



## **BRaille AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY**

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

### **Read-Alikes for Barbara Kingsolver**

These contemporary fiction titles exhibit powerful writing and are focused on strong, realistic female characters and their families. 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 River Wife a Novel by Jonis Agree**

Read by Cassandra Campbell

18 hours, 9 minutes

Missouri. In 1930 teenager Hedio arrives with new husband Clement Ducharme at his remote family estate. Hedio discovers nineteenth-century diaries of Ducharme ancestors that recount the exploits of a fur-trapper-turned-river-pirate and an Irish adventuress, among others. Commercial audiobook. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The River Wife a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064456

#### **Island Beneath the Sea by Isabel Allende**

Read by Erin Jones

14 hours, 48 minutes

Zarité, a former slave in Saint-Domingue in the late eighteenth century, contemplates the loves, indignities, and fortunes of her life. Both tender and cruel relationships unfold, which highlight the colonial contradictions that gave birth to Haiti. Translated from Spanish. Violence and some descriptions of sex. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Island Beneath the Sea](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071969

### **The Robber Bride by Margaret Atwood**

Read by Mary Woods

18 hours, 16 minutes

Set in Toronto. At the center of the story is Zenia, who reappears years after she was supposedly killed in Beirut. Shocked by this turn of events are Charis, Roz, and Tony--three women who appear to have little in common, other than that each was once one of Zenia's victims. Their individual tales reveal how Zenia betrayed them, stealing their men, their money, and their self-respect. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: The Robber Bride](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037309

### **Tapestry of Fortunes a Novel by Elizabeth Berg**

Read by Anne Hancock

6 hours, 27 minutes

After losing her best friend to cancer, Cecilia reevaluates her life. She takes a break from her job, sells her home, and decides to go after Dennis, the one that got away. Cecilia also moves into a shared house, where she learns from her three housemates. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Tapestry of Fortunes a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076670

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20096](#)

Also available in braille BR020096

### **The Gap Year by Sarah Bird**

Read by Jennifer Hubbard

12 hours, 31 minutes

Lactation consultant Cam Lightsey prepares for her college-bound daughter Aubrey's departure. But Aubrey falls in love with football star Tyler, starts losing interest in continuing her education, and secretly corresponds with her long-absent father, who abandoned his family for a cult. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Gap Year](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075284

### **South of Broad a Novel by Pat Conroy**

Read by David Hartley-Margolin

20 hours, 42 minutes

Charleston, South Carolina; 1960s. Lonely, troubled Leo and several other high school students form an unlikely but close-knit friendship. They endure crises and successes until their loyalty is put to a final test two decades later, in San Francisco. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: South of Broad a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069381

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18480](#)

Also available in braille BR018480

### **Prayers for Sale by Sandra Dallas**

Read by Faith Potts

9 hours, 8 minutes

Depression-era Middle Swan, Colorado; 1936. Elderly Hennie Comfort befriends newcomer Nit Spindle, a newly married seventeen-year-old. Hennie, a natural storyteller, entertains the lonely girl by reminiscing about the seventy years she has spent in the mountains while the menfolk mined for gold. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Prayers for Sale](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069184

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18622](#)

Also available in braille BR018622

### **What Doesn't Kill You by Virginia DeBerry**

Read by Mare Trevathan

8 hours, 30 minutes

After her business partner dies, Tee Hodges is unexpectedly fired from the company she cofounded. Struggling to pay for her daughter's wedding and other bills, Tee discovers who her real friends are. But Tee's pride keeps her from asking for help. 2009.

[Download from BARD: What Doesn't Kill You](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069065

### **Sweet Salt Air by Barbara Delinsky**

Read by Carol Dines

15 hours, 33 minutes

Travel writer Charlotte and food blogger Nicole reunite after ten years on Quinnipeague Island, Maine, to collaborate on a cookbook. Both hide secrets concerning Nicole's husband Julian, a renowned surgeon. Meanwhile, Charlotte finds romance from an unexpected source. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Sweet Salt Air](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077222

### **Before We Visit the Goddess by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

8 hours, 3 minutes

Three generations epitomize the fraught relationships of mothers and daughters. Sabitri was born poor in Bengal, India, but sought an education and a better life. Her daughter, Bela, left India, having a daughter of her own in America. Each woman strives for independence while seeking connection. Some strong language. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Before We Visit the Goddess](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085428

### **The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards**

Read by Laura Giannarelli

16 hours, 23 minutes

Kentucky, 1964. Doctor David Henry delivers his own children: a boy, Paul, and Phoebe, a girl with Down syndrome. Telling his wife that the newborn girl has died, he gives Phoebe to nurse Caroline Gill. Over time, David's family erodes, while Caroline's family flourishes. Some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2005.

[Download from BARD: The Memory Keeper's Daughter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063403

### **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

### **A Dangerous Age by Ellen Gilchrist**

Read by Celeste Lawson

6 hours, 13 minutes

Half-Cherokee Olivia Hand, a newspaper editor in Tulsa, Oklahoma, confronts her mixed feelings about the war in Iraq as she and her cousins endure tragedies. Companion to I Cannot Get You Close Enough (RC 35282) and The Anna Papers (RC 28884). Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Dangerous Age](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067432

### **Flora a Novel by Gail Godwin**

Read by Celeste Lawson

8 hours, 14 minutes

Summer 1945. After her grandmother dies and her father is called away to do secret government work, precocious ten-year-old Helen is isolated in her family's decaying house with her twenty-two-year-old cousin Flora. Flora cries easily and Helen feels superior to her, but the summer changes their lives. Strong language. 2013.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB076779

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR 20102](#)

### **Laura Rider's Masterpiece by Jane Hamilton**

Read by Erik Todd Dellums

5 hours, 55 minutes

Wisconsin. Laura Rider, who has sworn off sex with Charlie, her husband of twelve years, begins writing her first romance novel. Hoping for creative fodder, Laura orchestrates an affair between Charlie and her idol, married local radio celebrity Jenna Faroli. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD Laura Rider's Masterpiece](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070184

### **Children and Fire by Ursula Hegi**

Read by Erin Jones

6 hours, 32 minutes

Burgdorf, Germany; 1934. Thekla Jansen, a devoted boys' school fourth-grade teacher, regrets the moral compromises she makes during Hitler's rise to power. She rues encouraging her charges--especially ten-year-old Bruno--to join the Hitler-Jugend, betraying her beloved teacher Fräulein Siderova, and hiding the truth about her birth. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Children and Fire](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074789

### **The Red Garden by Alice Hoffman**

Read by Erin Jones

7 hours, 12 minutes

Fourteen short stories set in Blackwell, Massachusetts, are linked in part by a garden that grows only red flowers and plants. In "Owl and Mouse" lonely Emily falls in love with an adventurous blind man. Some violence and some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Red Garden](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073270

### **The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb**

Read by Mark Ashby

25 hours

While teacher Caelum Quirk visits his recently deceased aunt's Connecticut farm, his school-nurse wife Maureen witnesses the Columbine high school rampage at home in Colorado--and falls apart. Starting their lives over back East, Caelum learns life-altering family secrets. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Hour I First Believed](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068011

### **Made in the U.S.A by Billie Letts**

Read by Mare Trevathan

9 hours, 47 minutes

Fifteen-year-old Lutie and her eleven-year-old brother Fate live in South Dakota with their father's obese girlfriend Floy. After Floy dies in a Wal-Mart, the siblings flee to Las Vegas to find their father. A mysterious circus performer rescues them. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Made in the U.S.A.](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067942

### **Life After Life a Novel by Jill McCorkle**

Read by Mare Trevathan

9 hours, 36 minutes

After her suicide attempt, Joanna becomes a hospice volunteer at the Pine Haven retirement center. Single mom C.J. does the residents' hair and makeup. Their friendships and interactions are intermingled with those of the residents, staff, and neighbors of the North Carolina home. Some strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Life After Life a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076418

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19916](#)

Also available in braille BR019916

### **The Lake Shore Limited by Sue Miller**

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

10 hours, 51 minutes

Playwright Wilhelmina "Billy" Gertz's latest production concerns a man waiting to hear whether his estranged wife survived a train bombing but who is ambivalent about her fate. Leslie, Billy's friend, fears the play reflects Billy's feelings towards the 9/11 death of Leslie's brother--Billy's lover. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2010.

[Download from BARD: the Lake Shore Limited](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071364

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19100](#)

Also available in braille BR019100

### **The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton**

Read by Annie Wauters

17 hours, 24 minutes

At twenty-one Nell learns that as a young child she was abandoned on a ship to Australia. When her adopted father passes away decades later, she travels to England to find her identity. But secrets remain until her granddaughter Cassandra picks up the investigation after Nell's death. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Forgotten Garden](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070900

### **Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng**

Read by Jennifer Lim

11 hours, 30 minutes

Elena Richardson and her family lead an orderly existence in Shaker Heights, Ohio, until Mia and her daughter rent a house from them. When a neighbor tries to adopt a baby, Elena and Mia end up on opposing sides of the custody battle. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Little Fires Everywhere](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089018

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22149](#)

Also available in braille BR022149



### **Little Bird of Heaven by Joyce Carol Oates**

Read by Laura Giannarelli

18 hours, 10 minutes

Upstate New York. Aaron Kruller grows up believing that his father killed his mother, while Krista Diehl's family suffers because Krista's father is also suspected in the murder. Krista becomes obsessed with Aaron in high school, until they drift apart. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Little Bird of Heaven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069789

### **Commonwealth by Ann Patchett**

Read by Kristin Allison.

10 hours, 9 minutes

Deputy District Attorney Burt Cousins unexpectedly shows up at the christening party for cop Fix Keating's baby daughter. Burt meets Fix's beautiful wife, Beverly, and steals a kiss. The ramifications of this play out for both families over five decades. Strong language. Bestseller. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Commonwealth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086217

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR021711](#)

Also available in braille BR021711

### **Sing You Home a Novel by Jodi Picoult**

Read by Erin Jones

13 hours, 44 minutes

After years of fertility treatments, Zoe delivers a stillborn son. Her husband Max can't face more attempts and they divorce. When Zoe later marries a woman, Vanessa, Max fights Zoe's plan to impregnate Vanessa with Max and Zoe's three remaining frozen embryos. Strong language and descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Sing You Home](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072862

### **The Geometry of Sisters by Luanne Rice**

Read by Annie Wauters

9 hours, 43 minutes

After the drowning of her husband and disappearance of her older daughter, Maura moves her other two children, daughter Beck and son Travis, from Columbus, Ohio, to Newport, Rhode Island, where both Maura's long-ago summer lover and estranged sister live. Some descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Geometry of Sisters](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069203

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18646](#)

Also available in braille BR018646

### **Rescue by Anita Shreve**

Read by Gregory Maupin

7 hours, 20 minutes

Young EMT Webster's strong attraction to drunken car-crash victim Sheila quickly leads to dating, pregnancy, marriage, and the birth of Rowan. When Sheila's drinking becomes dangerous, Webster sends her away and raises Rowan alone. Now seventeen-year-old Rowan is drinking and Sheila reappears. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Rescue](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073895

### **My Hollywood a Novel by Mona Simpson**

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

15 hours, 29 minutes

Classical musician and composer Claire leaves New York for Los Angeles when her husband begins writing television comedy. Claire can't manage their newborn William and hires Filipino nanny Lola to help. Middle-class Lola, who sends money home for her children's college tuition, stabilizes Claire's family. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: My Hollywood a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071878

### **The Help by Kathryn Stockett**

Read by Jill Fox

17 hours, 37 minutes

Jackson, Mississippi; 1962-1964. College grad and fledgling writer Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan searches for a book-worthy project. At the urging of an editor, Skeeter interviews African American maids Aibileen and Minny about their relationships with their employers. Violating integration laws, the three women question their lives. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Help](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068889

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19132](#)

Also available in braille BR019132

### **Daughters-In-Law by Joanna Trollope**

Read by Annie Wauters

9 hours, 48 minutes

England. Rachel Brinkley controls her three grown sons' affairs until Charlotte, her newest daughter-in-law, arrives on the scene. After Rachel insults Charlotte, the three brothers shift their loyalties to their wives and children, forcing Rachel and her husband Anthony to reframe their own lives. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Daughters-In-Law](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074293

### **Earthly Possessions by Anne Tyler**

Read by Celeste Lawson

6 hours, 39 minutes

Maryland housewife Charlotte Emory goes to her local bank while planning to leave her boring husband. Would-be bank robber Jake Simms Jr. takes her hostage and hustles her away. During their flight, Charlotte recounts her life story and the events that landed her in her present predicament. 1977.

[Download from BARD: Earthly Possessions](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062138

### **Cutting for Stone a Novel by A. Verghese**

Read by Mark Ashby

21 hours, 24 minutes

Ethiopia, 1954. Twin brothers Shiva and Marion Stone's Indian-nun mother dies during their birth and their British father abandons them. As revolution brews decades later, Marion, a surgeon, flees to America, where he eventually confronts his past. Some violence, some strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Cutting for Stone a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070131

### **The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells**

Read by Kimberly Schraf

14 hours, 53 minutes

At forty, Sidda Walker is a famous theater director whose life spirals downward after a New York Times interview implies that her mother, Vivi, was a child abuser. Vivi immediately disowns Sidda, but the Ya-Yas, Vivi's longtime friends, intervene. Sequel to Little Altars Everywhere (RC 36350). Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045768

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14189](#)

### **The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer**

Read by Kristin Allison

17 hours, 26 minutes

In 1974 Julie "Jules" Jacobson goes to art camp on scholarship, where she meets New Yorkers Ash, Goodman, Ethan, Cathy, and Jonah. They remain friends through the next three decades, though Jules leads a middle-class life while the others prosper. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Interestings](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076712