

HDV SPEAKS

Forged in Pain. Redeemed by Grace.

Your Voice. Your Chapter. Your Recording Guide.

AUDIOBOOK PROJECT · STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

You don't need a professional studio. You don't need expensive equipment. You just need a quiet space, a few minutes, and the same courage that got your story on the page in the first place. I'll handle everything else.

— HECTOR DEL VALLE, MSW · HDV SPEAKS



WHAT YOU'RE BEING ASKED TO DO

The short version — read this first

We're creating an audiobook version of our collaboration book for Audible. Instead of hiring one generic narrator to read every chapter, we're using AI technology to give each author their own voice in the audiobook — so your chapter sounds like *you*.

To do that, we need a short sample recording of you reading naturally. From that sample, the AI learns your voice and narrates your full chapter. You only need to record **2 to 5 minutes** — that's it. The whole process, start to finish, should take you less than 30 minutes.

Before you record: Make sure you've returned your signed Voice Consent & Release Agreement. If you haven't received it or have questions about it, contact Hector before submitting your recording.

1

CHOOSE WHAT TO READ

Pick a passage from your chapter

Open your chapter and choose any passage you'd like to read aloud for your sample. There's no wrong choice — just pick something that feels natural and representative of how you write and speak.

TIPS FOR CHOOSING YOUR PASSAGE

Pick something you're comfortable with. If you wrote a section that flows naturally when you say it aloud, that's your passage.

Avoid very short sentences or lists. The AI learns best from conversational, flowing speech. A paragraph of narrative or reflection works better than a bulleted section.

Aim for 2–5 minutes of reading. At a natural pace, that's roughly 300–750 words. You don't need to time it precisely — just read until it feels complete.

Read it through once before recording. A quick rehearsal makes a real difference. You'll catch any words that trip you up and settle into your natural rhythm.

2

SET UP YOUR SPACE

Quiet and still beats professional every time

The most important thing about your recording environment isn't the equipment — it's the room. Here's how to set yourself up for a clean recording wherever you are.

✓ GOOD SPACES

- ✓ A bedroom with soft furnishings (bed, curtains, carpet absorb echo)
- ✓ A small closet — seriously, clothes are excellent sound absorbers
- ✓ A carpeted living room with the TV off
- ✓ A car parked in a quiet spot (the seats absorb sound beautifully)
- ✓ A room with bookshelves — books break up echo

✗ AVOID THESE

- ✗ Kitchens and bathrooms — hard surfaces create echo
- ✗ Rooms near a busy street or noisy HVAC
- ✗ Anywhere with a fan, air conditioner, or refrigerator hum in the background
- ✗ Open outdoor spaces — wind ruins recordings
- ✗ Coffee shops or any public space

Quick echo test: Stand in your chosen space and clap once sharply. If you hear a clear echo or reverb, find a different spot. If it sounds flat and dull, you're in a good room.

3

RECORD ON YOUR DEVICE

Use whatever you have — phone, tablet, or computer

You do not need special equipment. A modern smartphone records more than well enough for this purpose. Below are instructions for the most common devices.



IPHONE

- Open **Voice** app
the **Memos** (it's
built in
—
search
for it)
- Tap the red circle to
start recording
- Hold phone 6–8
inches from your
mouth
- Read your passage
naturally
- Tap the red square to
stop
- Tap the recording,
then the three dots
(...) → Share → Save
to Files or email to
yourself



ANDROID

- Open **Voice** or **Sound** (search
Recorder **Recorder** your
apps)
- Samsung: look for "Voice Recorder" in
your app drawer
- Tap the red microphone button to
start
- Hold phone 6–8 inches from your
mouth
- Read your passage
- Tap Stop, then find the file in your
recordings folder to share



COMPUTER

- **Mac:** Open QuickTime
Player → File →
New Audio
Recording →
click the red
button
- **Windows:** Search
"Voice
Recorder"
in the Start
menu →
Open →
click the
microphone
- Speak toward the built-
in mic or plug in
earbuds with a mic
- Stop, then save the file
to your desktop

Earbuds with a microphone (like the ones that come with a smartphone) held near your mouth are a simple upgrade if you have them. They often record cleaner than a device's built-in mic. If you don't have them, the built-in mic works fine.

4

HOW TO READ FOR THE BEST RESULT

Natural always beats perfect

The AI is listening for *you* — your natural rhythm, your pauses, your tone. The more natural you sound, the better it will replicate your voice across the full chapter.

✓ DO THIS

✗ AVOID THIS

- ✓ Read at your normal conversational pace — not too slow, not rushed
- ✓ Speak clearly but naturally, the way you'd read aloud to a friend
- ✓ Pause briefly at commas and periods — let the punctuation breathe
- ✓ If you stumble, pause for 2 seconds and re-read the sentence from the beginning
- ✓ Keep the mic 6–8 inches from your mouth throughout
- ✓ Sit comfortably — your posture affects how you breathe and sound

- ✗ Don't "perform" or use a dramatic announcer voice — just be you
- ✗ Don't hold the mic directly in front of your mouth — breath pops will ruin the recording
- ✗ Don't record in one take if you make errors — just pause and re-read
- ✗ Don't whisper or speak too quietly — a confident, clear voice records best
- ✗ Don't leave the TV, music, or a fan running in the background

5

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT — QUICK CHECK

Take 60 seconds to confirm your recording is ready

Play back your recording before submitting. Listen for the following:

- ☐ I can hear my voice clearly throughout the entire recording
- ☐ There is no loud background noise (fan, TV, street noise, air conditioner)
- ☐ There is no significant echo or hollow sound
- ☐ The recording is at least 2 minutes long
- ☐ I re-read any sentences where I stumbled or mispronounced a word
- ☐ I am satisfied this sounds like me speaking naturally

Not perfect? That's okay. We're not looking for studio quality — we're looking for your natural voice. If you can hear yourself clearly and there's no major background noise, it's ready to submit. If you're truly unhappy with it, simply re-record and submit the better version.

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HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR RECORDING

One simple upload — no account required

Use the link below to upload your file directly to our secure project folder. You do not need a Google account — just click the link, select your file, and upload. It's that simple.

OPTION 1 — UPLOAD DIRECTLY TO GOOGLE DRIVE

drive.google.com — HDV Speaks Audiobook Submissions

Click the link, select your file, and upload. No Google account required.

— OR —

OPTION 2 — SUBMIT VIA GOOGLE FORM

forms.gle/GbU2kUs9XmtCB2eg9

Prefer a guided experience? The form walks you through the submission step by step and lets you attach your file directly.

Name your file before uploading using this format:

`YourLastName_YourFirstName_VoiceSample.m4a`
Example: `Johnson_Maria_VoiceSample.m4a`

The file format doesn't need to be exact — .m4a, .mp3, .wav, and .aac are all fine. What matters is that your name is in the filename so we can match it to your chapter.

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DEADLINE & CONTACT

We're here if you need us

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

July 29, 2026

Please submit by this date so we can stay on schedule for the audiobook launch.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT HECTOR DIRECTLY

mswhectordelvalle@gmail.com

No question is too small. If something isn't working, reach out and we'll figure it out together.

HDV Speaks · mswhectordelvalle@gmail.com · hdvspeaks.org

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"For I know the plans I have for you..." — Jeremiah 29:11