

# **Cult Classic Fiction**

Books with a cult following transcend what is merely popular or well-received and have an originally small but ardent fanbase. Often, many cult classics did not sell well upon their first publications, but the cult classics of yesterday can become the classics and best-sellers of today. Cult classic books can be any genre, often deal with a subject or theme originally considered taboo or subversive, and often appeal to young adults. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our <u>online</u> <u>catalog</u>. Most titles can be <u>downloaded from BARD</u>.

# City of Glass by Paul Auster

Read by Harold Parker

5 hours, 25 minutes

Volume I of the New York trilogy. A wrong number in the middle of the night ensnares Daniel Quinn (once a serious poet and essayist, now author of pulps), in a case far more bizarre than any he has invented in his fiction. The caller seeks the Paul Auster Agency, even though Paul Auster is not a detective but a young writer who strongly resembles the Paul Auster who wrote this book. Ultimately, the obsessed Quinn, impersonating Auster, descends into madness. A fast-paced thriller.

Download from BARD: City of Glass Also available on digital cartridge DB027510

# Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

Read by Livingston Gilbert

5 hours, 25 minutes

Homosexuality and the physical aspects of male love are explored in a Paris setting where the narrator, a young American, is involved both with a woman and man, and is eventually compelled to make a choice.

Download from BARD: Giovanni's Room

#### The Pisces: a Novel by Melissa Broder

Read by Melissa Broder

8 hours, 22 minutes

After breaking up with her boyfriend, Lucy heads to Venice Beach, California, to dog-sit for her sister. She meets Theo one night as he sits alone on the rocks and thinks her bad luck with men might have finally changed, only to discover that Theo is a merman. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

Download from BARD: The Pisces: a Novel Also available on digital cartridge DB091202

#### Post Office: a Novel by Charles Bukowski

Read by Brian Hemmingsen

4 hours, 51 minutes

The author's alter ego, Henry Chinaski, describes a dozen years wasted working for the post office--a job that started innocently enough as a holiday temp position, which fit nicely with his drinking, gambling, and womanizing. But soon the grim details became apparent. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 1971.

Download from BARD: Post Office: a Novel Also available on digital cartridge DB084474

# The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

Read by Robert Blumenfeld

15 hours, 25 minutes

Satire on Soviet politics and society published posthumously in Russia in 1966, following years of suppression. The Devil and his cronies create havoc visiting Moscow's theater district. Interwoven in this tale is a reenactment of the Pontius Pilate theme, in which a philosopher is executed in Jerusalem during Passover. The Master of the title is confined to a psychiatric clinic, while Margarita flits between Moscow and Jerusalem. Some strong language.

Download from BARD: The Master and Margarita Also available on digital cartridge DB037107 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19148 Also available in braille BR019148

#### A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess

Read by David Broughton

5 hours, 51 minutes

A 15-year-old hooligan named Alex roams the streets of London terrorizing people at random. He is arrested and subjected to corrective brainwashing with unanticipated results. The author adds a flavor of reality of his prophecy of future urban life by inventing the teenage dialect of "nadsat." Violence and strong language. 1963.

Download from BARD: A Clockwork Orange Also available on digital cartridge DB015213 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18284 Also available in braille BR018284

# Kindred by Octavia E. Butler

Read by Patricia Beaudry

9 hours, 40 minutes

An educated young black woman is drawn repeatedly back in time to the antebellum plantation of her forebears. Here amidst the cruelties of slavery she becomes the protector and teacher of the plantation owner's son, who she knows will become her own great-grandfather.

Download from BARD: Kindred

Also available on digital cartridge DB016072

# If On a Winter's Night a Traveler by Italo Calvino

Read by Rhoda Russell 10 hours, 16 minutes Two readers pursue a labyrinth of stories that intrigue them. Unrated. <u>Download from BARD: If On a Winter's Night a Traveler</u> Also available on digital cartridge DBC008607

#### 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

#### Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture by Douglas Coupland

Read by Barry Bernson

6 hours, 11 minutes

A portrait of disenchantment at the end of the twentieth century. Andy, Claire, and Dag, all in their twenties, have dropped out of society and are living in Palm Springs in the Mojave Desert working at low-paying, dead-end jobs. As they trade stories and secrets, it becomes evident that they are disturbed young people searching for permanence where there is none. Strong language and violence. Bestseller.

Download from BARD: Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture Also available on digital cartridge DB033849

# Dhalgren by Samiel R. Delany

Read by Lester Rawlins

31 hours, 49 minutes

As the sun grows deadly, the world goes mad. Society perishes and savagery rules, and all that was known is over. In these dying days of earth, a young drifter enters the city. Explicit descriptions of sex. Strong language. Violence.

#### Download from BARD: Dhalgren

#### Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K. Dick

Read by Steven Carpenter

6 hours, 46 minutes

In the year 2021 Rick Deckard is employed on a dying Earth as a bounty hunter. He seeks androids that look like humans and destroys them. Basis for the 1982 movie Blade Runner. 1968.

Download from BARD: Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? Also available on digital cartridge DB054649 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14247 Also available in braille BR014247

#### The Leopard by Giuseppe di Lampedusa

Read by Dana Bate

9 hours, 59 minutes

First published in Italy in 1958, this historical novel laments the decline of old virtues and defends conservative issues. The author traces the fortunes of the Sicilian House of Salina from 1860 to 1910, during the Risorgimento. Don Fabrizio, the central character, struggles with the forces of democracy and nationalism that eventually remove the aristocracy. The book also contains two short stories and an account of the author's childhood.

Download from BARD: The Leopard

Also available on digital cartridge DB018177

# Geek Love by Katherine Dunn

Read by Laura Giannarelli

15 hours, 30 minutes

Art and Lily Binewski are owners of a traveling carnival. In order to "enhance" their show, they breed their own freaks by creating genetically altered children through the use of experimental drugs. They have become so successful in their creations that a child who shows signs of normalcy becomes a threat. Strong language.

Download from BARD: Geek Love Also available on digital cartridge DB031767

#### American Psycho: a Novel by Brett Easton Ellis

Read by George Backman

14 hours, 31 minutes

Ellis's notorious novel portrays a materialistic and desensitized world of the 1980s and coldly describes apocalyptic horror. Patrick Bateman is a twentyseven-year-old New York investment banker whose glitzy exterior conceals an empty life. His facade masks a warped, twisted monster that rapes, tortures, and murders at will. This book contains extreme violence, strong language, and many explicit descriptions of sex.

Download from BARD: American Psycho: a Novel Also available on digital cartridge DB032488

#### Been Down So Long it Looks Like Up to Me by Richard Fariña

Read by Barry Bernson

9 hours, 16 minutes

Gnossos Pappadopoulis, hippie, returns to Ithake University from adventures in the West, only to be used as a pawn in student demonstrations by the girl he loves and a cynical dean aspiring to the university's presidency. Strong language. Explicit descriptions of sex.

Download from BARD: Been Down So Long it Looks Like Up to Me Also available on digital cartridge DB021442

#### The Magus: a Revised Version by John Fowles

Read by Jack Hrkach

27 hours, 12 minutes

Stylistic revision of a sixties' bestseller. A young English school-teacher, Nicolas Urfe, accepts a teaching assignment in Greece. The solitude of the Greek island drives him to the beautiful, but sinister, domain of the mysterious sorcerer Conchis. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. 1977.

Download from BARD: The Magus: a Revised Version

#### 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. 2001.

Download from BARD: The Corrections Also available on digital cartridge DB053073 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13651 Also available in braille BR013651

#### Neuromancer by William Gibson

Read by James DeLotel

9 hours, 18 minutes

Chase, a twenty-first century computer interfacer, is caught stealing and receives nerve damage as punishment. When even Japan's medical minds can't repair the injury, drug-addicted and penniless Chase loses hope, until he is kidnapped by strangers who promise to cure him if he uses his expertise on their dangerous project. Strong language, violence, and explicit descriptions of sex. Hugo, Nebula, and Philip K. Dick Awards.

Download from BARD: Neuromancer Also available on digital cartridge DB034589 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR09062 Also available in braille BR009062

# Dead Souls by Nikolai Gogol

Read by Annie Wauters

18 hours, 1 minutes

Pavel Ivanovich Chichikov travels across the Russian countryside with a money-making scheme to buy up "dead souls"--deceased serfs still on the tax roll until the next census. When he is eventually arrested, his lawyer mounts an unusual defense. A satire originally published in 1842, newly translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. 1996.

Download from BARD: Dead Souls

#### Daddy Cool by Donald Goines

Read by Mark Delgado

4 hours, 16 minutes

Detroit. Middle-aged hit man Larry "Daddy Cool" Jackson worries about his wayward teenage daughter Janet, who is dating a pimp. After Janet leaves home and becomes a prostitute, Daddy Cool seeks justice. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 1974.

Download from BARD: Daddy Cool

Also available on digital cartridge DB073972

# The Tin Drum by Günter Grass

Read by Mark Ashby

22 hours, 31 minutes

Mental institution inmate and indomitable drummer Oskar Matzerath, who chose to stop growing at age three, writes his memoirs of Danzig, Germany, during the Nazi regime. Nobel Prize-winner's 1959 novel in a 2009 translation by Breon Mitchell. Violence and descriptions of sex. 2009.

Download from BARD: The Tin Drum

Also available on digital cartridge DB071622

# Lanark: a Life in 4 Books by Alasdair Gray

Read by Graeme Malcolm

20 hours, 8 minutes

The story begins with book three. Lanark is in an institution in the city of Unthank. When he consults an oracle, he learns about his early life as Duncan Thaw, a poor art student in Glasgow who met tragic consequences. Thaw's tale is told in books one and two. When the story eventually returns to Unthank, in book four, Lanark escapes to the city of Provan in outer space. The lives of Lanark and Thaw mirror the modern world.

Download from BARD: Lanark: a Life in 4 Books Also available on digital cartridge DB035747

#### 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

#### **Dune by Frank Herbert**

Read by J. P. Linton

22 hours, 47 minutes

In this science fiction novel with sociological and religious overtones, an exile with psychic powers becomes the prophet of the savage people on the planet Dune. Prequel to Dune Messiah

Download from BARD: Dune

Also available on digital cartridge DB044126 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille Also available in braille

# Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse

Read by Steven Carpenter

4 hours, 12 minutes

Nobel Prize-winning author's tale of a young Brahmin who abandons his comfortable home to wander through the Indian countryside seeking enlightenment. Based on the early life of Buddha. Originally published in German in 1922. 2000.

Download from BARD: Siddhartha Also available on digital cartridge DB052190 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR13524 Also available in braille BR013524

#### 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

#### Darkness at Noon by Arthur Koestler

Read by George Backman

7 hours, 41 minutes

Powerful novel of the Moscow trials, written from the author's own experiences, tells of the imprisonment, confession, and death of one of the Old Bolsheviks. Rubashov, one of the last survivors of the original Central Committee of the Communist Party, is arrested and charged with incredible crimes. Some violence.

Download from BARD: Darkness at Noon Also available on digital cartridge DB016347 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19147 Also available in braille BR019147

# The Unbearable Lightness of Being by Milan Kundera

Read by Harold Parker

10 hours, 1 minute

Novel blends social and philosophical questions with personal concerns of the principal characters. A Czech surgeon, two of his countrywomen, and a Swiss professor, grapple with their sexual and political problems in the difficult years following the 1968 Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. Descriptions of sex.

Download from BARD: The Unbearable Lightness of Being

Also available on digital cartridge DB021074 Also available in braille BR008839

#### As She Climbed Across the Table by Jonathan Lethem

Read by Barry Bernson

5 hours, 35 minutes

Anthropologist Philip Engstrand teaches at a west coast university, where his research is considered "strong but irrelevant." He falls in love with particle-physicist Alice Coombs. When Alice and her colleagues discover a "black hole" that demands her attention, Philip finds himself in competition with a void.

Download from BARD: As She Climbed Across the Table

Also available on digital cartridge DB046091

#### The Cement Garden by Ian McEwan

Read by Pete Larkin

4 hours, 23 minutes

First father died, then Mother. Now the four children are left alone in a house that looks like a castle stranded among grim high-rises. McEwan excavates the ruins of childhood and uncovers things that most adults have spent a lifetime forgetting--or denying.

Download from BARD: The Cement Garden Also available on digital cartridge DBN000018

# Bright Lights, Big City: a Novel by Jay McInerney

Read by Christopher Hurt

4 hours, 51 minutes

McInerney's young protagonist is an aspiring novelist who works as a fact checker for a New York magazine. Cocaine and barhopping become the main focus of his life after Amanda, his wife turned model, dumps him with a phone call from Paris. Not until after his wild life-style leads to his firing and he is forced into a confrontation with his brother does he realize that it is not Amanda's desertion that is causing his behavior. Strong language.

Download from BARD: Bright Lights, Big City: a Novel

#### The Country Girls Trilogy and Epilogue by Edna O'Brien

Read by Catherine Byers.

17 ours, 36 minutes

An omnibus volume of three novels--"The Country Girls," "The Lonely Girl," and "Girls in Their Married Bliss"--that follows Baba and Kate from their Irish girlhoods into their lives and loves as city women. Some strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

Download from BARD: The Country Girls Trilogy and Epilogue Also available on digital cartridge DB024916

# The Complete Stories by Flannery O'Connor

Read by Eugenia Rawls

21 hours, 4 minutes

Thirty-one original stories, chronologically arranged, that fuse comedy and tragedy in expressing the real spirit of the South. Translating moral and religious themes into living presences, O'Connor draws on techniques of distortion and grotesque exaggeration to bring forth her revelations.

Download from BARD: The Complete Stories

Also available on digital cartridge DB015019

# Appointment in Samarra by John O'Hara

Read by Michael Russotto

8 hours, 34 minutes

Fast-moving first novel by journalist/critic John O'Hara (1905-1970) set in 1930s small-town Pennsylvania. As Gibbsville celebrates Christmas with parties, music, and liquor, aristocratic drunkard Julian English breaks with polite society in one rash moment, beginning his rapid descent to self-destruction. 1991 introduction by John Updike. Some strong language. 1934.

Download from BARD: Appointment in Samarra

Also available on digital cartridge DB058197 <u>Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15398</u> Also available in braille BR015398

#### Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell

Read by Andy Pyle

13 hours, 56 minutes

Satire about an alternate London under a totalitarian regime overseen by the omnipresent Big Brother. Winston Smith, a Ministry of Truth bureaucrat, attempts an intellectual rebellion against the Party while he pursues an illicit romance. His actions lead to his imprisonment, torture, and reeducation by the Thought Police. 1949.

Download from BARD: Nineteen Eighty-Four

Also available on digital cartridge DB073474 Also available in braille BR001614 OR BR010312

#### Fight Club: a Novel by Chuck Palahniuk

Read by Ryan Dalusung

6 hours, 3 minutes

An insomniac starts fraudulently attending support groups for the terminally ill. After an encounter with a man named Tyler Durden, the pair start a fight club where members beat each other up as a kind of radical therapy. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1996.

Download from BARD: Fight Club: a Novel Also available on digital cartridge DB083519 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21393 Also available in braille BR021393

# The Crying of Lot 49 by Thomas Pynchon

Read by Annie Wauters

5 hours, 29 minutes

Satirical novel on the subculture of southern California. While executor of her former lover's estate, Oedipa Maas becomes involved with a worldwide conspiracy to subvert the public mail system and a gang of zanies trying to kick the love habit. Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 1965.

Download from BARD: The Crying of Lot 49 Also available on digital cartridge DB058507

#### Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

Read by Michael Scherer

58 hours, 4 minutes

Dagny Taggart, manager of a transcontinental railroad, opposes John Galt and others who relinquish control over their enterprises in exchange for security through government regulations. Espouses the clear-cut social values of the author's philosophy of objectivism within a fictional story line. Thirty-fifth anniversary edition with new introduction in 1992. Some strong language. 1957.

Download from BARD: Atlas Shrugged

Also available on digital cartridge DB051074

# Even Cowgirls Get the Blues by Tom Robbins

Read by Bradley Bransford

15 hours, 32 minutes

Sissy Hankshaw, a madcap young woman endowed with excessively large thumbs, hitchhikes her way through life finding new adventures and different sexual experiences. Her employer, a wealthy male countess who promotes feminine hygiene products, sends her on a modelling assignment to his beauty spa, the Rubber Rose Ranch in the Dakotas, where the cowgirls are threatening to take over. Sissy's attraction to cowgirl Jellybean and the eccentric philosopher-hermit Chink make her almost forget her Indian husband in New York. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

Download from BARD: Even Cowgirls Get the Blues Also available on digital cartridge DB014636

# The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell

Read by Rick Rohan

17 hours, 35 minutes

It is the year 2059 when Jesuit priest Emilio Sandoz returns as the sole survivor of a forty-year space voyage to Alpha Centauri. Broken in body and spirit, Sandoz describes his horrific captivity by aliens and life in a depraved civilization. Strong language, violence, and descriptions of sex.

Download from BARD: The Sparrow

#### Blindness by José Saramago

Read by Terence Aselford

11 hours, 38 minutes

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

Download from BARD: Blindness Also available on digital cartridge DB046904 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20819 Also available in braille BR020819

#### Nausea by Jean-Paul Sartre

Read by Sally McQuaid

8 hours, 19 minutes

The author's first novel, originally published in 1938, is a statement about the alienation of personality and the mystery of being. Sartre presents the first full-length essay on existentialism, the philosophy for which he has since become famous. Offered Nobel Prize for literature in 1964 which he declined.

Download from BARD: Nausea

Also available on digital cartridge DB015217 Also available in braille BR001054

#### I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

Read by Jennifer Mendenhall

12 hours, 11 minutes

Aspiring author Cassandra Mortmain, seventeen, tells how she, her sister Rose--nearly twenty-one, their eccentric author-father, and their stepmother, Topaz, survive life in a crumbling fifteenth-century English castle. When Simon and Neil Cotton inherit the estate, both Cassandra and Rose plot marriages, amid hilarious confusion.

Download from BARD: I Capture the Castle Also available on digital cartridge DB047004

#### Valley of the Dolls: a Novel by Jacqueline Susann

Read by Kimberly Schraf

18 hours, 45 minutes

New York City, 1945. Three beautiful young women--Anne, Neely, and Jennifer--become best friends as each seeks success in the world of show business. Their dependence on pills, referred to as dolls, becomes their way of coping with life. Explicit descriptions of sex. 1966.

Download from BARD: Valley of the Dolls: a Novel Also available on digital cartridge DB050906

# Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: a Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream by Hunter S. Thompson

Read by Sonnie Osborne

6 hours, 12 minutes

Hunter S. Thompson's documented drug orgy through Las Vegas written under the pseudonym Raoul Duke, while traveling with his Samoan attorney, Dr. Gonzo, in a souped-up convertible dubbed the "Great Red Shark." On assignment from a sports magazine to cover "the fabulous Mint 400" - a freefor-all- biker's race in the heart of the Nevada desert - the drug-a-delic duo stumbles through Vegas in hallucinatory hopes of finding the American dream. They manage to consume all the drugs stowed in their car and of course, never get the story, but for Thompson to remember and pen his experiences with such clarity and wit is nothing short of a miracle ; a pop-culture classic, an icon of an era past, and a nugget of pure comedic genius.

Download from BARD: Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: a Savage... Also available on digital cartridge DBC002579

# A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole

Read by Bruce Huntey

12 hours, 35 minutes

Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about slovenly, obese Ignatius Reilly, who is forced to seek employment in New Orleans after his tipsy mother has a car accident. Reilly, a medievalist who hates everything modern, runs through a succession of jobs in which he wreaks havoc. Some strong language. Pulitzer Prize. 1980.

Download from BARD: A Confederacy of Dunces

#### 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 Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18383 Also available in braille BR018383

#### Stoner by John Williams

Read by Mark Ashby

8 hours, 47 minutes

In the early twentieth century, William Stoner's father, a poor farmer, sends him to study agronomy at the University of Missouri. Instead, the younger Stoner embraces English literature and academe. A destructive marriage, undistinguished career, and doomed love affair with a younger woman send the professor into solitude. 1965.

Download from BARD: Stoner

Also available on digital cartridge DB065461 <u>Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17585</u> Also available in braille BR017585

# John Dies at the End by David Wong

Read by Peter Johnson

15 hours, 6 minutes

When John and David ingest a new street drug called Soy Sauce, they gain access to an alternate dimension full of alien creatures. The creatures' attempts to cross over cause mayhem and death in the human realm. Violence and strong language. 2009.

Download from BARD: John Dies at the End Also available on digital cartridge DB076551