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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.” 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](#).

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