



BRILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

(800) 952-5666; btbl.ca.gov; btbl@library.ca.gov

Classics by California Authors

Included here are fiction, poetry, and nonfiction books by some of the biggest names to come from or come through California. 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](#).

The Land of Little Rain by Mary Hunter Austin

Read by Jill Ferris.

4 hours, 17 minutes

Early environmentalist and author Mary Austin, portrayed in *Mary Austin and the American West* (DB 72474), describes the landscape between the high Sierras and the Mojave Desert in this 1903 work about the flora, fauna, and people of the California desert. 1903.

[Download from BARD: The Land of Little Rain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073448

The Collected Writings of Ambrose Bierce By Ambrose Bierce

Read by Christopher Hurt

32 hours, 19 minutes

A representative collection of the writings of the legendary American journalist and cynic who disappeared in Mexico in 1913. The stories display Bierce's bitter wit and keen observations, his unique blend of humor and horror, and his realistic Civil War stories.

[Download from BARD: The Collected Writings of Ambrose Bierce](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022144

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

Read by Jeff Halberstadt

5 hours, 29 minutes

Social satire set in the future, when owning or reading books is a crime. Guy Montag, the fireman-hero, becomes a fugitive when he succumbs to temptation. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Fahrenheit 451](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034963

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15332](#)

Also available in braille BR015332

The Pleasures of the Damned: Poems, 1951-1993 by Charles Bukowski

Read by Christopher Hurt

7 hours, 51 minutes

Poems by Los Angeles counterculture icon Charles Bukowski (1920-1994), edited by his friend and publisher John Martin. Includes Bukowski's previously uncollected works. "Girl on the Escalator" reflects both the poet's dyspeptic viewpoint and his lifelong interest in young women. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Pleasures of the Damned: Poems, 1951-1993](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066380

Collected Stories by Raymond Carver

Read by Colleen Delany

39 hours, 15 minutes

The short stories of Raymond Carver (1938-1988), from early sketches to posthumously discovered works. Includes "Beginners," the longer original manuscript version of "What We Talk about When We Talk about Love." In "Menudo" a sleepless man berates himself for messing up the lives of three women. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Collected Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072181

The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler

Read by Ray Foushee

6 hours, 52 minutes

A nightmare story of degeneracy in southern California, in which two Hollywood heiresses become mixed up in blackmail and murder. Strong language. 1939.

[Download from BARD: The Big Sleep](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032657

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR08653](#)

Also available in braille BR008653

Two Years Before the Mast a Personal Narrative of Life at Sea by Richard Henry Dana

Read by John Horton

17 hours, 25 minutes

Written in 1840, this narrative is based on the author's own journal, written while he was a sailor, and describes the hard and brutal life of the seaman.

[Download from BARD: Two Years Before the Mast a Personal Narrative...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019924

The Man in the High Castle by Philip K. Dick

Read by Tom Weiner

8 hours, 27 minutes

The Axis powers have won World War II and jointly occupy the United States. A German faction attempts to warn the Japanese about an impending nuclear attack. A subversive novel and a fortune-telling device guide characters' decisions in this alternate history. Some strong language. Hugo Award. Commercial audiobook. 1962.

[Download from BARD: The Man in the High Castle](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076478

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09889](#)

Also available in braille BR009889

Play it as it Lays a Novel by Joan Didion

Read by Barbara Pinolini

3 hours, 39 minutes

A discursive story set in late 1960s Hollywood about an actress whose immoderate lifestyle has alienated her from family and friends. She witnesses a friend's suicide and enters a mental hospital, where she recollects some of the formative events in her life. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Play it as it Lays a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043391

Also available in braille BR001455

Arranged Marriage by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Read by Cathy Carlson

10 hours, 14 minutes

Collection of stories around the theme of Indian-born girls and women in America, their coming of age and the transformations forced on them by the two cultures as they immigrate. 1995. Some descriptions of sex. Violence.

[Download from BARD: Arranged Marriage](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC16721

Caught Inside: a Surfer's Year on the California Coast by Daniel Duane

Read by John Polk

8 hours, 36 minutes

An account of a year spent surfing in northern California. The author describes the natural history of the wildlife of the area. He also delves into the art of crafting a surfboard, the water dynamics of surfing, and the cultural history of the sport

[Download from BARD: Caught Inside: a Surfer's Year on the California...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045595

These Are My Rivers New & Selected Poems, 1955-1993 by Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Read by Jonathan Davis

5 hours, 28 minutes

The bard of San Francisco expresses the moods of four decades in poetry. Includes selections from A Coney Island of the Mind, Who Are We Now? and Landscapes of the Living and Dying, among other previously published volumes. "The Canticle of Jack Kerouac" is one of the later poems. 1993.

[Download from BARD: These Are My Rivers New & Selected Poems...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064517

The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett

Read by Ralph Bell

7 hours, 47 minutes

In searching for the murderer of his partner, Sam Spade runs afoul of the police and several characters all in search of a mysterious statuette. 1930.

[Download from BARD: The Maltese Falcon](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB016593

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13021](#)

Also available in braille BR001597

Stories of the Early West, The Luck of Roaring Camp, and 16 Other Tales of Mining and Frontier Days by Bret Harte

Read by Robert Donley

12 hours, 4 minutes

The author tells tales of the rough lives of miners, gamblers, and adventurers in nineteenth-century California.

[Download from BARD: Stories of the Early West, The Luck of Roaring...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB021660

The Apple Trees at Olema: New and Selected Poems by Robert Hass

Read by Jim Zeiger

9 hours, 19 minutes

Poetry by winner of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize. Contains selections from his first five books: Field Guide, Praise, Human Wishes (DB 40909), Sun under Wood, and Time and Materials (DB 66784). The previously unpublished material includes a suite of elegies and experiments in pure narrative. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Apple Trees at Olema: New and ...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073030

Farewell to Manzanar a True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After the World War II Internment by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Read by Catherine Byers

4 hours, 24 minutes

An intimate look at the painful years during World War II when the Wakatsuki family was imprisoned in a California internment camp for Japanese Americans.

[Download from BARD: Farewell to Manzanar a True Story of Japanese...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043194

Ramona by Helen Hunt Jackson

Read by Anne Chodoff

15 hours, 14 minutes

A classic American love story first published in 1884. Half-Indian Ramona is adopted and reared by the patriarchal Moreno family in mid-nineteenth-century California. She falls in love with Alessandro, a simple Indian peasant, and defies her Spanish family by eloping with him. The lovers flee from place to place to escape persecution.

[Download from BARD: Ramona](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB021805

Also available in braille BR001602

Rock and Hawk a Selection of Shorter Poems by Robinson Jeffers

Read by Robert Donley

6 hours, 33 minutes

Comprehensive collection of Jeffers's poetry in chronological arrangement showing his development. Includes an introduction by Robert Hass, summarizing Jeffers's life and work.

[Download from BARD: Rock and Hawk a Selection of Shorter Poems](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB029282

Also available in braille BR007442

The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston

Read by Catherine Byers

6 hours, 52 minutes

Girlhood recollections of a Chinese American in California, where her parents had settled and operated a laundry. Her mother's "talk-stories" filled the girl's head with mythic Chinese figures and traditions as she coped with daily life in America. Some strong language. Nat'l Book Critics Circle Award. 1976.

[Download from BARD: The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB050624

The Dharma Bums by Jack Kerouac

Read by Ed Blake

7 hours, 16 minutes

In 1955 two young men search for Truth the Zen way in their dissolute wanderings on America's West Coast. A story that celebrates the freedom of those who have opted out of conventional society.

[Download from BARD: The Dharma Bums](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043036

Martin Eden by Jack London

Read By Richard Braun

14 hours, 15 minutes

Semi-autobiographical tale about an uncouth young sailor who rescues a San Francisco society man from a street assault and is taken into the rich man's home, where he learns about art and culture

[Download from BARD: Martin Eden](#)

Also available in digital cartridge DB010706

Also available in braille BR001066

Mary Ann in Autumn a Tales of the City Novel by Armistead Maupin

Read by Ray Hagen

8 hours, 41 minutes

Cancer-stricken Mary Ann leaves her unfaithful husband in Connecticut and returns to San Francisco, twenty years after deserting her first husband and daughter. She moves in with her old friend Michael and his husband, reconnects with her former landlady Anna, and is confronted by a menacing adversary. Strong language. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Mary Ann in Autumn a Tales of the City Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072107

The Wilderness World of John Muir by John Muir

Read by Bruce Huntley

11 hours, 9 minutes

Selections from the journals and published works of Scottish-born naturalist/conservationist, who emigrated to Wisconsin at age eleven. Muir (1838-1914), first president of the Sierra Club, describes his delight in observing nature while traversing the North American wilderness, primarily alone and on foot. Includes introduction and comments by Edwin Way Teale, editor. 1954.

[Download from BARD: The Wilderness World of John Muir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058404

McTeague a Story of San Francisco by Frank Norris

Read by David Palmer

11 hours, 13 minutes

Naturalistic novel published in 1899 studies the disintegration of character. Forbidden to practice dentistry because he lacks both a diploma and a license, McTeague eventually kills his avaricious but miserly wife and meets a terrible death himself.

[Download from BARD: McTeague a Story of San Francisco](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB012689

The Human Comedy by William Saroyan

Read By John Stratton

5 hours, 38 minutes

A story of a mother and her four children who live in Ithaca, California, during World War II. Features fourteen-year-old Homer, who is exposed to a lot of sadness in his job as telegraph messenger. William Saroyan is a Pulitzer Prize winning author.

[Download from BARD: The Human Comedy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB010137

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11931](#)

Also available in braille BR011931

The Practice of the Wild: Essays by Gary Snyder

Read by Bill Wallace

7 hours, 9 minutes

A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet "meditates on the nature of wildness and freedom" in this collection of essays. Each of the nine selections reflects his concern for Native American traditions, contemplative philosophies, environmental issues, ethics, and above all, the relationship between humans and nature.

[Download from BARD: The Practice of the Wild: Essays](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034261

Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto

Read by Michael Pinney

2 hours, 55 minutes

Eleven vignettes set in central California feature young Mexican-Americans going about the business of growing up. Fausto, who longs for a guitar, fraudulently receives a hefty reward when he returns a stray pet to a wealthy neighbor, but he is guilt-ridden until he relinquishes the money in church. And Marie, who declines a boring family vacation, is angry that fun was had without her. For grades 5-8 and older readers.

[Download from BARD: Baseball in April and Other Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037667

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Read by Steven Carpenter

17 hours, 20 minutes

Steinbeck's classic tale of the Joads, who, like many other families during the Great Depression, are driven from their homestead by drought, economic hardship, and the encroachment of large agricultural interests. They leave Oklahoma in search of a better life in California but meet with hardship and injustice. Pulitzer Prize. 1939.

[Download from BARD: The Grapes of Wrath](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068308

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09954](#)

Also available in braille BR001621 or BR009954

Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner

Read by Roy Avers

21 hours, 16 minutes

Historian Lyman Ward, immobilized by illness and deserted by his wife, has retired to his ancestral California cabin to research his family's past. The loveless marriage of his grandparents--a cultivated eastern artist and a pragmatic mining engineer--mirrors the troubled expansion of the American West. Some strong language. Pulitzer Prize. 1971.

[Download from BARD: Angle of Repose](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054215

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18718](#)

Also available in braille BR018718

The Complete Short Stories of Robert Louis Stevenson, With a Selection of the Best Short Novels by Robert Louis Stevenson

Read by John Horton

21 hours, 30 minutes

Short stories and other fiction that encompass the brief life of the author. Includes his well-known "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." The ghost story "Trawn Janet" is set in Scotland. A romantic tale of chivalry, "The Sire de Malétoit's Door," takes place in medieval England. 1997.

[Download from BARD: The Complete Short Stories of Robert Louis...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049498

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Read by Yvonne Fair Tessler

11 hours, 6 minutes

In 1949 four Chinese women living in San Francisco founded the Joy Luck Club where they met to play mah jong, tell stories, and "feast" on scraps. Forty years later one of the women dies, her daughter takes her place at the club, and a secret is revealed that unleashes in each person the need to reach back and remember. Bestseller. 1989.

[Download from BARD: The Joy Luck Club](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB029021

Also available in braille BR007747

The Day of the Locust by Nathanael West

Read by David Goetz

5 hours

A man arrives in Hollywood hoping for success as a scene designer, but he becomes only another nondescript, unsuccessful character on the fringes of Hollywood studios.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB012925