



# Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter December 2022

## **Happy Holidays!**

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Blessed Kwanzaa! We hope that you and your loved ones have a wonderful holiday season, however you celebrate, and that 2023 will be a good year! Here are a few titles to get you in the holiday spirit. To order, call 800-372-2968, email [KTBL.Mail@ky.gov](mailto:KTBL.Mail@ky.gov), or mail the attached order form to KTBL, PO Box 537, Frankfort KY 40602. All are also available to download from BARD.

### **DB 110507 Christmas in Sugarcreek** by Shelley Shepherd Gray

Judith Graber has always been the obedient daughter. Over the years, she's offered advice, cared for her younger siblings, helped around the house, and worked in her family's store. Judith feels overworked, overlooked, and underappreciated this holiday season. But everything changes when her father hires "bad boy" Ben Knox. 2011.

### **DB 89600 Christmas: A Biography** by Judith Flanders

A chronicle of the development of religious and secular celebrations of Christmas, beginning with the time of the Bible. Examines myths and legends surrounding the day, traditions, literary and artistic interpretations, its association with other winter holidays, its commercialization, and more. 2017.

### **DB 105456 The People Remember** by Ibi Zoboi

The author recounts the journey of African descendants in America by connecting their history to the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Commercial audiobook. For grades K-3. 2021.

### **DB 87973 Mr. Dickens and His Carol** by Samantha Silva

Depressed about the failure of his most recent book, feeling pressured by his publisher to write a Christmas book, and worried over his family's financial stability, Charles Dickens seeks refuge in nightly walks. On one, he meets Eleanor Lovejoy, who takes him on a Scrooge-like journey. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

### **DB 75862 The Snow Child** by Eowyn Ivey

Still grieving over their stillborn child, middle-aged couple Mabel and Jack left a comfortable Pennsylvania life in 1918 to homestead in Alaska. Two years later, after building a snowchild, they see glimpses of a young girl who appears to live in the woods. Some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

### **DB 107710 Red and Green and Blue and White** by Lee Wind

It's a holiday season that both Isaac, who is Jewish, and Teresa, who is Christian, have looked forward to for months! They enjoy all the things they share, as well as the things that make them different. But when someone smashes Isaac's window in the middle of the night, the community bands together to show support. Commercial audiobook. For grades K-3. 2021.

### **DB 80286 The Thirteenth Gift** by Joanne Huist Smith

Journalist describes receiving mysterious gifts on the twelve days leading up to her first Christmas alone following the death of her husband. Details her efforts, with the help of her three children, to identify the sender of the gifts, and the impact the gifts had on them. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

## **Newsletter Distribution**

The KTBL newsletter is the most efficient method we have to share news that affects your braille and talking book service or information that may interest you. New issues appear three times a year, and are available in large print, braille, audio, or email; they are also shared on Facebook and Twitter and appear on our website. Contact KTBL if you want to change the format you receive.

Starting with this issue, the audio format will no longer be added to every talking book cartridge. Instead, we will treat it just like a book and add it to the cartridges of patrons who have requested the audio version. Please be sure to listen to new issues so you don't miss out on anything.

## **NLS Patron Engagement**

This year the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) began several programs designed to interact with patrons around the country. We encourage you to participate in one or all of them.

- **NLS Patron Announcement-Only email list**—This email list will be a platform for the NLS to keep patrons up-to-date and engaged with its programs and services such as online patron events, reminders about new issues of catalogs, or new BARD features. This is an announce-only list, so Talking Book users will not be able to post or respond to it, and your email address will not be shared with anyone else. To sign up, email your name and email address to [NLSPES@loc.gov](mailto:NLSPES@loc.gov). You may remove yourself from the list at any time.
- **Patron Corner**—to enrich the library experience for patrons, NLS will host a quarterly Patron Corner virtual event where you can learn more about various services directly from NLS staff. You may ask questions or simply sit back and listen. The next Patron Corner will be *Do you Hear What I Hear: the NLS Music Section is Not Just for Musicians*—Monday December 12 at 7:00 EST. You can join with a telephone by dialing +1-646-828-7666 or +1-551-285-1373 and entering this meeting ID when prompted: 161 798 3140. KTBL will share the link

to join by computer or app on Facebook and Twitter, and NLS will share the link on its announcement listserv.

- **The Many Faces of BARD**—BARD stands for Braille and Audio Reading Download, and it is a very convenient way to search for and get books instantly. Check out this monthly program whether you are just curious about BARD or are an experienced user. The program begins at 7:00 on the second Thursday of every month, and each session starts with a brief presentation, followed by questions and answers. KTBL and NLS will share information to join on Facebook, Twitter, and the Patron Announcement-Only email list.
- You can listen to **recorded sessions** of Patron Corner and find access information at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/services/patron-corner/> and you can access past sessions of The Many Faces of BARD at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/services/many-faces-of-BARD/>

## **BARD**

In response to feedback about the difficulties patrons have had in resetting passwords, NLS has made the following change--you no longer have to use secret questions and answers in order to reset your BARD password! Here are the new, simpler steps to take if you have forgotten your BARD password:

1. Using your internet browser, go to the BARD website (do not use the BARD Mobile app) at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/nlsbardprod/login//NLS> . Click on the link Reset Your BARD Password here.
2. On the Reset Your Lost Password page, type the email address you use for your BARD account and click the Submit button.
3. You will receive an email from BARD with a link where you can create a new password. This link will expire in one hour, so be sure to create your new password immediately.

If you use the BARD Mobile iOS app on your iPhone or iPad, you may have noticed some changes after the last upgrade. The Search feature is now more user-friendly. You can search by Keyword, Title, Author, or Annotation (book description); choose audio or braille; and sort your results by Title, Author, or Latest books. After your search, you can now download directly from your search results. You no longer have to add the book to your Wish List first.

Speaking of the Wish List, the BARD Mobile Android app has a bug that prevents users from downloading from their Wish List. NLS is aware of this bug and is working on a fix. Meanwhile, you can access the BARD website via your internet browser to download from your Wish List.

Whether you use the BARD website, BARD Express, or BARD Mobile, please remember that you must download at least 1 book or magazine every 6 months to keep your account active. Contact KTBL if you are unable to log in to your BARD account; we can reactivate it for you.

## Magazines

Those of you who subscribe to audio magazines may have noticed a delay in your service. The NLS recently switched to a new database and unexpected problems delayed magazine production. A backlog of magazine cartridges shipped in late November and the remainder should be shipped in February. To catch up with the backlog, you may receive up to 8 back issues of a magazine title.

NLS has added three new magazine titles. All are available by free subscription or by download from BARD.

- **Harvard Women's Health Watch** is a monthly audio magazine that offers timely information in the new age of women's health and medicine. Includes new prevention strategies, new diagnostic techniques, new medications, and treatments.
- **Psychology Today** is a bi-monthly audio American general-interest psychology magazine. A variety of psychological perspectives and approaches are represented in the magazine's analyses.
- **Guideposts** is a monthly braille magazine that shares inspirational stories. An audio version is coming soon.

A new system for distributing audio magazines is in development. Eventually, your magazines will be added onto the same cartridges as your books. Once this goes into effect you will no longer have to keep your book and magazine cartridges separate and return them to different places—everything will be handled by KTBL here in our office.

## USPS Audit

The United States Postal Service is a vital partner to the Braille and Talking Book program. Its Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped mailing is what allows us to mail braille and talking books to you, and for you to return them to us. While we, the individual users, are not paying postage for these items, the Postal Service IS reimbursed by the federal government. This year the USPS Inspector General reviewed the acceptance, handling, and delivery of Free Matter mail in response to a Congressional request. Here is a summary of the audit:

- Procedures for accepting and handling Free Matter can be improved.
- Inspection is not consistently enforced; USPS will review the need to leave mail unsealed for inspection.
- Free Matter should be treated as first class mail, but that is not always the case.
- Better training is needed for Postal employees, especially at retail outlets.

The full report can be found here: <https://www.uspsoig.gov/document/free-matter-blind>

## **New Kentucky Books**

### **DBC 15921 Sidetracked** by Brandilyn Collins

At age 16, Laura Denton came home from school to find her mother savagely beaten to death. Even worse, the next day she was arrested and charged with the murder. Eighteen years later she lives in quiet Redbud, Kentucky and is known as Delanie Miller. Her past life is a carefully guarded secret. But after a close friend is murdered and an innocent young man is suspected, Delanie knows she must risk exposure to protect him from an unjust charge. 2014. Adult. Some violence

### **DBC 15923 Down by the River** by Lin Stepp

On a whim, middle-aged widow Grace Conley buys a deserted, but lovely old home in the Smokey Mountains to run as a bed and breakfast. Her grown children are upset with her for leaving Nashville, but in no time the inn is a success and Grace has made friends in tiny Townsend, TN--except for the irritating womanizer Jack Teague. She is determined not to respond to his advances, especially once her daughter comes to visit and attracts the handsome young minister. 2014. Adult.

### **DBC 15969 When a Red Bird Flies** by Karen Evancic

1953, Franklin, KY. Lillie Woodard's husband of 23 years dumps her at the local hospital to die, without even saying goodbye. Catherine, a kind young nurse, takes a special interest in Lillie as the older woman starts relating the story of her life. Cate Otera was born in Franklin, but now lives a very different life in California. She and her loving husband Tony are happy, but long for children. Eventually the fates of these women intersect, resulting in peace for them all. 2015. Adult.

## **Join the Club**

The KTBL Book Club is going strong. Members all read the same book, then meet at 3:30 EST on the third Tuesday of the month to discuss it. Meetings are on Zoom, so you can join by telephone or computer. If you are interested in participating, contact KTBL to be put on the book club list. We will send out an email reminder a few days before each meeting with instructions how to join the meeting. If you don't have email, we can send you a braille or large print schedule. Not sure whether you want to join? You don't have to say a word but can just listen in to what others have to say. You can even skip the meeting altogether and just read the same book. Here are the books we will read and discuss in the coming months:

### **January 17**

DB 103929, BR 24012

#### **The Personal Librarian** by Marie Benedict

In 1906, Belle da Costa Greene was hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle

becomes a fixture in New York City society, but she is African American passing as white. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

### **February 21**

DB 95243, BR 24038

**The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek** by Kim Michele Richardson  
Kentucky, 1936. Nineteen-year-old Cussy Mary Carter has been working as part of the Pack Horse Library Project, but her father hopes she'll marry--despite the family trait of blue skin. In addition to her father's hopes, Cussy must also face the prejudice of the community she serves. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

### **March 21**

DB 91647, BR 22418

**Spinning Silver** by Naomi Novik

When her moneylender father can no longer collect his debts, Miryem takes over and earns a reputation of being able to turn silver into gold. This draws the attention of the icy Staryk people, whose king sets her an impossible task. Luckily she finds some unexpected allies. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

### **April 18**

DB 73931, BR 18758

**11/22/63** by Stephen King

The dying owner of Al's Diner has a shocking request for his friend, English teacher Jake Epping: go back in time through a portal in Al's storeroom and stop JFK's assassination. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

### **In Development**

NLS is always looking for new ways to enhance or improve service. Here are some projects in development that may become available in the next year or two.

**DA2**—The next-generation digital talking book player. Some of the features it will have are WIFI, Bluetooth, on-board storage, text-to-speech, and built-in BARD access. It will not replace the current digital player, but will become another option.

**Smart Speaker**—If you have an Amazon Alexa or Google Home device, soon you may be able to simply ask it to search for and play talking books.

**BARD Express**—Currently you must transfer your downloads from your computer to a flash drive to play on a talking book player. NLS is working on allowing you to play the books you download on your computer.

**eReaders**—NLS is investigating the possibility of allowing users to play talking books, in addition to reading braille on this device.

**Synchronization**— will allow you to move from device to device and pick up where you left off in a book on any of them.

## Order Form

To order, call 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791, email [KTBL.mail@ky.gov](mailto:KTBL.mail@ky.gov), or mail to KTBL, PO Box 537. Frankfort KY 40602.

- DB 110507 Christmas in Sugarcreek**
- DB 89600 Christmas: A Biography**
- DB 105456 The People Remember**
- DB 87973 Mr. Dickens and his Carol**
- DB 75862 The Snow Child**
- DB 107710 Red and Green and Blue and White**
- DB 80286 The Thirteenth Gift**
- DBC 15921 Sidetracked**
- DBC 15923 Down by the River**
- DBC 15969 When a Red Bird Flies**
- DB 103929 The Personal Librarian (Talking Book)**
- BR 24012 The Personal Librarian (Braille)**
- DB 95243 The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek (Talking Book)**
- BR 24038 The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek (Braille)**
- DB 91647 Spinning Silver (Talking Book)**
- BR 22418 Spinning Silver (Braille)**
- DB 73931 11/22/63 (Talking Book)**
- BR 18758 11/22/63 (Braille)**



Thank you to the Louisville Downtown Lion's Club for sponsoring this and previous issues of our newsletter. Learn more about Lion's Club International at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) .



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Kentucky Department for  
Libraries and Archives

**Kentucky Talking Book Library**  
**PO Box 537**  
**Frankfort KY 40602**

**Free Matter for the Blind  
and Physically Handicapped**  
**DMM 703.5**