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Classics by American Authors

The American classics listed here range from some of the earliest American novels to more contemporary additions to the cannon. 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](#).

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Read by Laura Giannarelli

21 hours, 35 minutes

Recounts the lives of the four March sisters--quick-tempered Jo, who is restless for freedom; Beth, who loves her home and family; Meg who longs for pretty clothes; and self-absorbed Amy. Includes 1989 introduction by Elaine Showalter. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 1868.

[Download from BARD: Little Women](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058830

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Also available in braille BR011778

Dark Laughter by Sherwood Anderson

Read by Anne Jemison

7 hours, 33 minutes

Rebellious John Stockton weary of the shoddy newspaper work he is doing, drifts down the Mississippi River, changes his name, and becomes involved in a love affair with his employer's wife.

[Download from BARD: Dark Laughter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB014786

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Read by Andrea Frierson-Toney

9 hours, 14 minutes

Memoir by well-known African American poet and college professor Maya Angelou. She describes her childhood and adolescent years in rural Arkansas, in St. Louis, and in San Francisco, and the racial and gender hardships she endured. 1969.

[Download from BARD: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#)

Also available in digital cartridge DB57200

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15665](#)

Also available in braille BR015665

If Beale Street Could Talk by James Baldwin

Read by Gail Nelson

6 hours, 17 minutes

Bittersweet love story between nineteen-year-old African American Tish Rivers and her lover, Fonny, who met on the streets as children. Tish is pregnant with their child and remains hopeful, while Fonny, an artisan wrongly accused of rape, awaits trial in jail. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1974.

[Download from BARD: If Beale Street Could Talk](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058492

Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury

Read by Gary Telles

8 hours, 27 minutes

Will Halloway and Jim Nightshade, both thirteen, are fascinated by the carnival that comes to their small town. But after a series of frightening events, the boys realize there is something sinister about the show and its owner. 1962.

[Download from BARD: Something Wicked This Way Comes](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB050233

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12583](#)

Also available in braille BR012583

The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck

Read by Kimberly Schraf

11 hours, 22 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by a winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Describes the rise of Wang Lung, a poor Chinese peasant. The story begins with his wedding day, as he ponders his good fortune that now he will have a woman to take over the chore of lighting the fire to heat the water for his bath. With the help and patience of his new wife, O-lan, Wang Lung becomes a rich landowner. Pulitzer Prize. For high school and older readers.

[Download from BARD: The Good Earth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037294

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09400](#)

Also available in braille BR009400

In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and its Consequences by Truman Capote

Read by Ray Hagen

11 hours, 54 minutes

The author coined the term "nonfiction novel" for this account of the murder of a Kansas family. He reconstructs the crime and the backgrounds and personalities of all the principals, drawing his information from observation, interviews, and official records. 1965.

[Download from BARD: In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022726

Cathedral: Stories by Raymond Carver

Read by Jack Hrkach

6 hours, 16 minutes

Powerful short stories about the subtle shifts in familiar feelings and perceptions of ordinary people. A reluctant man of limited vision gets a glimpse of transcendence as he tries to picture a cathedral with his wife's blind friend. Marriage, infidelity, the loss of a child, an old farm are the subjects of some of the other stories. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD Cathedral: Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB021662

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BRC00611](#)

Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather

Read by Kimberly Schraf

8 hours, 31 minutes

A tale about the exploits of Bishop Jean Latour and Father Joseph Vaillant, French Catholic priests who organized pioneer and Indian missions throughout the newly created diocese of New Mexico in the second half of the nineteenth century. 1927.

[Download from BARD: Death Comes for the Archbishop](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056535

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14859](#)

Also available in braille BR014859

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

The Awakening, and Selected Stories by Kate Chopin

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

10 hours, 53 minutes

First published in 1899, The Awakening is a novel about a liberated young woman who rebels against the constraints of marriage and engages in extramarital love. The results are disastrous, in the book and on the career of the author. In an introduction to the novel and the twelve short stories in this collection, the editor reflects on Chopin's continuing impact on feminist literature. 1983.

[Download from BARD: The Awakening, and Selected Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033806

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR08894](#)

Also available in braille BR008894

The Red Badge of Courage: an Episode of the American Civil War by Stephen Crane

Read by John Stratton

8 hours, 22 minutes

This new edition of an American classic has been recovered, as nearly as possible, from the author's final handwritten manuscript. It includes many key passages, phrases, and words, and an entire chapter that were deleted from the edition published in 1895. The story itself, the first unromanticized novel of the Civil War to attain popularity, portrays a young boy enduring the test of battle in wonder and terror.

[Download from BARD: The Red Badge of Courage: an Episode of the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022405

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13144](#)

Also available in braille BR013144

The Hours by Michael Cunningham

Read by Faith Potts

6 hours, 6 minutes

The spirit of Virginia Woolf permeates the lives of several American readers as evidenced in this trio of tales about the author Woolf, a New Yorker planning a party to honor a writer, and a young mother reading Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway. Some strong language. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: The Hours](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB047310

Life in the Iron Mills, and Other Stories by Rebecca Harding Davis

Read by Marilyn Gleason

7 hours, 37 minutes

The title piece, first published in the Atlantic Monthly in April 1861, tells the story of an artist living in one of the early industrial towns of America and portrays the deprivation of the mill hands and their families. Also included are "The Wife's Story," "Anne," and a biographical sketch of Rebecca Harding Davis. These describe the lives of women constrained by society and by their own senses of duty.

[Download from BARD: Life in the Iron Mills, and Other Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033980

A Scanner Darkly by Philip K. Dick

Read by Gary Telles

9 hours, 41 minutes

In a near-future, drug-ridden America, narcotics agent Bob Arctor goes undercover to catch a drug dealer. In the junkie culture in which he operates (even his girlfriend is a dealer), he takes large doses of a drug that splits his brain into two separate personalities. The agent has no knowledge of his other self, who, as it turns out, is the drug dealer he is after. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: A Scanner Darkly](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB036829

Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow

Read by Jeff Baker

7 hours, 48 minutes

A story set in 1906 New York that incorporates luminaries of the period, including Theodore Roosevelt, Sigmund Freud, and Emma Goldman. A ragtime musician from Harlem falls victim to racist vandalism and seeks redress through violence. Strong language, violence, and descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: Ragtime](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044378

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18664](#)

Also available in braille BR018664

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Read by Peter Jay Fernandez

20 hours, 57 minutes

Classic novel of a young black man's search for identity. Follows the unnamed protagonist from his youth in a Southern town through the depression years in Harlem, where he examines and rejects the values thrust on him by both whites and blacks. Some strong language. National Book Award 1953. 1947.

[Download from BARD: Invisible Man](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056346

The Sound and the Fury by William Faulkner

Read by Alexander Scourby or Jack Fox

9 hours, 29 minutes

This novel traces the various stages of decay in a Southern family through the thoughts and voices of four of its members including Benjy, the idiot son. 1929.

[Download from BARD: The Sound and the Fury](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB009506

Also available on cassette RC011340

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11402](#)

Also available in braille BR011402

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Read by Alexander Scourby

6 hours, 34 minutes

The glitter and recklessness of the Jazz Age is the backdrop for this novel about Jay Gatsby's desperate attempt to recapture the past, and along with it, the love of Daisy Buchanan. Amid extravagant parties at Gatsby's palatial estate, his neighbor narrates the story of his obsession with the American dream. 1925.

[Download from BARD: The Great Gatsby DB16147](#)

Also available in digital cartridge DB16147

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22712](#)

Also available in braille BR022712

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

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Read by Ian Reed or David Palmer

10 hours, 15 minutes

Symbolic novel set in Puritan New England traces the effects of sin on people's lives. Hester Prynne is forced to display her transgression openly in the form of a scarlet letter "A" for adultery. Her husband is obsessed with revenge, and her lover, a minister, conceals his guilt and shame. 1992.

[Download from BARD: The Scarlet Letter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048457

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22712](#)

Also available in braille BR022712

Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

Read by Gary Telles or Leon Janney

20 hours, 3 minutes

Bombardier Yossarian desperately tries to stay alive during World War II. Military rules make it impossible for anyone to achieve the combat quota necessary to quit flying. Yossarian and his buddies concoct ways to avoid the ridiculous orders of their officers. Strong language and descriptions of sex. 1989.

[Download from BARD: Catch-22](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048063

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11980](#)

Also available in braille BR011980

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

9 hours, 14 minutes

Romance between American lieutenant Frederic Henry in the ambulance service in Italy during World War I and the English nurse Catherine Barkley, who tends him when he is wounded. When Catherine becomes pregnant, she refuses to marry Frederic. 1929.

[Download from BARD: A Farewell to Arms](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049506

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12510](#)

Also available in braille BR001599 OR BR012510

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Read by Catherine Byers

6 hours, 32 minutes

This classic novel tells the story of Janie, a handsome black woman, and her three marriages: to middle-aged Logan Killicks, a prosperous farmer; to Joe Starks, a go-getter who makes Janie Mrs. Mayor Starks of Eatonville, Florida; and to Tea Cake Woods, who teaches Janie, at forty, the reality of love and happiness. 1937.

[Download from BARD: Their Eyes Were Watching God](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB035745

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22592](#)

Also available in braille BR022592

The Complete Tales of Washington Irving by Washington Irving

Read by Peter Gil

36 hours, 50 minutes

Sixty-one short stories by the prolific New Yorker Washington Irving (1783-1859), best known for "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The volume contains satires, ghost stories, and fables, many of them set in New York City and the Hudson Valley in the early days of Dutch settlement. Introduction by Charles Neider. 1975.

[Download from BARD: The Complete Tales of Washington Irving](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB051748

The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson

Read by Esther Benson

6 hours, 38 minutes

During his scientific investigation of the ghosts in an old abandoned house, Dr. Montague invites a young man and two women to participate in his experiments.

[Download from BARD: The Haunting of Hill House](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB021679

Download from BARD as Electronic Braille

Also available in braille

A Country Doctor by Sarah Orne Jewett

Read by Barbara Rappaport

9 hours, 50 minutes

Nan Prince grew up in Maine in the late 1800s, a time when many women began to shrug off their domestic roles and become involved in the industrial and professional worlds. Nan counted herself among the women who were "changing the rules." Raised by her grandmother and then her guardian, Dr. Leslie, Nan developed a keen interest in becoming a doctor--an interest that shocked many of her friends.

[Download from BARD: A Country Doctor](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031653

On the Road by Jack Kerouac

Read by Don Emmick

13 hours, 10 minutes

A group of young people epitomize the beat generation as they roam the American continent in a wild, desperate search for identity and purpose. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB031675

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18352](#)

Also available in braille BR018352

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey

Read by Gordon Gould

12 hours, 20 minutes

Chief Bromden, a long-term inmate of a mental institution, relates the story of a struggle for control of the ward, centering around the hateful, authoritarian Nurse Ratched and a new patient, the fiercely independent Randle Patrick McMurphy. Fortieth anniversary edition with an introduction by the author. Some strong language. 1962.

[Download from BARD: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056351

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12698](#)

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

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Read by Mare Trevathan

10 hours, 12 minutes

Scout Finch is an outspoken and literate six-year-old tomboy when she begins her tale of growing up in a small Alabama town with her brother Jem and her attorney father Atticus. The children's intense curiosity about a reclusive neighbor is eclipsed by Atticus's attempt to defend a black man against charges of raping a white woman. Pulitzer Prize winner. For high school and older readers.

[Download from BARD: To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077672 OR DB036414

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12850](#)

Also available in braille BR012850 OR BR009237

The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin

Read by Jim Zeiger

10 hours, 22 minutes

Confused and afraid, a lone human becomes the pawn in an intrigue on Gethen, a planet inhabited by creatures that are neither male nor female. They are not neuters but have the potential to be either man or woman. Originally published in 1969. Hugo and Nebula Awards.

[Download from BARD: The Left Hand of Darkness](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043166

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR012827](#)

Also available in braille BR012827

Arrowsmith; Elmer Gantry ; Dodsworth by Sinclair Lewis

Read by Constance Crawford

53 hours, 46 minutes

Three early-twentieth-century American classics by Nobel Prize-winning author. In Arrowsmith, an idealistic young doctor is disillusioned by greedy and self-serving colleagues. Elmer Gantry takes aim against the hypocrisy of a tent-show evangelist. In Dodsworth, a retired auto maker's dull marriage comes unglued during a European tour. Pulitzer Prize. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Arrowsmith; Elmer Gantry; Dodsworth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056668

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15684](#)

Also available in braille BR015684

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Read by L.J. Ganser

3 hours, 36 minutes

Buck, a St. Bernard mix, is stolen and trained to be a sled dog in the Alaskan gold fields. Abused by both men and dogs, Buck learns to fight ruthlessly until he finds a master, John Thornton, whom he loves and respects. For senior high and older readers. 1903.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB049486

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12582](#)

Also available in braille BR009833 or BR012582

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

Read by Annie Wauters

12 hours, 11 minutes

Deep South, 1930s. John Singer, who is deaf and mute, feels content until his best friend, also mute, is committed to a mental institution. Singer, who can read lips, becomes the confidante of several town residents, all of whom want answers to their problems. Some strong language. 1940.

[Download from BARD: The Heart is a Lonely Hunter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058532

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11395](#)

Also available in braille BR011395

Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry

Read by Bob Askey

35 hours, 16 minutes

A three-thousand-mile cattle drive, from the banks of the Rio Grande to Montana's big sky country, is the setting for this vivid epic which describes the developing American West and the ranchers, cowboys, prostitutes, and adventurers who attempt to make a new life for themselves in its vast reaches. Strong language, violence, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. Pulitzer Prize. 1985.

[Download from BARD: Lonesome Dove](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022959

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13696](#)

Also available in braille BR006198 or BR013696

Moby Dick, or, The Whale by Herman Melville

Read by Gordon Gould

25 hours, 36 minutes

Sailor Ishmael narrates this allegory of human potential and limitations. Seeking adventure, Ishmael signs on as a harpooner with Captain Ahab's whaling ship. Once at sea, the crew discovers that, despite dire warnings from other ships and a prophet, Captain Ahab is obsessed with killing Moby Dick, the white whale responsible for his missing leg. Violence. 1991.

[Download from BARD: Moby-Dick or The Whale](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB034184

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14641](#)

Also available in braille BR014641 or BR001608

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

42 hours, 45 minutes

A romantic Civil War epic in which Scarlet O' Hara, a forceful and ruthless heroine, and Rhett Butler, a war profiteer, play out their tempestuous love affair against the background of the war-torn South. Pulitzer Prize. .

[Download from BARD: Gone with the Wind](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033082

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11427](#)

Also available in braille BR008519

House Made of Dawn by N. Scott Momaday

Read by Jerry Fordyce

6 hours, 38 minutes

A Kiowa Indian poet and scholar traces the experience of an unassimilated Indian who cannot adjust to the white world or identify with the dying culture of the American Indian. Pulitzer Prize.

[Download from BARD: House Made of Dawn](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB012198

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19345](#)

Also available in braille BR019345 or BR000869

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Read by Pam Ward

6 hours

1941. Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove--poor, ugly, and black--desperately wants blue eyes, which she thinks would solve all her problems. But instead she is subjected to rejection, violence, and an unwanted pregnancy. Slowly, she begins to descend into madness. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 1970.

[Download from BARD: The Bluest Eye](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049914

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12618](#)

Also available in braille BR012618

Three: Wise Blood, The Violent Bear It Away, Everything That Rises Must Converge by Flannery O'Connor

Read by Catherine Byers

19 hours, 35 minutes

O'Connor's novels, *Wise Blood* and *The Violent Bear It Away*, carry on a tradition of southern fiction writers. She adds a recurrent religious theme, often with grotesquely comic characters. *Everything That Rises Must Converge* is a collection of short stories in which assorted horrors of the human condition are met with faith and courage.

[Download from BARD: Three: Wise Blood, The Violent Bear It Away...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032752

The Complete Stories by Edgar Allan Poe

Read by Ed Blake

42 hours, 22 minutes

Sixty-eight short stories by the nineteenth-century American master of the macabre. Contains familiar favorites such as "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Gold Bug," and "The Pit and the Pendulum," as well as such lesser known works as "MS. Found in a Bottle," "King Pest," "The Man That Was Used Up," "The Devil in the Belfry," "The Balloon-Hoax," and "Some Words with a Mummy."

[Download from BARD: The Complete Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044929

American Pastoral by Philip Roth

Read by Chuck Benson

16 hours, 15 minutes

After military service in World War II, handsome, athletic "Swede" Levov weds Miss New Jersey, takes over the family business, and moves to the posh suburbs. His dream life unravels in the late 1960s, when daughter Meredith joins an antiwar terrorist group bent on undermining all that Swede lives for. Strong language. Pulitzer Prize.

[Download from BARD: American Pastoral](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045488

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16733](#)

Also available in braille BR016733

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

Read by Ray Hagen

6 hours, 54 minutes

As Christmas vacation begins, Holden Caulfield recounts his feelings and reactions to flunking out of Pencey, his third prep school. Instead of heading straight home, he wanders around New York City. This account of his adventures conveys his dismay at the adult world. Strong language. For senior high and older readers. 1951.

[Download from BARD: The Catcher in the Rye](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB047480

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11909](#)

Also available in braille BR001617 OR BR011909

Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

Read by Catherine Byers

8 hours, 29 minutes

Haunting novel traces the efforts of a young World War II veteran, born of a Navajo mother and a nameless white father, to become whole again on a reservation in New Mexico. Piercing portrait of a dispossessed people. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Ceremony](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB013366

Also available in braille BR003484

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair

Read by Annie Wauters

16 hours, 20 minutes

Grim account of the deplorable conditions in the Chicago meatpacking industry around 1900, as seen through the eyes of Lithuanian immigrant Jurgis Rudkus. When first published, the novel aroused the indignation of the American public and forced government investigations that led to the passage of pure food legislation. 1985 introduction. Some violence. 1906.

[Download from BARD: The Jungle](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB052961

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13742](#)

Also available in braille BR013742

A Thousand Acres by Jane Smiley

Read by Pam Ward

12 hours, 6 minutes

Larry Cook owns a thousand acres of Iowa farmland that is unmortgaged and some of the richest soil around. At a party given in celebration of the return of Jess Clark, a local man, after an absence of thirteen years, Cook announces that he is retiring and dividing the land among his three daughters. But the gift soon begins to tear the family apart, and secrets, long hidden, begin to surface. Some strong language. Pulitzer Prize.

[Download from BARD: A Thousand Acres](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033926

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Read by Laura Giannarelli

17 hours, 1 minute

A novel about an Irish-American girl's childhood and youth, her struggles with poverty, and her work to get an education. The setting is Brooklyn's tenement life of the early 1900s. 1943.

[Download from BARD: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044769

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21736](#)

Also available in braille BR021736

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 Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas by Gertrude Stein

Read by Suzanne Toren

9 hours, 7 minutes

The American writer uses her trusted friend and companion, Alice B. Toklas, as a vehicle for her own biography. She tells of her childhood in California, her years at medical school in Baltimore, and especially her eventful life in Paris, where she knew and influenced many artists and writers.

[Download from BARD: The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB015041

Download from BARD as Electronic Braille

Also available in braille

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

Uncle Tom's Cabin or, Life Among the Lowly by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Read by L. J. Ganser

19 hours, 33 minutes

First published in 1852, abolitionist Stowe's depiction of the moral injustice of slavery and the evils of materialism. Tom saves little Eva's life, and years later she tries to help him gain his freedom. Eventually, Tom's protection of runaway Eliza costs him his life at the hands of the brutal ex-Yankee Simon Legree. 1965.

[Download from BARD: Uncle Tom's Cabin or, Life Among the Lowly](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB050070

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12749](#)

Also available in braille BR012749 or BR001623

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 or BR004142

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Read by Nick Sullivan

11 hours, 22 minutes

Tom Sawyer's friend young Huck Finn explains the reasons he is running away from home and recounts his exploits floating down the Mississippi River on a raft with Jim, an escaped slave. Companion to The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (RC 53084). Some strong language. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 1884.

[Download from BARD The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057349

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille 10687](#)

Also available in braille BR010687 OR BR009247

Rabbit Angstrom: A Tetralogy; Rabbit Run; Rabbit Redux; Rabbit is Rich; Rabbit at Rest by John Updike

Read by Fred Major

65 hours 5 minutes

Four novels published between 1960 and 1990, two of which won the Pulitzer Prize. Stories chronicle the midlife misadventures of Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom as he faces family strife and unsolved issues of sex and death. Includes 1995 introduction by the author. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1995.

[Download from BARD: Rabbit Angstrom: A Tetralogy ; Rabbit Run...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063882

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

All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren

Read by Steven Carpenter

20 hours, 57 minutes

Restored edition, reconstructed from the author's original typescript, recreates the world of a corrupt southern politician of the 1920s and 1930s. Country boy Willie (Stark) Talos rises to become governor of his state only to be brought down by his personal failings. 2001 editorial afterword by Noel Polk. Strong language. Pulitzer Prize. 1946.

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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.

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The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton

Read by Catherine Byers

14 hours, 32 minutes

First published in 1905. Lily Bart, the orphaned daughter of a New York merchant, is endowed with beauty and charm and hopelessly addicted to the pleasures of luxury and wealth. Though she relentlessly pursues her goal to marry someone with money, she is attracted to Lawrence Selden, a lawyer of modest means.

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The Bonfire of the Vanities by Tom Wolfe

Read by Bob Askey

25 hours, 38 minutes

The arbiter of radical chic and macho flyboys attempts to satirize the grab-it-now Yuppie generation. The plot centers on the efforts of a socialite bond broker to escape responsibility for a freak accident that brings him into contact with unsavory elements of New York life: the justice system, the political hacks, the church, and the poor. Strong language and descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

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The Caine Mutiny by Herman Wouk

Read by Ed Blake

20 hours, 19 minutes

During World War II, the crew of the Caine mutinies against Captain Queeg, accusing him of incompetence. The novel reaches its climax during the court-martial when they must prove their charges. Pulitzer Prize.

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