

Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter December 2023



Automatic Email Notifications

Do you wonder if there is a book on the way to you, or think a book might be overdue? A recent enhancement to our WebReads library system allows it to automatically send an email to you whenever the follow actions occur: 1. A library item is checked out to you, 2. a library item checked out to you is returned to our library, 3. a library item checked out to you becomes overdue. You must have an email address on file for this feature to work.

WebReads is the computer system many Talking Book libraries use to manage patron accounts, book circulation, book collections, and machines. It allows users to suggest ideas to enhance the system. All libraries will vote on the suggestions they feel are most important, then a group of testers, including Branch Manager Barbara Penegor, will test the new enhancements after development. This new feature was suggested by our own Jeff Barnes because so many patrons call to ask whether any books are on the way to them. Now you can receive this information automatically without having to call or email us. This is a feature many public libraries have been using for years, so we are glad to incorporate it into our service.

Please contact our library if you would like to add an email address to take advantage of this new feature. We can also change the email address on file to a more appropriate one, or even turn this feature off for your account if you do not wish to receive these notifications.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

One of the most important things a parent or caregiver can do to provide a foundation for success is to encourage their children to read. Nobody believes this more than Dolly Parton. She believes that if you can read, you can do anything, dream anything, and be anything. That is why she started the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth to age five, regardless of income.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library has recently expanded statewide in Kentucky, to inspire a love of reading by making books available in every zip code in the Commonwealth. And Dolly has partnered with the American Printing House for the Blind, in Louisville, to make audio and print/braille versions for parents or children who are blind or have low vision. If you are a parent or caregiver to a child who is under 5 years old, you can enroll them in this valuable program by visiting <https://imaginationlibrary.com/kentucky/> . If you do not have internet access, you may call the Kentucky Talking Book Library, and we will enroll for you. Then all you have to do is snuggle up with your child and share your love of reading with them.



Photo caption: Expanding Statewide in Kentucky! Over a black background, a photo of Dolly Parton appears to be leaning on a graphic of the state of Kentucky, with the round, Dolly Parton Imagination Library logo superimposed on it.

New magazine—Harvard Men’s Health Watch

A new audio magazine has been added to the NLS magazine collection. Harvard Men’s Health Watch is recorded by the volunteers and staff of the Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library in Daytona Beach, FL. It is available on cartridge by mail, or by download from BARD.

Let the doctors and researchers at the Harvard Medical School show you the way to a longer, healthier, happier life in the pages of *Harvard Men’s Health Watch*. Each month, you’ll be briefed on the latest health research and advances that will affect and improve your health. Easy-to-read, clear, and concise, *Harvard Men’s Health Watch* is full of actionable advice you can incorporate immediately into your daily routine.

KTBL Book Club

Join our monthly book club meetings to discuss how you liked (or did not like) that month's book selection. We meet at 3:30 Eastern Time on the third Tuesday of each month. You do not have to talk—you can simply listen to the discussion. You may even prefer to read the books and skip the meetings altogether. Let us know if you wish to be added to our list for email reminders announcing upcoming book selections and meeting information.

December 19, 2023

DB 24820

A Lantern in Her Hand by Bess Streeter Aldrich

The story of a pioneer woman who, as a bride, accompanied her husband to Nebraska by covered wagon and lived there for the rest of her eighty years. It tells of her courage and her devotion to her large family through poverty and hardship. 1928.

January 16, 2024

DB 110070

Get Well Soon: History's Worst Plagues and the Heroes Who Fought Them by Jennifer Wright

A witty, irreverent tour of history's worst plagues and a celebration of the heroes who fought them. Throughout time, humans have been terrified and fascinated by the diseases history and circumstance have dropped on them. Some of their responses to those outbreaks are almost too strange to believe. Read about the gruesome, morbid details of some of the worst plagues we've suffered as a species. 2017.

February 20, 2024

DB 90603

Mozart's Starling by Lyanda Lynn Haupt

The author, a birder, explores the natural history of the starling, considered by many to be an invasive species. Describes her own experiences with rescuing a baby starling and recounts the stories of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who kept a starling as a pet after encountering it in a Viennese shop. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

March 19, 2024

DB 107538, BR 24813

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

In the early 1960s, chemist Elizabeth Zott has a lot of challenges as the only woman on her team at Hastings Research Institute. She falls for colleague Calvin Evans, but the double standards of the day eventually have her looking for a new chapter outside academia, hosting a television cooking show. Basis for the Apple TV+ series. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

New Kentucky Books

DBC 15932 A Kentucky Christmas edited by George Ella Lyon

A collection of literary short stories, poems, book excerpts, and memoirs about the Christmas season, from Kentucky authors such as Wendell Berry, James Still, Harry Caudill, Jesse Stuart, and Bobbie Ann Mason. 2003.

DBC 15936 The Lucky Ones by Tiffany Reisz

After being dumped by her lover, Allison learns her former foster father, brain surgeon Dr. Vincent Capello, is dying. Allison loved him and her foster siblings until a serious accident caused her abrupt departure from their home. She travels to the Oregon coast to see Dr. Capello and quickly reconnects with Roland, who she now sees as more than a brother. She suspects her accident 13 years ago was an attempt on her life and is curious to find out what really happened—but wonders if she may still be in danger. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2018.

DBC 15974 The Cumberland Bride: Daughters of the Mayflower, Book 5

by Shannon McNear

Katerina "Kate" Gruener and her family leave Bean's Station, Tennessee in 1794 to settle in the Kentucky frontier. Thomas Bledsoe, who once lived among the native Shawnee, is the scout hired to lead the group and along the Wilderness Road, where there have been reports of Indian attacks. A series of mishaps throws Kate and Thomas together, and they develop feelings for one another. But when they are captured by Shawnee, even Thomas may not be able to save them. 2018.

DBC 15984 Whiskey & Ribbons by Leesa Cross-Smith

Eamon, a police officer, is killed in the line of duty weeks before the birth of his son, Noah. In the months that follow, his wife Evi and adoptive brother Dalton find solace in their shared grief and begin to explore the possibility of a life together. The storyline alternates between the perspectives of present day Evi and Dalton, snowed in together during a blizzard, and of Eamon in the months leading up to his death. Strong language and descriptions of sex. 2018.

DBC 17571 Death by Drama: A Josiah Reynolds Mystery, Book 11

by Abigail Keam

Josiah joins an amateur theater group as wardrobe mistress for something to do after her potential boyfriend Hunter stops calling. The troupe performs at various venues around town, and when it plans a performance at Hunter's home, Josiah thinks it is the perfect way to get closer to him. That is before the play's star is murdered during rehearsal and Josiah's good friend Franklin is charged with the crime. The situation calls for backup, and Josiah's daughter Asa soon arrives on the scene to lend her mysterious skills. 2018.

DBC 17678 Death by Stalking: A Josiah Reynolds Mystery, Book 12

by Abigail Keam

Josiah has been depressed, but there is nothing like a murder to bring her back to her old self. At the annual Bluegrass Antique Auction and Ball she discovers her friend and neighbor Rosie standing over the bloody body of Gage Cagle. He had threatened and menaced Rosie for years, and it seems she had put an end to it. But Rosie claims she didn't do it, and Josiah's daughter Asa finds mischief afoot in the antiques world. Some strong language. 2019.

DBC 17572 The Search: The Secrets of Crittenden County, Book 2

By Shelley Shepard Gray

Cincinnati detective Luke Reynolds is still investigating the murder of Perry Borntrager in Marion KY, but he has found resistance from the tightly knit Amish community. After innkeeper Frannie Eicher is injured in an accident, the two develop an attraction to one another. But Frannie is Amish--as well as a possible suspect. 2012.

DBC 17584 Found: The Secrets of Crittenden County, Book 3

by Shelley Shepard Gray

Perry's ex-friend Jacob explores a developing relationship with Perry's sister Deborah while the police question their movements on the day of Perry Borntrager's murder. Couples Walker and Lydia, and Luke and Frannie discover solutions as the Marion KY Amish and English find ways to share their lives and heal the community. 2012.

DBC 17575 Daughter of the Legend by Jesse Stuart

Lumberjack Dave Stoneking and his lifelong friend Ben come to Cantwell County TN for a timber job. While in town for supplies, he falls in love at first sight with Deutsia Huntoon, and she with him. But Deutsia is Melungeon; she and her kin face discrimination in town so they stick to themselves on Sanctuary Mountain. Despite strong opposition—even from Ben—Dave follows his heart. He and Deutsia start a life together on the mountain and he grows to love her people and their ways. Some strong language. 1965.

DBC 17589 A Bound Heart by Laura Frantz

Lark McDougall tends the castle stillroom on the small Scottish Isle of Kerrera where childhood friend Magnus is the laird. She is being courted by another man, but her heart prefers Magnus, even though he is married. A tragic incident results in both being transported to America as indentured servants. The journey is harrowing, and Lark acquires an orphaned baby to care for along the way. Once in Virginia she longs for her home in Scotland--and for Magnus, who has been sent to a plantation in Jamaica. The narrator has a native Scots accent. 2018.

DBC 17592 The Land of Long Ago by Eliza Calvert Hall

An unnamed narrator recounts tales told by her Aunt Jane, who shares her wit and wisdom about friends, neighbors, and the days of her youth in and around her small Kentucky town. Some of her opinions and insights are as relevant and entertaining today as they were over 100 years ago. Sequel to Aunt Jane of Kentucky, DBC 17593. 1909.

DBC 17594 All the Forgivenesses by Elizabeth Hardinger

1906, Galena KY. Though only 6, Bertie Winslow must care for her younger brother. More and more responsibilities are forced upon her as the family moves to Missouri and her parents neglect their duty. By the time she is 15, she is overwhelmed with 4 children and a derelict farm. Practical Bertie decides her only choice is to get married. She finds a good man, and although she is strong and resourceful, she suffers heartaches and grief as the years go by. 2019.

DBC 17596 Who Killed Betty Gail Brown: Murder, Mistrial, and Mystery

By Robert G. Lawson

In the early morning hours of October 26, 1961, a Transylvania University sophomore was found dead in her car, strangled to death with her own brassiere. Kentuckians were intrigued by the sensational killing, but there were no arrests until 4 years later, when an alcoholic drifter confessed to the murder. The author is one of the 2 defense attorneys on the case and has reconstructed the events that lead to one of the most notorious cold cases in the commonwealth. 2017.

DBC 17632 The Zookeeper's Daughter by Virginia Smith

Kelli Jackson has been estranged from her zookeeper mother since she went to live with her grandmother as the result of a childhood trauma. After her mother's death, she is shocked to discover the amount of the estate--and the stipulation that Kelli must work as a zookeeper for 6 months to claim it. Kelli hates zoos and has avoided animals all her life. But then the animals--and the handsome new zoo director--begin to grow on her as she gradually comes to terms with her past. 2019.

DBC 17679 Ain't She a Peach: A Southern Eclectic Novel, Book 2 by Molly Harper

Frankie McCready is unconventional. She's got purple hair, a quirky wardrobe, and is the mortician at the McCready Family Funeral Home and Bait Shop in Lake Sackett, GA. As a child, she survived a bout with cancer, leaving her parents extremely overprotective. She longs to move out of their house to live on her own--especially now there is something going on between her and the new sheriff. It can't be a relationship. They fight all the time and she doesn't DO relationships. Besides Halloween is coming and she is busy trying to thwart her teenaged nemesis from breaking into the funeral home. Descriptions of sex. 2018.

DBC 17680 Gimme Some Sugar: A Southern Eclectic Novel, Book 3

by Molly Harper

Duffy McCready is the only one of the cousins in his close-knit family without a significant other. All he has is his horrible ex-wife who shows up for a booty call whenever she gets dumped. That changes when recently-widowed Lucy Garten moves back to town to open a bakery. Duffy and Lucy were best friends as kids and he secretly harbored deeper feelings for her, but they each married others and lost touch. Is it possible Lucy could feel the same about him while trying to open a new business and keep her small son out of the clutches of her overbearing mother-in-law? Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2019.

DBC 24583 The Hidden History of Kentucky Political Scandals

By Robert Schrage and John Schaaf

In 1826, Governor Desha pardoned his own son for murder. In a horrific crime, Governor Goebel was assassinated in 1900. James Wilkinson was branded a traitor against Kentucky and the nation. "Honest Dick Tate" ran away with massive amounts of money from the state treasury. In modern times, Operation BOPTROT resulted in perhaps the biggest scandal in the state. At various points in history, Kentucky's politics and government have been rocked by scandal, and each episode defined the era in which it happened. In this book, Robert Schrage and John Schaaf offer a fascinating account of Kentucky's history and its many unique and scandalous characters. 2020.

Thank You for Your Support

On behalf of all our Talking Book patrons, we want to thank everyone who made donations to our program in 2023. We cannot list them all individually but wish to extend a public **THANK YOU!**

We also wish to thank those who sent in personal notes and letters of support. Our staff really enjoy reading them and they motivate us in our daily work. We share them anonymously in our federal reports as examples of the positive impact our program has had on its users. Please keep them coming!

If you would like to send a donation or thank you note, please make the check out to Kentucky Talking Book Library and mail it to the address below. We will send a thank you letter you can use for tax purposes.

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