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Libraries and Librarians in Fiction and Nonfiction

Fiction and non-fiction books all about history, life, and...murder in the stacks? 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](#).

Down Cut Shin Creek: the Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky by Kathi Appelt & Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer

Read by Barbara Smith

47 minutes

An in-depth look at a day in the life of a pack horse librarian. From 1935 to 1943, local women were paid a meager salary as part of the Works Progress Administration to perform this unusual book delivery in rural Eastern Kentucky. 2001. For grades 4-7.

[Download from BARD: Down Cut Shin Creek: the Pack Horse...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC015915

Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper by Nicholson Baker

Read by Fred Major

13 hours, 56 minutes

Novelist and library activist Baker opposes the library practice of microfilming and then discarding old printed materials. He argues against the purported brittle-paper crisis and pleads for retaining old books and newspapers to be perused in their original format. 2001.

[Download from BARD: Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB052808

A Gentle Madness Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books by Nicholas A. Basbanes

Read by Robert Blumenfeld

24 hours, 55 minutes

Traces "the cycle of books among collectors, libraries, and dealers" to enlighten the "gentlest of infirmities," bibliomania. These richly anecdotal and well documented narratives cover some of the world's great book collections, from the Alexandrian library to that of Thomas Jefferson.

[Download from BARD: A Gentle Madness Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042231

Library: an Unquiet History by Matthew Battles

2 volumes of braille

Survey by Harvard rare-book specialist of historical events leading to both destruction and proliferation of libraries. Battles laments the burning of Alexandria's library in ancient times, then explores preservation of literary culture by monks through medieval ages. Later observations cover Dewey's classification legacy, twentieth-century book bonfires by the Nazis and others, and digital-age challenges. 2003.

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15100](#)

Also available in braille BR015100

The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett

Read by Jill Fox

2 hours, 30 minutes

England. When the royal dogs stray into a mobile library parked near the palace, the Queen feels obligated to borrow a book. She soon develops an obsession with reading that changes her worldviews, distracts her from official duties, and prompts her to write her own masterpiece--with surprising consequences. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Uncommon Reader](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066149

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17649](#)

Also available in braille BR017649

The Case of the Library Monster the Buddy Files by Dori Hillestad Butler

Read by Jack Fox

1 hour, 15 minutes

Buddy loves being a therapy dog at his humans' school--and solving mysteries. When he discovers a strange, blue-tongued creature in the library, Buddy investigates to find out what it is and how it got there. For grades K-3. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Case of the Library Monster the Buddy Files](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074575

Ink and Bone: the Great Library by Rachel Caine

Read by Erik Sandvold

14 hours, 39 minutes

In a world where the personal ownership of a physical book is illegal, the Great Library controls content by using alchemy to deliver books via tablets. Black market smuggler Jess Brightwell is sent to the Great Library as a trainee and as a spy. Violence. For senior high and older readers. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Ink and Bone: The Great Library](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085432

The Invisible Library by Genevieve Cogman

Read by Deborah Desmone

10 hours, 57 minutes

Irene works as an agent for the Invisible Library, tracking down rare manuscripts from alternate realities. She and her assistant travel to a version of Victorian London only to find that the book they seek has already been stolen. Some violence. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Invisible Library](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086252

Jefferson's Legacy a Brief History of the Library of Congress by John Young Cole

Read by Butch Hoover

2 hours, 46 minutes

Veteran librarian and historian provides a history of the nation's foremost cultural institution. Coverage begins in 1800 with the establishment of a legislative library and ends in 1992. Features information on collections, the evolution of the library's buildings, and brief biographies of the Librarians of Congress. 1993.

[Download from BARD: Jefferson's Legacy a Brief History of the Library...](#)

Also available on cassette RC058681

America's Library the Story of the Library of Congress, 1800-2000 by James Conaway

Read by Peter Johnson

9 hours 6 minutes

A history of this cultural institution--often considered the world's greatest library--and the thirteen Librarians of Congress who guided its development. Discusses its transformation from modest legislative resource to the vast national library of the United States. Describes some of the variety found in its diverse collection of over 115 million items. 2000.

[Download from BARD: America's Library the Story of the Library of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB050345

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR012707](#)

Also available in braille BR012707

The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

Read by Maurice Shroder

18 hours, 29 minutes

A combination of religious heresy and a string of murders in a medieval Italian monastery brings Brother William onto the scene to rout out both the infidels and the perpetrator of the crimes. All of this revolves around secrets hidden in the abbey library, although what the mystery is remains elusive. Bestseller 1983.

[Download from BARD: The Name of the Rose](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019739

Speaking Out Personal and Professional Views on Library Service for Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals by Leslie Eldridge

Read by John Stratton

7 hours, 6 minutes

Candid interviews with users, practitioners, and students. Finding that library services for them are often substandard, disabled readers plead for easy and cordial access to the same services and programs that sighted readers enjoy.

[Download from BARD: Speaking Out Personal and Professional Views...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019131

Also available in braille BR005367

By Book or by Brook: a Lighthouse Library Mystery by Eva Gates

Read by Elise Arsenault

9 hours, 27 minutes

While Harvard librarian Lucy Richardson was vacationing at the Outer Banks, she landed a job at the lighthouse library on Bodie Island. But when a priceless first edition Jane Austen novel is stolen and the chair of the library board is murdered, Lucy becomes ensnared in a real-life mystery. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: By Book or by Brook: a Lighthouse Library](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096256

Library on Wheels: Mary Lemist Titcomb and America's First Bookmobile by Sharlee Glenn

Read by Faith Potts

1 hour, 13 minutes

Recounts the notable life of head librarian Mary Lemist Titcomb (1852-1932), whose determination to provide library access to all Washington County, Maryland, residents, led to her revolutionary plans to establish book deposits, a children's room, and a horse-drawn book wagon. Titcomb created America's first traveling library. For grades 3-6. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Library on Wheels: Mary Lemist Titcomb...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB091382

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22333](#)

Also available in braille BR022333

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein

Read by Patrick Downer

5 hours, 56 minutes

Twelve-year-old Kyle and his friends enter a contest to win a Friday-night lock-in at the new public library created by an eccentric game maker. Little do they know that the winners will have to work together to solve puzzles in order to escape. For grades 4-7. Agatha Award. 2013

[Download from BARD: Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's library](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077918

Reading Behind Bars: a True Story of Literature, Law, and Life as a Prison Librarian by Jill Grunenwald

Read by Theresa Conkin

10 hours, 7 minutes

A newly minted librarian looks back on her first career stop: working in a prison. Discusses what drew her to the profession, why she chose to take the job, personalities she encountered, examples of both typical days and extraordinary ones, and challenges she faced. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Reading Behind Bars: a True Story of Literature...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096548

Summer Hours at the Robbers Library: a Novel by Sue Halpern

Read by Dara Rosenberg, Josh Bloomberg, and Allyson Ryan.

10 hours, 18 minutes

For librarian Kit, the public library in Riverton, New Hampshire, offers what she craves most: peace. Here, no one expects Kit to talk about the calamitous events that upended her life. Kit's isolation ends when fifteen-year-old Sunny gets arrested for shoplifting and is assigned community service at the library. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Summer Hours at the Robbers Library: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB091935

The Camel Bookmobile by Marsha Hamilton

Read by Robin Miles

8 hours, 52 minutes

American librarian Fiona Sweeney delivers books by camel to remote villages in Kenya. Her patrons include Kanika, a young girl eager to learn, and a shunned teenager nicknamed Scar Boy. But unreturned books threaten the service, and Fiona discovers rivalry between traditionalists and those seeking education.

2007.

[Download from BARD: The Camel Bookmobile](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066417

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: and Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts by Joshua Hammer

Read by Ken Kliban

8 hours, 20 minutes

A journalist recounts the efforts of a small group of librarians and archivists in Mali to rescue thousands of rare manuscripts before they fell into the hands of the jihadists attacking the city of Timbuktu. Some strong language. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu: and Their...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084705

The Library at Mount Char by Scott Hawkins

Read by John Haag

15 hours, 33 minutes

Carolyn and a few others were brought as children to an unusual library that exists outside of time. There, they acquired various special abilities. When the god-like figure they call Father disappears from the library, Carolyn and her siblings search for him. Violence and some strong language. 2015.

[Download from BARD: The Library at Mount Char](#)

Also available on digital cartridge: DB082679

Oases of Culture: a History of Public and Academic Libraries in Nevada by James W. Hulse

Read by Betts Markle

4 hours, 10 minutes

Prior to the middle of the twentieth century, Nevada had the smallest population of any state in the Union. The author recounts the history of Nevada's libraries and the struggle to make them available to all Nevadans in a state unsuited to long-term financial commitments. 2003

[Download from BARD: Oases of Culture: a History of Public and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC013308

The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe

Read by Marisa Calin

13 hours, 42 minutes

Fourteen-year-old Dita and her family are imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. When a Jewish leader asks Dita to risk her life and take charge of the eight precious volumes the prisoners have managed to sneak past the guards, she agrees. Some violence. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Librarian of Auschwitz](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089356

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22303](#)

Also available in braille BR022303

A Cat in the Stacks. Books 1-3 by Miranda James

Read by John Jessup

27 hours, 3 minutes

First three mysteries, written between 2010 and 2012, in the series set in the college town of Athena, Mississippi, featuring widowed librarian Charlie Harris and his Maine Coon cat Diesel. Includes Murder Past Due, Classified as Murder, and File M for Murder, in which Charlie's daughter is the prime suspect. 2012.

[Download from BARD: A Cat in the Stacks. Books 1-3](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB091140

This Book is Overdue! How Librarians and Cybrarians Can Save Us All by Marilyn Johnson

Read by Margaret Strom

9 hours, 34 minutes

Author of *The Dead Beat* (DB 81116) and *Lives in Ruins* (DB 80738) explores the careers of librarians and other information professionals. Discusses professional realities, stereotypes, and popular culture representations, and profiles librarians working in a variety of roles. 2010

[Download from BARD: This Book is Overdue! How Librarians and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081214

Curiosity Thrilled the Cat a Magical Cats Mystery by Sofie Kelly

Read by Jill Ferris

10 hours, 12 minutes

After she rescues two stray cats, small-town librarian Kathleen Paulson discovers there may be more to felines Owen and Hercules than normal kitty behavior. When a murder disrupts a music festival and Kathleen becomes the prime suspect, Owen and Hercules help her to solve the crime. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Curiosity Thrilled the Cat a Magical Cats Mystery](#)

Also available in digital cartridge DB074810

The Book of the Seven Delights by Betina M. Krahn

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

10 hours, 14 minutes

Boston librarian Abigail uncovers a journal at the British Museum that pinpoints the location of the long-lost library of Alexandria. Englishman Apollo, a former French legionnaire, assists Abigail on her way to Morocco, rescues her from kidnappers, and falls in love. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2005.

[Download from BARD: The Book of the Seven Delights](#)

Also available in digital cartridge DB074667

Evil Librarian by Michelle Knudsen

Read by Mary Kane

9 hours, 16 minutes

When Cynthia's best friend, Annie, falls head over heels for the new high-school librarian, she is amused at first. But after meeting Mr. Gabriel, Cyn realizes something isn't quite right and races to save the entire student body. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Evil Librarian](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079820

The Grand Complication by Allen Kurzweil

Read by Roy Avers

8 hours, 17 minutes

An eccentric collector inveigles assistance from reference librarian Alexander Short to track the whereabouts of an antique watch known as the Grand Complication. To the detriment of his marriage and career, Short becomes obsessed with the search. Some strong language. 2001.

[Download from BARD: The Grand Complication](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053849

The Cherry Cola Book Club by Ashton Lee

Read by Marguerite Gavin

7 hours, 42 minutes

Librarian Maura Beth Mayhew must increase her small Cherico, Mississippi, library's circulation or face closure. To convince the town council that the library is viable Maura Beth starts a book club, where the members share food, stories, and love, as well as literature. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Cherry Cola Book Club](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076695

42nd Street Library. Books 1-2 by Con Lehane

Read by Gary Tipton

18 hours, 44 minutes

Two mysteries, written between 2016 and 2017, featuring librarian Raymond Ambler of the New York City 42nd Street Library, who investigates murders in his workplace with help from colleague Adele Morgan and homicide detective Mike Cosgrove. Includes Murder at the 42nd Street Library and Murder in the Manuscript Room. Some violence and some strong language. 2017.

[Download from BARD: 42nd Street Library. Books 1-2](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090011

That All May Read Library Service for Blind and Physically Handicapped People by Library of Congress

Read by Ken Kliban

23 hours, 31 minutes

Describes the laws and agencies serving handicapped people; gives a history of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; identifies sources of special media materials and reading aids; analyzes the characteristics of blind and handicapped readers; discusses the role of state, public, and academic libraries; and reviews activities abroad and internationally.

[Download from BARD: That All May Read Library Service for Blind and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB020002

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16594](#)

Also available in braille BR005590 OR BR016594

The Borrower by Rebecca Makkai

Read by Kate Kiley

9 hours, 32 minutes

Children's librarian Lucy Hull discovers ten-year-old Ian Drake hiding out in the stacks after closing one night. Ian is determined to get away from his controlling parents, who try to restrict what he reads to anti-gay literature. Ian draws Lucy into his plan. Some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Borrower](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083480

Books Can Be Deceiving; Due or Die; Book, Line and Sinker; Read it and Weep; On Borrowed Time by Jenn McKinlay

Read by Mare Trevathan

32 hours, 46 minutes

Books one through five, written between 2011 and 2014, in the series featuring library director and amateur sleuth Lindsey Norris of Briar Creek, Connecticut. In Books Can Be Deceiving, Beth Stanley, Lindsey's friend and employee and an aspiring children's author, is suspected of murdering her famous-writer boyfriend. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Books Can Be Deceiving; Due or Die; Book...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080256

The Library at the Edge of the World: a Novel by Felicity Hayes-McCoy

Read by Kristin Allison

9 hours, 46 minutes

Librarian Hanna Casey returns to her hometown on the west coast of Ireland after divorcing her cheating husband. She renovates a small cottage and takes over the route for the mobile library van, but there are developments afoot that could ruin the life she is trying to build. Some strong language. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Library at the Edge of the World: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090357

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

Read by Julia Whelan

13 hours, 54 minutes

1937. Alice Van Cleve is still trying to adjust to married life and living in Kentucky after being raised in England. When offered the chance to join a group of women to deliver Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, she jumps at it. But they face dangers. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Giver of Stars](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096907

The Strange Library by Haruki Murakami

Read by Kirby Heyborne

1 hour, 3 minutes

A young man goes to the library on what he assumes will be a routine visit. Sent to a hidden corner of the basement, he encounters an old man who imprisons him and forces him to read books on esoteric subjects. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Strange Library](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080291

Dewey the Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

8 hours, 27 minutes

Spencer, Iowa, public library director Vicki Myron describes finding a kitten in the book drop in 1988. Named Dewey Readmore Books by library staff, the feline became an increasingly famous mascot over the next nineteen years. Myron also discusses her divorce, single parenthood, breast cancer scare, and love of librarianship. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Dewey the Small Town Library Cat Who...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067516

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17821](#)

Also available in braille BR017821

Dear Miss Breed True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and the Librarian who Made a Difference By Joanne Oppenheim

Read by Catherine Byers

11 hours, 44 minutes

Examines the plight of Japanese American children and their families after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Features letters to Miss Breed, a San Diego librarian, from her young patrons who were detained in relocation camps, and interviews with the grown-up authors. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Dear Miss Breed True Stories of the Japanese...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062460

The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Read by Susan Orlean

12 hours, 11 minutes

The author re-opens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in US history. On April 29, 1986, fire broke out at the Los Angeles Public Library and destroyed or damaged more than a million books. Examines the evolution of public libraries while celebrating their value in society. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[Download from BARD: The Library Book](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB092869

BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More than Ever in the Age of Google by John Palfrey

Read by John Lescault

7 hours, 11 minutes

Former law professor and founding chairman of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) examines the importance and role of public libraries in the twenty-first century and beyond. Examines lessons learned from the development period of the DPLA and argues for a reexamination of public libraries' core strengths. 2015

[Download from BARD: BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More than Ever...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082147

The Library of Lost and Found by Phaedra Patrick

Read by Imogen Church

10 hours, 31 minutes

Librarian Martha Storm's life changes when a book of fairy tales arrives on her doorstep. Inside, she finds a dedication written to her by her grandmother Zelda, who died under mysterious circumstances years earlier. Martha also discovers a clue that her grandmother may still be alive. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Library of Lost and Found](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094352

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22771](#)

Also available in braille BR022771

The Case of the Missing Books by Ian Sansom

Read by Brian Hemmingsen

8 hours, 37 minutes

Londoner Israel Armstrong arrives in Tumdrum, Northern Ireland, to begin his librarian job, only to learn the library closed--permanently. After being reassigned as driver of the decrepit bookmobile, Israel discovers that all of the books are missing and sets about finding them. 2005.

[Download from BARD: The Case of the Missing Books](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071841

The Library Book the Story of Libraries from Camels to Computers by Maureen Sawa

Read by Nicola Daval

2 hours, 6 minutes

Traces the global history of libraries. Describes the evolution of knowledge collection and sharing from clay tablets and scrolls to paper pages and digital files. Mentions a Persian official who traveled with his books loaded on five hundred camels, creating the first bookmobile. For grades 4-7. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Library Book the Story of Libraries from...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065329

Public Library and Other Stories by Ali Smith

Read by Ali Smith

A collection of short fiction from award-winning author Ali Smith. As a whole, the collection focuses on what people do with books and what books do to people--how they shock, change, challenge, and teach. Also discusses the vital role of public libraries. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Public Library and Other Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086007

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21780](#)

Also available in braille BR021780

The Book of Speculation by Erika Swyler

Read by Carol Jacobanis

13 hours, 41 minutes

Librarian Simon lives in the crumbling house left to him by his parents. His sister Enola ran away years ago to join a circus. Simon receives an old book that indicates his family is cursed and that Enola might be the next victim. The past intertwines with the present. 2015

[Download from BARD: The Book of Speculation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082676

Download from BARD as Electronic Braille

Also available in braille

Syria's Secret Library: Reading and Redemption in a Town Under Siege by Mike Thomson

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

9 hours, 58 minutes

An account of a hidden library organized in 2013 in the war-torn town of Daraya, which was besieged early in the Syrian Civil War. The author recounts how the books inside were salvaged and scavenged. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Syria's Secret Library: Reading and Redemption...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097420

Murder at the Library of Congress by Margaret Truman

Read by Mary Woods

7 hours, 45 minutes

Annabel Reed-Smith is happily ensconced at the Library of Congress's Hispanic room researching an article on Christopher Columbus and his aide Las Casas, whose lost diaries are rumored to reveal hidden treasure. When she finds the expert librarian on the subject murdered, Annabel and her husband, Mac, investigate. Some violence. 1999.

[Download from BARD: Murder at the Library of Congress](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB049490

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12564](#)

Also available in braille BR012564

Property of the Rebel Librarian by Allison Varnes

Read by Monika Felice Smith.

6 hours, 2 minutes

Twelve-year-old June is shocked when her parents go on a campaign to clear Dogwood Middle School's library of objectionable books. When she notices the forbidden titles popping up in a Little Free Library, June starts a secret banned-books library in an empty locker. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Property of the Rebel Librarian](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB092547

The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books: Christopher Columbus, His Son, and the Quest to Build the World's Greatest Library by Edward Wilson-Lee

Read by Richard Trinder

11 hours, 9 minutes

An account of the work of Hernando Colón, Christopher Columbus's illegitimate son, who traveled with Columbus on his final voyage to the New World. After his father's death, Colón worked to build a library of everything ever printed, including ephemera such as newsletters, erotica, and more. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094867

The Bodies in the Library by Marty Wingate

Read by Fiona Hardingham

9 hours, 25 minutes

Hayley Burke lands a job as the curator of Lady Georgiana Fowling's First Edition library at Middlebank House in Bath, England. But when one of her Agatha Christie fan-fiction writers group is found dead in the venerable stacks, Hayley has to catch the killer to save her job. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Bodies in the Library](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097038