

Monthly Highlights from TBBC

New Jersey Talking Book & Braille Center <tbbc@njstatelib.org>

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To: Patt Ferrari <pferrari@njstatelib.org>;

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January 30, 2021



**TALKING BOOK &
BRAILLE CENTER**

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN

I am excited to join the New Jersey State Library, and in particular to work with Adam and the rest of the dedicated staff at the Talking Book and Braille Center. I am coming to NJ from Minnesota where I also worked with a National Library Service library, the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library. Seeing services evolve over the years— from BARD to Books on Demand – has been rewarding, knowing that we are able to better serve the needs of all of our library patrons.

[I invite you to reach out if you'd like to share your experience with the TBBC, or have thoughts on how we might improve services.](#) I look forward to working with all of you.

Be safe and be well.

Thank you,

Jen

Jennifer R. Nelson
New Jersey State Librarian

TELEPHONE MESSAGES – UPDATE

TBBC staff members are not currently on site at the library. Staff is only responding to voice mail messages left on our general number or on a particular staff member's extension. We are returning all calls daily.

A problem has been identified that a patron's phone is blocking our call because it is not coming directly from the library. Our information technology department is researching alternatives. We'd love to help you, but unfortunately, we will not be able to if our calls are not accepted or if we are not able to leave a message for you.

BRAILLE eREADER – SURVEY

On March 1st our Reader Services staff will begin calling patrons that we have on file as being Braille readers. They will discuss the Braille eReader and the pilot project TBBC has with the Library of Congress. We will mail out a Braille eReader unit and a Braille book on cartridge to all patrons who are interested in receiving one.

The eReader currently under review by TBBC was designed for NLS by HumanWare. The eReader can hold nearly the same amount of Braille books as we have in our entire library! This unit is only about a quarter of the size of the Braille page.

It has a Perkins-style keyboard, an 8-dot, 20-cell Braille display, and comes with a protective carrying case and lanyard.

The eReader can be used as a Braille display for not only JAWS 2020 and later, but also NVDA 2020.1, and Voiceover on Mac (using a USB connection). It can also be paired via Bluetooth to iOS devices as a Braille display. TBBC staff have found these features to be an attractive quality for a device that patrons will appreciate.

There is also a listserv for patrons to discuss and communicate their thoughts on the pilot.

If you are not a Braille reader when we call you, please let us know so that we can update your record with us.

For more information please call TBBC at 800-792-8322, extension 861 and a member of the Reader Services staff will return your call.

BRAILLE eREADER – UPDATE

For this pilot, TBBC was given a very limited number of Braille eReaders. With our next initiative, all of these units are accounted for at the moment.

We cannot swap out units at this time. Also, we have not been given extra components for these units. If you lose a connection cord, we do not have a replacement.

Please keep the box that we ship the unit in. Inside the box, there is a list of items included. The list is both in Braille and large print.

If an issue arises with your unit, please contact the library and use the box the eReader came in to return the unit to TBBC.

NLS wants to review all issues related to the eReader. Once we return defective units to NLS, we will ask to secure a new unit for you.

For more information please call TBBC at 800-792-8322, extension 861 and a member of the Reader Services staff will return your call.

FEBRUARY'S MOST POPULAR BOOKS ON BARD

[The Law of Innocence DB 101096](#) by Michael Connelly and read by Peter Giles.

Defense attorney Mickey Haller is pulled over by police, who find the body of a client in the trunk of his Lincoln. When Haller is charged with murder and can't make the exorbitant bail slapped on him by a vindictive judge, he must strategize and build his defense from his jail cell. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[The Searcher DB100859](#) by Tana French and read by Roger Clark.

After a bruising divorce, veteran Chicago cop Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a bucolic Irish village would be the perfect escape. But when a local kid whose brother has gone missing arm-twists him into investigating, Cal uncovers layers of darkness beneath his picturesque retreat. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

[Wench: A Novel DBC15659](#) by Dolen Perkins-Valdez and read by Cecilia LeBlanc-Boone.

Tawawa House, an idyllic resort in Ohio, provides the luxury and privacy for Southern white men who vacation there every summer with their black, enslaved mistresses. The mistresses, all from different plantations, become

friends over the course of the years. Despite being in free territory, they do not bother themselves too much about questions of freedom until Mawu arrives and starts to talk about running away. This novel explores the complexities of slavery with an unflinching eye. Violence. 2010.

[The Craft: How the Freemasons Made the Modern World DB101016](#) by John Dickie and read by Simon Slater.

An account of the founding and spread of Freemasonry. The author describes the pervasive influence of the secret brotherhood's involvement in politics, its contentious relationship with various religious orders, and profiles of its most famous members. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality DB101333](#) by Michael J. Fox and read by Michael J. Fox.

Memoir of the actor and author of Lucky Man (DB 54265) who has lived with Parkinson's Disease for thirty years. He shares personal stories and observations about illness and health, aging, the strength of family and friends, and how our perceptions about time affect the way we approach mortality. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[The Silent Wife DB100185](#) by Karin Slaughter and read by Kathleen Early.

A young woman is brutally attacked and left for dead. The police investigate but the trail goes cold. Until a chance assignment takes GBI investigator Will Trent to the state penitentiary, and to a prisoner who says new attacks look identical to the one he was falsely accused of eight years earlier. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Hush DB99916](#) by James Patterson; Candice Fox and Read by Kathryn Hartman.

Prison is a dangerous place for a former cop. And the last person Harriet Blue wants to see is Deputy Police Commissioner Joe Woods, who put her inside. But his daughter and her two-year-old child have gone missing. If Harriet can find his family, it will buy her freedom. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

[Hidden in Plain Sight: A Detective William Warwick Novel DB101354](#) by Jeffrey Archer and read by George Blagden.

1986. William Warwick from **Nothing Ventured** (DB 96828) has been promoted to Detective Sergeant. Along with the rest of his team, he is assigned to the Drugs Squad. Their mission is to capture a notorious drug

dealer, but a trap is hidden in plain sight. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Rope Burn DB101342](#) by William W Johnstone; J. A. Johnstone and read by Jack Garrett.

When Ace and Chance are thrown in jail after a barroom brawl, they are assumed to be army deserters and sentenced to time on a prison chain gang. With no justice to be found, the brothers must fight their way out. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[The Awakening: The Dragon Heart Legacy, Book 1 DB101360](#) by Nora Roberts and read by Barrie Kreinik.

Breen Kelly is debt-ridden and working a job she hates when she discovers her mother has been hiding money left to her by her long-lost father. She treats herself to a trip to Ireland and falls through a portal to a magical land where she has a dangerous destiny. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Troubles in Paradise DB100979](#) by Elin Hilderbrand and read by Erin Bennett.

After uprooting her life in the States, Irene Steele has just settled in at the villa on St. John where her husband Russ had been living a double life. But a visit from the FBI shakes her foundations, and Irene once again learns just how little she knew about the man she loved. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Odyssey Award is given for the “best audiobook produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States”.

Below is the winner and the four Honors books selected, as well as links to their BARD listings:

Winner:

Kent State by Deborah Wiles [DB99884](#)

Narrated by Christopher Gebauer, Lauren Ezzo, Christina Delaine, Johnny Heller, Roger Wayne, Korey Jackson, and David de Vries, and produced by Paul R. Gange, Scholastic Audio.

A novel in verse. Chaos erupts when a student protest at Kent State University turns into a bloody battlefield on May 4, 1970. Violence and strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

Honors:**Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo [DB99823](#)

Narrated by Elizabeth Acevedo and Melania-Luisa Marte, and produced by Caitlin Garing for HarperAudio, a division of HarperCollins Publishers.

A novel in verse. Teens Camino Rios, of the Dominican Republic, and Yahaira Rios, of New York City, are devastated to learn of their father's death in a plane crash and stunned to learn of each other's existence. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

Fighting Words by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley [DB100637](#)

Narrated by Bahni Turpin, and produced by Karen Dziekonski for Listening Library, an imprint of Penguin Random House Audio.

Depending on an older sister who protected her when their mother went to prison and their mother's boyfriend committed a terrible act, ten-year-old Della tries to figure out what to do when her older sister attempts suicide. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8. 2020.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X.

Kendi [DB98926](#), [BR23102](#)

Narrated by Jason Reynolds with an introduction by Ibram X. Kendi, and produced by Robert Van Kolken for Hachette Audio.

National Ambassador for Young People's Literature adapts Ibram X. Kendi's award-winning book *Stamped from the Beginning* (DB 89293). Reynolds discusses how racist ideas started and were spread, and how they can be discredited. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed [DB99879](#)

Narrated by Faysal Ahmed, Barkhad Abdi, and a full cast, and produced by Kelly Gildea and Julie Wilson for Listening Library, an imprint of Penguin Random House Audio.

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, live in a refugee camp in Kenya. When an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2020.

TBBC BOOK CLUB

Join our Book Club! The TBBC Virtual Book Club meets the first Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Friday, March 5th. The meeting will have the suggested reading theme of "Seasons." Members are also invited to talk about any book they have recently read regardless of genre or author.

Members can join through the internet or over the phone. To register and find out more, call us at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or email us at tbbc@njstatelib.org. You can also find out more by visiting us online at www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/tbbcs-virtual-bookclub/

TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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