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Short, Sweet and Simple Fiction

Shorter adult fiction or short stories concerning friendship, family, relationships, inspiration, and nostalgic themes. 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](#).

Chicken Soup for the Soul 101 Inspirational Stories about Counting Your Blessings and Having a Positive Attitude By Jack Canfield

Read by Jim Bond

Reading time 10 hours, 48 minutes

Autobiographical sketches from people who have summoned their inner strength to overcome challenges and find ways to make their lives more meaningful. Foreword by newscaster Deborah Norville. Commercial audiobook. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Chicken Soup for the Soul 101 Inspirational...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072501

Grace By Richard Paul Evans

Read by Guy Williams

Reading time 5 hours, 41 minutes

1960s. Ninth-grader Eric is still adjusting to his family's move from California to Utah when he discovers his classmate Grace scrounging for food in a restaurant dumpster. Eric and his brother, Joel, hide Grace in their backyard clubhouse. But neither the boys nor Grace can keep their secrets forever. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Grace](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068794

Lost December By Richard Paul Evans

Read by Gregory Maupin Reading time 6 hours, 4 minutes

Luke Crisp, son of a wealthy businessman, runs with a wild crowd in grad school, wastes his trust fund, and loses his father's respect. Ashamed to ask for financial support, Luke--now homeless--takes a job in one of his dad's stores and tries to rebuild his life. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Lost December](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074065

The Walk Richard Paul Evans

Read by Guy Williams Reading time 5 hours, 38 minutes

Seattle advertising executive Alan Christoffersen has everything--until his beloved wife dies, his business partner steals their clients, and his house is repossessed. Alan decides to walk across America to Key West, Florida, in search of new meaning while keeping a journal and befriending people along the way. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Walk](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071348

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19058](#)

Also available in braille BR019058

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

Like Mother Like Daughter (But in a Good Way) By Jennifer Greene

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

Reading time 6 hours, 53 minutes

Three short stories centering on the relationship between mothers and daughters. In "Born in My Heart" a woman struggles after her adopted daughter finds her birth mother. In "The Long-Distance Mother" a middle-aged divorcée returns home to patch things up with her mom--who now has dementia. Rita Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Like Mother Like Daughter \(But in a Good Way\)](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068585

Also available on cassette RC068585

News from Heaven the Bakerton Stories By Jennifer Haigh

Read by Kimberly Schraf

Reading time 8 hours, 21 minutes

Ten interconnected stories about the inhabitants of the coal-mining town of Bakerton, Pennsylvania. In "Beast and Bird" Annie comes to pre-World War II New York City to work as a kitchen girl for a Jewish family. In "Broken Star" Regina's aunt Melanie comes for a long visit in 1974. 2013.

[Download from BARD: News from Heaven the Bakerton Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076292

Also available in braille BR019895

The Bean Trees By Barbara Kingsolver

Read by Adale O'Brien

Reading time 7 hours, 58 minutes

Taylor Greer, a poor but plucky Kentucky girl with a sharp tongue, soft heart, and strong spirit, sets out to find a new life in the West. On the road, her flighty '55 Volkswagen temporarily "gives out" in the Oklahoma flatlands, and, while having her car fixed, she finds an abused Indian child in the front seat of the car. Taylor becomes the child's guardian, settles in Tuscon, and meets wonderful friends who help her cope with her new responsibilities. 1988.

[Download from BARD: The Bean Trees](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB027589

Also available on cassette RC027589

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR09389](#)

Also available in braille BR009389

An Amish Love By Kelly Long

Read by Catherine Byers

Reading time 12 hours, 29 minutes

Three novellas of Amish romance. In *What the Heart Sees* Christopher Miller is shunned by his community after a car accident kills his girlfriend Caroline and blinds Ellie Chupp--an event Chris took to the English police. Five years later Chris returns home and reconnects with Ellie. 2010.

[Download from BARD: An Amish Love](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075101

A Cedar Cove Christmas By Debbie Macomber

Read by Catherine Byers

Reading time 5 hours, 9 minutes

Pregnant Mary Jo Wyse comes to Cedar Cove, Washington, on Christmas Eve seeking David Rhodes, the father of her baby. Librarian Grace Harding takes in Mary Jo, who gives birth that night with help from paramedic Mack McAfee. Then Mary Jo's three brothers arrive to welcome the newborn. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Cedar Cove Christmas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068061

Also available on cassette RC068061

The Knitting Diaries By Debbie Macomber

Read by Gail Nelson

Reading time 9 hours, 48 minutes

Three romances featuring people who knit. In *"The Twenty-first Wish"* ten-year-old Ellen hopes her adopted mother will marry her birth father. In *"Coming Unraveled"* Robyn goes home to help her grandmother run a knitting store. In *"Return to Summer Island"* Caro meets a marine who is redeploying to Afghanistan. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Knitting Diaries](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073631

Challenges Embraced Short Stories and Selected Poems By Marty Mahler

Read by Barry Bernson

Reading time 5 hours, 53 minutes

More than one hundred stories and poems by the creator of the Mahler folding cane, who was blinded in an accident at age twenty-six. In "Amicitia" Mahler reminisces about a neighborhood hangout of his youth in the Bronx. "A Luncheon Engagement" recounts a midday rendezvous with his sweetheart. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Challenges Embraces Short Stories and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075636

A Blue and Gray Christmas By Joan A Medicott

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 6 hours 33 minutes

When a historic restoration crew unearths a rusty box, friends Grace, Amelia, and Hannah discover it contains the diaries and letters of two soldiers--one Southern and one Northern--chronicling the Civil War era in Covington, North Carolina. The women track down the men's descendants and arrange a reunion. 2009.

[Download from BARD: A Blue and Gray Christmas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070886

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18817](#)

Also available in braille BR018817

I'll Be Home for Christmas By Fern Michaels

Read by Theresa Conkin

Reading time 12 hours, 22 minutes

Four short holiday romances. In "Merry, Merry" struggling veterinarian Andrea "Andi" Evans hates to sell her family's New Jersey property--fortunately, she falls in love with the buyer. Includes "Comfort and Joy," "The Christmas Stocking," and "A Bright Red Ribbon." Some strong language. 1995.

[Download from BARD: I'll Be Home for Christmas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075788

No Place like Home By Fern Michaels

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 3 hours, 35 minutes

Trouble and romance come in threes when the spirited Cisco triplets discover that their father has placed their beloved Granny Cisco in an assisted-living facility. For Christmas, the triplets hope to get Granny the medical care she needs and to bring the entire family home for the holidays. 2002.

[Download from BARD: No Place like Home](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB055943

Also available on cassette RC055943

Nana's Gift &, The Red Geranium By Jannette Oke

Read by Jill Ferris Reading time 2 hours, 33 minutes

Two inspirational short stories. In Nana's Gift ninety-three-year-old Lizzie helps her great granddaughter overcome tragedy. In The Red Geranium Tommy brings his Gran a gift to cheer her up while she is in the hospital. 1996.

[Download from BARD: Nana's Gift & the Red Geranium](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074551

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19439](#)

Also available in braille BR019439

Leaving Home: Short Pieces By Jodi Picoult

Read by Jodi Picoult Reading time 1 hour, 26 minutes

Three short works. In "Weights and Measures" a husband and wife struggle to cope after their child's tragic death. In "Ritz" a mother takes a much-needed vacation. Also includes a letter the author wrote to her son before he left for college. Commercial audiobook. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Leaving Home Short Pieces](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073742

Housekeeping By Marilynne Robinson

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 5 hours, 53 minutes

Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, are haphazardly raised by their extended family in the small, lakeside town of Fingerbone. Their grandmother cares for them until her death, then two bumbling great aunts take over, and finally eccentric aunt Sylvie looks after them. 1980.

[Download from BARD: Housekeeping](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068564

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16132](#)

Also available in braille BR016132

The Beginner's Goodbye a Novel By Anne Tyler

Read by Frank Coffee

Reading time 5 hours, 41 minutes

Thirty-six-year-old widower Aaron Woolcott frequently sees the ghost of his wife Dorothy, who was killed in an accident that nearly destroyed their house. Aaron, who is physically handicapped, moves in with his overbearing sister and learns to say goodbye to the past and open himself up to happiness. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Beginner's Goodbye a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074490

Our Story Begins New and Selected Stories By Tobias Wolff

Read by Steven Carpenter

Reading time 12 hours, 5 minutes

Thirty-one tales about everyday people--husbands and wives, military men and women, rich kids, poor kids, parents and offspring, academics, and businessmen--at moments of moral reckoning. Includes Wolff's masterpieces "In the Garden of the North American Martyrs" and "Soldier's Joy." Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Our Story Begins New and Selected Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066662