



## BRAILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

(800) 952-5666; [btbl.ca.gov](http://btbl.ca.gov); [btbl@library.ca.gov](mailto:btbl@library.ca.gov)

### Popular and Contemporary Fiction 2006 Through 2008

Looking for a good book and not sure where to start? These titles are some of the most popular fiction books published between 2006 to 2008. 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 Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry**

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

10 hours, 59 minutes

Towner Whitney, like her female forebears, can predict the future by reading lace patterns. When her great-aunt Eva mysteriously disappears, Towner goes home to Salem, Massachusetts, to uncover the truth. Towner revisits her past psychiatric troubles, family secrets, and her twin sister's death. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2006.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB067406

#### **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 form BARD as Electronic Braille BR17649](#)

Also available in braille BR017649

### **2666 by Roberto Bolaño**

Read by Ken Kliban

41 hours, 38 minutes

Three scholars travel to the Mexican border town of Santa Teresa searching for German writer Benno von Archimboldi. Professor Amalfitano and his daughter Rosa also move there, and African American reporter Oscar Fate arrives to cover a boxing match. Meanwhile dozens of women are murdered. Some strong language. Nat'l Bk. Critics Circle. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: 2666](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068418

### **People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks**

Read by Lisette Lecat

16 hours, 16 minutes

Australian book conservator Hanna Heath analyzes a Hebrew manuscript created in medieval Spain and saved from destruction in 1990s Sarajevo. Hanna's discoveries--an insect wing, salt crystals, and wine and blood stains--reveal the codex's past and the lives of its guardians. Some descriptions of sex and some violence. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: People of the Book](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066059

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17613](#)

Also available in braille BR017613

### **America America a Novel by Ethan Canin**

Read by Fred Major

14 hours, 8 minutes

Upstate New York, 1970s. Corey Sifter, a plumber's son, befriends members of the influential Metarey family, who eventually send him to prep school. Sifter observes the presidential campaign of Metarey protégé senator Henry Bonwiller--and its self-destruction caused by scandals and corruption. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: America America a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067300

### **His Illegal Self by Peter Carey**

Read by Kevin Collins

8 hours, 30 minutes

In 1972, Che, the young son of radical underground activists, lives in New York with his wealthy grandmother. When a woman arrives for a visit, Che assumes she is his mother and eagerly runs away with her. But nothing that follows happens as he expected. Strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: His Illegal Self](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067653

### **The Yiddish Policemen's Union: a Novel by Michael Chabon**

Read by Richard Davidson

16 hours, 31 minutes

Post-WWII Alaska. A drug-addicted chess prodigy is murdered in a cheap hotel in what has become the Jewish homeland since the collapse of fledgling Israel. Divorced, alcoholic police detective Meyer Landsman uncovers links to a plot to reclaim the Jewish state. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Yiddish Policemen's Union: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064502

### **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz**

Read by Barry Bernson

9 hours, 33 minutes

New Jersey. Overweight Dominican American Oscar works as a substitute teacher and dreams about being a famous writer. Oscar grew up with his rebellious sister Lola and beautiful mother, but the ancient curse of fukú haunts their lives--until he decides to do something about it. Violence and strong language. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065402

### **The Plague of Doves by Louise Erdrich**

Read by Annie Wauters

10 hours, 32 minutes

The long-ago murder of a white family and subsequent mob lynching of innocent Native Americans still haunt the town of Pluto, North Dakota, and the nearby Ojibwe reservation. Evelina, her grandfather Mooshum, Judge Coutts, and Doctor Lochran, whose lives intertwine, are unknowingly affected by the past. Some violence. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Plague of Doves](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066886

### **Water For Elephants by Sara Gruen**

Read by Nick Sullivan

12 hours, 44 minutes

1931. Veterinary student Jacob Jankowski's world comes crashing down when his parents die in a car accident. Broke, Jacob joins the circus, falls for Marlena, a married circus star, and cares for animals like Rosie the elephant. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Water for Elephants](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062718

### **A Case of Exploding Mangoes by Mohammed Hanif**

Read by Michael Scherer

10 hours, 14 minutes

Pakistan, 1988. Junior military officer Ali Shigri believes his father's suicide was actually a murder and holds General Zia, the country's president, responsible. With the help of his friend and sometime lover, Baby O, Ali plots revenge--the general's assassination. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Case of Exploding Mangoes](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068020

### **A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini**

Read by Yolande Bavan

13 hours, 33 minutes

Afghanistan, 1970s-2000s. At age fifteen Mariam is married off to much-older, abusive shoemaker Rasheed. Rasheed takes a second wife, Laila, a student who lost her family and true love. The women bond as violence escalates at home and in wartorn Kabul. Some violence and some strong language.

Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: A Thousand Splendid Suns](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064803

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BRC01326](#)

Also available in braille BRC01326

### **A Map of Home by Randa Jarrar**

Read by Annie Wauters

7 hours, 41 minutes

Boston-born Nidali, daughter of a Greek Egyptian mother and a Muslim Palestinian father, grows up in Kuwait. When Iraq invades in 1990, Nidali's family flees first to Egypt and later Texas, where--to her parents' dismay--Nidali quickly adapts to teen culture. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Map of Home](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070156

### **Duma Key by Stephen King**

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

23 hours, 15 minutes

An accident left self-made construction millionaire Edgar Freemantle brain damaged and without an arm. When Edgar's rage results in divorce, his therapist suggests he spend a year painting in Florida. With his phantom arm's help, Edgar soon produces incredible, but dangerous, artwork. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Duma Key](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065691

[Download as Electronic Braille from BARD BR17475](#)

Also available in braille BR017475

### **Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri**

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

10 hours, 46 minutes

Eight short stories by Pulitzer Prize-winning author explore the nature of family and love. In the title story, a mother in Seattle nervously hosts her widowed father, who helps tend her garden but hides a secret. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Unaccustomed Earth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066192

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17928](#)

Also available in braille BR017928

### **Alfred and Emily by Doris May Lessing**

Read by Laura Giannarelli

8 hours, 4 minutes

Nobel Laureate and prolific author of *The Golden Notebook* (RC 23376) provides a fictional alternate account of her parents' lives. The Great War never happened and Brits Alfred and Emily marry others and have enjoyable careers. The novella is followed by the real account of their war-ravaged marriage. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Alfred and Emily](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068213

### **The Bad Girl by Mario Vargas Llosa**

Read by Fred Major

12 hours

Ricardo Somocurcio recounts his romance with the mysterious woman who captivates him for three decades. He first encounters the metamorphic "bad girl" as teenage Lily in 1950s Peru and is later ensnared by her in the guises of "Comrade Arlette" and "Madame Arnoux." Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Bad Girl](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066877

### **Beijing Coma by Jian Ma**

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

29 hours, 28 minutes

Dai Wei lies in a coma for ten years after being shot in the head at Tiananmen Square in 1989. His thoughts wander between physical sensations and memories--of his family, the university student movement, and his girl friend Tian Yi. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Beijing Coma](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068877

### **The Emperor's Children by Claire Messud**

Read by Faith Potts

16 hours, 49 minutes

March to November 2001. College friends Marina, Danielle, and Julius, residents of New York City since the 1990s, are still striving for success. When misfit cousin Bootie comes to work for Marina's self-important father, their social circle is destabilized. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Emperor's Children](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063693

### **The Senator's Wife by Sue Miller**

Read by Mary Kane

11 hours, 8 minutes

Newly pregnant Meri and her professor husband move next door to Delia and her husband, a philandering, retired senator. Their parallel lives eventually collide as the older couple contends with a complex relationship and Meri struggles with childhood memories of neglect. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Senator's Wife](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066483

## **Dangerous Laughter Thirteen Stories by Steven Millhauser**

Read by Guy Williams

8 hours, 47 minutes

A Pulitzer Prize winner's tales of obsession, dark humor, and alternate history. In "The Room in the Attic" a young boy becomes infatuated with a classmate's ill sister. "Cat 'n' Mouse" reimagines a deadly ritual between cartoon rivals. Includes the title story, in which teenage hysteria has fatal consequences. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Dangerous Laughter Thirteen Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067461

## **A Mercy by Toni Morrison**

Read by Tonya Baltimore

5 hours, 32 minutes

Colonial North America, 1680s. An Anglo-Dutch trader reluctantly accepts a young slave girl named Florens as payment for a bad debt. Her mother hopes the transaction will prove a mercy to Florens, but subsequent years in Jacob Vaark's household reveal the harsh reality of being under another's dominion. Some violence. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Mercy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069148

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18095](#)

Also available in braille BR018095

## **Songs for the Missing by Steward O'Nan**

Read by Mary Kane

9 hours, 41 minutes

Ohio, 2005. Graduate Kim Larsen looks forward to leaving her small hometown for college. On the way to her summer night job at the Conoco station, Kim disappears. Her parents, friends, and younger sister try to cope during the three-year-long search. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Songs for the Missing](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068473



### **Netherland by Joseph O'Neill**

Read by Robert Sams

9 hours, 16 minutes

New York City. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, Dutch-born Hans van den Broek's British wife Rachel returns to London with their son Jake. Lonely Hans joins a local cricket league and befriends Trinidadian Chuck Ramkisson, who is a shady businessman but a great pal. Strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Netherland](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067189

### **Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl**

Read by Kristin Allison

19 hours, 38 minutes

Blue Van Meer, erudite daughter of an itinerant professor, settles into Stockton, North Carolina, for her senior year in an elite high school. But she is unprepared for the deaths of a student and a favorite teacher. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Special Topics in Calamity Physics](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063286

### **Lush Life by Richard Price**

Read by Jim Zeiger

15 hours, 43 minutes

New York, Lower East Side. Frustrated actor-writer Eric Cash claims two teens mugged him and his drinking companions as they stumbled home, shooting Ike, an aspiring writer. But when Ike dies, detectives Matty Clark and Yolonda Bello arrest Eric for homicide. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Lush Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066237

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17827](#)

Also available in braille BR017827

### **Goldengrove by Francine Prose**

Read by Mare Trevathan

7 hours, 55 minutes

New England. Thirteen-year-old Nico's older sister Margaret drowns after diving from a rowboat into a lake near their house. Emotionally abandoned by her grieving parents, Nico is drawn to Margaret's artistic boyfriend, Aaron, who shares Nico's feelings of loss and guilt. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Goldengrove](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068266

### **Indignation by Philip Roth**

Read by Barry Bernson

4 hours 44 minutes

In 1951, during the Korean War, eighteen-year-old Marcus Messner, only child of a kosher butcher, leaves Newark, New Jersey, to attend Ohio's Winesburg College. He experiences rudeness, heartache, and fear of expulsion before his death at age nineteen--which devastates his parents. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Indignation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067841

### **Peony in Love: a Novel by Lisa See**

Read by Janet Song

13 hours, 8 minutes

Seventeenth-century China. Already promised in marriage, sheltered and educated fifteen-year-old Peony becomes enamored of the opera The Peony Pavilion. After her untimely death Peony returns as a ghost to pursue her interest in the opera and haunt her betrothed's new family. Commercial audiobook. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Peony in Love: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064451

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17273](#)

Also available in braille BR017273

**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer**

Read by Corrie James

7 hours, 56 minutes

London, 1946. Writer Juliet Ashton corresponds with Dawsey Adams and other members of a literary society created as a front during the Nazi occupation of the British channel island Guernsey. Through letters, Juliet learns about their wartime experiences. Intrigued, Juliet sails to Guernsey, where she finds new inspiration. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067526

**The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein**

Read by Peter Ganim

9 hours, 11 minutes

Enzo, a mixed-breed dog, believes he will be reincarnated as a human. He stands by his master Denny Swift's side through Denny's race-car driving career, the birth of his daughter Zo, the death of his wife Eve, and a bitter custody battle with Eve's parents. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Art of Racing in the Rain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066787

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17801](#)

Also available in braille BR017801

**The Story of Edgar Sawtelle a Novel by David Wroblewski**

Read by Steven Carpenter

17 hours, 34 minutes

Wisconsin, 1970s. Gar and Trudy Sawtelle raise an intuitive and intelligent dog breed on their farm. One dog, Almondine, can communicate with the Sawtelle's mute son Edgar. After Gar's brother arrives, Gar dies and fourteen-year-old Edgar flees into the forest with three of the dogs. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Story of Edgar Sawtelle a novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066656

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17799](#)

Also available in braille BR017799

## **The Book Thief by Mark Zusak**

Read by Erik Sandvold

15 hours, 32 minutes

Death narrates the tale of nine-year-old Liesel from 1939 to 1943 in Nazi Germany. Liesel copes with a foster family, air raids, her friend Rudy, and a hidden Jew, sustained by the books she steals. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2006.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB062431

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17409](#)

Also available in braille BR017409