

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

This will be my last newsletter message. I will be retiring on January 31st. Jennifer Nelson has been named as the next state librarian.

I have been reflecting of the past eight years. While I believe that state library has made many advances across the state, none has been as positive and fulfilling as the services to you, our TBBC patrons.

You can go to public libraries in almost every county for help to download books and magazines.

TBBC can now send 10 to 15 books on a single cartridge and TBBC is now piloting a Braille device that fits into the palm of your hand. Such advances are truly remarkable and will get better.

So as I leave a job I love, I love that you can now get “any book, any time.”

Take care and be safe.

Thank you,

Mary

Mary L. Chute
New Jersey State Librarian

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN – JENNIFER NELSON

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) announced that Jennifer R. Nelson has been chosen to serve as the new State Librarian for the New Jersey State Library (NJSL), an affiliate of TESU.

TESU President, Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, said “Jen has built a reputation as an active state and national leader in digital inclusion, equity and diversity programming, and technology and data innovation.”

Jennifer Nelson currently serves as the director of Minnesota State Library Services, a division that administers Minnesota’s state and federal programs for libraries and the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library. She provided leadership, consultation and support to the Minnesota library community in planning, developing and implementing high-quality library services statewide. Nelson is also a very active member of the national organization of Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. In this capacity she has recently played a key role in efforts focused on developing the organization’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statement and advancing efforts in data collection regarding new and evolving library service models. In addition to her state-level work, Nelson also has 20 years of experience at large urban and county libraries.

“I am delighted to be coming to the State Library,” Nelson said. “The staff and services at the New Jersey State Library and the larger New Jersey library community are among the best in the U.S. and it will be a privilege to lead as we move forward from the pandemic to a ‘new normal.’ ”

“I have family ties to New Jersey, and I’m looking forward to becoming involved in the community,” Nelson added. “As the parent of an adult child with disabilities, I anticipate involvement in the Paralympic sports community in the state.”

EBRAILLE READER – UPDATE

The eReader currently under review by TBBC was designed for NLS for 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 free device that patrons will appreciate.

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

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

DECEMBER'S MOST POPULAR BOOKS ON BARD

[Countdown 1945: The Extraordinary Story of the 16 Days That Changed the World DB99600](#) by Chris Wallace and read by Chris Wallace.

An account of the days leading up to the world's first use of the atomic bomb in wartime – the American attack on Hiroshima. The author describes the covert meetings and pivotal developments that took place around the world and profiles the key figures involved. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

[Promised Land DB100966](#) by Barack Obama and read by Barack Obama.

The first volume of Barack Obama's presidential memoirs, recounting his journey from youth to president of the United States of America. He discusses his early aspirations, the trajectory of his political career, landmark moments of his first term, and reflections on American politics. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

[Rage DB100633](#) by Bob Woodward and read by Robert Petkoff.

The author of *Fear: Trump in the White House* (DB 91876) examines Trump's decision-making in the face of a global pandemic, an economic disaster, racial unrest, and more in the time leading up to the 2020 presidential election. Draws on hundreds of hours of interviews, personal letters, and participant records. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[The Answer Is...: Reflections On My Life DB99678](#) by Alex Trebek and read by Alex Trebek.

Longtime host of the TV game show Jeopardy! shares stories of his life and career. Alongside anecdotes about the show and its contestants, he discusses marriage, parenthood, spirituality, education, philanthropy, and his own battle with cancer. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Maybe This Christmas DB100259](#) by Sarah Morgan and read by Kristin Allison.

This winter, ex-skiing champion and single dad Tyler O'Neil has only one mission – making sure his daughter, Jess, has the best Christmas ever. The fact that his best friend, Brenna, is sharing a lodge with him is a delicious distraction. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2014.

[Robert B. Parker's Grudge Match DB100550](#) by Mike Lupica and read by Kate Burton.

When Sunny's long-time gangster associate Tony Marcus comes to her for help, Sunny is surprised – after all, she double-crossed him on a recent deal. But Tony figures Sunny owes him, and Sunny's willing to clear the slate. Tony's trusted girlfriend and business partner has vanished, and he doesn't know why. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[The Queen's Gambit DBC17656](#) by Walter Tevis and read by Joyce Honaker.

Shy, plain Beth Harmon loses her mother at age 8 in Lexington, KY and is sent to an orphanage. Beth is lonely and unhappy, despite the medications given to the children to keep them manageable. One day she discovers the janitor playing a strange game in the basement and they gradually become friends as he teaches her the game of chess. Beth becomes obsessed with the game and at age 16 is competing in national chess competitions. But while she rises in the ranks of the professional circuit, her personal and emotional life suffer. Basis for the 2020 Netflix series. 1983.

[Relentless Pursuit DB100191](#) by Bradley Edwards and read by Bradley Edwards.

In 2008, a young woman told the attorney author that she had been sexually coerced at fourteen by a wealthy man in Palm Beach named Jeffrey Epstein. Describes how – over ten years – Edwards tracked down more than twenty of Epstein's victims, and uncovered the scope of his high society network. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[Camino Winds DB99615](#) by John Grisham and read by Michael Beck. Bruce of Bruce Cable's Bay Books survives Hurricane Leo hitting Camino Island. One of the dozen apparent victims is Nelson Kerr, a friend of Bruce's and an author of thrillers. But the nature of Nelson's injuries suggests that the storm wasn't the cause of his death. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

[Choppy Water DB100390](#) by Stuart Woods and read by Tony Roberts.

Stone Barrington and his friends are vacationing in Maine when their leisure is suddenly disrupted by extreme weather. To make matters worse, the inclement conditions allow for a menacing adversary to sneak in unnoticed and deliver a chilling message targeting one of Stone's closest companions. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

[The Midwife Murders DB100127](#) by James Patterson and read by Sophie Amoss.

To senior midwife Lucy, pregnancy is her life's work. But when two kidnappings and a vicious stabbing happen on her watch in a university

hospital in Manhattan, Lucy's focus abruptly changes. She teams up with a skeptical NYPD detective to try to solve the case. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Middle Grade

Becoming Muhammad Ali by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, DB10145, BR-Coming Soon. For grades 4-7

Chance: Escape from the Holocaust by Uri Shulevitz, DB-Coming Soon.
Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It by Andrea Davis Pinkney, BR-Coming Soon, DB-Coming Soon.

The Silver Arrow by Lev Grossman, DB100929, BR-Coming Soon. For grades 4-7

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renée Watson, DB100041. For grades 3-6

We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly, DB99888. For grades 4-7

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, DB99879. For grades 4-7

Young Adult

Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson, DB100643. For grades 5-8

The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love & Truth edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson, DB-Coming Soon.

They Went Left by Monica Hesse, DB99223. For senior high and older readers

TBBC BOOK CLUB

We want your input for our Book Club! Would you prefer to discuss 1 book that everyone has read in advance? Or would you prefer to discuss a variety of books read by individual club members?

Give your response by calling us at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or by emailing us at tbbc@njstatelib.org Anyone can answer even if you haven't joined a club meeting yet. If you want to join, our next club meeting is Friday, February 5th at 1 p.m. Find more information and a full list of dates 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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