



## BRaille AND TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

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### Staff Picks

This bibliography provides a compilation of all “Staff Picks” that have appeared in past BTBL Newsletters. They are listed in order by the newsletter’s issue and year, from newest to oldest. Instead of an annotations, the recommendation by the staff person is provided. 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](#).

#### Fall 2019

##### **Crisis: a Dick Francis Novel\* by Felix Francis**

“Dick’s son Felix continues the tradition of setting the scene in the horse-racing world with a plot twist that gets the protagonist into a tight jam from which he extricates himself with his special knowledge. A commercial audiobook format means it is officially unrated, but you can always expect violence of some sort from these authors, and this book is no different.” -Mary Jane, Librarian

\*Unrated commercial audiobook

[Download from BARD: Crisis a Dick Francis Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB095693

##### **Born with Teeth a Memoir\* by Katie Mulgrew**

“I really enjoyed this book. She talks about her early life, when she gave her baby up for adoption, and the many years spent looking for her. Mulgrew is the narrator which is pleasing to listen to as well.”-Johanna, Circulation

\*Unrated commercial audiobook

[Download from BARD: Born with Teeth a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081485

### **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City\* by Matthew Desmond**

“This gripping and insightful non-fiction book intimately follows several poor Americans’ lives as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads in late-2000s Milwaukee. Desmond is brilliant at incorporating dialogue and narrative with facts and statistics, so that most of the time I felt like I was reading a novel. The economic exploitation of those below the federal poverty line by property owners was at times shocking to read about. The research-driven, impartial prose made clear the effects of eviction in creating and perpetuating poverty. Although the proposed solutions offered in the conclusion fell short of my expectations, my perspective on poverty in America has been forever changed.”

-Sarah, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some violence and some strong language

[Download from BARD: Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083870

### **Gwendy’s Button Box\* by Stephen King and Richard Chizmar**

“To say that this book kept me up at night, had me on the edge of my seat in anticipation, and yell out in excitement would be an understatement. Stephen King, the man of horror and suspense does it again with this novella about a young, insecure girl who is given a mysterious ‘box’ by a very suspicious stranger who promises great things to sweet Gwendy, but at what cost? Gwendy has no idea the pure terror she unleashed by receiving the mysterious ‘button box’, but Stephen King and Richard Chizmar have a fantastical way of keeping you hooked and wanting to find out what happens to poor Gwendy and her mysterious button box. I highly recommend this read if you are a suspense/thriller or horror fan.”-Heather, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some violence and some strong language

[Download from BARD: Gwendy’s Button Box](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088221

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR 21903](#)

Also available in braille BR021900

### **The Sparrow\* by Mary Doria Russell**

“This book was on my to-read shelf for far too long, but all the hype from two decades ago is still well-deserved. This is not a religious book and it does not contain an ounce of proselytization, but it focuses on Jesuit priests who have undertaken an intergalactic mission to be the first to make contact with an alien species. Throw out everything you think you know about ‘first contact’ novels and prepare to be shocked, appalled, and awed. There is a sequel, *The Children of God*, DB 49683, if you need closure!” -Melissa, Reader Advisor

\*Contains violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: The Sparrow](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB43892

### **The Underground Railroad\* by Colson Whitehead**

“This is a moving, suspenseful, poignant, and disturbingly beautiful historical fiction exploration of race consciousness by a celebrated author/MacArthur Genius. The journey from Georgia by escaped slave Cora throughout various southern and midwestern states via the underground railroad, which turns out to be real and more than just a figure of speech, is intimately recounted in all its harrowing and evocative struggles, sowed with both terrifying and exuberant twists and turns and accompanied by believable abolitionist characters and slave trade personalities. With Toni Morrison’s passing on my mind, Whitehead’s treatment of the slave narrative was equally moving and unique in its depiction of such an important and foundational subject for all North American inhabitants. An Oprah’s Book Club Pick, 2016 National Book Award, and Pulitzer Prize winner.”– Mike, Director

\*Unrated commercial audiobook

[Download from BARD: The Underground Railroad](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085212

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21819](#)

Also available in braille BR021819

**Fall 2018**

**The Rose Hotel a Memoir of Secrets, Loss, and Love from Iran to America\*  
by Rahimeh Andalibian**

“I found this autobiography not only to be a compelling family narrative, but it also thoughtfully addressed the religious and cultural divides that separate our two countries. After reading this book I have a new respect for immigrants and what they must endure. It was a great read and I couldn’t put it down.”- Valerie, Reader Advisor

\*Contains violence

[Download from BARD: The Rose Hotel a Memoir of Secrets Loss, and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB083335

**Hammer of the Gods the Led Zeppelin Saga\* by Stephen Davis**

“A must read for the true Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Fan, this book chronicles the greatest rock band on the planet during the 70’s (and some insist, myself included, of all time!): Led Zeppelin. This book covers the band in its entirety, from conception through its demise, from Robert and Jimmy’s first sit down to the death of John Bonham.”

- Christopher, Studio Coordinator

\*Contains strong language and some descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Hammer of the Gods the Led Zeppelin Saga](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022994

**The Rosie Project by Graeme C. Simsion**

“A genetics professor that leads a very strict and structured life meets and falls in love with a free spirited woman who changes everything. I like this book because it’s a sweet love story.”

- Joan, Circulation

\*contains some strong language and some descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: The Rosie Project](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078150

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20455](#)

Also available in braille BR020455

### **The Last Black Unicorn\* by Tiffany Haddish**

“This New York Times Bestseller memoir from stand-up comedian and actress Tiffany Haddish is a hilarious, edgy, and touchingly personal collection of autobiographical essays. Growing up in an impoverished neighborhood, she uses laughter to shield herself and rise above adversity. If you like laughing, this book is a must.”- Peggy, Reader Advisor

\*Contains strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: The Last Black Unicorn](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090101

### **Lily and the Octopus\* by Steven Rowley**

“If you are up for a good craughing (crying + laughing) session, check out this very cute story about a man and his beloved dachshund, Lily. I appreciated that the dog really seemed to shape his owner’s emotional development and increased his capacity for love. Yes, the dog ‘talks’ and is funnier than the humans. And fair warning, the Octopus from the title refers to Lily’s cancerous brain tumor, so you can imagine what direction the book heads.

All-in-all an amusing and cathartic read.”- Sarah, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some strong language

[Download from BARD: Lily and the Octopus](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085389

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21611](#)

Also available in braille BR021611

### **Lafayette in the Somewhat United States by Sarah Vowell**

“Having established herself as an exhaustive researcher and witty satirist, former NPR ‘This American Life’ writer/performer Vowell spares no one from her infectious humor in her latest biographical investigation into the most popular non-American American in the nation’s revolution, founding, and aftermath. The French-born Marquis de Lafayette, whose name graces plazas, parks, and other locales east of the Mississippi, and his peers like Jefferson and Washington with whom we are more familiar, provide grist for umpteen anecdotes and new revelations about revolutionary times. Vowell is one of my favorite forty-something historians and nouveau comic geniuses! Check out her other books especially *Wordy Shipmates*.”- Mike, Director

[Download from BARD: Lafayette in the Somewhat United States](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084158

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21439](#)

Also available in braille BR021439

## **Policeman Dave Robicheaux series by James Lee Burke**

**Start with: *The Neon Rain*\***

"I'm going to venture wide and recommend an entire series. James Lee Burke's portrayal of Dave Robicheaux throughout the series that begins with *The Neon Rain* gives us wonderful backstory steeped in 'Louisiana Noir' with an occasional side trip to Montana. The 21-book series is not for the faint of heart as there is almost always violence, but Burke's fine southern writing style makes them all worth a read and his characters stay with you long after the book plot has faded."- Mary Jane, Librarian

\*Contains strong language and some descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: Neon Rain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB026519

## Spring/Summer 2018

### **Dreadnought\* by April Daniels**

“If you like super heroes, creative world-building, diverse characters, or amazing plots, it’s impossible to not love this book. A bastion of justice has fallen, and one teen girl with garbage-family baggage is going to take center stage in a world of superpowers, heroes and villains, magic and cyborgs.”- Melissa, Reader Advisor

\*Contains violence and strong language

[Download from BARD: Dreadnought](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088336

### **Burial Rights\* by Hannah Kent**

“I’m enjoying a book called *Burial Rites* based on a true story set in Iceland, 1829. A woman is sentenced to death for a murder, and lives with a farm family until her execution can take place. Not only is the story captivating, but the narrator is wonderful also.”- Johanna, Circulation

\*Unrated commercial audiobook

[Download from BARD: Burial Rights](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077177

### **Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea\* by Barbara Demick**

“I usually have trouble finishing non-fiction titles, but I found I couldn't put this book down--as if it were a fiction book's plot coming to an exciting conclusion. I want to know even more about this topic, but only as this author presents it. Engaging writing, *fascinating* read.”– Sarah, Reader Advisor

\*Unrated commercial audiobook

[Download from BARD: Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089986

### **The Rising\* by Heather Graham**

“A creepy science fiction book that, on many nights, kept me reading past my bedtime! She’s a bright, normal high school student who finds something interesting during her internship. He’s a football jock, who struggles with his schoolwork, or so he thinks...”- Donna, Reader Advisor Supervisor

\*Unrated commercial audiobook

[Download from BARD: The Rising](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB 86859



## Fall 2017

### **Downfall\* by J.A. Jance**

“Sheriff Joanna Brady has another mystery on her hands. A call comes in about two female bodies found at the base of a nearby peak. The two women appear to have nothing in common. Sheriff Brady, her team, a neighboring law enforcement agency and the FBI work to solve the mystery that leads very close to home. A quick-paced story with a strong female lead that I enjoyed very much.”– Donna, Reader Advisor Supervisor

\*Contains some violence and some strong language

[Download from BARD: Downfall](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088022

### **Hillbilly Elegy\* by J.D. Vance**

“This is a memoir of a boy who rose out of poverty and toxic family issues and ended up at Yale University. Raising my sons on a limited income, and having my oldest graduate from Yale, I can relate! The author points out the cultural restrictions that can keep success from happening: eating unhealthy foods, not sleeping well, not valuing education, and not having money or resources to move up.”– Johanna, Circulation

\*Contains some strong language

[Download from BARD: Hillbilly Elegy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB085796

### **Uprooted\* by Naomi Novik**

“This fantasy novel has it all, yet manages to not feel overly busy or unapproachable as high fantasy with heavy world building can tend to. The beginning is deviously typical: a kingdom in peril, a young girl indentured and unwittingly learning about magic, a dark forest lurking in the corner of your eye, creeping closer each night. Villains are expected in fantasy... but this one will surprise you! If you enjoy a well-rounded fantasy novel or just want to try something new and exciting, Uprooted won't disappoint. It appropriately won both the Nebula and Locus awards.”- Melissa, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some violence and some descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Uprooted](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081693

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21282](#)

Also available in braille BR021282



### **The Daughter of Time (within Four, Five and Six) by Josephine Tey**

“Read this as a youngster with no knowledge of British history and couldn't understand why mystery readers thought Tey was so great. Recently revisited this book and enjoyed it immensely. If Tey's historical facts are correct, Richard III really may have gotten a bad rap about the boys in the Tower. Detective Alan Grant ‘solves’ the case from his hospital bed. The story makes the ‘fake news’ folks of today look like amateurs by comparison.”– Mary Jane, Librarian

[Download from BARD: The Daughter of Time](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB013754

### **Meridian by Alice Walker**

“Set in the 1960s, Meridian Hill, a courageous female black activist, fights for peace and understanding among racial tensions in the deep South. She struggles with her own issues and fights for all of her people. This is a book of love and forgiveness between men and women, black and white. A classic novel of feminism and the Civil Rights Movement.”– Peggy, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some strong language and some descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Meridian](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB021374

### **Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande**

“The author examines the often neglected and uncomfortable topic of end-of-life healthcare in America. For readers with elderly relations, or who know anyone with failing health, or who expect to get older as time goes by and might even die at some point, this is an eloquent, well-researched, helpful, and easy read.”

– Sarah, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080380

### **Swimming Home by Deborah Levy**

“Two couples vacationing in France have their lives upended by an uninvited visitor. Each character in this book has a weird quirk or two and it is an interesting look at human nature and mental illness. I liked the strange and sometimes dark relationships intertwined with the carefree seaside resort town setting.”– Valerie, Reader Advisor

\*Contains strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Swimming Home](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082638

## **Spring/Summer 2017**

### **A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth L. Ozeki**

"I couldn't put this original, quirky, and catastrophically moving book down! It jumps between the story of a young girl, Nao, raised in California but who returns to Japan with her family following the .com bust. She is bullied horrifically and keeps a journal with the intent of recording the thrilling life story of her great-grandmother, an anarchist, feminist Buddhist monk, and she confides in the journal that she will conclude the work by taking her own life. But the journal washes up in Canada after the 2011 tsunami and an author suffering writer's block begins to unravel the mystery surrounding Nao and her fate. Four years later, and I still can't believe this didn't win the Booker prize!" - Melissa, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some strong language.

[Download from BARD: A Tale for the Time Being](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076696

### **Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty**

"I just finished a really good book. A great story about housewives and their little secrets that have shocking results. A murder!! Great book! Well written, funny and suspenseful!!" - Joan, Circulation

\*Contains strong language

[Download from BARD: Big Little Lies](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079622

### **Dealing with Dragons by Patricia Wrede**

"Princess Cimorene runs away from her 'traditional' princess training/future and goes to live with dragons. She is constantly fending off princes who think they must rescue her. A youth book that adults can enjoy with great one-liners such as a dragon who apologizes for using the phrase 'by George!' in front of other dragons." – Mary Jane, Librarian

[Download from BARD: Dealing with Dragons](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB033457

### **Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple**

“This is a quirky, quick read. I liked the precocious narrator and the mysterious disappearance of her mother kept me reading. Highly entertaining and a perfect read for traveling or to devour at the beach!” – Sarah, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some strong language

[Download from BARD: Where'd You Go, Bernadette](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075351

### **Stolen Innocence by Elissa Wall**

“Ever wonder what it would be like to grow up in a fundamentalist Mormon sect? This autobiography is sobering in its depiction of life for women in this community. It is surprising that these challenges still occur in modern day America.” - Valerie, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Stolen Innocence](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066943

### **Hawaii by James Michener**

“This author describes the history of Hawaii starting with the formation of the islands themselves. This family saga managed to engage my interest for days. A long book in which it sometimes seemed that the end was close, and then a new generation came along to keep the book going. When we are told to ‘read the books our fathers read,’ I think of a book like this: births, journeys, love, education, success, failures, illness, death, and ancestors.” – Johanna, Circulation

[Download from BARD: Hawaii](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037111

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17263](#)

Also available in braille BR017263

### **Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts**

“This is a very exciting book. It is full of suspense, adventure, romance and humor and more... It is set in Bombay, highly rich in spice and characters, and explores a culture in the most vivid of color. It is truly a work of art and a book of exceptional beauty. I truly enjoyed this long book. It is a must read!” - Peggy, Reader Advisor

\*Contains violence and strong language

[Download from BARD: Shantaram](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063923

## **Supreme Courtship by Christopher Buckley**

“If you’re looking for a timely yet hilarious ‘art imitates life’ summer read, this 2008 comedy of errors by a member of a well-known political family will keep you chuckling as you escape from the real world, sort of. After unsuccessful hearings for his previous nominees, President Donald Vanderdamp chooses TV judge Pepper Cartwright of Texas, whose television show is Number 1 in America, while Congress has an 18 percent approval rating. I thoroughly enjoyed all manner of plot twists and a cast of wacky and/or inept characters who appear throughout the novel in bizarre court cases brimming with irony. Unlike the fictitious president who concludes his nomination with, ‘Good night. Sorry to interrupt your TV shows,’ I recommend interrupting the evening news and reading this barnburner!” – Mike, Director

\*Contains strong language

[Download from BARD: Supreme Courtship](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068046

## **Spring/Summer 2016**

### **Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline**

“I loved it because it is a great study of human nature and interpersonal relationships. It spans from the great depression to modern times through the eyes of two very different women.”

-Valerie, Reader Advisor

\*Contains violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Orphan Train](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076746

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21369](#)

Also available in braille BR021369

### **Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell**

“This novel is cataloged as young adult but it’s a great book for anyone looking for a well-written, cute, and quirky book. Cather and twin sister Wren are heading off to college, but Wren decides they can’t be roommates because of their overdependence on one another. Socially inept Cather (Cath for short) must now navigate the new world of college without her twin by her side. But she has the fantasy world of Simon Snow — think Harry Potter but without the copyright infringement — to keep her company. Trying to hide her super-nerd self from her friends, peers, and teachers, maintain her high GPA, and balance a tumultuous family life might just be too much for Cath to handle on her own. The hilarious and realistic portrayals of fan culture make this book shine.”

-Melissa, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some strong language and some descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Fangirl](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077545

### **My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante**

“My new favorite book and author. It tells the story of two childhood friends who grow up in an Italian neighborhood. The author’s skill in telling Elena and Lila’s stories and the road of their friendship is such that I didn’t want the book to end.”

–Johanna, Circulation

\*Contains some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

[Download from BARD: My Brilliant Friend](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080509

## **Devoted In Death by J.D. Robb**

DB 82729

“Part of the ‘In Death’ series by J.D. Robb. Lieutenant Eve Dallas is on the case as two young lovers go on a torture and killing spree that stretches from Oklahoma to New York. I enjoyed watching them put the pieces together to find and save the victims before it was too late.”

–Donna, Reader Advisor Supervisor

\* Contains violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB082729

## **MaddAddamTrilogy, by Margaret Atwood**

Containing: Oryx and Crake (DB 56234/BR 14805), The Year of the Flood (DB 69893/BR 18706), MaddAddam (DB 77487/BR 20284)

“From the beginning of this dystopian myth, from Snowman the Jimmy’s interactions with the genetically engineered blue tribe (Crakers) and pigeons to the machinations of eco-activist Zeb’s father, the leader of the Church of Petroleum, clandestine activities of God’s Gardeners and the future of the mutated society through the knowledge passed to young genetically altered Blackbeard, I simply could not put this series down! This trilogy’s reimagining of present circumstances may contain outlandish elements but is never too far from the truth.”– Mike, Director

\*Contains violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Oryx and Crake](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056234

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14805](#)

Also available in braille BR014805

## Fall 2015

### **The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster**

“This classic fantasy follows a very bored little boy named Milo through a mysterious tollbooth and into the Kingdom of Wisdom from which Rhyme and Reason have been banished. Undoubtedly reading this book in fourth grade has a lot to do with my love of words and wordplay today.” –Robert, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: The Phantom Tollbooth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB023208

Also available in braille BR013442 or BR003041

### **Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell**

“This book is a special one as my Aunt had it signed by the author and gave it to me as a gift. It’s a children’s novel which won the 1961 Newbery Medal award. The story is about a young girl who learned to survive on an island alone for almost 20 years and all the trials and tribulations she went through.” –Diane, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Island of the Blue Dolphins](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062761 or DB022397

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14785](#)

Also available in braille BR014785 or BR006230

### **Clifford, the Big Red Dog by Normal Bridwell**

“I’ve always liked big dogs but we could only have small dogs growing up. Clifford could walk over houses and the whole neighborhood loved him. The Clifford books got me started on all the other famous dog stories.” –Daniel, Circulation

[Download from BARD: Clifford, the Big Red Dog](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078605

### **Alanna the First Adventure by Tamora Pierce**

“This was the first book I had ever read that featured a strong female lead. The main character definitely influenced my developing personality as a young adult. The story is set in a fantasy, medieval world where characters have magical powers.” –Sarah, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Alanna the First Adventure](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065414



### **The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway**

“Growing up in the city, it was nice to get into a book that takes you into nature and out to sea.” –Valerie, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: The Old Man and the Sea](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072116 or DB053792

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR10599](#)

Also available in braille BR010599

### **Paddle-to-the-Sea by Holling Clancy Holling**

“This is one of my favorite books. My father used to read this book to my brother and me. It was written in 1941 and tells the story of a native boy in Canada who carves a canoe with a man in it and sets it in the ice. When the ice melts the canoe sets out on a journey, finally finding its way to the Atlantic Ocean after many adventures. The author wove a spell with his words and we couldn’t wait to turn the page.” -Johanna, Circulation

[Download from BARD: Paddle-to-the-Sea](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB022676

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19406](#)

Also available in braille BR019406

### **Matilda by Roald Dahl**

“Matilda is one of those books I can reread an infinite number of times. It has a special place in my heart because it was one of the first chapter books I read entirely on my own. It’s quirky, fun, and helped make me the insatiable bookworm that I am today. Because no matter how old I get, the kid in me still thinks maybe I’ll get magic powers if I read enough books!” –Melissa, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Matilda](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB031793

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17775](#)

Also available in braille BR017775

### **Charlotte's Web by E.B. White**

"My favorite classic children's book is Charlotte's Web, a story about a pig and a spider and barn yard animals that help make Wilbur the most famous pig at the County Fair. It's a great book that teaches friendship." –Peggy, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Charlotte's Web](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074950 or DB046839

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17770](#)

Also available in braille BR017770 or BR009405 or BR001318

### **The Giver by Lois Lowry**

"This coming of age story about a youth in a supposedly utopian society, which turns out to be much darker under the surface, really struck a chord with me when I was growing up and influenced how I see the world now. To me, the importance of The Giver is the idea that people should be able to live life free and to experience what life has to offer be it good or bad. We shouldn't be sheltered from experiencing what life happens to bring. I believe the book's message is that government shouldn't dictate what it thinks society should be. People should be able to make their own decisions with most things in life." – Charlie, Machine Repairman

[Download from BARD: The Giver](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB037689

Also available in braille BR009626

**Winter 2014/2015**

**Sophie's World: a Novel About the History of Philosophy by Jostein Gaarder**

"If you've ever wanted an introduction to philosophy, but don't want to fall asleep, this book is for you. The author introduces the main players in philosophy while painting a mysterious storyline around a young girl named Sophie." – Sarah, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Sophie's World a Novel About the History of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042143

**Say When, The Art of Mending, and, The Year of Pleasures\* by Elizabeth Berg**

"I love this book as you get 3 different stories in one. My favorite was The Art of Mending because Berg seems to have great knowledge about family dynamics." – Johanna, Circulation

\*Contains strong language and some descriptions of sex

[Download from BARD: Say When, The Art of Mending, and The Year of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070097

**How to Train Your Dragon\* by Cressida Cowell**

"My daughter is reading and enjoying this book. This is on the Accelerated Reader list, I believe, for grade 5-6. The television show and the movies are based on this set of books. This cartridge contains books 1-6 in the series."- Donna, Reader Advisor Supervisor

\*For grades 3-6 and older readers.

[Download from BARD: How to Train Your Dragon](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072291

**The Bat\* by Jo Nesbø**

"The Bat, translated from Norwegian, is the first in line of the detective Harry Hole mystery series. I like the foreign settings and Harry's psychological approach to finding serial killers." – Mary Jane, Librarian

\*Contains violence and strong language

[Download from BARD: The Bat](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077081

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20166](#)

Also available in braille BR020166

**Ladies' Night\* by Mary Kay Andrews**

"A modern day romance with twists and turns to keep you entertained."

–Valerie, Reader Advisor

\*Contains strong language, descriptions of sex, and some violence.

[Download from BARD: Ladies' Night](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076932

**Winter's Bone\* by Daniel Woodrell**

"A chilling, short mystery in which a 16-year old hunts for her missing father whose bail-jumping has endangered the family home. Set in the stark Ozarks where being with family doesn't mean you're any safer, this tenacious protagonist's story will continue to haunt you on cold winter nights." -Melissa, Reader Advisor

\* Contains violence and strong language

[Download from BARD: Winter's Bone](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072910

## Summer 2014

### **The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe**

"I found the characters' life stories kept this book interesting, but I mostly liked how the book introduced so many other book titles. My 'to-read' list grew tenfold after reading this book." – Sarah, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: The End of Your Life Book Club](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075762

### **Ripper\* by Stefan Petrucha**

"It's exciting, adventurous, has romance and mystery, and is very humorous. This book has a little bit of everything!" - Peggy, Reader Advisor

\*Contains violence

[Download from BARD: Ripper](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075490

### **The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman**

"I love this book. It's Australian and I love the personalities of the characters. It shows how a lie can come back to haunt you." – Joan, Circulation

[Download from BARD: The Light Between Oceans](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075192

### **The Lacuna\* by Barbara Kingsolver**

"I enjoyed the story of Harrison's life during the 30's in Mexico and the United States. It has a good blend of history, nature and human interest."

- Lisa, Student Assistant

\*Contains some Strong Language

[Download from BARD: The Lacuna](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070208

### **The Chase\* by Janet Evanovich**

"It's a quick and fun action/adventure book. If you're looking for something other than the Stephanie Plum series, try this one."- Donna, Reader Advisor

Supervisor

\*Contains some violence and some strong language

[Download from BARD: The Chase](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078272

### **The Lathe of Heaven\* by Ursula Le Guin**

“This is a powerful and unsettling book with many ideas, dreams, and consequences crammed into such a short work. It’s a light science fiction work that deals with dreams becoming reality, dystopian and utopian visions, and psychiatry.” - Melissa, Reader Advisor

\*Contains some strong language

[Download from BARD: The Lathe of Heaven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB053261

Also available in braille BR001816

### **The Longest Ride by Nicholas Sparks**

“Sweet with a little suspense that tugs at the heartstrings.” - Valerie, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: The Longest Ride](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077603

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20330](#)

Also available in braille BR020330

### **Nation by Terry Pratchett**

“I found the interplay between indigenous Mau and misplaced-Brit Daphne and their unexpected rites of passage as hilariously bizarre as they were endearing. This is a thought-provoking tale with a supporting cast of the expected Pratchettian bizarre characters.” – Mike, BTBL Director

[Download from BARD: Nation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067846

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18200](#)

Also available in braille BR018200

## Summer 2013

### **Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier**

“Loosely based on a true story, this book explores the friendship between a spinster and a young girl who are brought together as they collect fossils. The excellent writing style made this a joy to read.” – Johanna, Circulation

[Download from BARD Remarkable Creatures](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070792

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

“This is an amusing, yet touching story written from the perspective of a dog. I laughed, I cried, and couldn’t put it down. Definitely my all-time favorite book.” – Joan, Circulation

[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 BR17801

### **Eucalyptus by Murray Bail**

“Like some modern fairy tale, anyone who wants to marry Ellen must first name all the varieties of eucalyptus on her father’s estate. Meanwhile she falls in love with a storyteller. A great love story.” – Robert, Database Administrator

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12057](#)

Also available in braille BR012057

### **The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers**

“This book is for anyone who has ever felt a little ‘different.’ Great character development and compassion displayed as the players explore their world and relationships to those around them in a small American town.” - Valerie, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: The Heart is a Lonely Hunter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058532

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR11395](#)

Also available in braille BR011395



**A Summer in Sonoma\* by Robyn Carr**

“A relaxing read about four girlfriends turning 30 together. As a northern California native, I enjoyed the way the author incorporated real-life landmarks, shops, cafes, and wineries into the story.” - Laura, Reader Advisor

\*Contains Strong language.

[Download from BARD A Summer in Sonoma](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071790

**The Witness\* by Nora Roberts**

“Sixteen-year-old Elizabeth witnesses a homicide and goes into hiding, but twelve years later she must confront the past – with the help of a sexy sheriff. A fast paced adventure with a strong heroine!” – Juana, Circulation

\*\*Contains sex, violence, strong language.

[Download from BARD: The Witness](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074582

## **Winter 2012/13 Edition**

### **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson**

"A staunch, retired Major falls unexpectedly in love with a Pakistani shop owner. This sweet love story starts a bit slow, but is a light and uplifting read. I love that the book explores the blending of two cultures and intolerance from family members that the couple must face." –Joan, Circulation

[Download from BARD: Major Pettigrew's Last Stand](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070760

Also available in braille BR018827

### **The Tin Drum by Günter Grass**

"Considered a classic and penned by a Nobel Prize winning author, the unique perspective of German culture during the Nazi regime stands out in this odd story of drummer, Oskar Matzerath, who quits growing at the age of three." – Johanna, Circulation

[Download from BARD: The Tin Drum](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071622

### **The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making by Catherynne M. Valente**

"Fans of The Wizard of Oz and Alice in Wonderland will enjoy this magical tale of a clever girl from Nebraska and her adventures in Fairyland. Filled with humor, heart, and vibrant writing." -Robert, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073304

### **Still Alice by Lisa Genova**

"This fictional novel offers an eye-opening exploration into Alzheimer's disease from a unique perspective — that of the patient. Follow Harvard professor Alice Howard's fall into early-onset Alzheimer's." –Sarah, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Still Alice](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB 68429

## **Condominium by John D. MacDonald**

“You feel like you’re there to experience the fast-paced world of those who chose retirement living in Florida’s Keys only to find their world turned ‘upside down’ by corruption, greed, and the vagaries of the unexpected.” –Valerie, Reader Advisor

[Download from BARD: Condominium](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB010862