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Date: 10/11/2016

ESSENTIAL AUDIOBOOKSEXCITING JOINT VENTURE WITH CLARET PRESS

*Chance encounters lead to successful partnerships*

Earlier this year at the London Book Fair, Catherine O’Brien, CEO of fledgling company Essential Audiobooks, was searching for new titles to add to their Classic Publications. O’Brien had the good fortune to meet Claret Press CEO, Katie Isbester, who happened to have titles that would make perfect audiobooks.

Essential Audiobooks has now produced audiobook versions of five Claret Press titles, one of which, *Brushstrokes in Time*, written by Sylvia Vetta and performed by Caroline McLaughlin, is well on the way to being a best seller in the United States and, soon to be in the United Kingdom.

O’Brien said “Some things are just meant to be. I fell in love with Little Winter’s story in *Brushstrokes in Time* and knew I had to find the perfect narrator to do it justice. Many auditions later, I had another chance encounter with the sublimely talented Caroline Huang McLaughlin, and knew I had found my Little Winter.”

McLaughlin immediately connected with *Brushstrokes*, saying, “Catherine was looking beyond my ability to speak Chinese. She needed someone who could understand the story. I read the first line of *Brushstrokes* and I thought *‘I know this person’*. I’ve known people like her. *Brushstrokes* spoke to me on a level that no other book has.”

It is a story that touched the hearts of everyone contributing to the production, including Emmy award winning artist, Winnie O’Brien and exciting young composer Alistair Robertson. They both undertook extensive research to keep the production as authentic as possible. Winnie O’Brien consulted Chinese calligraphy experts, and Robertson used a Chinese guitar in the musical arrangement of the theme music.

Catherine O’Brien will be in Oxford on November 16th with Sylvia Vetta and Katie Isbester to talk about creating the audiobook production of *Brushstrokes in Time*.

About Essential Audiobooks

Essential Audiobooks publish audio editions of classic and modern literature, expertly told by talented narrators, whose technical and artistic skillsbring the greatest classics of literature vividly to life. Featuring music composed for each edition, Essential Audiobooks are available to download, or to purchase as Deluxe CD editions, complete with beautifully illustrated covers**,** making a stunning addition to any booklover’s collection.

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