



BRILLE AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

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

Short, Sweet and Simple Stories

Shorter adult fiction or short stories concerning friendship, family, relationships, inspiration, and nostalgic themes with little to none potentially offensive content (strong language, sex, or violence). 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](#).

Celestial Bodies: a Novel by Jokha Alharthi

Read by Teresa Willis

7 hours, 1 minute

Three sisters search for love and raise families in Oman. Mayya marries after heartbreak. Asma aspires to a different life. Khawla waits for the man she loves who has immigrated to Canada. Translated from the original 2010 Arabic edition. Man Booker International Prize. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Celestial Bodies: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097367

Chicken Soup for the Soul 101 Inspirational Stories about Counting Your Blessings and Having a Positive Attitude by Jack Canfield

Read by Jim Bond

10 hours, 48 minutes

Autobiographical sketches from people who have summoned their inner strength to overcome challenges and find ways to make their lives more meaningful. Foreword by newscaster Deborah Norville. Commercial audiobook. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Chicken Soup for the Soul 101 Inspirational...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072501

The Banishment by Marion Chesney

Read by Yvonne Fair Tessler

5 hours, 32 minutes

In Regency England, Isabella, the eldest of six Beverley daughters, is disappointed to have gone through the London season without becoming engaged. The men were bored by her only interest: Mannerling, the family mansion. When her father gambles away the home, the Beverleys, banished to poorer surroundings, all agree Isabella must marry Mannerling's new owner to reclaim their wealth.

[Download from BARD: The Banishment](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042437

Grace by Richard Paul Evans

Read by Guy Williams

5 hours, 41 minutes

1960s. Ninth-grader Eric is still adjusting to his family's move from California to Utah when he discovers his classmate Grace scrounging for food in a restaurant dumpster. Eric and his brother, Joel, hide Grace in their backyard clubhouse. But neither the boys nor Grace can keep their secrets forever. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Grace](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068794

Lost December by Richard Paul Evans

Read by Gregory Maupin

6 hours, 4 minutes

Luke Crisp, son of a wealthy businessman, runs with a wild crowd in grad school, wastes his trust fund, and loses his father's respect. Ashamed to ask for financial support, Luke--now homeless--takes a job in one of his dad's stores and tries to rebuild his life. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Lost December](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074065

The Walk by Richard Paul Evans

Read by Guy Williams

5 hours, 38 minutes

Seattle advertising executive Alan Christoffersen has everything--until his beloved wife dies, his business partner steals their clients, and his house is repossessed. Alan decides to walk across America to Key West, Florida, in search of new meaning while keeping a journal and befriending people along the way. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Walk](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071348

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19058](#)

Also available in braille BR019058

Cousin Phillis and Other Stories by Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell

Read by Kristin Allison

13 hours, 7 minutes

Five Victorian short stories and the title novella by English novelist Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865). In Cousin Phillis seventeen-year-old Paul Manning meets his mother's distant relatives. Includes "Lizzie Leigh," "Morton Hall," "My French Master," "Half a Life-Time Ago," and "Manchester Marriage" and 2010 introduction and notes by Heather Glen. 1865.

[Download from BARD: Cousin Phillis and Other Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076813

Cheaper by the Dozen by Frank B. Gilbreth

Read by Barry Bernson

6 hours, 23 minutes

An account of happy family life in the 1920s. The author's father, an efficiency expert who believed in living fully, entertained and practiced some very unconventional ideas about raising his many children. This edition contains an update on the twelve original Gilbreths and their many children. 1963.

[Download from BARD: Cheaper by the Dozen](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB023282

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR17784](#)

Also available in braille BR017784

Like Mother Like Daughter (But in a Good Way) by Jennifer Greene

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

6 hours, 53 minutes

Three short stories centering on the relationship between mothers and daughters. In "Born in My Heart" a woman struggles after her adopted daughter finds her birth mother. In "The Long-Distance Mother" a middle-aged divorcée returns home to patch things up with her mom--who now has dementia. Rita Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Like Mother Like Daughter \(But in a Good Way\)](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068585

The Vintage Teacup Club by Vanessa Greene

Read by Elizabeth Rose

10 hours, 15 minutes

Three women all fall in love with a vintage tea set that is being sold at a market in the English countryside. Rather than fight over it, the women decide to share the set, creating a bond that changes all of their lives. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Vintage Teacup Club](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097824

The Road Back to Sweetgrass: a Novel by Linda LeGarde Grover

Read by Michele Potts

6 hours, 5 minutes

Dale Ann, Theresa, and Margie, are American Indian women coming of age in the 1970's. They navigate love, economic hardship, loss, and changing family dynamics on Mozhay Point reservation. When Theresa meets Michael Washington, he introduces her to his father, Zho Wash, and the three women begin looking at their people's history. Unrated.

[Download from BARD: The Road Back to Sweetgrass: a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC002741

News from Heaven the Bakerton Stories by Jennifer Haigh

Read by Kimberly Schraf

8 hours, 21 minutes

Ten interconnected stories about the inhabitants of the coal-mining town of Bakerton, Pennsylvania. In "Beast and Bird" Annie comes to pre-World War II New York City to work as a kitchen girl for a Jewish family. In "Broken Star" Regina's aunt Melanie comes for a long visit in 1974. 2013.

[Download from BARD: News from Heaven the Bakerton Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076292

Also available in braille BR019895

The Saturday Evening Girls Club by Jane Healey

Read by Kristin Allison

7 hours 28 minutes

Boston, 1908. Four friends, daughters of immigrants, meet every Saturday for a pottery class. Caprice, Ada, Maria, and Thea have ambitions beyond their parents' expectations and must juggle the conflicting desires. Each has the opportunity to find love. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Saturday Evening Girls Club](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB092799

Eden Hill by Bill Higgs

Read by Lynda Sherrard

8 hours, 52 minutes

1962. Virgil Osgood has made a living running tiny Eden Hill KY's only gas station, but he fears that may change when a new Zipco Service Station goes in across the street. Cornelius Alexander has a new wife and a baby on the way, and hopes his Zipco station will be a success. Meanwhile, Reverend Caudill tries to encourage residents to love their neighbors. That is easier said than done in a small town where everyone knows everyone else's business. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Eden Hill](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC008401

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

Read by Adale O'Brien

7 hours, 58 minutes

Taylor Greer, a poor but plucky Kentucky girl with a sharp tongue, soft heart, and strong spirit, sets out to find a new life in the West. On the road, her flighty '55 Volkswagen temporarily "gives out" in the Oklahoma flatlands, and, while having her car fixed, she finds an abused Indian child in the front seat of the car. Taylor becomes the child's guardian, settles in Tuscon, and meets wonderful friends who help her cope with her new responsibilities. 1988.

[Download from BARD: The Bean Trees](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB027589

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR09389](#)

Also available in braille BR009389

An Amish Love by Kelly Long

Read by Catherine Byers

12 hours, 29 minutes

Three novellas of Amish romance. In What the Heart Sees Christopher Miller is shunned by his community after a car accident kills his girlfriend Caroline and blinds Ellie Chupp--an event Chris took to the English police. Five years later Chris returns home and reconnects with Ellie. 2010.

[Download from BARD: An Amish Love](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075101

A Cedar Cove Christmas by Debbie Macomber

Read by Catherine Byers

5 hours, 9 minutes

Pregnant Mary Jo Wyse comes to Cedar Cove, Washington, on Christmas Eve seeking David Rhodes, the father of her baby. Librarian Grace Harding takes in Mary Jo, who gives birth that night with help from paramedic Mack McAfee. Then Mary Jo's three brothers arrive to welcome the newborn. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Cedar Cove Christmas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068061

The Knitting Diaries by Debbie Macomber

Read by Gail Nelson

9 hours, 48 minutes

Three romances featuring people who knit. In "The Twenty-first Wish" ten-year-old Ellen hopes her adopted mother will marry her birth father. In "Coming Unraveled" Robyn goes home to help her grandmother run a knitting store. In "Return to Summer Island" Caro meets a marine who is redeploying to Afghanistan. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Knitting Diaries](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073631

Challenges Embraced Short Stories and Selected Poems by Marty Mahler

Read by Barry Bernson

5 hours, 53 minutes

More than one hundred stories and poems by the creator of the Mahler folding cane, who was blinded in an accident at age twenty-six. In "Amicitia" Mahler reminisces about a neighborhood hangout of his youth in the Bronx. "A Luncheon Engagement" recounts a midday rendezvous with his sweetheart. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Challenges Embraces Short Stories and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075636

A Blue and Gray Christmas by Joan A Medlicott

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

6 hours 33 minutes

When a historic restoration crew unearths a rusty box, friends Grace, Amelia, and Hannah discover it contains the diaries and letters of two soldiers--one Southern and one Northern--chronicling the Civil War era in Covington, North Carolina. The women track down the men's descendants and arrange a reunion. 2009.

[Download from BARD: A Blue and Gray Christmas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070886

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18817](#)

Also available in braille BR018817

I'll Be Home for Christmas by Fern Michaels

Read by Theresa Conkin

12 hours, 22 minutes

Four short holiday romances. In "Merry, Merry" struggling veterinarian Andrea "Andi" Evans hates to sell her family's New Jersey property--fortunately, she falls in love with the buyer. Includes "Comfort and Joy," "The Christmas Stocking," and "A Bright Red Ribbon." Some strong language. 1995.

[Download from BARD: I'll Be Home for Christmas](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075788

No Place like Home by Fern Michaels

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

3 hours, 35 minutes

Trouble and romance come in threes when the spirited Cisco triplets discover that their father has placed their beloved Granny Cisco in an assisted-living facility. For Christmas, the triplets hope to get Granny the medical care she needs and to bring the entire family home for the holidays. 2002.

[Download from BARD: No Place like Home](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB055943

Nana's Gift &, The Red Geranium by Jannette Oke

Read by Jill Ferris

2 hours, 33 minutes

Two inspirational short stories. In Nana's Gift ninety-three-year-old Lizzie helps her great granddaughter overcome tragedy. In The Red Geranium Tommy brings his Gran a gift to cheer her up while she is in the hospital. 1996.

[Download from BARD: Nana's Gift & the Red Geranium](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074551

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19439](#)

Also available in braille BR019439

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Read by Tom Hanks

9 hours, 55 minutes

Through a canny investment at the end of World War II, Cyril Conroy lifts his family out of poverty. His first order of business is to buy the lavish Dutch House. But this purchase brings only heartache to his loved ones--including children Danny and Maeve. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: The Dutch House](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096739

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR22980](#)

Also available in braille BR022980

Leaving Home: Short Pieces by Jodi Picoult

Read by Jodi Picoult

1 hour, 26 minutes

Three short works. In "Weights and Measures" a husband and wife struggle to cope after their child's tragic death. In "Ritz" a mother takes a much-needed vacation. Also includes a letter the author wrote to her son before he left for college. Commercial audiobook. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Leaving Home Short Pieces](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073742

Thrush Green by Miss Read

Read by Kay Parker

5 hours, 59 minutes

Every Mayday, Mrs. Curdle's travelling carnival visits the small village of Thrush Green. The fair brings its special magic to a small boy, a lonely girl, an elderly doctor, and various other people, including Mrs. Curdle herself.

[Download from BARD: Thrush Green](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB019766

Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson

Read by Erin Jones

5 hours, 53 minutes

Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, are haphazardly raised by their extended family in the small, lakeside town of Fingerbone. Their grandmother cares for them until her death, then two bumbling great aunts take over, and finally eccentric aunt Sylvie looks after them. 1980.

[Download from BARD: Housekeeping](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068564

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16132](#)

Also available in braille BR016132

The Most Famous Illegal Goose Creek Parade by Virginia Smith

Read by Norma Rash

6 hours, 24 minutes

Al Richardson is looking forward to retirement in his quiet little community of Goose Creek, KY. His wife Millie has other ideas, which include spending their savings on a dilapidated mansion. The new lady vet finds it difficult to attract patients, while a cantankerous local causes dissension over the water tower. Al reluctantly finds himself involved in all these issues, thanks to Millie. 2015.

[Download from BARD: The Most Famous Illegal Goose Creek Parade](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC005635

Johnny Angel by Danielle Steel

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

4 hours, 7 minutes

Returning home from his senior prom, Johnny Peterson--valedictorian, star athlete, faithful boyfriend, and son--is killed in a car accident. His mother, Alice, is devastated until one day he appears to her as an angel to help the family through their grief. When Alice learns to let go, Johnny reveals an even greater purpose. Bestseller. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Johnny Angel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056483

The Magic Garden by Gene Stratton-Porter

Read by Faith Potts

4 hours, 19 minutes

After her parents' divorce, young Amaryllis Minton runs away and meets painter's son John Forrester. John introduces Amaryllis to his magic garden and romance blossoms, but John's father sends Amaryllis home. Years pass, but neither John nor Amaryllis forget their love as they await their reunion. 1927.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB062396

The Beginner's Goodbye a Novel by Anne Tyler

Read by Frank Coffee

5 hours, 41 minutes

Thirty-six-year-old widower Aaron Woolcott frequently sees the ghost of his wife Dorothy, who was killed in an accident that nearly destroyed their house. Aaron, who is physically handicapped, moves in with his overbearing sister and learns to say goodbye to the past and open himself up to happiness. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Beginner's Goodbye a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074490

Curtain Creek Farm: Stories by Nance Van Winckel

Read by Zoanne LeRoy

5 hours, 40 minutes

Thirty years later, the quirky, idealistic residents of Curtain Creek Farm--a Sixties commune in Washington State--still make sandals, weave blankets, and grow organic vegetables. But now they have a web site; their children are having children; and into their underground homes, tree houses, and tin-roofed cabins, aging parents are coming to live with them.

[Download from BARD: Curtain Creek Farm: Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC015891

Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Read by Laura Giannarelli

3 hours, 28 minutes

Wisconsin, 1871. The Ingalls family experiences pioneer life in a little log house, miles from any settlement. They feel safe and secure despite blizzards, wolves, and the loneliness of the big woods. Prequel to Little House on the Prairie (RC 50922). For grades 4-7 and older readers. 1932.

[Download from BARD: Little House in the Big Woods](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB050921

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11322](#)

Also available in braille BR004442

My Man Jeeves by P.G. Wodehouse

Read by Jonathan Cecil

4 hours, 53 minutes

Collection of short stories introducing the perpetually competent valet Jeeves, who serves the perpetually indolent Bertie Wooster. Contains "Absent Treatment," "Helping Freddie," "Rallying Round Old George," "Doing Clarence a Bit of Good," "Fixing It for Freddie," and "Bertie Changes His Mind. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 1919.

[Download from BARD: My Man Jeeves](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB095685

Our Story Begins New and Selected Stories by Tobias Wolff

Read by Steven Carpenter

12 hours, 5 minutes

Thirty-one tales about everyday people--husbands and wives, military men and women, rich kids, poor kids, parents and offspring, academics, and businessmen--at moments of moral reckoning. Includes Wolff's masterpieces "In the Garden of the North American Martyrs" and "Soldier's Joy." Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Our Story Begins New and Selected Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066662