



# Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter August 2022

## NLS Patron Corner

While KTBL provides direct service to braille and talking book users in Kentucky, we are part of a nationwide network of libraries administered by a branch of the Library of Congress called the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled—commonly referred to as NLS. As part of its mission to offer services, resources, and programs to enrich the library experience for patrons, the NLS Patron Engagement Section began hosting a quarterly virtual event, called **Patron Corner**, where patrons can learn about various topics directly from NLS staff. The first meeting had Collections Division staff talk about how books were selected for the NLS collection.

The next meeting will be Monday, September 12, at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time and will run for 90 minutes. The topic for this session is Narration: The Art of Telling the Story. The guest speakers will include Celeste Lawson, narrator and head of the NLS Media Lab, and other NLS narrators. The meeting will use Zoom, so you can join by computer or telephone. Don't worry—you don't have to speak. All attendees will be muted unless they want to ask a question. To join by phone, dial +1 669 254 5252 and enter passcode 164674 when prompted. KTBL will share links to join by computer on Facebook and Twitter, or you can call or email us for instructions. Be sure to listen in for some great behind-the-scenes information!

Photo Caption: NLS narrator Laura Giannarelli records a book in the NLS studio, 2020.



## The Many Faces of BARD

Beginning August 11, 2022, the Patron Engagement Section will offer a monthly program called **The Many Faces of BARD**. This program will occur on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. It will last for one hour and will cover one aspect of BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) usage. Each program will start with a brief presentation. The remainder of the time will be spent answering questions about the presentation or other questions related to BARD usage. NLS will announce the topic for the next presentation at the end of each program. The first presentation will provide an overview of all the available BARD products.

BARD is the fastest and easiest way to get books—especially if you have a smartphone or tablet. Choose the titles you want when you want them with no waiting for the mail and no due date. If you have not tried downloading books from BARD, this is your chance to learn more about it. These sessions are open to all patrons, from the completely inexperienced to technological wizards. Attendees will be muted upon entering, so you do not have to speak—but you may ask a question if you like. You may join by telephone by dialing 1-669-245-5252 and entering the passcode 489758 when prompted. You may join by computer using this link <https://loc.zoomgov.com/j/1611161911?pwd=bVh5ejFsWFBIL21KY0VqaHIRMUISQTO9>. KTBL will share login info on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

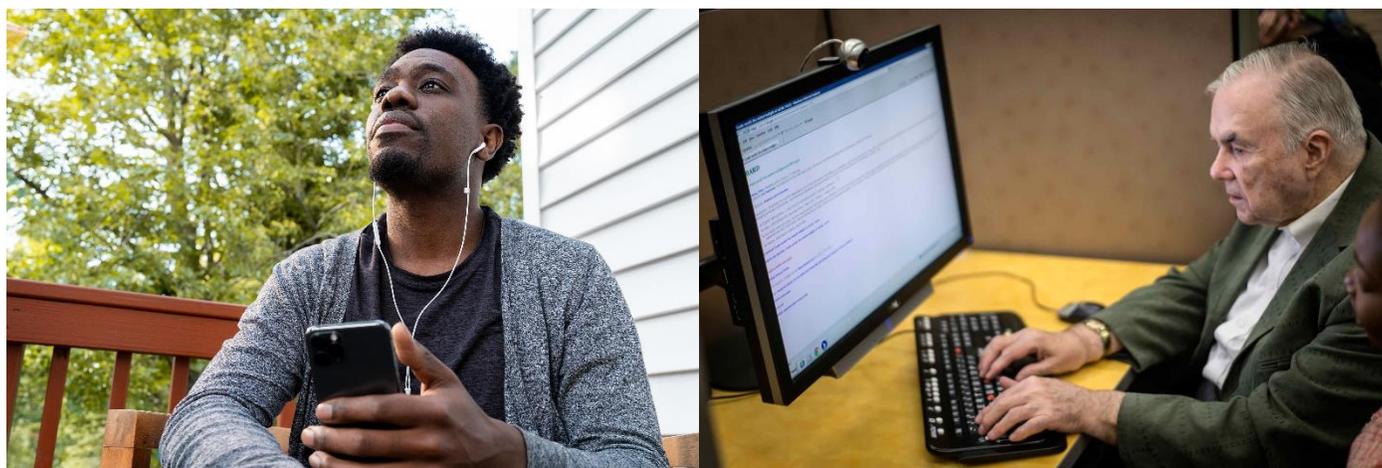


Photo Captions: Left—a young man sits outdoors on a deck, holding a smartphone and listening through earbuds. Right—a senior man sits at a desk, using a computer that shows the BARD website on the screen.

## Attention braille readers!

Do you have a favorite braille book that you want to read over and over? Do you have a cookbook, knitting book, or other reference book that you want to refer to whenever you want? NLS has launched a **Braille on Demand** program that allows braille readers to request and receive a braille book to keep. This will not affect your regular braille circulation but is a way to get your own copy of those extra special books that you love. Each active braille patron is limited to 1 book per month and books must be available in electronic braille on the BARD download website. You may call KTBL to request a title, or you may fill out an online form to request it yourself at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLSbrailleondemand>.

## Book Selection

Due to paper supply-chain issues, NLS has discontinued the large print version of the **Talking Book Topics (TBT)** catalog. However, it is still produced every other month in a variety of formats. Here are your options for accessing the catalog and choosing books. No matter which method you use, you are always welcome to mail, phone, or email your requests to us. You may list your requests on any piece of paper or contact us to get an order form—just be sure to include your name on it. (Contact KTBL to request audio, braille, or Newsline options.)

1. **Online**—if you or family members have internet access, *Talking Book Topics* is available online at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/latest-books-in-braille-and-audio/talking-book-topics-bimonthly-magazine/>. You can even download a printable order form.
2. **Audio cartridge**—TBT can be loaded onto a cartridge along with your regular books. Call or email KTBL to request it.
3. **BARD**—those who use BARD to download books can also download the audio version of *Talking Book Topics*. On the BARD Main page, click Find Magazines and Other Materials.
4. **Braille Book Review**—if you can read braille, you may subscribe to *Braille Book Review*. It lists both braille and Talking Books but has shorter descriptions than TBT. It is also available online and on BARD.
5. **NFB Newsline®**—*Talking Book Topics* is available to Newsline users. Newsline uses synthesized speech to read a variety of newspapers and periodicals. It is accessible by telephone, online, mobile app, and other methods. Contact KTBL to sign up.
6. **Autoselect**—your librarian will run a computer program to pick books by your favorite authors or in your reading interests. Contact KTBL to update your likes.

## What's It All About?

You may have noticed some changes in the **book descriptions** that appear on BARD, in the online and audio Talking Book Topics catalogs, and in the book opening announcements. In May, NLS started using book descriptions provided by the book publisher instead of writing them from scratch. Some of them may be very descriptive, some not so much. The advantage is that most are longer, and they provide the same information that is routinely used by other libraries and book providers. This new process is also more streamlined so NLS can produce more materials for you to read. NLS is aware that some descriptions are cut off in BARD and they are working to correct the problem so you can read the entire description.

## From the KTBL Studio



Photo Caption: KTBL volunteer narrator Lane Jacobs sits inside a recording booth wearing headphones and speaking into a microphone. She is reading from a script on a stand in front of her. In the left foreground is a partial shot of a computer screen showing sound wave files and Studio Manager Brian Bertucci's arm and hand as he operates the recording software.

The Kentucky Talking Book Library's recording studio reopened in May after being closed for 2 years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our volunteers were very glad to be back at work and we were able to complete 4 new books. For the safety of our staff and volunteers, the studio is only open if both Franklin County and the volunteer's home county are green on the map of Kentucky Covid-19 Community Levels by County. Unfortunately, rising Covid-19 levels caused us to put the studio on hiatus again in July. Meanwhile, we continue to work on converting old tape recordings to digital format so they will be available for years to come.

## **New Kentucky Books**

### **DBC 08459 Let Me Die in his Footsteps**

By Lori Roy

In 1936, siblings Dale and Juna set out to work in the tobacco fields, but only Juna made it home. Juna has an evil nature and no one trusts her, especially not her sister Sarah, but her account of Dale's kidnapping still manages to set off a string of events that ends with a man hanged. Years later, in 1952, Sarah's daughter Annie is celebrating her ascension to womanhood when the past comes back to haunt everyone. The more Annie learns about her own past, the clearer it is that justice was not carried out in 1936. Some descriptions of sex. 2015.

### **DBC 15975 Cake and Punishment: A Southern Cake Baker's Mystery, Book 1**

By Maymee Bell

Sophia Cummings, a pastry chef in New York City, caught her boyfriend with another woman and has come home to Rumford, Kentucky. A high school friend is getting married, and Sophia offers to make the wedding cake when the baker cancels. Then the country club's disagreeable head chef, Emile, is found murdered with a skillet. Sophia offers her help with the kitchen and with the investigation and finds herself at odds with Carter, the handsome sheriff. Contains recipes. Some strong language. 2018.

### **DBC 15992 The Choir Director Wore Out: A Liturgical Mystery, Book 15**

By Mark Schweizer

St. Barnabas gets a new priest named Gassy Moneyduck, who is also a famous mystery writer willing to help Police Chief Hayden Konig solve murders--and admire his Raymond Chandler typewriter. When a St. Germaine citizen dies of cancer, no one suspects foul play until threatening notes appear. Then another person dies--but was it a heart attack or hunting accident? When a third death occurs at the local Renaissance Fair, Hayden and his team must try to find the connection and the culprit. But this case may remain unsolved. 2018.

### **DBC 15994 Underground**

By Jean Ferris

1839. Sixteen-year-old slave Charlotte Brown is sold and sent to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky where she is to be a maid at the hotel. Her new life is good. The work is not difficult, the owner leaves them alone, and she likes the other slaves she works with--especially Stephen Bishop, a cave guide and explorer. Still, she resents being owned. After becoming involved in helping runaway slaves, Charlotte enlists Stephen to hide them in the cave. Despite her growing feelings for Stephen, she wonders if she too has the courage to run North to freedom. Based on actual people who worked at the cave. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 2007.

## Join the Club

The **KTBL Book Club** is going strong. Each month members all read the same book, then meet to discuss it. Meetings are on Zoom, so you simply 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. 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:

August 16

### **DB 97966 Hill Women: Finding Family and a Way Forward in the Appalachian Mountains**

by Cassie Chambers

Drawing on her own journey as well as those of her fellow women from the Kentucky Appalachians, the author paints a portrait of life in that region. Discusses child marriage, young motherhood, subsistence farming, education, domestic violence, poverty, the opioid crisis, and community leadership. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

September 20

### **DB 51057, BR 12975 Persuasion**

By Jane Austen

Austen's last novel is a temperate comedy of manners. At twenty-seven, a woman regrets that, persuaded by her elders, she had broken her engagement to the navy captain she loved at nineteen. When she and her father are forced to rent their family home and move to Bath, she meets her former love again. 1816.

October 18

### **DB 25835, 12173 Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus**

By Mary Shelley

Classic horror story. A monster, endowed with life by a young scientist named Frankenstein, later turns on his creator. Originally published in 1818.

November 15

### **DB 52564, BR 13679 The Ox-Bow Incident**

By Walter Van Tilburg Clark

Nevada, 1885. Wrangler Art Croft reluctantly joins a group of citizens in a small town who hastily form a posse to catch murdering cattle rustlers. Three men are accused of the crime and, although there are some doubts about their guilt, lynched. Introduction by Wallace Stegner. Some violence and some strong language. 1940.

December 20

**DB 101117, BR 21874 The Hate U Give**

by Angie Thomas

When sixteen-year-old Starr Carter witnesses the fatal shooting by a police officer of her childhood best friend, Khalil, she is afraid to speak out. But remaining quiet and safe is difficult with rising tensions between the police and the community. Violence and strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2017.

**KTBL Newsletter Formats**

This will be the last issue of the KTBL Newsletter to automatically be loaded onto every book cartridge. Thanks to an upgrade to our computer system, we can now treat the newsletter like any other book. When a new issue is ready, we will add a request for it to your account, and it will be sent to you only once.

By the way, this newsletter is available in large print, audio, braille, and email formats. It is the best way to notify all patrons about news affecting braille and talking book service. Some issues also contain a survey or lists of recommended reading. Contact KTBL if you would like to subscribe to the braille or large print format. All patrons who receive audio books will receive the audio version; all patrons with an email address will receive the email version.



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Kentucky Department for  
Libraries and Archives

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