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Urban Fiction

These street fiction novels involve large city settings, gritty language, underground economies, and the cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic realities and challenges of inhabiting these urban, often violent, landscapes. 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](#).

Caught Up by Amir Abrams

Read by Dale Allen

8 hours, 8 minutes

Sick of boredom, straitlaced sixteen-year-old Kennedy starts hanging out with Sasha, a party girl from the other side of the tracks. But her life turns into utter chaos after she falls for nineteen-year-old bad boy Malik. Descriptions of sex and some violence. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Caught Up](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081233

The Cartel by Ashley & Jaquavis

Read by Cary Hite

9 hours, 10 minutes

In Miami, where cocaine still rules, the Diamond family runs the Cartel. When patriarch Carter dies, his secret illegitimate son, Carter Jones, moves to town. There, he meets Miamor, a contract killer and leader of the Murder Mamas, who has a grudge against the Cartel. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Cartel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090898

The Haunting of Hip Hop by Bertice Berry

Read by JD Jackson

4 hours, 56 minutes

Hip-hop producer Harry "Freedom" Hudson is used to getting what he wants when he wants it. Drawn to a house in Harlem, he works on purchasing it despite rumors that it is haunted. He soon finds it occupied by a group with a message for him. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2002.

[Download from BARD: The Haunting of Hip Hop](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB087780

Mama's Boy by ReShonda Tate Billingsley

Read by Myra Lucretia Taylor

9 hours, 32 minutes

Gloria Jones' son is accused of fatally shooting a police officer. While Gloria's minister husband is humiliated by the news, Gloria is determined to clear her son's name. She faces off against the ambitious local prosecutor as racial tensions rise in her Texas town. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: Mama's Boy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB094772

Tyrell Bronxwood by Coe Booth

Read by Bob Moore

15 hours, 30 minutes

Duology written between 2007 and 2011, featuring Bronx teen dealing with challenges. In Tyrell, fifteen-year-old Tyrell lives in a Bronx homeless shelter with his "moms" and a younger brother. In Bronxwood, Tyrell's father gets released from prison. Strong language and descriptions of sex. For senior high readers. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Tyrell Bronxwood](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082087

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17163 and BR19620](#)

Also available in braille BR017163 and BR019620

Team Seven by Marcus Burke

Read by Andy Pyle

9 hours, 5 minutes

Andre Battel grows up in Milton, south of Boston. When he gets to high school, he discovers basketball, but eventually falls in with a gang, Team Seven, that deals drugs. The gang falls behind in payments and trouble ensues. Violence and strong language. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Team Seven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079118

Exposed; Deception; Betrayal by Naomi Chase

Read by Mare Trevathan

29 hours, 19 minutes

Urban fiction trilogy on one cartridge. In Exposed, advertising executive Tamia Luke keeps up the pretense of perfection for her privileged boyfriend Brandon. But when a client blackmails Tamia over her porn star past, she agrees to his sexual demands. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Exposed ; Deception ; Betrayal](#)

Also available on digital book DB078749

Payback is a Mutha by Wahida Clark

Read by Teresa Willis

5 hours, 56 minutes

Shan and Brianna value different things in life. Shan wants to make her own way, while Brianna thinks the only way to success is hustling for sex, clothes, or whatever she wants. Brianna's life soon spins out of control, however, impacting Shan. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Payback is a Mutha](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081661

Thug Lovin' by Wahida Clark

Read by Bessie Lee Jr.

8 hours, 47 minutes

Tasha and Trae Macklin are trying to live a somewhat straight life in Los Angeles, but Trae briefly heads back to New Jersey to take care of some business. He later opens a nightclub with a Chinese mobster as a partner. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Thug Lovin'](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080677

Poor Little Bitch Girl by Jackie Collins

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

12 hours, 28 minutes

Annabelle Maestro, the daughter of two Hollywood movie stars, runs an escort business in New York City. When her father is accused of murdering her mother, Annabelle returns to California and falls in love with Bobby Santangelo Stanislopoulos. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Poor Little Bitch Girl](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070664

Divas Series. Books 1-3 by De'nesha Diamond

Read by Teresa Willis

25 hours, 18 minutes

Three books published between 2010 and 2013, including Hustlin' Divas, Street Divas, and Gangsta Divas. Ta'Shara wants more from life than being even peripherally associated with gangs, but her sister LeShelle's activities draw her into the conflicts raging around them. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Divas Series. Books 1-3](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB084582

An Accidental Affair by Eric Jerome Dickey

Read by Christopher Lane

11 hours, 53 minutes

An explicit video of screenwriter James Thicke's actress wife Regina and her leading man Johnny goes viral. James hides in a seedy apartment after he attacks Johnny. There he meets dysfunctional neighbors while sorting out his marriage. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2012.

[Download from BARD: An Accidental Affair](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074713

Perfect Chemistry by Simone Elkeles

Read by Laura Giannarelli

10 hours, 58 minutes

Assigned as lab partners in senior chemistry, well-to-do Brittany Ellis and Latino Blood gang member Alex Fuentes clash in and out of class. As their heated exchanges lead to a forbidden attraction, their lives begin to change. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. For senior high readers. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Perfect Chemistry](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069609

Daddy Cool by Donald Goines

Read by Mark Delgado

4 hours, 16 minutes

Detroit. Middle-aged hit man Larry "Daddy Cool" Jackson worries about his wayward teenage daughter Janet, who is dating a pimp. After Janet leaves home and becomes a prostitute, Daddy Cool seeks justice. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 1974.

[Download from BARD: Daddy Cool](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073972

Dopefiend by Donald Goines

Read by Wendell Jordan

7 hours, 8 minutes

Graphic depictions of drug use and addicts characterize this 1970s novel. At the center is drug dealer Porky and his clients. Heroin addict Teddy brings his girlfriend, Terry, to Porky's, and the dealer won't be happy until Terry is a dopefiend too. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 1971.

[Download from BARD: Dopefiend](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB082381

The Real Cool Killers by Chester B. Himes

Read by Chuck Young

4 hours, 42 minutes

There is no dearth of suspects with strong motives when Galen the Greek is found murdered. Galen's ostentatious wealth and his penchant for young black girls make for a tough and complicated case for police to crack. Strong language and violence.

[Download from BARD: The Real Cool Killers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045726

Trouble Man by Travis Hunter

Read by Bill Quinn

6 hours, 20 minutes

Twenty-nine-year-old African American drug dealer Jermaine Banks is thinking about changing his lifestyle. His girlfriend is expecting his second child and his best friend has been murdered. When Jermaine's long-absent father appears, their meeting and ensuing personal crises transform everyone's lives. Some descriptions of sex. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Trouble Man](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB059538

Deeply Rooted a Novel by Ice Mike

Read by Bob Moore

6 hours, 24 minutes

Twenty-five years after he stole \$5 million from and killed a drug kingpin, thug Bad Boy spills his secrets to his cellmate. Soon, many people, including Bad Boy's gangbanger son Wahdatah, are searching for the lost money. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Deeply Rooted a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081350

The Residue Years a Novel by Mitchell S. Jackson

Read by Jeremy Gage

10 hours, 48 minutes

Champ's mother, Grace, is released from a drug-treatment program, and she vows to stay clean so she can regain custody of her younger kids. But she needs help bringing money in, and Champ decides the only sure way is to sell crack. Strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Residue Years a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079860

The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore

Read by Nile Bullock and David Barclay Moore

6 hours, 22 minutes

Unable to celebrate the holidays in the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly Rachpaul struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative Lego city at a Harlem community center. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8. 2017.

[Download from BARD: The Stars Beneath Our Feet](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089635

Lust: a Seven Deadly Sins Novel by Victoria Christopher Murray

Read by Erin Jones

9 hours, 49 minutes

After a sheltered upbringing, Tiffanie falls for reformed drug dealer Damon and agrees to marry him. When Damon's best friend, Trey, gets out of prison, Tiffanie is confused by the instant attraction she feels for a man she knows is trouble. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2017.

[Download from BARD: Lust: a Seven Deadly Sins Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB089154

Darius & Twig by Walter Dean Myers

Read by Erik Sandvold

4 hours, 15 minutes

Best friends Darius, a writer, and Twig, a runner, deal with bullies, family problems, and gangs while hanging on to their dreams of getting out of Harlem and going to college. Some violence and some strong language. For junior and senior high and older readers. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Darius & Twig](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077864

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20371](#)

Also available in braille BR020371

Ghetto Cowboy by Greg Neri

Read by J. D. Jackson

4 hours, 9 minutes

Tired of her twelve-year-old son's bad behavior, Cole's mom drives him from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with his stranger of a father. Cole's dad introduces him to a group of African American cowboys who rescue horses and help keep kids off the streets. For grades 5-8. Commercial audiobook. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Ghetto Cowboy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074503

Knockout Games by Greg Neri

Read by Erin Jones

7 hours, 23 minutes

As a gang of urban teenagers known as the TKO Club makes random attacks on bystanders, Erica, who is dating the gang leader, wrestles with her dark side and her good-kid identity. Violence and strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Knockout Games](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB079635

Efrain's Secret by Sofia Quintero

Read by Peter Johnson

7 hours, 27 minutes

Efrain Rodriguez, an ambitious high school senior and honor student, makes some questionable choices in pursuit of his dream to escape the poverty of his South Bronx neighborhood and attend an Ivy League school. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high readers. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Efrain's Secret](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071584

Retaliation. Books 1-2 by Yasmin Shiraz

Read by Teresa Willis

11 hours, 44 minutes

Two books, written between 2007 and 2014, featuring teens trying to escape the violence that surrounds them. In *Retaliation*, Washington, DC, native Tashera is badly injured after being jumped by a group of girls. In *Accused*, Tashera's boyfriend Ahmed is wrongly arrested. Violence. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Retaliation. Books 1-2](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB095985

Doom Fox by Iceberg Slim

Read by Joe Wilson

10 hours, 14 minutes

Life in a Los Angeles ghetto during the years immediately after World War II. Boxer Joe Allen yearns for Reba, a playmate from his youth; but he must deal with the harsh realities of life, including drugs and murder. Introduction by Ice-T. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 1998.

[Download from BARD: Doom Fox](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB80092

Trick Baby by Iceberg Slim

Read by Bob Moore

15 hours, 21 minutes

Two street-lit novels featuring African American Johnny O'Brien, better known as "White Folks" because of his light complexion. Taken under the wing of old man "Blue," Johnny perfects the con game. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Trick Baby](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080284

The Coldest Winter Ever by Sister Souljah

Read by Michele Schaeffer

11 hours, 20 minutes

Gritty portrayal of the coming-of-age of Winter Santiago, born in 1977 to a fourteen-year-old mother and a drug-dealing father in Brooklyn's projects. The family's lavish lifestyle falls apart when Winter's mother is shot and her father is imprisoned, sending Winter to the streets. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1999.

[Download from BARD: The Coldest Winter Ever](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057412

A Deeper Love Inside the Porsche Santiago Story by Sister Souljah

Read by Eva Wilhelm

16 hours, 27 minutes

Following the events in *The Coldest Winter Ever* (DB 57412), Winter's ten-year-old sister Porsche is trapped in the child-protective system. Porsche's violent objections result in incarceration, but she and other prisoners flee juvenile detention to a Native American reservation. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: A Deeper Love Inside the Porsche Santiago](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076278

Midnight: a Gangster Love Story by Sister Souljah

Read by Bob Moore

17 hours, 4 minutes

Midnight, from *The Coldest Winter Ever* (RC 57412), arrives in Brooklyn with his pregnant mother Umma. As a refugee from war-torn Sudan, Midnight struggles to maintain Muslim traditions and keep his family safe. Eventually, Midnight falls in love and prospers. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Midnight: A Gangster Love Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068016

No Disrespect by Sister Souljah

Read by Andrea Frierson-Toney

11 hours, 56 minutes

Rapper describes growing up in the Bronx projects and offers advice to African American men and women on how to conduct one's life. Criticizes welfare dependency, racism, religion, and casual relationships while stressing the need for strong families and self-respect. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1994.

[Download from BARD: No Disrespect](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB057415

The Banks Sisters by Nikki Turner

Read by Diana Luke

9 hours, 4 minutes

Simone Banks is working her first day as a bank teller when it's robbed. She and her feuding sisters have their own troubles, since they are being evicted from their late grandmother's home and are each facing financial issues. They come up with a plan. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

[Download from BARD: The Banks Sisters](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB092967

Pecking Order by Omar Tyree

Read by Erik Todd Dellums

16 hours, 15 minutes

San Diego accountant Ivan David realizes his dream of becoming a party planner and partners with Italian Brazilian businesswoman Lucina Gallo. After years of hard work Ivan becomes wealthy and acts on his feelings for Lucina. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Pecking Order](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070437

Don't Tell a Soul by Tiffany L. Warren

Read by Erin Jones

8 hours, 8 minutes

Three friends find strength and solace in their Sister-to-Sister Christian ministry. Pam's husband wasted their fortune, and she suspects he is having an affair; Taylor's ex is released from prison; and Yvonne discovers the true meaning of friendship. Descriptions of sex. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Don't Tell a Soul](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078684

The Family Business by Carl Weber with Eric Pete

Read by Ezra Knight, Adam Alexander, Patricia R Floyd et. al.

12 hours, 8 minutes

The Duncan family of Jamaica, Queens, is in a time of transition as patriarch LC contemplates retirement and tries to decide which of his children or their spouses should run the family's car dealership. However, dark secrets are bubbling up, threatening all of their futures. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Family Business](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB093583

She Ain't the One by Carl Weber

Read by Bob Moore

7 hours, 9 minutes

Mentally unstable Ashlee Anderson from Dallas meets Jay Crawford at a Washington, D.C., nightclub and begins an affair. Jay is smitten with Ashlee, but her behavior begins to unravel when she discovers Jay has a child with his ex-girlfriend. Explicit descriptions of sex, strong language, and some violence. 2006.

[Download from BARD: She Ain't the one](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065849

Jumped by Rita Williams-Garcia

Read by Mary Kane

3 hours, 12 minutes

The lives of three urban teens are entwined for one tension-filled day. Trina unwittingly annoys a raging Dominique while Leticia watches. When she overhears Dominique's plan to beat up Trina after school, Leticia is torn over whether to get involved. Some strong language. For senior high readers. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Jumped](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070927

Emako Blue by Brenda Woods

Read by Erin Jones

2 hours, 12 minutes

Los Angeles. African American classmates Monterey, Jamal, and Eddie remember their friend Emako who was accidentally shot and killed. Having bonded with her through a mutual interest in singing, they reminisce about the talented vocalist. Some violence. For senior high readers. 2004.

[Download from BARD: Emako Blue](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064625

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR16211](#)

Also available in braille BR016211

Alibi by Teri Woods

Read by Mare Trevathan

5 hours, 43 minutes

1986. Bernard "Nard" Guess needs an alibi after killing three people in a botched robbery at the house of his boss, Philadelphia drug lord Simon Shuller. Stripper Daisy Fothergill provides a cover story but flees when the police come after her. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Alibi](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071363

True to the Game by Teri Woods

Read by Erica Peeples and Cary Hite

8 hours, 52 minutes

1988. Gena has traveled to Harlem from Philadelphia for a night of clubbing with her girlfriend when she meets Quadir--a millionaire drug dealer. She falls in love with him, and fights to keep her man and the luxuries he provides her. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 1994.

[Download from BARD: True to the Game](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097167

Breaking the Cycle by Zane

Read by Jill Fox

7 hours, 54 minutes

Eight short stories dealing with domestic violence within African American homes. In the title story, a mother and daughter plan their escape from an abusive husband. "God Does Answer Prayers" deals with a hospitalized boy shot by his father. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Breaking the Cycle](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063628