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Adventure: Epidemics and Superbugs

These novels are all about super viruses, plagues, and epidemics with settings ranging from historic, the everyday, futuristic, and fantasy—including zombies. 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](#).

Zombie Apocalypse by Peter Atkins

Read by Joe Peck

13 hours, 46 minutes

Stories, told in the form of various eyewitness accounts, describe the reemergence of an ancient plague that turns its victims into flesh-hungry ghouls. After the disease ravages the United Kingdom, it spreads worldwide. Violence and strong language. 2010.

[Download from BARD: *Zombie Apocalypse*](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077211

Year of Wonders a Novel of the Plague by Geraldine Brooks

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

9 hours, 43 minutes

Derbyshire, England; 1666. Anna Frith, an eighteen-year-old widow with two children, is a servant at the rectory. In her account of the plague's arrival and the villagers' difficult choice of quarantine, she shows what can happen to faith and human kindness in times of widespread death and desperation. Some violence. Bestseller. Alex Award. 2001.

[Download from BARD: *Year of Wonders a Novel of the Plague*](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054834

World War Z an Oral History of the Zombie War by Max Brooks

Read by Jim Zeiger

13 hours, 51 minutes

Author of The Zombie Survival Guide (RC 64675) records firsthand interviews with survivors of humanity's devastating clash with the undead. Personal accounts from all over the world reveal the scope of the conflict, from the first zombie outbreak to the aftermath of war. Strong language and some violence. 2006.

[Download from BARD: World War Z an Oral History of the Zombie War](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065111

The Plague by Albert Camus

Read by Gordon Gould

9 hours, 25 minutes

Set in a coastal city in Algeria during the bubonic plague, this novel examines the impact of the catastrophe on a group of people, symbolizing mankind's struggle against ignorance and fear.

[Download from BARD: The Plague](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032521

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12552](#)

Also available in braille BR012552

The Girl With All the Gifts by M.R. Carey

Read by Finty Williams

13 hours, 6 minutes

A pandemic has turned countless people into zombies known as "hungries." The administrators of a military camp studying these hungries must flee when a group of anarchists breach their security. They bring Melanie, a 10-year-old second-generation hungry with incredible strength and intellect, debating the status of her humanity all the while. Some violence and some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Girl With All the Gifts](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080678

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21409](#)

Also available in braille BR021409

The Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton

Read by Chuck Benson

7 hours, 47 minutes

After an unmanned space probe lands in a small town in Arizona, most of the residents die mysteriously. Four scientists try to discover the nature of the microorganism that has contaminated the satellite while the president ponders atomic destruction to save the rest of the country. 1969.

[Download from BARD: The Andromeda Strain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037973

The Passage a Novel by Justin Cronin

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

34 hours, 39 minutes

Six-year-old orphan Amy Harper Bellafonte becomes humanity's last hope after the North American populace is decimated by a terrifying viral infection--the product of a secret military experiment housed in a remote compound in the Colorado mountains. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2010.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB071422

The Strain by Guillermo del Toro

Read by Roy Avers

14 hours, 34 minutes

The CDC's Dr. Eph Goodweather investigates a ghostly scene on the JFK tarmac: a recently landed Boeing 777 sits with all systems dead, shades down, and no signs of life. An awakened vampire virus greater and more horrific than imaginable rapidly spreads through the night. Violence and strong language. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Strain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069500

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18471](#)

Also available in braille BR018471

The Fireman by Joe Hill

Read by Brandon Bujnowski

22 hours, 16 minutes

A pandemic known as Dragonscale has swept the planet, causing the afflicted to develop markings on their skin and then burst into flame. A nurse who contracts Dragonscale wants to avoid quarantine long enough to give birth to her child. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Fireman](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084824

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21654](#)

Also available in braille BR021654

Fever by Mary Beth Keane

Read by Kristin Allison

10 hours, 32 minutes

New York City, 1907. Cook Mary Mallon--the infamous Typhoid Mary of history--is arrested and taken to a hospital for evaluation. She is accused of spreading the disease to twenty-three people, resulting in three deaths. Mary reflects on immigrating to America, why she continued to work, and her incarceration. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Fever](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078203

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

Fools' Experiments by Edward M. Lerner

Read by Joe Peck

13 hours

Computer scientist Doug Carey invents a new prosthetic arm, linking the peripheral nervous system to a computer. But when his creation mixed with an intelligent supervirus results in fatal chaos throughout the Internet, Doug must find a way to stop it before the death toll rises. Strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Fools' Experiments](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069625

Apocalypse Cow by Michael Logan

Read by Gregory Gorton

10 hours, 11 minutes

When a single infected cow slips off into the British woods and escapes the extermination of its zombie herd, it launches an animal epidemic unlike any other. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Apocalypse Cow](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076785

Severance by Ling Ma

Read by Nancy Wu

9 hours, 56 minutes

Candace Chen is working in an office tower when a pandemic sweeps New York City. Before long, she is alone in the abandoned city. She joins a group of survivors led by a power-hungry IT tech named Bob in search of a place called the Facility. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Severance](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093789

Patient Zero by Jonathan Maberry

Read by Alec Volz

16 hours, 2 minutes

Baltimore detective Joe Ledger shoots and kills Javad Mustapha, a suspected terrorist, during a police raid. When the covert Department of Military Sciences recruits Ledger, the detective finds himself facing Mustapha again, as well as a new breed of terrorist--zombies. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Patient Zero](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069250

Warm Bodies a Novel by Isaac Marion

Read by Kevin Kenerly

8 hours, 2 minutes

After the zombie apocalypse, R lives in an airport with his fellow undead. During a search for fresh meat, R snacks on the brains of a teenage boy--and takes on his victim's memories and feelings, including his love for his girlfriend Julie. Violence and some strong language. Bestseller. Commercial audiobook. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Warm Bodies](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076132

Streams of Babel by Carol Plum-Ucci

Read by Michael Scherer

10 hours, 40 minutes

A bioterrorist attack in New Jersey leaves teens Cora, Owen, Scott, and Rain desperately ill. Meanwhile, young computer hackers Tyler and Shahzad uncover a plot to infect America's water supply. The two assist the government in tracking the extremists. Strong language. For senior high readers. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Streams of Babel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068045

Pale Horse, Pale Rider Three Short Novels by Katherine Anne Porter

Read by Nicola Daval

6 hours, 18 minutes

In Old Mortality girls Maria and Miranda learn about the young woman pictured in an old framed photograph at their grandmother's house. Noon Wine is about Olaf Helton, who hires on at a Texas dairy farm. The title piece recounts a grown-up Miranda's tragic love affair with a soldier. 1939.

[Download from BARD: Pale Horse, Pale Rider Three Short Novels](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065339

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17498](#)

Also available in braille BR017498

Year One by Nora Roberts

Read by MacKenzie Beyer

13 hours, 32 minutes

A sickness sweeps the planet, killing millions. There are those who are immune, known as the Uncanny, rumored to have magical powers. These survivors, both good and evil, must discover how to live in a new, devastated world. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Year One](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089938

The Years of Rice and Salt by Kim Stanley Robinson

Read by Richard Hauenstein

25 hours, 50 minutes

Alternate history of the past seven hundred years imagines that the fourteenth century's Black Death plague kills 99 percent of Europe's population. Considers a world in which Buddhism and Islam are the dominant religions and New World settlers sail from China, as envisioned by the reincarnation of the central characters. 2002.

[Download from BARD: The Years of Rice and Salt](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054060

The Judas Strain: a Sigma Force Novel by James Rollins

Read by L.J. Ganser

17 hours, 24 minutes

Gray Pierce, last seen in Black Order (RC 62904), and his Sigma Force covert organization battle a deadly plague that's about to destroy mankind. Pierce joins forces with a female assassin to find a cure by following in the footsteps of explorer Marco Polo. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Judas Strain: a Sigma Force Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065365

The Child Garden, or A Low Comedy by Geoff Ryman

Read by Carole Coons

19 hours, 12 minutes

Milena Shibush is afraid and angry. The viruses that make other people happy helpful and honest only make her sick. In this future world, people are "read" at age ten and have models made of their personalities, but Milena was too ill with viruses then to be "read." If the oversight is discovered now, the reading will expose her petty crimes and "bad grammar," and she will be made ill--in order to be cured. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: The Child Garden, or A Low Comedy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033095

Blindness by Jose Saramago

Read by Terence Aselford

11 hours, 38 minutes

Written by the Nobel Prize- winning Portuguese author. Without cause people are suddenly becoming blind. A doctor's wife is spared but pretends she is blind to remain with her husband. Quarantined by the government in an abandoned mental hospital, the blinded citizens create a reign of terror. Some strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: Blindness](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB046904

The Old Drift by Namwali Serpell

Read by Richard E. Grant, Kobna Holdbrook-Smith, and Adjoa Andoh

25 hours, 1 minute

In a small colonial settlement on the banks of the Zambezi River--not far from Victoria Falls--Percy M. Clark makes a mistake that entangles the fates of three Zambian families. All must reconcile with their challenges and joys as they navigate their lives. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Old Drift](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094488

The Book of M by Peng Shepherd

Read by Emily Woo Zeller and James Fouhey

17 hours, 8 minutes

People's shadows begin to vanish, and those affected gain strange new powers but lose all their memories. Ory and Max have managed to avoid the Forgetting by fleeing civilization. Then Max's shadow disappears. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: The Book of M](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094244

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille](#)

Also available in braille BR022655

Earth Abides by George Rippey Steward

Read by Jonathan Davis

15 hours, 7 minutes

A plague sweeps the globe, wiping out most of the human race. California intellectual loner Isherwood, who has immunity to the disease, and Em, a woman, survive. But can their descendants restore modern civilization? Some violence. International Fantasy Award. Commercial audiobook. 1949.

[Download from BARD: Earth Abides](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070833

Rise Again a Zombie Thriller by Ben Tripp

Read by Jill Fox

16 hours, 19 minutes

When Kelley, the sister of Iraq war veteran and sheriff Danielle "Danny" Adelman, runs away, Danny plans to retrieve her. But a plague that reanimates the dead sends refugees fleeing to their little town of Forest Peak, forcing Danny to stay and protect their home. Violence and strong language. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Rise Again a Zombie Thriller](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075446

Find Me a Novel by Laura Van den Berg

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

8 hours, 31 minutes

When a sickness that begins with memory loss and ends with death sweeps the country, loner Joy discovers she is immune. Admitted to a hospital in rural Kansas, she and other troubled but immune people submit to peculiar treatments by a doctor searching for a cure. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Find Me a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081041

Zone One by Colson Whitehead

Read by Erik Sandvold

11 hours, 11 minutes

After a zombie-creating pandemic takes a big bite out of the population, the government tries to reclaim New York City. Civilian Mark Spitz helps clear Lower Manhattan, building by building, removing the undead stragglers. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Zone One](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074181

Doomsday Book by Connie Willis

Read by Robert Blumenfeld

20 hours, 48 minutes

Kivrin, a young, twenty-first-century history student, travels back in time on assignment to fourteenth-century Oxford. But something goes wrong, and she is stranded in the Middle Ages right at the outbreak of the bubonic plague. As her modern mentor struggles to rescue her, Kivrin must come to terms with life and death in an age of superstition, fear, and suffering. Winner of the 1992 Nebula award.

[Download from BARD: Doomsday Book](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB036888