



Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter October 2020

Braille eReader Pilot

The Kentucky Talking Book Library is one of four libraries selected by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled to test a new braille eReader. This is a refreshable braille device that allows KTBL to ship braille books to patrons on a USB cartridge, the same as we do with Talking Books. Users transfer the braille books from a cartridge to their eReader, or they can use it to download books directly from BARD. The 3x6" eReader can hold nearly the same amount of braille books as we have in our entire library!

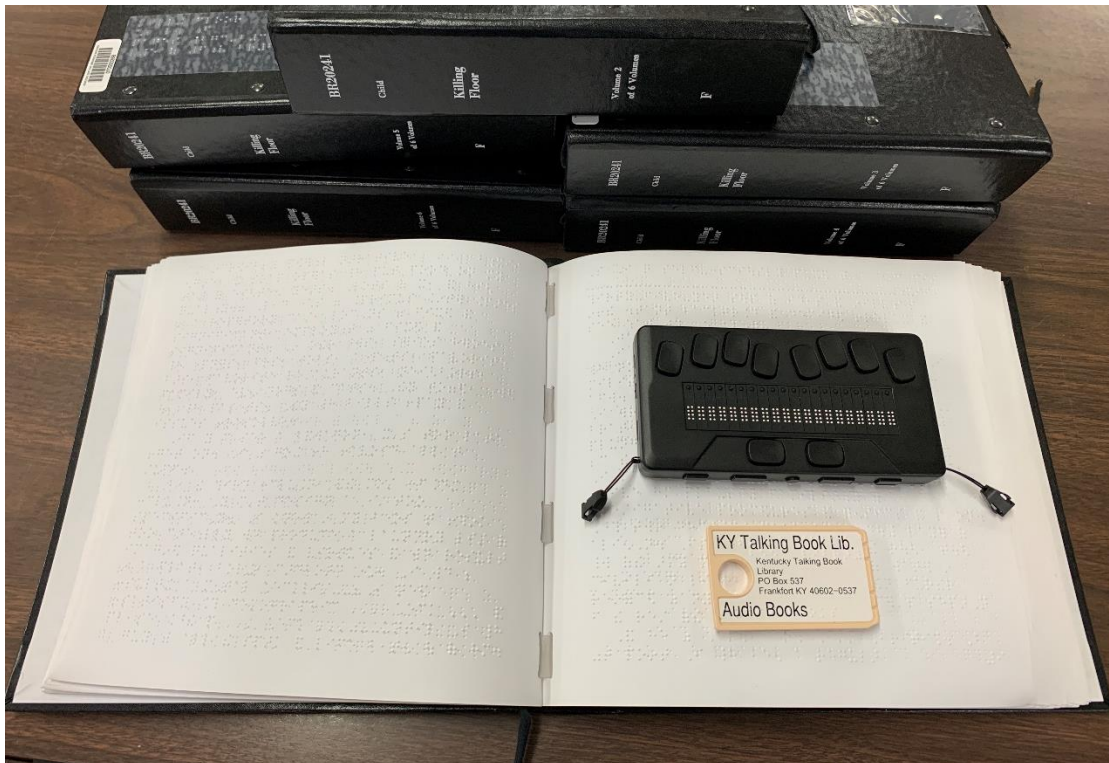


Photo caption: a Humanware eReader and a sample cartridge sit atop an open braille book with five braille volumes stacked behind it. The eReader is only about a quarter of the size of the braille page.

The device KTBL is testing is made by Humanware. It has a Perkins-style keyboard, an 8-dot, 20-cell braille display, and comes with a protective carrying case and lanyard. KTBL began enrolling braille patrons in the pilot in early September, and assigned 65 eReaders by month's end. Librarian Tracey Mania is the project manager; she has called each patron to explain the eReader pilot, given a registration survey, and has provided customer support answering questions and problem solving. Because none of the KTBL staff read braille, any problems Tracey cannot solve will be passed to NLS for assistance.

The purpose of the pilot is not only to test the functionality of this particular device, but to test ebraille circulation and how easy or difficult it is to use for patrons with all technical abilities—from novice to advanced. NLS will survey each participant after 2, 4, and 6 months of use to find what works and what needs improvement before determining how to move forward with national distribution.

Tracey has enjoyed speaking with patrons and learning more about them, but has experienced difficulty reaching others whose contact information is out of date. If you can read braille, we want your help—especially if you have never used a refreshable braille device and think it might be too hard to use. Call KTBL at 800-372-2968 and ask for Tracey, or email her at tracey.mania@ky.gov to enroll. Your assistance now may benefit braille readers across the country in the future!

KTBL Update

Kentucky Talking Book Library staff remain safe and healthy, and most continue to telecommute from home. Two librarians are available each day to take phone calls and provide customer service. Janet reports to KTBL daily, and Tracey and Susan take turns working in the office on alternate weeks. If possible, try not to call between 12 and 1, as there is usually only one person available during lunch hours.

Gary has not missed a day of work since the Covid pandemic began, so you have him to thank for getting your books checked in and out. Michael comes in as needed to repair and ship machines and accessories. Though our building remains closed to the public, Brian stays busy at home with post-production and conversion work while the studio is on hiatus. Barbara works in the office on Thursdays and Jeff has stayed busy with his State Library duties, so has not been available to answer KTBL phones.

Safety First

Our number one priority during the Covid pandemic is the safety of our patrons and staff. All employees must wear a mask to enter the building, have their temperature taken upon entry, and fill out a daily form stating that we do not have any Covid symptoms. Masks are worn and social distancing practiced whenever we leave our desks, and some desks have been moved farther apart. Many staff have even taken advantage of free monthly Covid testing for state employees.

Safety applies to our audio and braille books, as well. We check in returned braille and talking books upon arrival. Staff wear rubber gloves when handling them, and they clean work surfaces afterward. Then the books are placed in a quarantine area for seven days before being checked out to another patron or returned to the shelf. This quarantine time is based on the result of tests performed by a partnership between the Institute of Museum and Library Services, OCLC (a company that provides services to libraries), and Battelle (a science and technology research organization). While we feel that materials are safe when they leave our library, we cannot account for what happens in shipping, so please be diligent about your own safety and wash those hands often!

From the KTBL Studio

The following is a list of audio books recorded by the Kentucky Talking Book Library during the past year or so. All are available by mail or by download from the BARD website or BARD Mobile. Use the enclosed order form, call 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791, or email Ktbl.mail@ky.gov to order.

DBC 08449 COURTHOUSE TRAGEDY: POLITICS, MURDER, AND REDEMPTION IN A SMALL KENTUCKY TOWN By Sid Easley

In 1921 women are able to vote for the first time, and John T. Roach is elected sheriff of Graves County, KY. Within months of taking office, he is shot and killed in front of witnesses by Sam Galloway, one of his deputies. The author describes life in rural KY at the time, the election, and the legal proceedings--including the appointment of Kentucky's first female sheriff and three trials. He also recounts the personal aftermath of the shooting for the families involved. 2013. 9h 25m.

DBC 08466 HEAD OFF & SPLIT: POEMS

By Nikky Finney

Nikky Finney was a professor of creative writing at UK when she was awarded The 2011 National Book Award for Poetry for this volume of her work. These 25 poems are expressions of race, history, and sexuality from the perspective of an African-American woman. With a careful crafting of words, she creates dialogues with figures such as Rosa Parks, Condoleezza Rice, a woman trapped on a rooftop during Hurricane Katrina, and her mother waltzing with SC Senator Strom Thurmond. 2011.

DBC 08479 GRANTED: MAY HOLLOW TRILOGY, BOOK 3

By Angela Correll

Annie Taylor is making wedding plans with fiancé Jake, and her grandmother Beulah is looking forward to taking over the Somerville KY community dinner. But a new job and Annie's unreliable father are difficult to plan around, while a falling out with a friend and neighbor causes difficulties for Beulah. They are both looking forward to a visit from their new Italian relatives, but Beulah wonders whether her nephew is entitled to her farm. 2017.

DBC 08487 MANY-STORIED HOUSE: POEMS

By George Ella Lyon

This collection of poems by the former Kentucky Poet Laureate was inspired by the house her grandfather built. The sixty-eight poems are modeled on the house's floor plan, as well as the thoughts and memories associated with each room. 2013. 1h 15m.

DBC 08491 SINGING FAMILY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

By Jean Ritchie

Jean Ritchie was born the youngest of 14 children in Viper, KY and went on to become a famous folk musician who performed around the world. In this memoir, she describes growing up in an Appalachian household where song was woven into daily life. The Ritchie family actively preserved the folk songs that had been in their family for generations, dating back to 1700's Great Britain. Contains lyrics and brief musical notations for 42 songs, and illustrations by Maurice Sendak. Originally published 1955. 8h 3m.

DBC 08492 UNCLE WILL OF WILDWOOD: NINETEENTH CENTURY LIFE IN THE BLUEGRASS

By Frances Jewell McVey and Robert Berry Jewell
William W. Goddard was a prosperous horse breeder and farmer whose colorful antics became family and community legend. His grandniece and nephew recount tales of his breakneck races into town, his uncanny horse-sense, and how he ruled every aspect of Wildwood, his estate near Harrodsburg. Also illustrates country life in the late 1800s, including crops, social customs, and county fairs. Introduction by Dr. Thomas D. Clark. Some strong language. Originally published 1974. 3h 17m.

DBC 08493 KENTUCKY MOONSHINE

By David W. Maurer

The history of moonshine, or illegally made whiskey, goes back to colonial times when small farmers found they could transport it to market more easily than corn. This book covers not only the history of moonshine, but how it is made, its relationship to law enforcement and legitimate distillers, and even the vocabulary used by those who make it and smuggle it. Contains some strong language. 1974. 4h 46m.

DBC 08494 GHOSTS, SPIRITS & ANGELS: TRUE TALES FROM KENTUCKY AND BEYOND

By Thomas L. Freese

Ghosts aren't just spooky characters that appear on Halloween. The author has collected 139 stories of paranormal encounters from real people, told in their own words. They feature ghosts of loved ones, unknown entities, and helpful benevolent spirits. While many of the experiences are positive, some are frightening and others are humorous. 2009. 14h 33m.

DBC 08495 APPALACHIAN VALUES

By Loyal Jones

The author, a former Director of the Appalachian Center at Berea College, wrote an essay to counteract negative Appalachian stereotypes with positive images. He expanded that essay into this short book, and added photos of people and places that exemplify the region. Some of the values discussed are independence, neighborliness, love of place, and sense of humor. 1994. 55m.

DBC 15902 LYRIC WORE LYCRA: A LITURGICAL MYSTERY, BOOK 14

By Mark Schweizer

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church is gearing up for Lent, and Police Chief Hayden Konig is still plugging away on Raymond Chandler's typewriter while he and Meg anticipate the birth of their child. After Friends-of-Ducks protesters picket The Slab Café, one is found strangled in the town square. Hayden and the rest of the eccentric town of St. Germaine are off on another case. 2017. 6h 25m.

DBC 15903 DEATH BY DESIGN: A JOSIAH REYNOLDS MYSTERY, BOOK 9

By Abigail Keam

Josiah and her friends have all donated vintage evening gowns for a museum exhibit on couture, and are gearing up for the ritzy opening when an acquaintance asks for Josiah's help. Bunny Witt feels that someone has been searching her home, where an ancestor is rumored to have hidden a fortune in jewels. Josiah, recently reunited with best friend Matt and his new baby, is reluctant to get involved. Nevertheless, she finds herself on yet another case. Some strong language. 2016. 5h 35m.

DBC 15904 DEATH BY MALICE: A JOSIAH REYNOLDS MYSTERY, BOOK 10

By Abigail Keam

Josiah Reynolds's neighbor, artist Sandy Sloan, comes to her door one morning to ask Josiah to keep her dog for a while. Later that day, Sandy's house burns and her clothes are found at the cliff side. Her husband is also missing. Is she an arsonist or a victim? The man investigating the fire, Hunter Wickliffe, turns out to be the brother of Josie's friend Franklin. Although they get off on a rocky start, he and Josie soon become close. Some strong language. 2017. 4h 35m.

DBC 15905 WHAT YOU ARE GETTING WRONG ABOUT APPALACHIA

By Elizabeth Catte

After the presidential election of 2016 and the success of Hillbilly Elegy, Appalachia was portrayed as the epicenter of white woe. It is not as homogeneous as we have been led to believe, and is not the only place where its problems occur. The author points out who benefits from painting the region according to stereotypes, and celebrates lives, actions, and legacies of those ignored by mass media coverage. 2018. 5h.

DBC 15906 LIAR'S BENCH

By Kim Michele Richardson

1972, Peckinpaw KY. Mudás Summers lives with her father, while her mother is involved in an abusive marriage. The day Mudás turns seventeen, her mother is found hanged, and the sheriff rules it a suicide. Mudás knows her mother would never kill herself, and suspects her stepfather. She and her new boyfriend try to discover the truth and become exposed to dangerous and corrupt men, as well as racism and ramifications from a 100-year-old crime. Contains some strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. 2015. 8h 43m.

DBC 15907 GHOSTLY GRAVE: A GHOSTLY SOUTHERN MYSTERY, BOOK 2

By Tonya Kappes

“Chicken” Teater has been dead for four years, but won't leave funeral director Emma Lee Raines alone. He insists he was murdered, but doesn't know how or why, except it might have something to do with his prize hen, Lady Cluckington. To get rid of his ghost, Emma must solve the crime without disrupting the Annual Kentucky Cave Festival—or her relationship with the sheriff. Some strong language. 2013, 2015. 4h 51m.

DBC 15908 WHOLE SKY

By Heather Henson

Twelve-year-old Sky Doran can talk to horses. During the foaling season, she and her dad work at Shaughnessy Farms, where Sky can hear and feel what the mares need. But this year is different; Sky's mother recently passed away, and her dad is not the same. Then disaster strikes the farm and even Sky's special ability may not be enough to help. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2017. 5h 20m.

DBC 15910 BLUEGRASS BLUSH

By Carolyn Bond

Everleigh Anderson is 35, frumpy, and sadly single. She envies those who have beauty, love, and families of their own. One night, while visiting an inn in Versailles, KY, she is magically transported to 1888 and into the body of a 20-year-old hottie! After meeting handsome Malcolm Steel, she never wants to return to her old life. But Malcom is hiding something, and Everleigh learns she is betrothed to a vile man. 2016. 6h 50m.

DBC 15911 SOUTHERNMOST

By Silas House

Years ago, Asher Sharp turned away from his brother because Luke was gay, and Asher was a rural Tennessee evangelical preacher. After preaching acceptance to his conservative congregation, Asher is accused of having a mental breakdown, is fired from his church, and his intolerant wife seeks full custody of their nine-year-old son. Asher cannot bear the thought of losing Justin, so he takes him and flees to Key West in search of his brother. Some strong language. 2018. 8h 13m.

DBC 15914 WHEN DEATH DRAWS NEAR

By Carrie Stuart Parks

Broke and out of work, forensic artist Gwen Marcey travels to Pikeville, KY to help solve a series of rapes. Local law enforcement is not very cooperative, and it is not long before Gwen is threatened by persons unknown. She stays with a wealthy couple with political aspirations, is asked to infiltrate a religious group that uses poisonous snakes in their worship, and doesn't know who she can trust. When her daughter comes to join her, the danger doubles. Some violence. 2016. 8h 29m.

DBC 15924 POGUE'S WAR: DIARIES OF A WWII COMBAT HISTORIAN

By Forrest C. Pogue

Forrest Pogue grew up in Crittenden County, KY, earned a Ph.D. in European History, became fluent in French, and was chosen to serve as a combat historian to document WWII. He kept diaries and interviewed soldiers during D-Day, Heurtgan Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, and through the end of the war. He later became a well-respected historian. His niece's husband published his diaries posthumously in 2001. 14h 23m.

DBC 15925 HIDDEN HISTORY OF KENTUCKY IN THE CIVIL WAR

By Berry Craig

Kentucky's motto is "United We Stand, Divided We Fall", yet the Bluegrass State was split by the Civil War. A notable example is the fact that it was the birthplace of both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis--leaders of the Union and the Confederacy. These stories, most not found in other sources, illustrate that the Civil War truly was a "brother's war" in Kentucky. 2010. 4h 52m.

DBC 15926 CONSPIRACY OF STARS

By Olivia A. Cole

A ship of humans formed the colony of N'Terra on the planet Faloiv. It is the only home 16-year-old Octavia has known. She longs to become one of the scientists that study indigenous life to aid in the colony's survival and she seems to have a special empathy for both animals and plants. After becoming interns, she and her friends discover things are not the way they have been led to believe. Contains some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2018. 11h 31m.

DBC 15928 SWEET TEA AND SYMPATHY: A SOUTHERN ECLECTIC NOVEL

By Molly Harper

After an embarrassing public screw-up, Margot Cary has no place to go. She accepts a job from a distant relative she has never met, and moves from Chicago to rural Lake Sackett, GA to work at the family's funeral home and bait shop. She can't wait to get out of there and return to city life, especially since she must work with her estranged father. But being part of a large family starts to grow on her--and so does the local elementary school principal. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2017. 8h 35m.

DBC 15929 LAST TEMPTATION OF RICK PITINO: A STORY OF CORRUPTION, SCANDAL, AND THE BIG BUSINESS OF COLLEGE BASKETBALL

By Michael Sokolove

When the FBI announced the results of an investigation into payoffs involving coaches, student-athletes, and big name companies, Coach Rick Pitino and U of L were front and center in the scandal. However, this is just one example of the widespread problem of greed and unscrupulous characters infesting college sports and amateur athletics. Strong language. 2018. 8h 34m.

DBC 15930 HOLLY JOLLY SUMMER

By Tiffany Steward

Fifteen-year-old Darby Peacher loves being the Mayor's daughter in Christmas KY and helping her father run the town and its holiday-themed summer festivities. After a humiliating disaster, she is forced to get a job as a sanitation worker at dilapidated Holly Jolly Land. If that weren't bad enough, her new boyfriend is out of town, a former male friend is her boss, the town risks becoming too commercial, and her father grows chummy with a female colleague. For young adult and older readers. 2018. 6h 46m.

DBC 15949 RIVER TO REDEMPTION

By Ann H. Gabhart

1833, Springfield, KY. Cholera takes the lives of many townsfolk, including seven-year-old Adria's parents, and newlywed Ruth's husband. Louis, a local slave, buries the dead and brings Adria to Ruth to raise. Years later, a charming drifter and a new minister come to town, while the death of Louis's owner causes them all to fear what his future holds. 2018. 9h 34m.

DBC 15952 WEST: A NOVEL

By Carys Davies

Frontier Pennsylvania. Cy Bellman learns that colossal ancient bones were discovered in Kentucky. He feels the creatures still exist and he journeys west to find them, eventually gaining a young Indian guide. Meanwhile, his 10-year-old daughter Bess is left with only her stern aunt, her father's mules, and a neighbor who helps on the farm. She misses her father and attracts the wrong kind of attention while waiting for his return. Some violence. 2018. 3h 42m.

DBC 15955 MY HEART AND OTHER BLACK HOLES

By Jasmine Warga

Ever since sixteen-year-old Aysel's father committed a terrible act in their small KY town, she has been an outcast at school and feels ignored and rejected by her mother and half-sister. She wants to kill herself, and joins an online suicide forum. She is matched with Roman, who is riddled with guilt after a family tragedy. The two grow closer as they develop a plan, but Aysel begins to have doubts. 2015. 7h 42m.

Order Form

Check the book numbers you want and cut or tear this page from the newsletter. Fold so our address shows, tape closed, and mail. No postage is necessary. You may call to order at 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

DBC 08449

DBC 15908

DBC 08466

DBC 15910

DBC 08479

DBC 15911

DBC 08487

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DBC 15955

DBC 15906

DBC15907

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Kentucky Talking Book Library
PO Box 537
Frankfort KY 40602

Unused Digital Players

Do you have an unused digital talking book player taking up space in your home? Maybe you received a replacement player and have not gotten around to returning the old one. Maybe you have begun to use BARD Mobile and no longer use a digital player. The longer it sits unused, the more likely it will not work. Please help us get that extra machine to someone who needs it now! NLS is designing a new generation player, but it is still several years away. In the meantime, we need your help to keep machines available for those who need them.

Please return any unused digital talking book players to us, even if it does not work. Michael can fix it. If you do not have the box it came in, you can pack it in any box. Write "Free Matter for the Blind" in place of postage and address it to: KTBL, PO Box 537, Frankfort KY 40602. You can even call us at 800-372-2968 to request a pre-addressed mailing label to place on your box.

Did You Know?

When returning Talking Books, simply removed the mail card and throw it away. You do not need to place the card inside the container. When it arrives here, we scan the bar code on the cartridge and our system automatically checks it in to the correct account.

The Kentucky Talking Book Library newsletter is available in large print, braille, audio, and electronic formats. The electronic version is distributed by email, Facebook and Twitter, and appears on our website. The audio version is included on a cartridge along with your regular book circulation and is available through NFB Newsline ®. Contact KTBL to change your desired format.

The Holiday Season is upon us! KTBL will be closed the following dates, so please get special requests in early and allow plenty of time for mail. November 3—Election Day, November 11—Veteran's Day, November 26-27—Thanksgiving, December 24-25—Christmas, December 31-January 1—New Year.



This Newsletter was made possible by a generous donation from the Louisville Downtown Lion's Club. Learn more about Lions Club International at www.lionsclubs.org .



The Kentucky Talking Book Library is funded in part with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which administers the Library Services and Technology Act.

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