



BRILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

(800) 952-5666; www.btbl.ca.gov; btbl@library.ca.gov

Romance: Traditional Romantic Suspense

These romantic suspense titles were written by the genre's masters or those who follow in their style. They contain romance, gothic tones, mystery, suspenseful situations and secrets, but typically tell the story without strong usage of sexual or violent descriptions. Crumbling castles or estates, ghosts of the wrongful dead, strong but often naive female protagonists, and dark family secrets make frequent appearances in these titles. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

The Scarlet Thread by Evelyn Anthony

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

14 hours, 53 minutes

Angela Drummond, a British nurse, meets Steven Falconi, an American soldier, in 1942. They marry and spend time sharing the stories of their lives and making love. But one thing Steven does not share with Angela is his family's involvement with the mafia. Angela flees when she learns of the connection. Steven, believing her dead, is forced to marry someone else, only to discover later that Angela and their child live. Strong language. 1990.

[Download from BARD: The Scarlet Thread](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033538

The Crystal Rose by Rebecca Brandewyne

Read by Anne Flosnik

8 hours, 12 minutes

Rose Windermere's family returns to England from India in 1835 after close friends are murdered. Fifteen years later Rose receives a cryptic message and discovers she's being stalked by businessman Raj Khanna. They fall in love while investigating the past and uncover a plot to assassinate Queen Victoria. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Crystal Rose](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063899

The Capricorn Stone by Madeleine Brent

Read by Diane Eilenberg

11 hours, 12 minutes

A Victorian romantic suspense novel. Bridie Chance and her pretty sister are reared in luxury in the country home of their delightful father Roger, who is frequently away on business on the Continent. After Roger's accidental death, he is revealed as a gifted and famous jewel thief.

[Download from BARD: The Capricorn Stone](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB014908

The Jewelled Darkness by Virginia Coffman

Read by Suzanne Toren

10 hours, 4 minutes

Elisa Carlisle is an actress in Regency London, known as much for her bewitching effect on her aristocratic admirers as for her talent. But Elisa comes from a poverty-stricken background, with many dark secrets and with a host of enemies who would like to destroy her. 1989.

[Download from BARD: The Jewelled Darkness](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031163

The Emperor's Conspiracy: a Novel by Michelle Diener

Read by J. Michael McCullough

8 hours, 18 minutes

England, 1811. Miss Charlotte Raven, now the ward of a wealthy lady, encounters a man she remembers from her childhood as a chimney sweep. When she interferes in his plans, Charlotte becomes caught up in an intrigue of international proportions. Some violence and some descriptions of sex. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Emperor's Conspiracy: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076006

Download from BARD as Electronic Braille

Also available in braille

Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier

Read by Barbara Caruso

16 hours, 34 minutes

Rebecca, the glamorous mistress of a great English estate, died eight months before Maxim de Winter brought a young and frightened second wife to live there. Mystery, intrigue, and violence eventually reveal the circumstances surrounding Rebecca's death. 1938.

[Download from BARD: Rebecca](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048914

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12354](#)

Also available in braille BR012354

Before I Wake by Dee Henderson

Read by Margaret Strom

13 hours, 44 minutes

Former FBI agent Rae Gabriella joins the private investigating firm of her ex-boyfriend Bruce Chapel in small-town Justice, Illinois, where female hotel guests have died under suspicious circumstances. Relying on God and their detective skills for answers, Rae, Bruce, and Sheriff Nathan Justice uncover illegal drug operations. Some violence. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Before I Wake](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065131

The Winds of Graystone Manor by B.J. Hoff

Read by Annie Wauters

10 hours, 24 minutes

Haunted by the death of his wife and their unborn child, Civil War photographer Roman St. Clare has come to Staten Island in 1867 to search for her killer. He is staying at Graystone Manor, owned by the charming Amanda Fairchild. Amanda is suspicious of Roman because of several incidents on the island, but she eventually joins him in his struggle between good and evil.

[Download from BARD: The Winds of Graystone Manor](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044873

The Landower Legacy by Victoria Holt

Read by Jill Ferris

14 hours 3 minutes

During the reign of Queen Victoria, Caroline Tressidor grows into what she calls "my awakening." At fourteen, she is suddenly banished from the London mansion where she lives with a coquettish mother, a cold father, and a younger sister. Exiled to a family estate in Cornwall, she begins a search for understanding and love. Book club main selection.

[Download from BARD: The Landower Legacy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB021214

The Crystal Cat by Velda Johnston

Read by Dale Carter

5 hours, 18 minutes

Gothic novel of terror. A woman is forced to confront her long-repressed feelings about her mother's death when she marries and returns to the small New England village of her youth. Linda Edwards fights to keep her spirits up but is overtaken by a sense of impending doom.

[Download from BARD: The Crystal Cat](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB024387

Death in Kenya by M.M. Kaye

Read by Becky Parker

7 hours, 49 minutes

High-spirited Victoria comes to Kenya just after the Mau Mau uprising to help her aging aunt run the cattle farm. A series of eerie events culminates in several murders, including the stabbing of the wife of her cousin Eden, the man she once loved.

[Download from BARD: Death in Kenya](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019949

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR05555](#)

Also available in braille BR005555

The Shadowy Horses by Susanna Kearsley

Read by Cecelia Riddett

11 hours, 15 minutes

Archaeologist Verity Grey travels to Scotland for a new job only to learn that her boss Peter Quinnell chose the site because of his belief in ghosts. Initially skeptical, Verity reconsiders when a second-century Roman sentinel warns her of danger as someone starts sabotaging their work. 1997.

[Download from BARD: The Shadowy Horses](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078622

The Secret of Pembroke Park by Julie Klassen

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

14 hours, 53 minutes

After persuading her father to gamble on a risky investment, Abigail Foster and her family face financial ruin and move to the mysteriously abandoned manor house, Pembroke Park. But the house holds secrets and a treasure that Abigail can't ignore. 2014.

[Download from BARD: The Secret of Pembroke Park](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080431

The Sea Garden by Deborah Lawrenson

Read by Terry Donnelly

12 hours, 54 minutes

Three linked short stories weave together a mystery that spans the time of the two World Wars. In 2013, British designer Ellie Brooke is summoned to Provence, France, to restore a memorial garden. The house's owner is bitter and Ellie is not sure whom to trust. Some violence. 2014.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB079671

The Lady of the Labyrinth by Caroline Llewellyn

Read by Laura Giannarelli

12 hours, 50 minutes

Hugo Raphael disappeared into North Africa three years ago. Now it seems he has surfaced and is on the run. His daughter Alison Jordan and her half brother Jay think he may head for the Sicilian village of Castell'alto, where he owns an old castle. Hoping to solve the mystery of his disappearance, they head for the island. However, their arrival at Castell'alto heralds the beginning of another mystery involving an ancient bee cult and a labyrinth.

[Download from BARD: The Lady of the Labyrinth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033120

Moving Target by Elizabeth Lowell

Read by Michele Schaeffer

11 hours, 8 minutes

Following her grandmother's violent death, Serena Charters inherits a piece of cloth, an illuminated Celtic manuscript, a numbered Swiss bank account, and a frightening warning. Now, as Serena tries to unravel her grandmother's mysterious past, she must keep on the move just to survive. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2001.

[Download from BARD: Moving Target](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB052462

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14904](#)

Also available in braille BR014904

In the Dark by Meagan McKinney

Read by Bob Leedom

8 hours, 4 minutes

Just days before she is supposed to meet her estranged aunt, Alyn Blum-Jones finds out that her aunt has vanished under mysterious circumstances, and at the estate, she encounters an unfriendly household and enigmatic investigator Peter Youngblood, and is plunged into a world of unthinkable evil. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language.

[Download from BARD: In the Dark](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC005275

House of Many Shadows by Barbara Michaels

Read by Dale Carter

8 hours, 4 minutes

In a stately Bucks County mansion, the plunky heroine of this gothic witnesses frightening visions. A handsome cousin helps her to discover that the phenomena are not the result of her imagination, but are psychic manifestations of past events. 1974.

[Download from BARD: House of Many Shadows](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB014281

City of Jasmine by Deanna Raybourn

Read by Jill Fox

11 hours, 57 minutes

1920. While attempting to fly across the seven seas of antiquity, aviatrix Evangeline Starke receives a recent photo of her husband Gabriel, who was thought to have died when the Lusitania sank. Gabriel has been playing a dangerous game of deception and his machinations now threaten their lives. 2014.

[Download from BARD: City of Jasmine](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078431

The Thirteenth Tale a Novel by Diane Setterfield

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

13 hours, 7 minutes

Cambridge antiquarian bookseller Margaret Lea is hired by legendary author Vida Winter to pen her life story before she dies. At Vida's decrepit estate out on the Yorkshire moors, Margaret listens to a family history of ghosts, incest, abandoned babies, and other secrets, but wonders, is it true? Bestseller. Alex Award. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Thirteenth Tale a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063418

Dragonwyck by Anya Setton

Read by Erin Jones

12 hours, 46 minutes

1840s. Eighteen-year-old farmer's daughter Miranda Wells receives an invitation to be a governess at Dragonwyck, her distant relative Nicholas Van Ryn's Hudson River estate. Upon his wife's death, Nicholas weds Miranda. But Miranda's initial joy turns to despair after dark secrets are revealed. Includes 2005 afterword by Philippa Gregory. 1944.

[Download from BARD: Dragonwyck](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068205

Airs Above the Ground by Mary Stewart

Read by Flo Gibson

8 hours, 45 minutes

This romantic, suspense tale is set in Austria, home of the superbly trained Lippizaner horses. When a dangerous circus fire breaks out where the horses are performing, the talents of the heroine, a veterinarian, are urgently needed. Bestseller 1965.

[Download from BARD: Airs Above the Ground](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB008693

The Quicksilver Pool by Phyllis A. Whitney

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

14 hours, 12 minutes

Southern lady Lora Blair marries wounded Union officer Wade Tyler, a widower who is still in love with his late wife. Accompanying him home to Staten Island, Lora meets Wade's hostile invalid mother and his eight-year-old son and discovers family secrets and old feuds. 1955

[Download from BARD: The Quicksilver Pool](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071527