

NEWS RELEASE

Hudson Unveils Its “Best Books of 2023”

Hudson by Avolta Names *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros “Book of the Year” and Announces Its Inaugural “Audiobook of the Year” Recipient

East Rutherford, New Jersey (Dec. 4, 2023) – [Hudson](#), part of [Avolta AG](#) (SIX: AVOL) and a travel experience leader with more than 1,000 stores in airports, commuter hubs, landmarks, and tourist destinations across North America, has released its “Best Books of 2023” list. This year’s top reads were selected from nominations submitted by Hudson team members — from booksellers and buyers to Hudson executives and other avid readers across the company.

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros emerged as a clear favorite this year, earning it the top spot as Hudson’s “Book of the Year.” A gripping tale of love, sacrifice, and the unbreakable bonds that form in the crucible of adversity, *Fourth Wing* resonated deeply with those who read it. Book Buyer Paige Fitzgerald called it “engaging and entertaining” and commended Yarros’ writing, while Book Marketing Manager Russell Roth said *Fourth Wing* “masterfully wields the power of dragons, infusing the narrative with a relentless, fiery intensity that ignites the imagination and leaves an indelible mark on every page.”

For the first time, Hudson has also selected a title as “Audiobook of the Year” — naming *Tom Lake*, written by Ann Patchett and narrated by Meryl Streep, its inaugural winner. To celebrate this expansion into a new medium, Hudson has partnered with Libro.fm to offer *Tom Lake* as a free audiobook to customers who purchase one of the “Best Books of 2023” titles in store or online at [HudsonBooksellers.com](#).

“Our ‘Best Books’ program is my favorite every year. It’s the culmination of a year’s worth of conversations around books we love that happen every day in our stores, and between our booksellers, publishers, and friends,” said Sara Hinckley, Avolta’s Vice President, Category Management, Books and Media, North America. “While everyone will have their own personal favorite, our ‘Best Books’ list is a compilation of the varying passions and perspectives of the Avolta team across North America, representing the best of what books offer us: entertainment, escape, enlightenment, and empathy.”

Top Ten Fiction:

1. *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros
2. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
3. *Tress of the Emerald Sea* by Brandon Sanderson
4. *Happy Place* by Emily Henry
5. *Loot* by Tania James
6. *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
7. *Chain Gang All Stars* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah
8. *The Postcard* by Anne Berest
9. *Lone Women* by Victor LaValle
10. *Let Us Descend* by Jesmyn Ward

Top Ten Non-Fiction:

1. *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder* by David Grann
2. *Poverty, By America* by Matthew Desmond
3. *Quietly Hostile: Essays* by Samantha Irby

4. *Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden* by Camille T Dungy
5. *Airplane Mode: An Irreverent History of Travel* by Shahnaz Habib
6. *How to Say Babylon: A Memoir* by Safiya Sinclair
7. *Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon* by Michael Lewis
8. *The Best Strangers in the World: Stories from a Life Spent Listening* by Ari Shapiro
9. *Quantum Criminals: Ramblers, Wild Gamblers, and Other Sole Survivors from the Songs of Steely Dan* by Alex Pappademas, Joan LeMay
10. *Rocky Mountain High: A Tale of Boom and Bust in the New Wild West* by Finn Murphy

A selection of the “Best Books of 2023” will be available in Hudson stores across North America beginning Dec. 5, 2023. The complete list, including additional bookseller favorites from the year along with reviews, can be found at <https://www.hudsonbooksellers.com/best-books-2023> or as an audiobook collection at <https://libro.fm/playlists/5885>.

For further information

Contact

Ashley Davidson

Director, Corporate Communications
North America
Avolta



Ashley.Davidson@HMSHost.com

About Hudson and Avolta

Hudson is a travel experience company turning the world of travel into a world of opportunity by being the Traveler's Best Friend in airports, commuter hubs, landmarks, and tourist locations across North America. Our team members care for travelers as friends at our travel convenience, specialty retail, duty free, and food and beverage destinations. At the intersection of travel and retail, we partner with landlords and vendors, and take innovative, commercial approaches to deliver exceptional value.

Hudson is part of Avolta AG (SIX: AVOL), a leading global travel experience player. With the traveler at its strategic core, Avolta maximizes every moment of the traveler's journey through its combination of travel retail and travel food & beverage, passion for innovation and excellent execution. Avolta's well-diversified business across geographical, channel and brand portfolio pillars operates in 75 countries and 1,200 locations, with 5,500 points of sale across three segments – duty-free, food & beverage and convenience – and various channels, including airports, motorways, cruises ferries, railway, border shops and downtown. An inherent element of Avolta's business strategy is found in ESG, aiming for sustainable and profitable growth of the company while fostering high standards of environmental stewardship and social equity – making meaningful impact in the local communities. The company's access to 2.3 billion passengers each year reinforces the power of its more than 60,000 people, committed to surprising guests and delivering solid execution, supporting the company in creating value for all stakeholders.

To learn more about Avolta, please visit avoltaworld.com, or connect on [LinkedIn](#).

To learn more about how Hudson can make your location a travel destination, please visit us at hudsongroup.com or follow our journey on [LinkedIn](#).

About Hudson Booksellers

Hudson is the airports' leading bookseller; we sell books in over 500 stores across North America. As the travelers' local bookstore for over 30 years, we are a cultural gateway between our home cities and a world of

destinations, curating a diverse and representative assortment. We celebrate local authors as well as international prizewinners; we support small and independent presses and always have the latest bestsellers. Our knowledgeable and empowered booksellers are integral to our service and selection. Proud members of the American Booksellers Association, we are honored to work with some of the most iconic independent bookstores in the country. Our proprietary brands include Hudson Booksellers and INK. Please visit us at hudsonbooksellers.com or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).