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Adventure: Apocalypse and Disaster Novels

Read about epic disasters, the end (and sometimes rebirth) of civilization, and new world orders with these apocalypse-themed novels. 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](#).

Loosed Upon the World the Saga Anthology of Climate Fiction by John Joseph Adams

Read by Jeff Allin

20 hours, 48 minutes

A collection of short fiction focusing on climate fiction, which explores the twenty-first-century world as the effects of global warming become evident. Features stories from Margaret Atwood, Paolo Bacigalupi, Kim Stanley Robinson, Seanan McGuire, and many others. Strong language. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Loosed Upon the World the Saga Anthology...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083882

Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse by John Joseph Adams

Read by John Polk

18 hours, 29 minutes

Twenty-two short stories of postapocalyptic fiction. In Stephen King's "The End of the Whole Mess," Howard Forny recounts the life of his genius brother, Bobby, before his intelligence destroyed the world. Includes tales by Orson Scott Card, Dale Bailey, and others. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Wastelands: Stories of the Apocalypse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070734

Enclave by Ann Aguirre

Read by Kristin Allison

7 hours

In a post-apocalyptic future, Deuce, a huntress, brings back meat while avoiding the deadly Freaks outside her underground enclave. But when she is partnered with outsider Fade, she begins to see that the ways of the elders may be wrong. Uncontracted braille. Violence. For senior high and older readers. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Enclave](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074167

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Things We Didn't See Coming by Steven K. Amsterdam

Read by Alec Volz

5 hours, 49 minutes

Nine connected apocalyptic stories centering on a boy and his family that begin on New Year's Eve 1999 and span three decades. Extreme weather, disease, government control, and a plethora of other disasters plague the narrator as he struggles to survive. Some strong language. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Things We Didn't See Coming](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071496

Oryx and Crake a Novel by Margaret Atwood

Read by Richard Davidson

12 hours, 32 minutes

In the near future, a lone human amidst genetically engineered creatures torments himself with memories of the devastation of the natural world. Calling himself "Snowman," he recalls the role of his best friend Crake and mourns the loss of their mutually beloved Oryx. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Oryx and Crake a novel](#)

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14805](#)

Also available in braille BR014805

The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi

Read by Richard Davidson

15 hours, 41 minutes

The American Southwest fights over dwindling sources of water during a growing shortage. Angel Velasquez--a water knife who "cuts" water--investigates rumors of a water source in Phoenix, where he meets a hardened journalist and a young Texas refugee. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2015.

[Download from BARD: The Water Knife](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082462

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21127](#)

Also available in braille BR021127

The Windup Girl by Paolo Bacigalupi

Read by Jonathan Davis

19 hours, 38 minutes

In a post-oil world where calories are currency, agriculture manager Anderson Lake searches a politically unstable Thailand for new food sources. He meets Emiko, a bioengineered "windup" girl, who works in a Bangkok brothel.

Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Windup Girl](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071063

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19099](#)

Also available in braille BR019099

Day by Day Armageddon Origin to Exile by J.L. Bourne

Read by Peter Johnson

16 hours, 13 minutes

Two previously published books, Day by Day Armageddon and Day by Day Armageddon: Beyond Exile, in one volume. Accounts of the zombie apocalypse and human survival in journal-entry format. Violence and strong language. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Day by Day Armageddon Origin to Exile](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077105

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

Read by Mary Kane

11 hours, 17 minutes

In 2024, most well-to-do families live in walled enclaves to protect themselves from the roaming drug addicts who live in squalor and are prone to stealing, rape, and murder. Lauren Olamina, eighteen, suffers from hyperempathy, which means that she feels not only her own pain but that of others. When the addicts overrun Lauren's community, she and others are forced to seek refuge outside the walls. Strong language and violence.

[Download from BARD: Parable of the Sower](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB039777

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21257](#)

Also available in braille BR021257

The Girl in the Road a Novel by Monica Byrne

Read by Nazneen Contractor

11 hours, 10 minutes

In parallel narratives, two women--one from the past and one from the future--begin arduous quests across difficult landscapes. Meena is from 2068 and leaves her home in India to cross a floating bridge to Africa. Mariama is a child slave in the present fleeing Mauritania for Ethiopia. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Girl in the Road a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080891

The Pesthouse by Jim Crace

Read by Michael Kramer

8 hours, 24 minutes

After America is turned into a barren, lawless wasteland, people flee to Europe. Franklin Lopez is stopping to recover from an injury when he meets Margaret at a pesthouse--where she's suffering from a deadly infection. The two gradually fall in love and seek refuge together. Commercial audiobook. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Pesthouse](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064450

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17443](#)

Also available in braille BR017443

After Nineteen Stories of Apocalypse and Dystopia by Ellen Datlow

Read by Erin Jones

11 hours, 25 minutes

Nineteen tales by well-known authors of young adult and adult literature explore the lives of teens raised after a catastrophe. In Carolyn Dunn's "Before" an Indian girl dreams of life before her imprisonment by plague victims. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2012.

[Download from BARD: After Nineteen Stories of Apocalypse and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075737

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19690](#)

Also available in braille BR019690

Angelfall by Susan Ee

Read by Caitlin Davies

8 hours, 45 minutes

The angels of the apocalypse destroyed the world and enslaved and tortured the surviving humans. When her little sister is kidnapped by the angels, seventeen-year-old Penryn risks everything to save her. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Angelfall](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077339

Alas, Babylon by Pat Frank

Read by Erik Sandvold

11 hours, 18 minutes

The telegram from his brother ended with "Alas, Babylon." Thus Randolph Bragg knew that a nuclear bomb was about to be dropped on America. A vivid and realistic account of life in America as it might be if there were to be a small nuclear war. For high school and adult readers.

[Download from BARD: Alas, Babylon](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031780

The Dog Stars by Peter Heller

Read by Gary Telles

11 hours, 14 minutes

Hig survived the global pandemic that decimated the world nine years ago. Now, he has only his plane, his dog, and one neighbor. When Hig overhears a radio signal, he goes in search of the source. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Dog Stars](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075493

Riddley Walker a Novel by Russell Hoban

Read by George Backman

7 hours, 16 minutes

In Kent, England, some 2,000 years after a nuclear holocaust has devastated Britain, twelve-year-old Riddley Walker is having his "naming day," an initiation which includes killing a wild boar. Using a phonetic language that is both familiar and unfamiliar, Riddley tells about his quest to find out about the past as well as the future.

[Download from BARD: Riddley Walker a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB017355

The Darwin Elevator the Dire Earth Cycle: One by Jason M. Hough

Read by Gregory Gorton

16 hours, 10 minutes

Australia, 2283. Earth has fallen to a plague. The only human city left is Darwin, where an alien space elevator protects against the disease. Skyler Luiken--one of the rare "immunes"--leads a scavenging crew to help Darwin survive. Then the elevator begins to malfunction. Violence and strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Darwin Elevator the Dire Earth Cycle: One](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077294

The Stand the Complete and Uncut Edition by Stephen King

Read by Bruce Huntley

46 hours, 37 minutes

An experimental virus called superflu hits the world--rapidly wiping out the whole of civilization except for the few who are immune. Expansion of novel originally published in 1978. Strong language, some explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. 1990.

[Download from BARD: The Stand the Complete and Uncut Edition](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056081

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Read by Michael Kramer

6 hours, 12 minutes

A father and his young son journey south after the destruction of the civilized world. Their survival kit consists of a few blankets, a pistol, a cart of scavenged food, and their love for each other. Their values are tested by occasional encounters with other desperate survivors. Bestseller. Pulitzer Prize. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Road](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063649

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17072](#)

Also available in braille BR017072

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Read by Kirsten Potter

10 hours, 42 minutes

On the eve of civilization's collapse due to pandemic, actor Arthur Leander dies on stage while performing King Lear. Eight-year-old Kirsten Raymonde is also in the play, and as she grows older, she discovers secrets of their new dystopia link back to Arthur. Some strong language and some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Station Eleven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079693

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR021720](#)

Also available in braille BR21720

A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M. Miller

Read by John Horton

11 hours, 50 minutes

This futuristic novel is set in a monastery after the destruction of the present civilization. The central theme is the church's role as preserver of wisdom and spiritual life. Some violence.

[Download from BARD: A Canticle for Leibowitz](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032968

Also available in braille BR008614

On the Beach by Nevil Shute

Read by Annie Wauters

9 hours, 42 minutes

An atomic war has destroyed all life in the Northern Hemisphere and the lethal fallout is moving southward. A group of people in Australia, including American navy Commander Dwight Towers, are faced with impending annihilation. They must decide how to spend the precious days remaining to them. 1957.

[Download from BARD: On the Beach](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053090

Also available in braille BR001619

Sevенеves by Neal Stephenson

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

34 hours, 37 minutes

A catastrophic event forces humanity to band together to survive, though only a handful succeed and flee Earth. Five thousand years later, their descendants number three billion and comprise seven distinct races. They embark on a journey into the unknown, to an alien world--Earth. Some strong language. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Sevенеves](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083040

Ashes, Ashes by Jo Treggiari

Read by Theresa Conkin

9 hours, 11 minutes

In a future world devastated by illness and environmental catastrophes, Lucy "Lucky" Holloway lives alone. But when she befriends a group of survivors, she faces a new threat--the Sweepers, who kidnap healthy individuals to experiment on. Some violence. For senior high and older readers. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Ashes, Ashes](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074353

The Age of Miracles: a Novel by Karen Thompson Walker

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

7 hours, 39 minutes

Eleven-year-old Julia wakes up the morning after a sleepover to discover the world has begun to end. As the earth slows, throwing the balance of life off-kilter, Julia and her family must find a new sense of ordinary. Some strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Age of Miracles: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074890

Partials by Dan Wells

Read by Jill Fox

13 hours, 28 minutes

War with engineered organic beings called Partials and a deadly virus that targets newborns have decimated the population, but a few survivors are trying to keep the human race alive. Medic-in-training Kira searches for solutions at any cost. For senior high and older readers. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Partials](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074651

Robopocalypse a Novel by Daniel H. Wilson

Read by Jack Fox

10 hours, 46 minutes

In the near future, artificial intelligence leaps ahead of humans' abilities and can no longer be contained. When a computer program escapes from the lab and initiates random attacks, most people remain unaware until too late--robots have already taken over the world. Violence and strong language. Alex Award. 2011.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB074340

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21434](#)

Also available in braille BR021434

The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham

Read by David Palmer

7 hours, 43 minutes

In this English science fiction work, a blinding blast from meteors causes the earth to be overrun by great flesh-eating plants, which almost exterminate humankind. The survivors are fighting not only against a hostile form of life, but also against each other and themselves.

[Download from BARD: The Day of the Triffids](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033690

Also available in braille BR008820

Blood Red Road Dustlands by Moira Young

Read by Nicola Daval

11 hours, 22 minutes

After four horsemen kidnap eighteen-year-old Lugh, his twin sister Saba and their nine-year-old sister Emmi track Lugh across the bleak Sandsea. Then Saba is taken captive to be a cage fighter--but her friends have an escape plan. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Blood Red Road Dustlands](#)

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