

Monthly Highlights from TBBC

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

Tue 12/15/2020 1:32 PM

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

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December 14, 2020



**TALKING BOOK &
BRAILLE CENTER**

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN

At the suggestion of our patrons, we are bringing back our newsletter. We are changing the newsletter from weekly to monthly. We will publish the next issue mid-January, 2021.

We continue to serve everyone while working outside of the library. We are able to send out and receive digital cartridges each day, and the Reader Services staff is returning all messages left at the library.

This issue will have suggestions on a few of the more popular books downloaded in BARD. With the holidays here, Jen has several holiday book suggestions for children. Chris has information for using Newsline with Alexa.

Finally, inside, you will find information about a pilot at TBBC using electronic Braille to read books and magazines.

Enjoy your holidays and try to remain to be safe.

Thank you,

Mary

Mary L. Chute
New Jersey State Librarian

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.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Twelve Days of Christmas by Greg Pizzoli, BR22029. For preschool-grade 2

My First Kwanzaa by Karen Katz, BR15035. For preschool-grade 2

Celebrate Hanukkah by Deborah Heiligman, DB64912. For grades K-3

Mouse and Mole, a Winter Wonderland by Wong Herbert Yee, BR19297, DB88543. For grades K-3

Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold by Joyce Sidman, BR21755, DBC09971. For grades K-3

Deck the Halls, We're Off the Walls! by Dan Gutman, BR22393, DB92849. For grades 2-4.

Candlelight for Rebecca by Jacqueline Dembar Greene, BR18669, DB71078. For grades 3-6

Winterhouse by Ben Guterson, DB91226. For grades 4-7

Let It Snow by John Green, Maureen Johnson, Lauren Myracle, DB68582. For Senior High and older.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, BR17785, DB43546, LT00123

TBBC BOOK CLUB

We are exploring suggestions for our book club. We would like your thoughts. Do you prefer discussing one book that you have read in advance of the meeting? Do you prefer to hear and to discuss different books that people have read? If we get enough replies, we can even have a book club for each. Please let us know by either calling us at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or email us at tbbc@njstatelib.org

NFB NEWSLINE WITH ALEXA

NFB-NEWSLINE subscribers can access NFB-NEWSLINE hands-free on any Amazon Alexa product, including Echo and Echo Dot. Below are some sample commands for accessing and using the skill.

Getting Started:

Say "Alexa open National Federation" then "Alexa ask National Federation to log in."

Be sure to clearly state "log in" for best results.

Next, you will be asked to provide your subscriber identification number and security code.

Alexa can help you select and move through publications easily with a variety of commands. Here are a few to get you started:

"Alexa ask National Federation to read The New York Times."

If you would like more shortcuts for Alexa on Newsline, Chris R. at extension x 821 has a more detailed list that he can email to you.

BRAILLE eREADER IS HERE

First question – What is a Braille eReader?

It is an electronic braille unit that displays rows of braille letters and words that can be read as you would a Braille book.

Second question – What is the difference?

There is a big-time difference. The young adult classic, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (BR17210) is ten separate volumes in Braille. That means ten volumes in ten separate containers mailed to anyone who enjoys the series.

NOW. How about having the same book in Braille in the palm of your hand? Well, thanks to the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) you can.

Third question – Tell me more?

TBBC is piloting with NLS on a HumanWare Braille eReader that NLS has modified for the program. This unit will download Braille books from BARD and play Braille books that TBBC can send to you on a digital cartridge as we do for audiobooks.

Fourth Question – How do I get one?

First, it only works if you can read Braille. That said, just call TBBC (800-792-8322 extension 861) and leave a message for the Reader Services staff to call and speak to you.

Final Question – Is it really that small?

Yes, here is a photo of one of our patrons, Ms. Brodsky with her new player.



TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Toll-Free Number: (800) 792-8322 ext. 861

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STAY CONNECTED



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4/19/2021

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