

These are The Economist's favourite podcasts of 2023

They covered subjects including empire, medical scandals and war

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“The Big Flop”

A ^{详细查究} **dissection** of failures, covering everything from Quibi, a short-lived mobile-video platform, to Juicero, an expensive but pointless drinks machine. This podcast lays out how bad ideas become a (usually brief) reality.

这个播客剖析了一系列失败案例，从短命的移动视频平台 Quibi 到昂贵且毫无意义的饮料机 Juicero，涵盖了所有内容。它清楚地展示了不好的想法如何变成（通常很短暂的）现实。

[Read more of our guides to the cultural treats of 2023](#)

“Drifting Off with Joe Pera”

Joe Pera, an American comedian, invites listeners to ^{打瞌睡、睡着} **doze off** to his relaxing tones. Episodes feature tales of the ^{/mʌn'deɪn/ 单调的、平凡的} **mundane**: a tour of a music shop, for example, and a history of soup. ^{/ɪn'sɑːmniə/ 失眠者} **Insomniacs** will ^{高兴} **delight** in his gentle narration—even if they never get to the end of a show.

美国喜剧演员乔·皮拉以他轻松的声音邀请听众进入梦乡。每集都讲述些平凡的故事，比如参观音乐店，以及汤的历史。失眠者将会喜欢他温和的叙述，即使他们可能永远都不会听完一整集。

“Empire”

/ˌʌntæŋɡl/清理、解决、解开...纠结

This podcast **untangles** colonialism's complex legacy. William Dalrymple and Anita Anand have examined the **imperial** ^{/ˌɪmˈpiəriəl/帝国的} pasts of Britain and Russia, as well as the history of slavery. The latest season focuses on Persia, “the first great superpower”.

这个播客深入剖析了殖民主义所留下的复杂遗产。威廉·达尔姆普尔和阿妮塔·安南德探究了英国和俄罗斯的帝国过去，以及奴隶制的历史。最新一季的重点放在波斯，即“第一个伟大的超级大国”。

“Holy Week”

/əˌsæsrɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/暗杀、行刺

A look at the days following the **assassination** of Martin Luther King in Memphis in 1968. With a skilful script and atmospheric ^{/ˌætməˈsfɪrɪk/有神秘（美）感的} music, the show also examines the trade-offs of the civil-rights movement, extending its analysis to the present day.

这个节目讲述了 1968 年在孟菲斯刺杀马丁·路德·金后的几天。这个节目还探讨了民权运动的取舍，并通过巧妙的剧本和氛围音乐，将其分析延伸到了现今。

“If Books Could Kill”

/ˈflɑːki/劣质的

内疚的、羞愧的

For many, the **schlocky** books you might buy in an airport are **a guilty** pleasure. This podcast, which **rips** ^{严厉批评} such books apart, is an even greater indulgence. The hosts' irreverent ^{/ɪˈrevərənt/不敬的、无礼的} analysis makes you laugh as you learn.

对许多人来说，在机场购买的劣质书籍是一种内心的愉悦。这个播客则更加放纵地将这些书籍批判得体无完肤，让人更加沉迷其中。主持人聪明而不拘一格的分析让你在学习的同时也能开怀大笑。

“The Kids of Rutherford County”

少年司法

/ˈkrɒnɪklz/编年史、记事

The latest podcast from Serial and the New York Times investigates the collapse of the juvenile-justice system in a county in Tennessee. The series **chronicles** how children were arrested and illegally jailed, before documenting the struggle to hold those responsible **accountable** ^{负有责任的、可理解的}.

Serial 和纽约时报联合推出的最新播客调查了田纳西州一个县的未成年司法系统的崩溃。该系列节目记述了儿童被逮捕和非法监禁的过程。随后，该系列节目记录了追究责任的艰辛过程。

“Normal Gossip”

Each episode of this podcast recounts drama from the ^{/bəˈnɑ:l/ 平淡无奇的、平庸的} banal worlds of farmers' markets, ^{公寓合租} flatshares and first jobs. All the stories are true but ^{/əˈnɒnɪmaɪz/ 匿名} anonymised; each ^{/ˈɪnstəlmənt/ 连载故事的一节} instalment is gripping. It is a masterclass in storytelling.

这个播客的每一集讲述了农贸市场、合租公寓和第一份工作等普通世界中的戏剧故事。所有的故事都是真实的，但匿名处理；每一集都让人着迷。这个播客就是一个讲故事的大师级教程。

“Operation Tradebom”

In 1993 a bombing at the World Trade Centre in New York killed six people and injured more than 1,000. This podcast, marking the 30th anniversary of the attack, lets witnesses and victims speak for themselves. It describes the subsequent investigation and the parallels with the ^{/əˈsɔ:lt/ 军事袭击} assault on the twin towers eight years later.

1993 年，纽约世界贸易中心发生了一起爆炸事件，造成六人死亡，1000 多人受伤。这个播客是为了纪念这次袭击的 30 周年，让目击者和受害者为自己说话。它描述了随后的调查，并与八年后对双子塔的袭击进行了比较。

“Past Present Future”

David Runciman, a professor of politics at Cambridge University, hosts this enlightening podcast about the history of ideas. In commute-length episodes, he surveys the work of thinkers including James Baldwin, John Rawls and Virginia Woolf.

这个启发性的播客节目由剑桥大学政治学教授大卫·朗赛曼主持，它讲述了思想史。在每集通勤时间长度的节目中，他概述了包括詹姆斯·鲍德温、约翰·罗尔斯和弗吉尼亚·伍尔夫在内的思想家的作品。

“The Retrievals”

Women who underwent egg ^{检索、取回} retrievals at a ^{/fər'tɪləti/肥沃、富饶} fertility clinic found themselves in ^{agony 'æɡəni/剧痛} agonising pain. A nurse, who was an addict, had been stealing the ^{/ˈfentənɪl/芬太尼 (主要用作止痛剂)} fentanyl. The women ^{叙述、说明} recount their ^{/ˈnaɪtməriʃ/可怕的、噩梦般的} nightmarish experiences and highlight an enduring problem: that parts of the medical establishment still ignore women's suffering. A real-life horror story.

在生育诊所接受取卵手术的女性发现自己处于极度痛苦之中。一名护士是一名瘾君子，一直在偷芬太尼。这些妇女讲述了她们噩梦般的经历，并强调了一个长期存在的问题：部分医疗机构仍然忽视妇女的痛苦。一个真实的恐怖故事。

“Search Engine”

PJ Vogt seeks to answer the “kinds of questions you might ask the internet when you can't sleep”. (For instance: “Does anyone actually like their job?”) Some episodes tackle newsy topics, such as the ^{/ˈoʊpiɔɪd/鸦片类} opioid crisis and the ^{/ˈtræveɪl/艰难处境} travails of Sam Bankman-Fried, a disgraced crypto-billionaire.

PJ Vogt 试图回答“当你无法入睡时可能会在互联网上提出的各种问题”。（例如：“有人真的喜欢他们的工作吗？”）有些剧集涉及新闻话题，例如鸦片类药物危机和名誉扫地的加密货币亿万富翁山姆·班克曼·弗里德（Sam Bankman-Fried）的痛苦经历。

“Slow Burn: Becoming Justice Thomas”

This ^{迷人的、吸引人的} engaging podcast examines the career of Clarence Thomas, a Supreme Court justice since 1991, as well as his politics, his controversial confirmation and the Anita Hill sexual-harassment scandal.

这个引人入胜的播客探讨了自 1991 年以来担任最高法院法官的克拉伦斯·托马斯（Clarence Thomas）的职业生涯、他的政治观点、他备受争议的确认和安妮塔·希尔（Anita Hill）性骚扰丑闻。

“Ukraine: Under the Counter” and “Ukraine: The Handoff”

Women who had been raped by Russian soldiers in Bucha posted pleas for abortion pills online. A doctor smuggled thousands of tablets from Germany, through Poland to Ukraine. “Each of these pills is a story,” says Molly Webster, the host, who works at Radiolab. The shows reflect on motherhood, pregnancy and war.

在布恰被俄罗斯士兵强奸的妇女在网上求堕胎药。一名医生从德国通过波兰将数千片药片走私到乌克兰。“每一颗药丸都是一个故事，”在 Radiolab 工作的主持人莫莉·韦伯斯特（Molly Webster）说。这些节目反映了母性、怀孕和战争。