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### Award Winners: Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction

The Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction is awarded once a year to two books that exemplify “the best fiction and nonfiction books for adult readers published in the U.S. the previous year.” Annotations may be edited for brevity. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

#### 2024 Winners

##### **The Berry Pickers: a Novel by Amanda Peters**

Read by Aaliya Warbus

8 hours, 47 minutes

"A four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a tragic mystery that haunts the survivors, unravels a family, and remains unsolved for nearly fifty years. July 1962. Following in the tradition of Indigenous workers from Nova Scotia, a Mi'kmaq family arrives in Maine to pick blueberries for the summer. Weeks later, four-year-old Ruthie, the family's youngest child, vanishes. She is last seen by her six-year-old brother, Joe, sitting on a favorite rock at the edge of a berry field.... In Maine, a young girl named Norma grows up as the only child of an affluent family... As she grows older, Norma slowly comes to realize there is something her parents aren't telling her. Unwilling to abandon her intuition, she will spend decades trying to uncover this family secret." -- Provided by publisher. -- Strong language and some violence. Commercial audiobook.

[Download from BARD: The Berry Pickers: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB117941

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille](#)

Also available in braille BR25422

## **We Were Once a Family: a Story of Love, Death, and Child Removal in America by Roxanna Asgarian**

Read by Suehyla El-Attar

7 hours, 38 minutes

"On March 26, 2018, rescue workers discovered a crumpled SUV and the bodies of two women and several children at the bottom of a cliff beside the Pacific Coast Highway. Investigators soon concluded that the crash was a murder-suicide, but there was more to the story: Jennifer and Sarah Hart, it turned out, were a white married couple who had adopted the six Black children from two different Texas families in 2006 and 2008. Behind the family's loving facade, however, was a pattern of abuse and neglect that went ignored as the couple withdrew the children from school and moved across the country ... As a journalist in Houston, Asgarian became the first reporter to put the children's birth families at the center of the story. We follow the author as she runs up against the intransigence of a state agency that removes tens of thousands of kids from homes each year in the name of child welfare, while often failing to consider alternatives. Her reporting uncovers persistent racial biases and corruption as children of color are separated from birth parents without proper cause. The result is a riveting narrative and a deeply reported indictment of a system that continues to fail America's most vulnerable children while upending the lives of their families." -- Provided by publisher. -- Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

[Download from BARD: We Were Once a Family: a Story of Love...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB114060

## **2023 Winners**

The Swimmers a Novel by Julie Otsuka

Read by Traci Kato-Kiriyama

4 hours, 8 minutes

The swimmers are unknown to one another except through their private routines (slow lane, medium lane, fast lane) and the solace each takes in their morning or afternoon laps. But when a crack appears at the bottom of the pool, they are cast out into an unforgiving world. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

[Download from BARD: The Swimmers a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB107007

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR24126h](#)

Also available in braille BR24126

## **An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong**

Read by Ed Yong

14 hours, 21 minutes

"The Earth teems with sights and textures, sounds and vibrations, smells and tastes, electric and magnetic fields. But every kind of animal, including humans, is enclosed within its own unique sensory bubble, perceiving but a tiny sliver of our immense world. In An Immense World, author and Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist Ed Yong coaxes us beyond the confines of our own senses, allowing us to perceive the skeins of scent, waves of electromagnetism, and pulses of pressure that surround us. We encounter beetles that are drawn to fires, turtles that can track the Earth's magnetic fields, fish that fill rivers with electrical messages, and even humans who wield sonar like bats..." -- Provided by publisher. -- Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

[Download from BARD: An Immense World: How Animal Senses...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB108629

## **2022 Winners**

### **The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu by Tom Lin**

Read by Feodor Chin

9 hours, 40 minutes

The son of Chinese immigrants, Ming Tsu was raised by a crime syndicate and trained as a deadly enforcer. Soon after his elopement with a railroad magnate's daughter, the tycoon's henchmen kidnap her. Ever defiant, Ming partners with a blind clairvoyant to rescue his wife and exact revenge. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

[Download from BARD: The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB104311

### **A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance by Hanif Abdurraqib**

Read by JD Jackson

9 hours, 41 minutes

The author of Go Ahead in the Rain (DB98408) presents a collection of essays connected by the topic of black performance in America. Combining personal stories with history, he explores how African Americans have contributed to American culture while facing racism and stereotyping. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

[Download from BARD: A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of ...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB103276

## **2021 Winners**

### **Deacon King Kong by James McBride**

Read by Dominic Hoffman

14 hours, 8 minutes

1969. On a cloudy September morning, Deacon Cuffy Lambkin--known as Sportcoat to his friends--walks into the plaza of a Brooklyn project and shoots the local drug dealer point blank in the face. His reasons for this uncharacteristic act of violence slowly unfold. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Download from BARD: Deacon King Kong](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB098819

### **Fathoms: the World in the Whale by Rebecca Giggs**

Read by Shiromi Arserio

12 hours, 7 minutes

After helping to try to rescue a beached humpback whale near her home in Australia, Giggs became fascinated by the world of whales. Topics include the presence of whales in the prehistoric and historical records, whale hunting, and impact of the changing environment on them. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Download from BARD: Fathoms: the World in the Whale](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB102225

## **2020 Winners**

### **Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli**

Read by Valeria Luiselli, Kivlighan de Montebello, William DeMeritt et. al.

11 hours, 18 minutes

Two audio documentarians drive their children from New York to Arizona to record the sounds of land once occupied by the Apache. As they travel, they hear radio reports of an immigration crisis involving thousands of children at the southwestern US border. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Lost Children Archive](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093811

**Midnight in Chernobyl: the Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster  
by Adam Higginbotham**

Read by Jacques Roy

13 hours, 58 minutes

An account of the 1986 nuclear power plant disaster in Chernobyl, Ukraine. Discusses the disaster itself, the immediate ecological consequences, the political and economic ramifications for the Soviet Union, and more. Draws on decades of reporting, archival information, and firsthand interviews with witnesses. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Midnight in Chernobyl: the Story of the World's...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094170

**2019 Winners**

**The Great Believers: a Novel by Rebecca Makkai**

Read by Michael Crouch

18 hours, 19 minutes

1985. Yale Tishman, development director for a Chicago art gallery, is at a career high point. But the AIDS epidemic is picking off his friends one by one--including Nico, who leaves behind little sister Fiona. Thirty years later, Fiona searches for her missing daughter. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: The Great Believers: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB091533

**Heavy: an American Memoir by Kiese Laymon**

Read by Kiese Laymon

6 hours, 20 minutes

A collection of autobiographical essays exploring the metaphorical weight of the author's life as a black man in American society. Recounts his experiences growing up in Mississippi, suffering sexual violence, attending college, facing complex familial relationships, dealing with trauma, and more. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Heavy: an American Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093279

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22566](#)

Also available in braille BR022566

## **2018 Winner**

### **Manhattan Beach: a Novel by Jennifer Egan**

Read by Emily Ellet

16 hours, 35 minutes

As a child, Anna observes the uneasy relationship her father has with Dexter Styles. Years later, working as a diver repairing Navy ships during World War II, she once again encounters Dexter. Secrets are revealed. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Manhattan Beach: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089445

## **2017 Winners**

### **The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead**

Read by Bahni Turpin

10 hours, 45 minutes

Cora, a third-generation slave, flees the plantation where she lives. She escapes with a man who claims to know how to get to the Underground Railroad. Once there, she discovers it is an actual railroad, and every stop shows her moments of horror and joy. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Underground Railroad](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085212

### **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond**

Read by Dion Graham

11 hours, 6 minutes

Harvard sociologist examines the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to relate the stories of eight families living on the edge, all of whose fates rest in the hands of two landlords. Desmond provides a close view of the issue of eviction, which so many American families face. Some violence and some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083870

## **2016 Winner**

### **The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen**

Read by Michael Scherer

14 hours, 18 minutes

Saigon of 1975 is in chaos. Meanwhile, a South Vietnamese general decides who will receive the last flights out of the country, including himself, his allies, and his trusted captain. Unbeknownst to him, however, the captain observes and reports on the group to the Viet Cong. Some violence and some strong language. 2015.

[Download from BARD: The Sympathizer](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082047

## **2015 Winners**

### **All the Light We Cannot See a Novel by Anthony Doerr**

Read by Jill Fox

16 hours, 3 minutes

When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure LeBlanc's father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great-uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Then, the Germans arrive. Violence and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. Pulitzer Prize winner. 2014.

[Download from BARD: All the Light We Cannot See](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079182

### **Just Mercy a Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson**

Read by Bryan Stevenson

11 hours, 6 minutes

Attorney and law professor discusses founding the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need. Describes one of his first cases--defending Walter McMillian, a young man sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Just Mercy a Story of Justice and Redemption](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080035



## **2014 Winners**

### **The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt**

Read by David Pittu

32 hours, 26 minutes

At the age of thirteen, Theo Decker survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is raised by wealthy family friends. His one connection to his mother--a painting--draws Theo into New York City's underground art world as he grows older. Pulitzer Prize winner. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Goldfinch](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077453

### **The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism by Doris Kearns Goodwin**

Read by Lou Harpenau

35 hours

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian portrays the first decade of the Progressive era, when former president Teddy Roosevelt challenged incumbent William Howard Taft for the 1912 Republican presidential nomination and tore apart the party--leading to Democrat Woodrow Wilson's victory. Examines the role of muckraking journalists in pushing government reforms. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077807

## **2013 Winners**

### **Canada by Richard Ford**

Read by John Lescault

14 hours, 28 minutes

Great Falls, Montana; 1960. After fifteen-year-old Dell Parson's misguided parents are arrested for robbing a bank, his twin sister flees and a family friend sends Dell to Saskatchewan. But Dell is endangered by his host, shady American hotel owner Arthur Remlinger. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Canada](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074826



**Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: the Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis by Timothy Egan**

Read by Mark Ashby

11 hours, 57 minutes

Biography of Seattle photographer Edward Curtis (1868-1952), who in 1900 became enamored of Native American culture. Sponsored by J.P. Morgan, Theodore Roosevelt, and others, Curtis spent three decades living with different tribes, creating films, and producing the twenty-volume publication The North American Indian. Discusses Curtis's legacy. National Book Award. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076136

**2012 Winners**

**The Forgotten Waltz by Anne Enright**

Read by Laura Giannarelli

8 hours, 8 minutes

Ireland. Gina Moynihan is the other woman--and she relishes the role, even though she is married and her lover Seán Vallely has a wife and a preteen daughter, Evie. As time goes on Gina is surprised by how much Evie comes to mean to her. Some descriptions of sex. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Forgotten Waltz](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074774

**Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman by Robert K. Massie**

Read by Erin Jones

25 hours, 56 minutes

Biography of the minor German princess who was brought to Russia by Empress Elizabeth and became Catherine the Great (1729-1796). Details her marriage to Peter III and ascendance to the throne. Highlights Catherine's modernization and expansion of the country amid court intrigue and wars. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074047