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Award Winners: National Book Award in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry

The National Book Award was founded in 1950 and is awarded to the best in American literature in the adult categories of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. This list provides all winners available from the library from the last 20+ years and then a selection of past winners. 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](#).

2019 Winners

Trust Exercise by Susan Choi

Read by Suehyla El-Attar et. al.

10 hours

In the 1980s, David and Sarah are both students at a competitive performing arts high school. Their passionate relationship is noticed by the school's charismatic acting teacher, Mr. Kingsley. Years later, Sarah publishes a novel about that time in her life, calling into question what really happened. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Trust Exercise](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094561

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22996](#)

Also available in braille BR022996

The Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom

Read by Bahni Turpin

14 hours, 21 minutes

The author relates a century of her family and their collective relationship with a home in a neglected area of New Orleans, even after Hurricane Katrina wiped it off the map. Discusses pride, familial love, and issues of class, race, and internalized shame. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Yellow House](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB098086

2018 Winners

The Friend by Sigrid Nunez

Read by Hillary Huber

6 hours, 1 minute

A writing professor is mourning the suicide of her best friend and mentor, a famous author. She takes responsibility for Apollo, her friend's huge Great Dane, finding in the dog someone to share her immense grief. Some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: The Friend](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090286

The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke by Jeffrey C. Stewart

Read by Bob Moore

48 hours, 52 minutes

Biography of the man lauded as the father of the Harlem Renaissance. Describes his education, career as a Howard University professor, extensive travels, role in culture, and identity as a gay man. Draws on primary sources and interviews with those who knew him. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. National Book Award. 2018.

[Download from BARD: The New Negro the Life of Alain Locke](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB095528

2017 Winners

Sing, Unburied, Sing a Novel by Jesmyn Ward

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

9 hours, 7 minutes

Thirteen-year-old Jojo has been raised by his grandparents, as his black mother, Leonie, is a drug addict and his white father, Michael, is in prison. When Michael is released, Leonie packs Jojo and his baby sister in the car for a nightmarish road trip. Violence and strong language. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Sing, Unburied, Sing a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089552

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22096](#)

Also available in braille BR022096

The Future is History How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia by Masha Gessen

Read by Masha Gessen

16 hours, 48 minutes

Russian journalist and biographer examines the issues her native country has recently faced. Follows four different individuals born at the promised dawn of democracy, and charts the effects of the new autocracy on their lives as the old Soviet order reemerged. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Future is History How Totalitarianism...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089395

2016 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

Stamped From the Beginning the Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi

Read by Bob Moore

20 hours, 37 minutes

A historian traces the history of anti-black racist ideas throughout American history by focusing on five notable intellectuals: Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, William Lloyd Garrison, W. E. B. DuBois, and Angela Davis. Analyzes the insidious impact of racist ideas on government policies. Some strong language. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Stamped from the Beginning the Definitive...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089293

2015 Winners

Fortune Smiles by Adam Johnson

Read by Greg Chun

8 hours, 20 minutes

A collection of short stories from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Orphan Master's Son* (DB 74282). A man searches for his son's mother. A computer programmer finds comfort in a digital copy of the recently assassinated president. A former Stasi agent ponders his past. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Fortune Smiles](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082453

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Read by Ta-Nehisi Coates

3 hours, 37 minutes

Columnist and editor for the *Atlantic Monthly* examines the history of contentious race relations in America. He reflects on the ways racial inequality plays out in his personal past and in the twenty-first century, and imagines the world his teenage son may inherit. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Between the World and Me](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082201

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21183](#)

Also available in braille BR021183

2014 Winners

Redeployment by Phil Klay

Read by Chuck Young

8 hours, 23 minutes

Twelve stories about soldiers at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the personal wars they fight reintegrating into society at home. In the title story, a soldier who had to shoot dogs on the battlefield must readjust to life in suburban America. Violence. Nat'l Book Award. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Redeployment](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078988

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20602](#)

Also available in braille BR020602

Age of Ambition Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China by Evan Osnos

Read by George Backman

16 hours, 43 minutes

Journalist uses his experiences living in China between 2005 and 2013 to examine the state of the country--especially that of individuals. Features stories of a soldier who defected to China from Taiwan, a scholar who began an influential dating service, and subversive artist Ai Weiwei. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Pulitzer finalist. Nat'l Book Award. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Age of Ambition Chasing Fortune, Truth, and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079724

2013 Winners

The Good Lord Bird by James McBride

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

12 hours, 39 minutes

1856. Henry "Onion" Shackleford is a ten-year-old slave when abolitionist John Brown rolls into town. Henry's father is killed in a scuffle and John Brown takes in Henry, believing him to be "Henrietta." Living as a girl, Henry bears witness to Brown's reign of terror. Violence and strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Good Lord Bird](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077431

The Unwinding an Inner History of the New America by George Packer

Read by Robert Sams

18 hours, 53 minutes

Writer for the New Yorker chronicles what he describes as the unraveling of America through the eyes of diverse citizens, including a factory worker in the Rust Belt, a son of tobacco farmers in the South, a Silicon Valley billionaire, and a Washington, D.C., insider. Nat'l Book Award. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Unwinding an Inner History of the New...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077210

2012 Winners

The Round House by Louise Erdrich

Read by Gregory Maupin

10 hours, 41 minutes

North Dakota, 1988. Thirteen-year-old Joe Coutts's mother Geraldine, a tribal enrollment specialist, is brutally raped at the Ojibwe Round House. Joe and his father, a judge, each search for Geraldine's attacker to bring him to justice. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. National Book Award. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Round House](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075641

Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo

Read by Catherine Byers

9 hours, 23 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer's 2007-2011 observations of the inhabitants of Annawadi, a slum surrounding the luxury hotels at the Mumbai, India, airport. Portrays the lives of disadvantaged families who battle hunger and disease and describes India's political and religious tensions and police corruption. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Behind the Beautiful Forevers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074457

Bewilderment New Poems and Translations by David Ferry

Read by Jim Zeiger

2 hours, 16 minutes

English professor and winner of the 2000 Library of Congress Bobbitt Prize for Poetry compiles translations of others' verse and his own original poems. Themes include reflections on readings, the seasons, and the power of a storm from a child's perspective. Nat'l Book Award. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Bewilderment New Poems and Translations](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075922

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19750](#)

Also available in braille BR019750

2011 Winners

Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward

Read by Erin Jones

8 hours, 15 minutes

Mississippi, August 2005. Young black teenager Esch Batiste--pregnant, hungry, and rejected--helps her widowed father and three brothers prepare for the approaching hurricane. When the storm arrives, the family seeks refuge in the attic. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Nat'l Book Award. Alex Award. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Salvage the Bones](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074033

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19453](#)

Also available in braille BR019453

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern by Stephen Greenblatt

Read by Lou Harpenau

11 hours, 31 minutes

Harvard humanities professor, author of Will in the World (DB 59294), reconstructs the life of Poggio Bracciolini, a Renaissance book hunter who rediscovered the lost poem On the Nature of Things (DB 37721) by Lucretius. Emphasizes the importance of Bracciolini's find and its impact on Western culture. Nat'l Book Award. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Swerve: How the World Became Modern](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073856

2010 Winners

Lord of Misrule by Jaimy Gordon

Read by Jack Fox

8 hours, 9 minutes

West Virginia, 1970. Deadbeat Tommy Hansel brings four horses to Indian Mound Downs intending to run them in cheap races, win big, and then leave town. Meanwhile, Tommy's girlfriend meets the local eccentrics and gangsters. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. Nat'l Book Award. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Lord of Misrule](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072235

Just Kids by Patti Smith

Read by Mare Trevathan

7 hours, 46 minutes

Singer/songwriter's memoir of her relationship with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (1946-1989). Smith (born 1946) reminisces about their 1967 meeting in New York City, where they lived together at the Hotel Chelsea, started their artistic careers, and befriended other creative types. Some strong language. Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Just Kids](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070750

2009 Winners

Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann

Read by Steven Carpenter

12 hours, 13 minutes

New York City, 1974. Disparate residents--including Philippe Petit, who performs an illegal high-wire walk between the Twin Towers; the judge who hears Petit's case; and a grieving mother--encounter death, love, and salvation. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. Nat'l Book Award. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Let the Great World Spin](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070450

The First Tycoon the Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt by T. J. Stiles

Read by Robert Sams

34 hours, 8 minutes

Chronicles the life of Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877) in the context of America's transition from an agricultural society to an industrial economy. Highlights Vanderbilt's rise from boatman to railroad entrepreneur, his efforts to promote national reconciliation with the postbellum South, and his family life. Nat'l Book Award. Pulitzer Prize. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The First Tycoon the Epic Life of Cornelius...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070495

2008 Winners

Shadow Country a New Rendering of the Watson Legend by Peter Matthiessen

Read by Roy Avers

38 hours, 21 minutes

Reimagines the mythic life of E.J. Watson, a sugarcane planter in the turn-of-the-twentieth-century Florida Everglades, who was despised and shot to pieces by his neighbors. Watson's favorite son becomes obsessed with his killing, and Watson's own memoir concludes this account. Strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Shadow Country a New Rendering of the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067860

The Hemingses of Monticello an American Family by Annette Gordon-Reed

Read by Bob Moore

32 hours, 12 minutes

African American professor chronicles four generations of the mixed-race Hemings family of Virginia in the context of slavery. Begins with Elizabeth (1735-1807), the daughter of a white man and a slave. Discusses Elizabeth's children, including Sally Hemings--Thomas Jefferson's mistress and his late wife's half sister. Nat'l Book Award. Pulitzer Prize. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Hemingses of Monticello an American Family](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067564

2007 Winners

Tree of Smoke by Denis Johnson

Read by Steven Carpenter

20 hours, 27 minutes

William "Skip" Sands joins the CIA and works for his uncle, the legendary "Colonel," in Vietnam. Bill and James Houston are American enlistees, widowed Canadian Kathy Jones nurses casualties, and Vietnamese Trung becomes a communist spy. War changes all of them. Violence and strong language. Nat'l Book Award. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Tree of Smoke](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065444

Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA by Tim Weiner

Read by Mark Ashby

24 hours, 30 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter investigates sixty years of the Central Intelligence Agency. Uses archival documents and interviews to illustrate that the agency's mission of gathering intelligence has faltered due to blunders, structural flaws, and philosophical conflicts. Posits that national security is jeopardized by the CIA's disarray. Nat'l Book Award. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071592

Time and Materials: Poems, 1997-2005 by Robert Hass

Read by John Lescault

2 hours, 14 minutes

The former poet laureate presents a collection of poems in a variety of styles on a broad array of contemporary topics. In "State of the Planet" Hass laments our abuse of nature. In "Bush's War" he deplores the inhumanity of all war. Nat'l Book Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Time and Materials: Poems, 1997-2005](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066784

2006 Winners

The Echo Maker by Richard Powers

Read by Christopher Hurt

18 hours, 3 minutes

Twenty-seven-year-old Nebraskan Mark Schluter flips his truck one night and suffers a head injury that makes his loved ones unrecognizable to him. His sister Karin enlists neurologist Gerald Weber to help Mark. As Mark searches for an accident witness, Gerald begins to fall apart. Strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Echo Maker](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064523

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl by Timothy Egan

3 braille volumes

Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter recounts the experiences of homesteaders who remained on their land during the 1930s dust storms that ravaged the southern Great Plains. Examines both human and ecological aspects of the disaster and the effects on survivors' daily lives, health, and communities. Nat'l Book Award. 2006.

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16831](#)

Also available in braille BR016831

2005 Winner

The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion

Read by Anne Hancock

5 hours, 26 minutes

Writer reflects on her emotional response to the unexpected death of her husband, John Gregory Dunne, after a visit to their comatose daughter. Discusses the shock of suddenly facing a crisis, the memory of their time together as a family, and the meaning of marriage. Nat'l Book Award. Bestseller. 2005.

[Download from BARD: The Year of Magical Thinking](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061740

2004 Winners

The News from Paraguay a Novel By Lily Tuck

Read by Laura Giannarelli

9 hours, 23 minutes

Paris, 1854. Francisco Lopez, Paraguay's future dictator, falls in love with Irish courtesan Ella Lynch. Following him to South America, Ella embraces her lover's doomed imperialistic dreams, but remains a stranger in a foreign land. Some explicit descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2004.

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

Available on digital cartridge DB059770

Arc of Justice a Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age by Kevin Boyle

Read by Lou Harpenau

16 hours, 22 minutes

Historian Boyle uses the 1925 case of African American doctor Ossian Sweet, who shot a white man while defending his house against a racist mob, to explore race relations in jazz-era America. Portrays the sensationalized murder trial and Clarence Darrow's legal tactics. Strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Arc of Justice a Sage of Race, Civil Rights...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB059602

Door in the Mountain New and Collected Poems, 1965-2003 by Jean Valentine

Read by Jill Fox

5 hours, 12 minutes

Gathers all of Valentine's previously published work together with more than seventy new poems. Her subjects include mysticism and experience, personal turmoil, and political unrest. Strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Door in the Mountain New and Collected Poems...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB059592

2003 Winners

The Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard

Read by Steven Crossley

11 hours, 25 minutes

1947. Thirty-two-year-old British major Aldred Leith comes from China to Occupied Japan to report on Hiroshima conditions. Postwar loneliness haunts him and his friend Peter Exley, who saved his life in battle. Leith falls in love with teenaged Australian Helen Driscoll, who is also struggling to recover from personal trauma. Nat'l Book Award. 2003.

[Download from BARD: The Great Fire](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057098

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15103](#)

Also available in braille BR015103

Waiting for Snow in Havana Confessions of a Cuban Boy by Carlos M. N. Eire

Read by Mark Ashby

14 hours, 48 minutes

A Yale historian recalls his privileged childhood in Cuba, where his eccentric father was a Havana judge. Author describes living through the revolution, losing everything, and escaping with his brother in 1962 to exile in Miami. Some violence and some strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Waiting for Snow in Havana Confessions of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057745

2002 Winners

Three Junes by Julia Glass

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

15 hours, 46 minutes

The Scottish McLeods--father and three sons--grapple with family ties and love relationships in the summers of 1989, 1995, and 1999. Widowed Paul, traveling in Greece, reappraises the past in his bereavement; a son in Manhattan finds an outlet for repressed feelings; and his brothers learn accommodation. Some strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Three Junes](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB055525

Master of the Senate the Years of Lyndon Johnson by Robert A. Caro

Read by Bill Wallace

62 hours, 9 minutes

The third volume of a biographical study of the thirty-sixth president, following *The Path to Power* (DB 18676) and *Means of Ascent* (DB 30837). Explains how Johnson, elected to the Senate in 1949, mastered the legislative system and maneuvered himself into the vice-presidency in 1960. Some strong language. Bestseller. Pulitzer Prize. Nat'l Book Award. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Master of the Senate the Years of Lyndon...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054174

In the Next Galaxy by Ruth Stone

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

1 hours, 58 minutes

Eighth collection from award-winning Virginia native born in 1915. In nearly one hundred poems, Stone provides an unsentimental personal glimpse of her life--from coping with her husband's suicide and the realities of her own aging to everyday observations of the world around her. Some strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2002.

[Download from BARD: In the Next Galaxy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057465

2001 Winners

The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen

Read by Christopher Walker

20 hours, 41 minutes

Because her husband, Alfred, has Parkinson's disease, elderly midwestern housewife Enid Lambert seeks to gather her grown children for one last Christmas together. But unhappily married banker Gary, recently fired professor Chip, and bisexual chef Denise have other ideas. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award. 2001.

[Download from BARD: The Corrections](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053073

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13651](#)

Also available in braille BR013651

The Noonday Demon an Atlas of Depression by Andrew Solomon

Read by Roy Avers

25 hours, 5 minutes

Examines the mental illness depression from cultural, personal, and scientific viewpoints. Explores medical treatments and alternatives, addiction, suicide, and related topics refracted through the author's own experiences and the struggles of fellow sufferers whom he interviewed. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller. 2001.

[Download from BARD: The Noonday Demon an Atlas of Depression](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053027

2000 Winners

In America a Novel by Susan Sontag

Read by Michele Schaeffer

14 hours, 3 minutes

In the opening chapter numbered "Zero," the unnamed protagonist--speaking for the author--chooses the characters for the novel. The remainder of the book revolves around the decision of Polish actress Maryna Zalezowska to leave the stage in 1876 and move to California with her husband and entourage.

Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award. 2000.

[Download from BARD: In America a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049825

In the Heart of the Sea the Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick

Read by Brian Conn

11 hours, 2 minutes

Relying mainly on the cabin boy's journal discovered in 1960, the author recounts the disastrous 1819 voyage of the whaling ship Essex. He describes the attack of an eighty-five-foot bull sperm whale, and the ensuing starvation, dehydration, and cannibalism that befell the shipwrecked survivors. Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award. Alex Award. 2000.

[Download from BARD: In the Hearty of the Sea the Tragedy of the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB050271

Blessing the Boats New and Selected Poems, 1988-2000 by Lucille Clifton

Read by Cyn Delafield

1 hour, 14 minutes

A collection of poetry about the human condition personalized through the voice of an African American woman. She shares observations about lynching, race, being female, menstruation, illness, celebrations, and the puzzles of existence. Some strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2000.

[Download from BARD: Blessing the Boats New and Selected Poems...](#)

Available on digital cartridge DB052339

1999 Winners

Waiting by Ha Jinn

Read by Nick Sullivan

8 hours, 46 minutes

In 1960s China, Manna Wu falls in love with married doctor Lin Kong. His tradition-bound wife Shuyu refuses to divorce him, but if Lin can forbear through eighteen years of separation, the court will dissolve the marriage. National Book Award. 1999.

[Download from BARD: Waiting](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049107

Embracing Defeat Japan in the Wake of World War II by John W. Dower

Read by Ralph Lowenstein

27 hours, 18 minutes

In this companion to *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (RC 25306) the author chronicles life in Japan during the American occupation, as seen through the eyes of the defeated. Focuses on social and cultural developments as an entire people had to start over. National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize. 1999.

[Download from BARD: Embracing Defeat Japan in the Wake of World...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049484

Vice: New and Selected Poems by Ai

2 braille volumes

Fifty-eight selections from five books published between 1973 and 1993 and eighteen new poems. In dramatic monologs, the speakers explore terror, desperation, and other raw emotions on topics such as abortion, beatings, child and wife abuse, politics, and race. Nat'l Book Award. 1999.

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12756](#)

Also available in braille BR012756

1998 Winners

Charming Billy by Alice McDermott

Read by Annie Wauters

8 hours, 32 minutes

Billy Lynch's family and friends join his widow in a Bronx pub for his wake. At one end of the long table, the discussion turns to the story surrounding a much-younger Billy's love for an Irish woman, whose long-ago death possibly drove Billy to his own death by alcohol. Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Charming Billy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB046014

Slaves in the Family by Edward Ball

Read by Robert Sams

22 hours, 47 minutes

A history of a South Carolina homestead from 1698 to 1865, told through interviews with descendants of plantation slaves. Inspired by a family reunion to learn about the past, the author traveled across the United States and to Africa. Among the timeworn recollections are portrayals of slaves and slaveholders working side by side over generations. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Slaves in the Family](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB046018

This Time New and Selected Poems by Gerald Stern

Read by Fred Major

5 hours, 32 minutes

In the tradition of Walt Whitman, a poet describes his impressions formed during lengthy perambulations. In "Here I Am Walking" he meditates as he strolls along New Jersey beaches, taking only simple fare, savoring the seashore, and musing on his past life and lost dreams. 1998. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: This Time New and Selected Poems](#)

Available on digital cartridge DB049884

1997 Winners

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier

Read by Robert Sams

18 hours, 19 minutes

A wounded Confederate soldier leaves the war on an arduous trek to his mountain home and the woman he aims to marry. Meanwhile, his intended struggles to work her deceased father's hardscrabble farm. Depicts hardship, peril, and courage in the wartime South. Strong language and violence.

Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Cold Mountain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044762

American Sphinx the Character of Thomas Jefferson by Joseph J. Ellis

Read by Bob Moore

14 hours, 53 minutes

A portrait of the drafter of the Declaration of Independence, third president, and enduring American icon. Traces his life through five major periods, including his service as diplomat and president. Limns Jefferson as a diverse character whose ideals and behavior were sometimes at odds. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: American Sphinx the Character of Thomas...](#)

Also available on cassette digital cartridge DB044729

Effort at Speech: New and Selected Poems by William Meredith

2 braille volumes

Meredith presents selections from his eight previously published collections spanning 1944 to 1987 and twelve new poems. Michael Collier explains in the introduction that the title Effort at Speech is more than apt because in 1983 a stroke left Meredith with expressive aphasia--a struggle for speech. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11533](#)

Also available in braille BR011533

1996 Winners

Ship Fever and Other Stories by Andrea Barrett

Read by Carole Jordan Stewart

8 hours, 38 minutes

Collection of eight short stories, many taking place in the historical past and within the context of scientific inquiry and discovery. The title piece, a novella set during Ireland's Great Famine, describes the existential adventure of a young Canadian doctor who tends to Irish immigrants suffering from typhus while he tries to impress the woman he loves.

[Download from BARD: Ship Fever and Other Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042607

An American Requiem God, My Father, and the War that Came Between Us by James Carroll

2 volumes of braille

Memoir by a former priest and Vietnam war resister of his conflict with his father, a general in the military, during the 1960s. Recounts the events, struggles of conscience, and decisions that would divide his family and alter their lives forever. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR10880](#)

Also available in braille BR010880

Scrambled Eggs & Whiskey: Poems, 1991-1995 by Hayden Carruth

1 volume of braille

Poems, variously depicting passion, war, nature, political power, tragedy, and love in one's later years. One such work, "Auburn Poem," voices a father's poignant lament to his wife over their daughter's fatal cancer. Strong language. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR10928](#)

Also available in braille BR010928

1995 Winners

Sabbath's Theater by Philip Roth

Read by Richard Davidson

17 hours, 48 minutes

Sixty-four-year-old Mickey Sabbath is a former puppeteer known for his rather lewd performances, which were perhaps his way of masking the suffering he endured after the disappearance of his first wife and the deaths of his mother and older brother. Now the cancer death of his long-time mistress, Drenka Balich, has undone him further, and Mickey is on a journey toward suicide. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Sabbath's Theater](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042376

The Haunted Land Facing Europe's Ghosts After Communism by Tina Rosenberg

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

19 hours, 25 minutes

A survey of issues faced by new democracies of eastern Europe as they address the impact of crime under communist rule. The author discusses such incidents as an East German border guard's shooting of Berlin Wall escapees, a Czech dissident's apparent collaboration with the Soviets, and General Jaruzelski's use of martial law in Poland in 1981. National Book Award.

[Download from BARD: The Haunted Land Facing Europe's Ghosts...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045311

Passing Through the Later Poems, New and Selected by Stanley Kunitz

Read by Jim Zeiger

2 hours, 37 minutes

Poems written since 1971 are collected here in honor of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author's ninetieth birthday. Works draw on his life experience, "telling the stories of the soul," which is how he describes poetry in the preface. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Passing Through the Later Poems, New and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042433

1994 Winners

A Frolic of His Own by William Gaddis

Read by Bruce Huntley

20 hours, 15 minutes

Satire on Americans' penchant for taking one another to court. Oscar Crease, a college professor and author of a play about his grandfather's role in the Civil War, sues a Hollywood producer who pirates the play and makes it into a blockbuster movie. More lawsuits follow. Throughout the novel-- written mainly in dialog--Oscar, his family, his friends, and his lawyers talk at each other until finally an old judge lays down the law. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: A Frolic of His Own](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB041223

How We Die Reflections on Life's Final Chapter by Sherwin B. Nuland

Read by Ed Blake

11 hours, 56 minutes

In hopes of removing mystery from dying and making it less frightening a Yale medical professor explains the biological and clinical aspects of death. He describes six causes of death he asserts to be representative of universal processes, portrays patients, and muses about care and dignity. The examples are heart attack, Alzheimer's disease, murder, AIDS, cancer, and old age. Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award. 1993.

[Download from BARD: How We Die Reflections on Life's Final Chapter](#)

Available on digital cartridge DB037812

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09461](#)

Also available in braille BR009461

Worshipful Company of Fletchers Poems by James Tate

Read by Arnie Warren

1 hour, 28 minutes

Prosaic images, such as "the cushions on the wicker couch need mending," form a backdrop for a poem about children telling ghost stories. Sometimes Tate weaves such ordinary objects as gumwrappers, liberty dimes, and Indian-head pennies into his poems. And as he focuses on the creative process, he is amused by thoughts of others solemnly organizing his personal things. Winner of the National Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Worshipful Company of Fletchers Poems](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB039944

1993 Winners

The Shipping News by E. Annie Proulx

Read by Christopher Hurt

11 hours, 49 minutes

National Book Award-winner by the author of Postcards (DB 35489). The story centers around Quoye, a lowly newspaper reporter. When his wife, Petal Bear, runs off with another man and gets killed, Quoye's aunt convinces the distraught man to move with his two daughters to an abandoned family home in Newfoundland. Quoye goes to work for a sleazy paper covering the shipping news and learns to fit right in. Strong language. Pulitzer Prize. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: The Shipping News](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037883

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09612](#)

Also available in braille BR009612

United States Essays: 1952-1992 by Gore Vidal

Read by Rick Foucheux

56 hours, 15 minutes

Selected literary, political, and personal essays published over forty years. The title refers to Vidal's assessment of the state of the art of writing, the state of the union, and the state of his opinions about life in general. Nothing is immune. Not even the bestseller list can escape his observations, and his work has appeared on it more than once. He writes about sex and the American public and a myriad of topics in between.

[Download from BARD: United States Essays 1952-1992](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB035938

Garbage by A. R. Ammons

Read by Barrett Whitener

1 hours, 57 minutes

National Book Award-winning book-length poem in which the author uses garbage as an emblem for all kinds of refuse. Ammons often personalizes his confrontation and ponders the power of poetry to make a difference in dealing with waste. He divides his extended meditation into eighteen sections, each division a "catch-your-breath moment" before his argument continues.

[Download from BARD: Garbage](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB038297

1992 Winners

All the Pretty Horses by Cormac McCarthy

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

10 hours, 3 minutes

Texas 1949. John Grady Cole, sixteen, is on the threshold of adulthood when his world turns upside down. His grandfather has died, and his mother has no desire to keep the 18,000-acre ranch, which is the only home and way of life John knows. With a friend he sets out for Mexico and finds work on another ranch. But John falls for the owner's daughter and finds himself in jail. Strong language and violence. Bestseller. Nat'l Book Award. 1992.

[Download from BARD: All the Pretty Horses](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034043

Becoming a Man Half a Life Story by Paul Monette

Read by Ray Hagen

11 hours, 7 minutes

Author of Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir (RC 41663) explains in this sequel how he wasted years of his life before he came out of the closet. Monette's self-portrait depicts his resentment of the duplicity in his life, his struggle to come to terms with his homosexuality, and the relief he felt once he met Roger, his longtime companion. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Becoming a Man Half a Life Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB041664

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09742](#)

Also available in braille BR009742

New and Selected Poems by Mary Oliver

Read by Suzanne Toren

2 hours, 37 minutes

The author of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize-winning American Primitive (RC 21493) was honored with the National Book Award for this volume containing poems written over nearly three decades. Oliver's poems frequently question how to love this world. Although most pay tribute to nature, some investigate human existence, expressing the need to experience life so that one does not "end up simply having visited this world." Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: New and Selected Poems](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB035781

1991 Winners

Mating by Norman Rush

Read by Suzanne Toren

19 hours, 11 minutes

The unnamed female narrator is a thirty-two-year-old American anthropology student in Africa who abandons her failing research to search for the perfect mate. She finds him in Nelson Denoon, creator of a desert utopia for destitute African women. Her mating ritual successfully evolves into intellectual and physical intercourse, but is brought to a standstill by an abrupt change in Denoon. Explicit descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: Mating](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033619

Freedom: Freedom in the Making of Western Culture, v. 1 by Orlando Patterson

Read by Ralph Lowenstein

21 hours, 26 minutes

A sociologist explores the history of the concept of freedom, which has become the single most valued principle in the Western world. He suggests that the roots of freedom are found in slavery in the ancient world. As he develops the paths of these roots, he distinguishes between personal, civic, and sovereign freedoms, and focuses on the status of women, foreigners, and prisoners of war.

[Download from BARD: Freedom: Freedom in the Making of Western...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034101

What Work is Poems by Philip Levine

Read by Gillian Wilson

1 hours, 45 minutes

This volume won the 1991 Los Angeles Times Book Award for poetry. It is a collection celebrating the American worker, in which Levine explores the inner life of unsung heroes in unglamorous surroundings doing thankless jobs. He sees them living "at the borders of dreams," sustained by thoughts that "the day was ending," and examining "the faces on the bus, some going to work and some coming back."

[Download from BARD: What Work is Poems](#)

Also available on digital cartridgeDB

1990 Winners

Middle Passage by Charles Richard Johnson

Read by Reginald Metcalf

6 hours, 36 minutes

The year is 1830. Rutherford Calhoun, a witty, well-educated freed slave eking out a living as a petty thief in New Orleans, hops aboard a square-rigger to evade the prim Boston teacher who wants to marry him. But the "Republic" turns out to be a slave clipper bound for Africa. Calhoun hates himself for acting as henchman to the ship's captain, a dwarfish tyrant. Before the crew can mutiny, African captives stage a revolt. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Middle Passage](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032593

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09054](#)

Also available in braille BR009054

The House of Morgan an American Banking Dynasty and the Rise of Modern Finance by Ron Chernow

Read by Lou Harpenau

32 hours, 53 minutes

A look at the most powerful family of banks in America, and the influence they have had on Western economy from the late eighteenth century through the late 1980s, with emphasis on the twentieth century. The author discusses the firms that comprise the House of Morgan, the bank's dealings with governments and individuals, and prominent family members. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: The House of Morgan an American Banking...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031305

1983 Winner

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Read by Tracy Mickens-Hundley

8 hours, 51 minutes

Follows two black sisters--Nettie, a missionary, and Celie, raped by her father and married to a cruel man. Nettie's letters do not reach Celie, and Celie's shame is so great that she writes only to God. Anniversary edition includes Walker's 1992 preface. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Pulitzer Prize. 1982.

[Download from BARD The Color Purple](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058842

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12265](#)

Also available in braille BR012265

1980 Winner

Sophie's Choice by William Styron

Read by Ed Blake

23 hours, 55 minutes

Stingo moves into a cheap Brooklyn rooming house where he meets unstable Nathan and his gorgeous lover Sophie, a Polish Catholic who somehow survived the Holocaust. Stingo, who feels unrequited love for Sophie, becomes her confidant as she faces the horrors of her past, especially the years she worked for the Commandant of Auschwitz. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1979. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Sophie's Choice](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB013812

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18694](#)

Also available in braille BR018694

1979 Winners

Going After Cacciato a Novel by Tim O'Brien

Read by George Guidall-Shapiro

10 hours, 34 minutes

A tough yet lyric novel relates the saga of an American soldier in Vietnam who goes AWOL and heads for Paris with the rest of his squad pursuing him. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Going After Cacciato a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB014424

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12371](#)

Also available in braille BR012371

Mirabell, Books of Number by James Ingram Merrill

Read By Jonathan Farwell

Mystical, long narrative poem in ten parts that explores the theme of human evolution. Merrill covers such topics as primates, pyramids, Stonehenge, Homer, Einstein, DNA molecules, laser lights, and black holes. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Mirabell, Books of Number](#)

Available on digital cartridge DB015746

1976 Winner

Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror Poems by John Ashbery

1 volume of braille

Thirty-six contemporary poems reflecting originality, inner depth, and vision. Pulitzer Prize. Nat'l Book Award.

Available in braille BR003211

1974 Winners

Gravity's Rainbow by Thomas Pynchon

Read by George Guidall-Shapiro

34 hours, 22 minutes

A demanding novel of comic, terrifying incidents that traces the odyssey of the anti-hero, an American lieutenant stationed in London during World War II.

Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Gravity's Rainbow](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB023792

Diving into the Wreck Poems, 1971-1972 by Adrienne Cecile Rich

Read by Anne Chodoff

56 minutes

The poet describes these eloquent poems as exploring her woman's selfhood and the theme of sexuality: wounds, identity, and politics. Some of these poems appeared in "The Nation", "The New York Review of Books", "Partisan Review", and "Ramparts"

[Download from BARD: Diving into the Wreck Poems...](#)

Available on digital cartridge DB008641

1970 Winner

The Complete Poems, 1927-1979 by Anne Bishop

Read by Laura Giannarelli

5 hours, 14 minutes

The life's work of the American poet. Includes A Cold Spring, Questions of Travel, Geography III, the Pulitzer Prize-winning North and South, uncollected poems, translations, four poems published after her death, and some poems never published. Two poems in Poems Written in Youth first appeared in a school magazine, and her last poem was published posthumously by the New Yorker. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: The Complete Poems, 1927-1979](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB036371

1967 Winner

The Fixer by Bernard Malamud

Read by George Guidall-Shapiro

10 hours, 4 minutes

Based on an actual court case involving the attempt of Russian authorities to discredit Judaism by accusing one Jew of a ritual murder. The book describes the dehumanizing abuse and torture endured by an innocent man awaiting trial. Nat'l Book Award. Pulitzer Prize.

[Download from BARD: The Fixer](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB017078

Also available in braille BR004979

1966 Winner

The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter by Katherine Anne Porter

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

21 hours, 32 minutes

This volume brings together all three previous collections of the author's short stories: Flowering Judas; Pale Horse, Pale Rider; and The Leaning Tower and Other Stories, as well as the individual "The Leaning Tower," "The Downward Path to Wisdom," "A Day's Work," and "Holiday," which are collected here for the first time. Nat'l Book Award. Pulitzer Prize.

[Download from BARD: The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB041186

1965 Winner

Herzog by Saul Bellow

Read by Ray Hagen

14 hours, 6 minutes

Told partially in interior monologues, the story of a modern Jew--earnest, immature, clumsy, thoughtful, and forgiving. He has met only failure in two marriages, an academic career, and his search for meaning. Strong language. Explicit descriptions of sex. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Herzog](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022553

Also available in braille BR000207

1955 Winners

A Fable by William Faulkner

Read by Ted Stoddard

18 hours, 39 minutes

In rhetoric that denounces war, the novel presents a parallel between the false armistice in France in 1918 and the Passion Week. A French corporal and his twelve followers bring action at the front to a standstill as they spread the gospel of the brotherhood of humankind. Pulitzer Prize 1955. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: A Fable](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042248

Also available in braille BR000551

Collected Poems by Wallace Stevens

Read by Lester Rawlins

11 hours, 18 minutes

A volume of richly imaginative rhymes and an unmistakable individuality that won the Pulitzer Prize for the poet in 1955. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Collected Poems](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB009504

1950 Winner

Paterson by William Carlos Williams

Read by Gordon Gould

10 hours, 22 minutes

First published in separate volumes between 1946 and 1958, this edition gathers the five books that comprise Williams's magnum opus. The title refers to a city in New Jersey. And the epic poem, composed of fragments of lyrics, prose, narrative, and letters, is an extended metaphor for the mind of modern humanity. Similarly, the Passaic River and its central feature, the Passaic Falls depict the course of the poet's life. Nat'l Book Award.

[Download from BARD: Paterson](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB038546