



## BRILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

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### Mysteries: Historical

Historical mysteries are defined as mystery books that take place before 1950. These mystery books range from the near past to the ancient and classical world and include some of the biggest names in the genre. 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 Tale of Hill Top Farm the Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter by Susan Wittig Albert**

Read by Constance Crawford

9 hours, 5 minutes

Lake District, England; 1905. Author Beatrix Potter, still mourning her fiancé's death, buys a farm in the country. Villagers in nearby Sawrey are suspicious of the sudden passing of local resident Abigail Tolliver. Beatrix and her pets offer to help solve the mystery. 2004.

[Download from BARD: The Tale of Hill Top Farm the Cottage Tales of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061460

#### **Blind Justice by Bruce Alexander**

Read by George Holmes

11 hours, 9 minutes

Based on the life of the blind eighteenth-century justice Sir John Fielding, who, with novelist Henry Fielding, founded the Bow Street Runners. Known for his fairness, Sir John enlists the aid of Jeremy Proctor, a young boy unjustly accused whom Sir John has taken into his home. The case involves the double murder (by poison and gunshot) of Lord Goodhope.

[Download from BARD: Blind Justice](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042229

### **Alias Grace by Magaret Atwood**

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

16 hours, 20 minutes

A fictional portrait of Grace Marks, a sixteen-year-old Canadian domestic who was convicted in the murder of her employer and his mistress in 1843. In prison, Grace is hypnotized by a psychiatrist to help her recall the murders and reveal whether she is a monster or a victim. Violence and descriptions of sex.

Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Alias Grace](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042878

### **The Alienist by Caleb Carr**

Read by Bob Askey

19 hours, 15 minutes

New York City, March 1896. John Moore, news reporter, is awakened at 2:00 A.M. with a request to report to the murder scene of a boy prostitute. Awaiting him is psychologist Dr. Laszlo Kreizler. They have been asked by Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt to create a psychological profile--unheard of in their day--of the killer. They will soon become haunted by the underworld and stalked by the murderer. Strong language and violence. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: The Alienist](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB038121

### **Hangman Blind by Cassandra Clark**

Read by Erin Jones

10 hours, 22 minutes

Britain, 1382. Hildegard, a Cistercian nun, seeks a suitable grange for a new priory. She consults her friend, wealthy landowner Lord Roger de Hutton, to help secure a property. But when someone tries to poison Roger, Hildegard instead searches for the would-be killer. Some violence and some strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Hangman Blind](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069285

### **Death in Lacquer Red a Hilda Johansson Mystery by Jeanne M. Dams**

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

6 hours, 35 minutes

South Bend, Indiana; 1900. Swedish immigrant Hilda Johansson, a housemaid for the wealthy Studebaker family, discovers the brutally beaten corpse of a female missionary wearing a distinctive red jacket from China. Despite wary coworkers, narrow-minded police, and social prejudices, Hilda tracks the killer. 1999.

[Download from BARD: Death in Lacquer Red a Hilda Johansson Mystery](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069051

### **Silver Pigs by Lindsey Davis**

Read by George Holmes

9 hours, 27 minutes

Imperial Rome, A.D. 70. In the first book in the series private investigator Marcus Didius Falco assists Sosia Camillina, a senator's sixteen-year-old niece, whose uncle has hidden in her bank box a stash of valuable lead ingots from Britain. Prequel to Shadows in Bronze (DB 36464). 1989.

[Download from BARD: Silver Pigs](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058069

### **Napoleon's Pyramids by William Dietrich**

Read by Jack Fox

13 hours, 8 minutes

While in Paris, Ethan Gage, a thirty-three-year-old American frontiersman, wins a curiously engraved gold medallion in a card game and soon after is framed for murder. Gage escapes to Egypt with Napoleon Bonaparte's expedition. He encounters mysteries, battles, and treachery; finds love; and solves the mystery of the amulet. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Napoleon's Pyramids](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073281

### **Good Night, Mr. Holmes by Carole Nelson Douglas**

Read by Patricia Kilgariff

13 hours, 26 minutes

Nell Huxleigh, a parson's daughter, relates this tale of Irene Adler, opera singer and detective. Miss Adler, who has the uncanny ability to outsmart even Sherlock Holmes, becomes a detective early in her operatic career. Her sleuthing results in encounters with Victorian personages such as Charles Lewis Tiffany; Oscar Wilde; Antonin Dvorak; and the mysterious Godfrey Norton, who helps her search for a skein of diamonds.

[Download from BARD: Good Night, Mr. Holmes](#)

Also available in digital cartridge DB040584

### **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

Also available in braille BRA018245

### **Deadlier than the Pen a Diana Spaulding Mystery by Kathy Lynn Emerson**

Read by Jill Fox

9 hours, 6 minutes

New York City, 1888. Editor Horatio Foxe asks widowed reporter Diana Spaulding to interview Damon Bathory, a gothic author whose book tour has met with two murders. Diana pursues Damon, becomes stranded on a train during a blizzard, and falls in love with Dr. Ben Northcote of Maine. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Deadlier than the Pen](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068523

### **The Gods of Gotham by Lyndsay Faye**

Read by Alec Volz

15 hours, 12 minutes

Manhattan, 1845. After bartender Tim Wilde loses his livelihood, home, and savings in a fire, he reluctantly joins the newly formed NYPD. A complex crime involving one runaway Irish child prostitute and the suspicious death of another brings out Wilde's investigative skills. Violence and strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Gods of Gotham](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076459

### **The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett**

Read by Merwin Smith

40 hours, 34 minutes

Historical novel set in twelfth century England. Philip, prior of the monastery at Kingsbridge, and Tom, a master mason, would like to build a new cathedral. They are helped along when Tom's stepson torches the current cathedral. They are hindered, however, by a powerful and jealous bishop, and Ellen--who witnessed an ancient treachery. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: the Pillars of the Earth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB030999

### **Mistress of the Art of Death by Ariana Franklin**

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

12 hours, 16 minutes

Cambridge, England; 1171. King Henry II sends a plea to the king of Sicily for a crime investigator after four Christian children are murdered--supposedly by Jews. Adelia Aguilar, a medical student with forensic knowledge, arrives with Muslim bodyguard Mansur and Jewish colleague Simon. Violence and some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Mistress of the Art of Death](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066765

### **The Spies of Warsaw a Novel by Alan Furst**

Read by Lewis Grenville

9 hours, 57 minutes

Warsaw, 1937. Colonel Jean-François Mercier, French military attaché to Poland, spends his time socializing and recruiting spies. Mercier alerts his superiors to the threat of Nazi invasion but is ignored. Meanwhile he falls in love and rescues an agent. Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Spies of Warsaw a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067031

### **Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade by Diana Gabaldon**

Read by Annie Wauters

14 hours, 28 minutes

England, 1758. Lord John Grey's father, the duke of Pardloe, died an accused Jacobite spy. Now a page from the duke's missing journal mysteriously appears. Scotsman James Fraser--for whom Grey has feelings--helps Grey clear his family name. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065487

### **The Dark Days Club by Alison Goodman**

Read by Mare Trevathan

14 hours, 50 minutes

London, 1812. As Lady Helen Wrexhall prepares for an audience with Queen Charlotte, one of her housemaids disappears. With the help of Lord Carlston, she begins to investigate, and the two are thrust into a grand conspiracy, gradually learning the truth about Lady Helen's mother. Some violence. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Dark Days Club](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083863

### **The Janissary Tree a Novel by Jason Goodwin**

Read by Anne Flosnik

10 hours, 58 minutes

Istanbul, 1836. Court eunuch Yashim Togalu has orders from Sultan Mahmut II to find out who is killing military cadets. He scours the city, suspicious that the outcast Janissary corps soldiers are planning an insurrection. Violence and strong language. Edgar Allan Poe Award. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Janissary Tree a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064325

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17160](#)

Also available in braille BR017160

### **A Free Man of Color by Barbara Hambly**

Read by Ed Blake

11 hours

1833 New Orleans. In a complex world where Creoles, Americans, French, and blacks live and love, a Creole's beautiful black mistress is murdered during Mardi Gras. Paris-educated Benjamin January, who is trying to adjust to being a free black man in an unforgiving world, feels obligated to find the murderer. Strong language, violence, and some descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: A Free Man of Color](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB046286

### **What Angels Fear; When Gods Die; Why Mermaids Sing by C.S. Harris**

Read by Mark Ashby

28 hours, 27 minutes

First three mysteries featuring Napoleonic Wars veteran Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, written between 2005 and 2007. In What Angels Fear, Sebastian is accused of murdering a young woman and must find the real villain before he is captured by Bow Street. Violence and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2007.

[Download from BARD: What Angels Fear; When Gods Die; Why...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081531

### **The Devil in the Marshalsea by Antonia Hodgson**

Read by Jon Pinnow

12 hours, 23 minutes

1727. Tom Hawkins has landed in the Marshalsea Gaol as a debtor. He tries to survive daily life, but is soon drawn into the mystery of a fellow prisoner who was dragged from his bed and killed. Many have reasons to keep secrets buried. Strong language and some violence. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Devil in the Marshalsea](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084858

### **March Violets by Philip Kerr**

Read by Ken Kliban

10 hours, 25 minutes

Berlin, Germany; 1936. A wealthy industrialist hires PI Gunther, a former police detective, to find out who murdered his daughter and son-in-law during a robbery. Gunther enters a decadent underworld and uncovers political corruption and a Nazi concentration camp. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1989.

[Download from BARD: March Violets](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066544

### **The Given Day by Dennis Lehane**

Read by Nick Sullivan

25 hours, 28 minutes

Boston, early twentieth century. Policeman Danny Coughlin goes undercover to infiltrate Bolsheviks and anarchists who are recruiting immigrants and workers to cause civil strife. Soon Danny sympathizes with their plight, befriending his family's Irish maid and an African American fugitive. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Given Day](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068066



### **The Whiskey Rebels by David Liss**

Read by Christopher Lane

18 hours, 31 minutes

1790s. Disgraced ex-spy Ethan Saunders agrees to help his former fiancée Cynthia Pearson locate her husband Jacob, a successful Philadelphia entrepreneur. Ethan uncovers a conspiracy on the western Pennsylvania frontier centered on bringing down treasury secretary Alexander Hamilton. Commercial audiobook. Strong language and some violence. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Whiskey Rebels](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067427

### **Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley**

Read by Phil Regensdorf

6 hours, 22 minutes

Los Angeles, 1948. Easy Rawlins, a black war veteran is out of work and in need of enough money to pay his mortgage. He agrees to help a shady white mobster find a mysterious white woman dressed in blue. Finding the woman is easy--she frequents black jazz clubs--but the information Rawlins uncovers in his search puts his life in jeopardy. Some descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: Devil in a Blue Dress](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB032935

### **A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee**

Read by Malk Williams

11 hours, 39 minutes

Captain Sam Wyndham, a former Scotland Yard detective, is a new arrival to Calcutta and its police force. When a British official is murdered, the investigation takes Wyndham and his colleagues from the luxurious parlors of wealthy British traders to the city's seedy opium dens. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: A Rising Man](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093833

### **My Name is Red by Orhan Pamuk**

Read by John Horton

18 hours, 57 minutes

Tale of conflict, conspiracy, murder, passion, and Islamic miniaturist art from the Ottoman Empire, set in sixteenth-century Istanbul. The human voices of a corpse and his murderer, among others, and the nonhuman ones of a dog, a tree, and a gold coin propel the intricate plot. Some strong language. 2001.

[Download from BARD: My Name is Red](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062910

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14128](#)

Also available in braille BR014128

### **The Dante Club by Matthew Pearl**

Read by Fred Major

15 hours, 44 minutes

Boston, 1865. Famous poets and scholars, including Harvard professors Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and James Russell Lowell, are preparing the first American translation of Dante when a serial killer strikes with gruesomeness reminiscent of the Inferno. They help African American policeman Nicholas Rey investigate the murders. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller. 2003.

[Download from BARD: The Dante Club](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB055723

### **Callander Square by Anne Perry**

Read by Terry Hayes Sales

9 hours, 35 minutes

When gardeners discover the bodies of two babies buried in Callander Square, the well-to-do Victorian residents are shocked but assume the infants were born to a parlor maid. As Inspector Thomas Pitt begins interviewing the staff, his wife, Charlotte, and her wealthy sister, Emily, begin an investigation of their own. Before any of them can determine the identity of the babies, a blackmail scheme is uncovered and two adults are murdered. 1980.

[Download from BARD: Callander Square](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042282

### **Death of a Stranger by Anne Perry**

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

13 hours, 31 minutes

The night Victorian railroad magnate Nolan Baltimore is murdered, three prostitutes are brought to Hester Monk's clinic for emergency treatment. Later, Hester's detective husband, William, is hired by Katrina Marcus to investigate her fiancé, another railway executive. As the two cases gradually come together, Monk's long-term amnesia begins to fade. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Death of a Stranger](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054947

### **A Morbid Taste for Bones by Ellis Peters**

Read by Tom Martin

7 hours, 36 minutes

Detective Brother Cadfael, in charge of the herb gardens in the Benedictine monastery of Shrewsbury, has to deal with his superiors when they become obsessed with the notion of acquiring the bones of an obscure saint from a Welsh village.

[Download from BARD: A Morbid Taste for Bones](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB028174

Also available in braille BR003876

### **Crocodile on the Sandbank by Elizabeth Peters**

Read by Flo Gibson

8 hours, 38 minutes

In 1880 spinster Amelia Peabody is in Rome en route to Egypt when she befriends a young noblewoman, Evelyn Barton-Forbes, who has been seduced and abandoned by her drawing master. Evelyn agrees to accompany Amelia and soon unaccountable things begin to happen, climaxing when a tomb is discovered and its inhabitant disappears in the night.

[Download from BARD: Crocodile on the Sandbank](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB028834

Also available in braille BR004728

### **In the Shadow of Gotham by Stefanie Pintoff**

Read by Peter Johnson

10 hours, 25 minutes

Dobson, New York. Unable to deal with the loss of his fiancée in the 1904 General Slocum ferry disaster, detective Simon Ziele transfers to a quiet country town. But a horrifying homicide sets Simon and a noted Columbia University criminologist on the trail of a killer. Some violence. 2009.

[Download from BARD: In the Shadow of Gotham](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072917

### **The Hangman's Daughter; The Dark Monk by Oliver Pötzsch**

Read by Jeremy Edwinn Gage

31 hours, 30 minutes

These first entries in the Hangman's Daughter Tales were translated in 2010 and 2012. In book one, set in 1659 Bavaria, hangman Jakob Kuisl must determine whether the tattoo on a drowning boy signifies witchcraft. Originally published in German in 2008 and 2009. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Hangman's Daughter; The Dark Monk](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079907

### **The Secret Adventures of Charlotte Bronte by Laura Joh Rowland**

Read by Erin Jones

12 hours, 27 minutes

Charlotte Brontë and her sister Anne travel to London in 1848 to meet with Charlotte's publisher. On the train they meet Isabel White, a mysterious young woman who is later murdered. Drawn into the intrigue, Charlotte attempts to solve the crime. Some violence and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Secret Adventures of Charlotte Bronte](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067111

### **Shinju by Laura Joh Rowland**

Read by Robert Sams

12 hours, 46 minutes

In 1689 Tokyo, detective Sano Ichiro discovers the bodies of a man and a woman bound together in an apparent shinju or "double love suicide." But Sano suspects otherwise and risks personal ruin as he follows a trail of clues that lead to a treasonous plot against the shogun. Violence.

[Download from BARD: Shinju](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB043369

### **The Angel's Game by Carlos Ruiz Zafon**

Read by Mark Ashby

16 hours, 2 minutes

Barcelona, 1917. David Martín crafts crime stories and "penny dreadfuls." Martín discovers the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, from *The Shadow of the Wind* (RC 58940), and accepts a sinister commission to write a book creating a new religion. Originally published in Spain. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Angel's Game](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069158

### **Dissolution by C.J. Sansom**

Read by Gary Telles

16 hours, 8 minutes

England, 1537. Matthew Shardlake, whose hunchback caused him to go into law rather than farming, works for Lord Cromwell, Henry VIII's powerful reformist vicar general. When a royal commissioner is murdered while trying to convince Catholic monasteries to voluntarily close, Shardlake investigates. Some violence and some strong language. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Dissolution](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074528

## **The Triumph of Caesar a Novel of Ancient Rome by Steven Saylor**

Read by Richard Davidson

11 hours, 2 minutes

The civil war has ended and Gordianus "the Finder," now sixty-four, is retired. But Caesar's second wife Calpurnia summons him to investigate a plot to assassinate her husband. Gordianus's friend Hieronymus, from Last Seen in Massilia (DB 53710), was murdered while trying to unmask the conspirators. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Triumph of Caesar a Novel of Ancient Rome](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073061

## **Kopp Sisters Books 1-2 Amy Stewart**

Read by Terry Donnelly

22 hours, 10 minutes

Two novels, written in 2015 and 2016, based on the real-life adventures of one of America's first female deputies and her sisters. In Girl Waits with Gun, in 1914, thirty-five-year-old Constance Kopp's run-in with a factory owner makes her and her sisters targets. Includes Lady Cop Makes Trouble. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Kopp Sisters Books 1-2](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086312

## **A Duty to the Dead by Charles Todd**

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

10 hours, 51 minutes

1916. British nurse Bess Crawford returns to England to convalesce and travels to Kent to convey a message from dying patient Arthur Graham to his brother. There Bess helps nurse a shell-shocked soldier back to health--and becomes uncomfortably enmeshed in Graham's family secrets. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Duty to the Dead](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072025

## **Whispers of the Dead Fifteen Sister Fidelma Mysteries by Peter Tremayne**

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

10 hours, 43 minutes

Fifteen short stories featuring a seventh-century nun and trained lawyer, Sister Fidelma of Ireland. In the title tale an unknown peasant woman is discovered dead and Fidelma is challenged to identify her and the cause of death. In "The Banshee" she investigates a death wail. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Whispers of the Dead Fifteen Sister Fidelma...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061547

## **Fingersmith by Sarah Waters**

Read by Jill Fox

22 hours, 26 minutes

Victorian London. Orphaned Sue Trinder was raised by a caring family of petty thieves. To repay them, she helps an elegant con man swindle a wealthy heiress. But the plan is compromised when Sue begins to have feelings for the victim. Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Fingersmith](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056184

## **Maisie Dobbs, a Novel by Jacqueline Winspear**

Read by Jill Fox

9 hours, 28 minutes

Thirteen-year-old Maisie is lucky to be a maid in the home of a wealthy London suffragette who sees to her education. Maisie becomes a private investigator in 1929 after serving as a nurse during the Great War. Her first case involves a shelter for wounded veterans. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Maisie Dobbs a novel](#)

Also available in digital cartridge DB067808