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Award Winners: Dayton Literary Peace Prize

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize is an international award that recognizes fiction and nonfiction books that promote peace and lead to a better understanding of diversity. It has been awarded annually since 2006. The winners are listed chronologically with the most recent award recipient first. Not all winners are available through the library at this time. 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 Winner

Prophet Song by Paul Lynch

Read by Gerry O'Brien

8 hours, 35 minutes

"On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police on her step. They have arrived to interrogate her husband, a trade unionist. Ireland is falling apart, caught in the grip of a government turning toward tyranny."-- Provided by publisher. --Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

[Download from BARD: Prophet Song](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB119629

2023 Winners

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Read by Graham Halstead

14 hours, 9 minutes

"Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack. New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse. Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington."-- Provided by publisher. -- Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2022.

[Download from BARD: Horse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB108556

His Name is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice by Robert Samuels

Read by Dion Graham

Drawing upon hundreds of interviews, Washington Post reporters Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa offer a poignant and moving exploration of George Floyd's life. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Unrated.

[Download from BARD: His Name is George Floyd One Man's Life and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC26540

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR25008](#)

Also available in Braille BR025008

2022 Winners

The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois: a Novel by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers

Read by Karen Chilton

29 hours, 51 minutes

Ailey Pearl Garfield spends summers in the small Georgia town of Chicassetta, where her mother's family has lived since their ancestors arrived from Africa in bondage. From an early age, Ailey fights a battle for belonging while the women of her family urge Ailey to succeed in their stead. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

[Download from BARD: The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB104944

How the Word is Passed: a Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith

Read by Clint Smith

10 hours, 9 minutes

The author tours the monuments and landmarks that tell the story of slavery's central role in shaping America's collective history and culture. He explores historical plantations, prisons, cemeteries, holidays, and entire neighborhoods, revealing their ties to this painful aspect of America's past and present. Violence and strong language. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2021.

[Download from BARD: How the Word is Passed a Reckoning with the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB103908

2021 Winners

We Germans by Alexander Starr

Read by Angus King

5 hours, 58 minutes

A letter is found amongst a man's effects after his death. It is a letter to his grandson recounting his experiences as a German soldier during World War II. The man tries to explain both his reasoning for participating in the Nazi machine and his attempts at atonement. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Download from BARD: We Germans](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB100668

When Time Stopped: a Memoir of my Father's War and What Remains by Ariana Neumann

Read by Rebecca Lowman

10 hours, 9 minutes

The author investigates her Jewish family's experiences during World War II, particularly those of her father, who hid in Berlin. Draws on letters, diaries, and other memorabilia left by the author's father. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Download from BARD: When Time Stopped a Memoir of my Father's...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB098842

2020 Winners

The World that We Knew by Alice Hoffman

Read by Judith Light

10 hours, 10 minutes

Berlin, 1941. Hanni Kohn knows the time has come to send her twelve-year-old daughter, Lea, away to save her from the Nazis. The rabbi's daughter, Ettie, provides hope in the form of a golem, Ava, to protect Lea as she makes her way in the world. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The World that We Knew](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097106

Know my Name: a Memoir by Chanel Miller

Read by Chanel Miller

15 hours, 27 minutes

Brock Turner received a light sentence after he sexually assaulted the author on Stanford's campus. Her victim impact statement went viral, was translated globally, and was read on the floor of Congress. Now she reclaims her identity to tell her story of trauma, transcendence, and the power of words. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Know my Name: a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096919

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR23004](#)

Also available in Braille BR023004

2019 Winner

Rising Out of Hatred: the Awakening of a Former White Nationalist by Eli Saslow

Read by Eli Saslow and Scott Brick

9 hours, 4 minutes

A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter recounts the trajectory of white nationalist Derek Black's enlightenment and change of heart after he left home to attend college. When Black's beliefs were exposed on campus, an Orthodox Jew began meeting with him, prompting Black to question his worldview. Some violence, strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Rising Out of Hatred: the Awakening of a...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB092497

2018 Winners

Salt Houses by Hala Alyan

Read by Leila Buck

12 hours, 17 minutes

Salma reads her daughter Alia's future in the dregs of Alia's coffee cup. It's a future filled with unsettling events, travel, and luck. The family is uprooted from Palestine and scattered in the wake of the Six-Day War in 1967. Connections across generations are tenuous. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Salt Houses](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB098401

We Were Eight Years in Power: an American Tragedy by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Read by Beresford Bennett

13 hours, 41 minutes

Previously published and brand-new pieces from the iconic essayist, dealing with race relations, politics, social justice, and more. Includes "Fear of a Black President," "The Case for Reparations," and "The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration," along with eight essays that each cover one year of the Obama administration. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: We Were Eight Years in Power: an American...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089524

2016 Winners

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

Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War by Susan Southard

Read by Pat Muir

14 hours, 2 minutes

Three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, an American B-29 bomber dropped a five ton plutonium bomb on Nagasaki. The explosion equaled 21,000 tons of TNT, the blast tore through factories, shops and homes, carrying unprecedented levels of radiation that penetrated humans and animals. An estimated 74,000 people were killed and another 75,000 were wounded. Much of the world saw this as an end to a long and costly global war, but for tens of thousands, their lives as hibakusha, atomic bomb effected people, had just begun. Contains some violence.

[Download from BARD: Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC02784

2015 Winners

The Great Glass Sea by Josh Weil

Read by Alec Volz

20 hours, 11 minutes

Russia, the near future. A folkloric tale of twin brothers, Yarik and Dima, both part of the workforce of the world's largest greenhouse, the Oranzheria. After an encounter with the Oranzheria's owner, Yarik begins the climb up the promotion ladder, while Dima dreams of another future. Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Strong language. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Great Glass Sea](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080014

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

2013 Fiction Winners

The Orphan Master's Son a Novel by Adam Johnson

Read by Mark Delgado

17 hours, 26 minutes

North Korea. Pak Jun Do spends his childhood on an orphan slave-labor crew--even though his father runs the orphanage. Later he is placed on kidnap duty, snatching Japanese citizens whose skills are needed. Over time, his assignments grow increasingly dangerous. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. Pulitzer Prize Winner Fiction 2013. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Orphan Master's Son a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074282

Far From the Tree Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity by Andrew Solomon

Read by Jake Williams

47 hours, 34 minutes

Author of The Noonday Demon (DB 53027) explores the ways families with children who are profoundly different from their parents redefine themselves. Uses anecdotal evidence to illustrate their responsibilities and struggles dealing with such issues as deafness, autism, schizophrenia, transsexualism, criminality, and more. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Far From the Tree Parents, Children, and the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075884

2012 Winner

To End All Wars a Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918 by Adam Hochschild

Read by Jake Williams

18 hours, 28 minutes

Award-winning historian examines the pro- and anti-war movements in Great Britain before and during World War I. Portrays social reformers, suffragettes, conscientious objectors, and other pacifists who aligned against military and political leaders and the general public. Highlights the carnage that followed. Some violence. 2011.

[Download from BARD: To End All Wars a Story of Loyalty and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074892

2011 Winner

The Surrendered by Chang-rae Lee

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

17 hours, 3 minutes

1986. New York antiques dealer June, who has terminal cancer, enlists Korean War veteran Hector, the long-absent father of their son Nicholas, to help locate Nicholas in Italy. Hector and June--having met in an orphanage during the war--are both deeply emotionally scarred. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Surrendered](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071710

2010 Winner

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

Read by Steven Carpenter

8 hours, 47 minutes

Describes the experiences of the owner of a New Orleans house-painting business during the 2005 Katrina hurricane and flood. Recounts the fleeing of Syrian American Zeitoun's wife and children, Zeitoun's decision to stay and help neighbors and clients, and his consequently inexplicable imprisonment and inability to contact family. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Zeitoun](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069795

2009 Winner

Peace a Novel by Richard Bausch

Read by Christopher Hurt

4 hours, 27 minutes

Italy, World War II. Three American soldiers undertake a dangerous assignment to locate retreating Germans. Corporal Robert Marson hires an elderly local to lead them over rough terrain, but as the men succumb to fear, they grow increasingly uncertain of their mission--and their guide. Strong language and some violence. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Peace a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068090

2008 Winners

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz

Read by Barry Bernson

9 hours, 33 minutes

New Jersey. Overweight Dominican American Oscar works as a substitute teacher and dreams about being a famous writer. Oscar grew up with his rebellious sister Lola and beautiful mother, but the ancient curse of fukú haunts their lives--until he decides to do something about it. Violence and strong language. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065402

Brother, I'm Dying by Edwidge Danticat

Read by Robin Miles

7 hours, 54 minutes

Author recalls her childhood in Haiti where she was raised by her uncle Joseph, a minister. Describes their volatile Port-au-Prince neighborhood and her uncle's treatment at the hands of a pro-Aristide mob and U.S. Customs officials. Some violence and some strong language. Nat'l Book Award Finalist. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Brother, I'm Dying](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066074

2006 Winner

A Changed Man a Novel by Francine Prose

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

15 hours, 38 minutes

Neo-Nazi Vincent Nolan walks into the World Brotherhood Watch headquarters intending to help them work for human rights. Meyer Maslow, the foundation's head and a Holocaust survivor, is skeptical of Vincent's sincerity. As Vincent transforms his life, he also changes those around him. Some strong language. 2005.

[Download from BARD: A Changed Man a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061361