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***Kingdom of Florida: The Golden Alligator* gets audiobook treatment**

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, July 2, 2020 - Following the successful launch of his *Kingdom of Florida* series in paperback and ebook formats, author and creator Taylor Thomas Smythe announced that the first installment, *The Golden Alligator*, will be released as a new digital audiobook.

“These stories were inspired by the sorts of books my parents read to me as a child,” Smythe explained. “So to be able to offer the first of these as an audiobook, where you get to have the story read aloud to you, makes perfect sense.” He also notes that the audiobook format provides a reading option for those for whom reading can be difficult. “It was important to allow those with dyslexia, for example, an option to experience this magical world.”

The process of adapting the novels to an audible format was not without its own challenges, says Smythe. “Much like the steps I took when publishing the first paperback book, recording and engineering an audiobook has a learning curve. I personally enjoy that process of watching tutorials and finding information on the internet—it’s a new skill that opens a whole new creative outlet, which allows me to imagine even more ideas of where this series—and others—can go in the future.”

While there were numerous technical hurdles involved, Smythe found other challenges exciting. “When narrating a story, you have to figure out not only your own voice but those of the characters,” he said. “The good news is that I wrote these characters, so I had a pretty good idea of how I thought they should sound. That may be different than how the readers imagine it, but that’s the beauty of books.”

Smythe also revealed plans to record the rest of the series, hopeful for release dates this summer or fall. “It would be wonderful to have the other three out before the fifth book drops, but they involve many hours of focused, quiet work, so it’s hard to rush the process.”

The series, which has echoes of such classics as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Harry Potter*, or L. Frank Baum’s *Oz* books, follows the journey of a group of South Florida children as they discover a magical parallel world ruled by an evil prince. With four books available now, Smythe promises a fifth installment before year’s end, with more to follow.

The first four *Kingdom of Florida* books are independently published and available at www.kingdomofflorida.com in paperback, hardcover, and Kindle ebook. The first installment, *The Golden Alligator*, is available now as an audiobook on various platforms, including Apple, Audible, Amazon, and others.