



Classic Pre-20th Century British Novels

Featured here are classic British novels from the likes of Dickens, Austen, Defoe, and many more. Older titles are still being converted from analog to digital, so some of these titles may only be available in the old cassette format. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

Pride and Prejudice By Jane Austen

Read by Jennifer Mendenhall Reading time 12 hours, 8 minutes

A classic novel of social customs in late eighteenth-century England. Depicts the personality clash between Elizabeth Bennet, one of five daughters of a country gentleman, and prosperous, aristocratic landowner Fitzwilliam Darcy, which eventually develops into courtship. 1813.

[Download from BARD: Pride and Prejudice](#)

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Three Gothic Novels By William Beckford

Read by Norman Barrs Reading time 11 hours, 55 minutes

Three examples of nineteenth-century Gothic literature--Walpole's 'Castle of Otranto', Beckford's 'Vathek', and Polidori's 'Vampyre'--plus a fragment of a novel by Lord Byron.

[Download from BARD: Three Gothic Novels](#)

Also available on cassette RC016603

Jane Eyre By Charlotte Brontë

Read by Jennifer Mendenhall Reading time 20 hours, 15 minutes
Nineteenth-century English novel about a plain and intelligent woman who becomes the governess at an estate, is caught up in the mysteries of the manor, and falls in love with the master of the house.

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The Pilgrim's Progress from this World to that Which is to Come &, Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners By John Bunyan

Read by Michael Scherer Reading time 17 hours, 26 minutes
Two classic works by English Puritan John Bunyan (1628-1688). In the allegorical tale Pilgrim's Progress, the protagonist, burdened by sin, leaves the City of Destruction to find Zion, the city of God. His journey embodies Christian teachings. In Grace Abounding, Bunyan recounts his conversion and spiritual growth. 2004.

[Download from BARD: The Pilgrim's Progress from this World to that...](#)

Also available on cassette RC059950

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Also available in braille BR015964

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and, Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There By Lewis Carroll

Read by Yvonne Fair Tessler Reading time 6 hours, 11 minutes
Extraordinary things happen when a little girl falls down a rabbit hole and encounters the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, and other unusual characters. Alice's second adventure takes her to a land with a peculiar back-to-front order in which everything is reversed. For grades 3-6 and older readers. 1865.

[Download from BARD: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through...](#)

Also available on cassette RC012392 OR RC050842

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Also available in braille BR001412 OR BR012746

The Canterbury Tales By Geoffrey Chaucer

Read by Patrick Horgan

Reading time 15 hours, 19 minutes

A poetic comedy from fourteenth-century England. During the annual April pilgrimage to Thomas a Becket's shrine at Canterbury, the travelers stop at the Tabard Inn, where their host suggests a story-telling contest. The jovial tellers of the ribald tales include a friar, summoner, nun's priest, and miller. 1977.

[Download from BARD: The Canterbury Tales](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB020461

Also available on cassette RC020461

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Also available in braille BR000466 or BR013235

The Woman in White By Wilkie Collins

Read by Patrick Horgan

Reading time 25 hours

A Victorian melodrama concerning a mysterious woman in white who bears an uncanny resemblance to the fiancée of Count Fosco, a sophisticated fortune hunter. First published as a serial between 1859 and 1860, this chronicle of evil, suspense, and villainy is believed to be the first English novel to deal with crime detection. 1859.

[Download from BARD: The Woman in White](#)

Also available on cassette RC020577

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Also available in braille BR009083

Heart of Darkness, and The Secret Sharer By Joseph Conrad

Read by Jack Hrkach

Reading time 6 hours, 40 minutes

Two short allegorical novels based on real events and related by the central characters. 'Heart of Darkness' concerns a journey into the center of the Congo. The further Marlow, the narrator, penetrates into the interior, the more compelling becomes his confrontation with the potential for inhumanity in himself and others. In 'The Secret Sharer' a sea captain faces his own nature when he conceals an escaping murderer with whom he identifies.

[Download from BARD: Heart of Darkness, and The Secret Sharer](#)

Also available on cassette RC012613

Robinson Crusoe By Daniel Defoe

Read by Harold Parker

Reading time 12 hours, 38 minutes

Crusoe runs away to sea, is shipwrecked, and leads a solitary existence on an uninhabited island near the Orinoco River for twenty-four years. He meets the difficulties of primitive life with ingenuity and at length finds a companion in a native whom he saves from cannibals.

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A Tale of Two Cities By Charles Dickens

Read by John Horton

Reading time 14 hours, 15 minutes

Englishman Sydney Carton and Frenchman Charles Darnay, who bear a strong physical resemblance to each other, love the same woman, Lucie Manette. The sacrifice by Carton for his friends is the climax of this story set in late-eighteenth-century London and Paris during the French Revolution. 1859.

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Also available in braille BR000818 or BR010640

The Mill on the Floss By George Eliot

Read by Flo Gibson

Reading time 20 hours, 10 minutes

Classic Victorian novel about Maggie Tulliver, a young woman from a working-class family in a small English town, who is dominated by her coarse older brother. In her pursuit of beauty and love, Maggie finds herself rejected by her brother and condemned by the respectable townspeople. 1860.

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Also available on cassette RC051267

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Tom Jones By Henry Fielding

Read by David Cutler

Reading time 42 hours, 54 minutes

Modernized edition of English comic, picaresque epic. Tom Jones, an orphan taken in by Squire Allworthy, is expelled from Allworthy's country estate for his wild indiscretions. Thus begins a series of adventures in which Tom loses his money, joins the army, and pursues his beloved to London. 1996 introduction. 1748.

[Download from BARD: Tom Jones](#)

Also available on cassette RC065165

Cousin Phillis and Other Stories By Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 13 hours, 7 minutes

Five Victorian short stories and the title novella by English novelist Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865). In Cousin Phillis seventeen-year-old Paul Manning meets his mother's distant relatives. Includes "Lizzie Leigh," "Morton Hall," "My French Master," "Half a Life-Time Ago," and "Manchester Marriage" and 2010 introduction and notes by Heather Glen. 1865.

[Download from BARD: Cousin Phillis and Other Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076813

The Vicar of Wakefield By Oliver Goldsmith

Read by Patrick Weddington

Reading time 6 hours, 41 minutes

A pastoral novel narrated by an unwordly, generous, and kindly vicar. He and his family are forced to move to humbler dwellings. The vicar's fortitude prevails despite the seduction of his daughter and his imprisonment for debt.

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Also available on cassette RC016498

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Also available in braille BR011061

Jude the Obscure By Thomas Hardy

Read by Grover Gardner Reading time 16 hours, 13 minutes

The author's last novel first published in 1896, dramatizes the tragic conflict between the carnal and spiritual life of Jude Fawley, who is torn between love for his cousin and a yearning to become a priest. The subject of marriage is treated with a candor unusual for its late Victorian context. 1978.

[Download from BARD: Jude the Obscure](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022745

Also available on cassette RC022745

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Also available in braille BR018655

Le Morte d'Arthur By Sir Thomas Malory

Read by Andrew Sofer Reading time 31 hours, 26 minutes

While Malory's fifteenth-century compilation of Arthurian legends has held its own since 1485, this new edition is designed for non-specialized modern readers. Editor R.M. Lumiansky also considers a manuscript discovered in Winchester, England, in 1934. Malory begins with the birth of Arthur, retells medieval tales of the Knights of the Round Table (including their quest for the Holy Grail), and concludes with King Arthur's death.

[Download from BARD: Le Morte d'Arthur](#)

Also available on cassette RC035429

The Ordeal of Richard Feverel By George Meredith

Read by Susan Gorsky

In this classic novel written in 1859, egotistic Sir Austin Feverel brings up his son Richard on an abstract and rigid system of education which breaks down when the boy reaches adolescence and first love.

Available on cassette RC016298

The Mysteries of Udolpho By Ann Ward Radcliffe

Read by Eda Seasongood

Classic Gothic mystery centers upon Emily St. Aubert, a young orphan born of Gascon parents and imprisoned by her despotic aunt in the somber castle of Udolpho in the Apennines.

Also available on cassette RC014457

Clarissa or, The History of a Young Lady By Samuel Richardson

Read by Anne Chodoff

First published in 1747, this is a classic novel about a well-brought-up young lady with high moral standards whose parents attempt to force her to marry a man she greatly dislikes.

Also available on cassette RC013407

Ivanhoe By Sir Walter Scott

Read by Patrick Horgan

Reading time 21 hours, 35 minutes

England during the time of Richard I is the background for this novel of chivalry. Among the characters are Robin Hood, King Richard, and Rebecca and Rowena, two beautiful women who both love Ivanhoe. First published in 1819.

[Download from BARD: Ivanhoe](#)

Also available on cassette RC025304

Also available in braille BR006805

Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus By Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

Read by Ronald B. Meyer

Reading time 8 hours, 32 minutes

Classic horror story. A monster, endowed with life by a young scientist named Frankenstein, later turns on his creator. Originally published in 1818.

[Download from BARD: Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus](#)

Also available on cassette RC025835

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12173](#)

Also available in braille BR012173

Roderick Random By Tobias George Smollett

Read by Mark Waldrip

Reading time 20 hours, 44 minutes

Eighteenth-century picaresque novel follows the career of an apprentice who goes out to seek his fortune. Story alternates between action on the high seas, where Roderick becomes a surgeon's assistant on a man-of-war, and the pleasures of the boudoir.

[Download from BARD: Roderick Random](#)

Also available on cassette RC019293

The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman By Laurence Sterne

Read by Alan Haines

Reading time 19 hours, 40 minutes

This classic tale, written in 1760, created a scandal when it was first published. Masquerading as an autobiography, Tristram's novel is a chaotic and droll account of his life from the time of his conception. In mock disdain for all rules of writing a novel, he creates highly original characters, digresses to offer his opinions at the slightest whim, and yields to suggestive humor.

[Download from BARD: The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy...](#)

Also available on cassette RC014401

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Also available in braille BR008812

Dracula By Bram Stoker

Read by John C. Reed

Reading time 17 hours, 3 minutes

A tale of vampires set in the late 19th century. Jonathan Harker, an English solicitor, visits Count Dracula in his Transylvania castle to transact some business, and soon learns that Dracula is not the ordinary man he appears, but a monster. His horror increases when Dracula moves to England. 1897.

[Download from BARD: Dracula](#)

Also available on cassette RC031689

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Also available in braille BR008277

Gulliver's Travels By Jonathan Swift

Read by Bradley Bransford

Reading time 14 hours, 32 minutes

Published in 1726 as a scornful satire on humankind, this novel follows the travels of Captain Lemuel Gulliver into remote and fanciful nations of the world. On his voyages he encounters miniature people, giants, horses with human reason, and a flying island. 1967.

[Download from BARD: Gulliver's Travels](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB023150

Also available on cassette RC023150

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12766](#)

Also available in braille BR012766 or BR002929

The Warden By Anthony Trollope

Read by George Patterson Reading time 8 hours, 13 minutes

The warden, a gentle and innocent old cleric living a quiet and contented life, is suddenly attacked by the newspapers for receiving the profits of a sinecure. Half in fear and half because of his scruples, he resigns his income and accepts penury.

[Download from BARD: The Warden](#)

Also available on cassette RC012363

Also available in braille BR008866

The Invisible Man By H.G. Wells

Read by David Cutler Reading time 6 hours, 43 minutes

Classic story about the scientist Griffin, who discovers a process that makes him invisible. At first he is euphoric about the wild and wonderful things his invisibility allows him to do, but he soon wishes he could change back. First published in 1897.

[Download from BARD: The Invisible Man](#)

Also available on cassette RC047064

The Picture of Dorian Gray By Oscar Wilde

Read by David Cutler Reading time 8 hours, 42 minutes

First published in the late nineteenth century. A beautiful youth has his portrait painted by an artist with a flair for the morbid. The portrait becomes the mirror of its innocent-appearing subject's inner life. Introduction by Edmund White. 1999.

[Download from BARD: the Picture of Dorian Gray](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056794

Also available on cassette RC056794

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17780](#)

Also available in braille BR017780 or BR009281