing Scotland contacted me to produce 5 audiobooks for their initiative to encourage publishers to make audiobooks I was extremely excited to be involved. We have been working to establish Offbeat as the no1 production house for audiobooks in Scotland and this was a major opportunity.*

*Once the winners were announced from their shortlist I was astonished by the quality and range of books that were chosen. My difficult task was to find the right narrators for the titles and this meant offering each publisher a range of voices to choose from.*

The project also gave Iain a chance to coach two narrators who had never worked on audiobooks before: Carrie Marshall and Olivia Caw.
Carrie Kills a Man by Carrie Marshall
Published by 404 Ink
Narrated by Carrie Marshall

Carrie Kills a Man is an honest, moving and frequently funny memoir of transwomanhood.

The only thing I love more than listening to audiobooks is recording audiobooks, so I'm enormously grateful to Publishing Scotland and Iain at Offbeat Studios for making the audiobook of Carrie Kills A Man not just possible but such a pleasure too. It's the most fun I've ever had in front of a microphone and I can't wait for people to hear it. – Carrie Marshall

The Gingerbread Man by Joanne Corrance
Published by Haunt Publishing
Narrated by Steve Worsley

The Gingerbread Man is a horror story of desire, revenge and ambition set in an eerie Highland hotel.

The Gingerbread Men was an utter joy for me to narrate. A wonderfully dark and evocative story, with so many rich characters and twists and turns for me to sink my teeth into as an actor. It was a real gift. The words just jumped off the page so all I had to do was show up and say them! – Steve Worsley

It's great to see more audiobook projects happening in Scottish publishing. It's hard for indie publishers to compete, and to get the money together for them. Joanna was over the moon, and the narrator was perfect.
– Rebecca Wojturska, Haunt Publishing

Ruxton: The First Modern Murder by Tom Wood
Published by Ringwood Publishing
Narrated by Steve Worsley

Ruxton is a true crime tale of jealousy and murder that led to pioneering work in forensic science.

I love to read audiobooks, but it's even more fun when the subject matter is so fascinating. A perfectly documented account of a terrible event and the resulting trial. But best of all is how Tom Wood gave real insight into the lives of everyone involved, from the perpetrator and victims, to the amazing lawmen who were breaking new ground way ahead of their time. Brilliant! – Steve Worsley
About Publishing Scotland: Publishing Scotland is the leading trade and network body for the book publishing industry in Scotland. It supports publishers and promotes the interests of the industry, both nationally and internationally. Publishing Scotland aims to increase the profile and reach of Scottish books and publishers through various initiatives and partnerships.

About Offbeat Productions: Offbeat Productions is a renowned production company specializing in the creation of high-quality audiobooks. With a passion for storytelling and a commitment to excellence, Offbeat Productions collaborates with publishers, authors, and actors to bring captivating narratives to life in the audiobook format.

Publishing Scotland would also like to thank Creative Scotland for enabling this project through their cultural recovery fund.

About Creative Scotland: Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. Creative Scotland distributes funds from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery, and make awards to individual writers, publishers and literary organisations based in or from Scotland through a variety of funding streams. Organisations supported by Creative Scotland include Publishing Scotland, Edinburgh International Book Festival and Glasgow Women’s Library.