



# Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter October 2021

## **KTBL Book Club**

The Kentucky Talking Book Library launched its new KTBL Book Club in August with an organizational meeting. Since then we have met twice for enjoyable conversations about the book we all read. Why not join us?

The Book Club meets for an hour on the third Tuesday of every month at 3:30 PM Eastern Time. We use a platform called Zoom which allows those with a computer to join meetings by clicking on a link that we supply. Don't worry if you don't have a computer—you can also use your phone to join by dialing a toll-free number. Contact KTBL for instructions on how to participate in the discussion or simply listen in.

Here are the dates of upcoming meetings and the books we will discuss:

### **November 16**

#### **DB 92948 Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver**

One New Jersey house connects two families across time. In the present day, it is home to the Knox family, who question why the success promised to them has never materialized. In the 1800s, science teacher Thatcher Greenwood wonders why utopia eludes him. Some violence and some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

### **December 21**

#### **DB 92117 The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware**

Hal receives a mysterious letter bequeathing her a substantial inheritance. She realizes the letter was sent to the wrong person, but that the skills she's honed as a tarot card reader might help her claim the money. Attending the funeral, Hal learns something is very wrong. Some violence and strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

**January 18**

**DB 96370 The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott**

1956. Irina Drozdova is hired as a typist at the CIA. But she has been recruited for more. She is paired with experienced operative Sally Forrester to smuggle Boris Pasternak's opus, Doctor Zhivago (DB 75275), out of the USSR. But there are deeper games being played. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

**Looking for Something to Read?**

Normally this time of year we send you a list of the newest books recorded in our studio. However, the studio remains on hiatus until the Covid pandemic abates and it is safe for our volunteers to return to work. Here are a four books that have not yet appeared in a newsletter, along with several staff recommendations.

**DBC 15981 Hidden History of Western Kentucky**

By Berry Craig

Contains fifty or so short descriptions of the heroes, villains, places, and events that have contributed to Western Kentucky culture. Some are well-known, like doomed caver Floyd Collins, "Sleeping Prophet" Edgar Cayce, and John Scopes (of the famous "Monkey" trial). Most are more obscure, like Josiah Henson (who inspired Uncle Tom's Cabin) Jesse James' suicide attempt in Logan Co., and a mortal shootout between a sheriff and bootlegger in Mayfield. 2011.

**DBC 15991 Missing: The Secrets of Crittenden County, Book 1**

By Shelley Shepherd Gray

The body of Perry Borntrager, a young Amish man, is found in an abandoned well and Sheriff Mose Kramer brings in a detective from Cincinnati to help investigate. Perry's death brings together his former friend, Walker, and his former sweetheart Lydia. Now they turn to each other, especially once Lydia learns a secret about her family. The two spend more and more time together, despite the fact that he is Englisch and she is Amish. 2012.

**DBC 17560 Dream of Night**

By Heather Henson

Twelve-year-old Shiloh is taken yet again to a new foster home. This one may be her last before being sent to live in a state facility. Dream of Night is a former racehorse who has been severely abused. Both end up at the home of former horse trainer Jessalyn DeLima. Both are so hurt and angry Jess wonders that she may have made a mistake taking them in. But Shiloh and Night may be just what each other needs. For grades 5-8 and older readers. 2010.

### **DBC 17563 The Common Man: Poems**

By Maurice Manning

A collection of 39 poems, which together form a loose narrative honoring the beauty of the Kentucky mountain country the poet knew as a child, as well as the idiosyncratic adventures and personalities of people who were his neighbors, friends, and family. He creates a detailed, complex, and poignant portrait of a fast-disappearing corner of Americana. Finalist for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. Narrated by the author. 2010.

### **Tracey recommends:**

#### **DB 98616 A Good Girl's Guide to Murder**

by Holly Jackson

This YA Thriller for older teens is full of twists and turns that adults will enjoy too. Its structure is inspired by investigative True Crime podcasts and documentaries, so if you like those you'll want to check it out.

#### **DB 34701 The Eye of the World: Wheel of Time, Book 1**

by Robert Jordan.

This book is a classic of epic Fantasy. I read it several times as a teenager and have enjoyed revisiting it as an adult. Be sure to check it out before the television adaptation is released on Amazon Prime in November!

### **Janet Recommends:**

I spent part of the summer reading or re-reading a favorite author from my high school days. Georgette Heyer is known for her historical romances set mostly in England. Though some of her heroines are quite young, these are safe books to read in mixed company. Some favorites are: **DB 68244 Charity Girl**, **DB 54995 Frederica**, **DB 69136 The Black Moth**, and **DB 59285 Devil's Cub**.

### **Susan Recommends:**

#### **DB 100531 Anxious People**

By Fredrik Bachman

This is a darkly funny yet heartwarming story typical of Fredrik Backman, whose style tends to revolve around the human experience. As usual, his characters remind us that none of us are as different from one another as we think. One of my favorite authors.

### **DB 84158 Lafayette in the Somewhat United States**

By Sarah Vowell

This is an interesting take on the famed Revolutionary War hero (and namesake of several Kentucky locales) in the context of the messy birth of our country. It was also a timely history lesson, revealing that infighting and internal conflict are not at all new to the American psyche.

### **Michael Recommends:**

### **DB 80936 Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania**

By Erik Larson

In 1915 the Lusitania, a luxury ocean liner, left New York for Liverpool. The captain assumed that the Germans would follow gentlemanly strictures of warfare, keeping civilian ships safe from attack. Larson recounts what happened when Germany violated that code and that choice's wider repercussions. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

### **DB 80035 Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption**

By Bryan Stevenson

Attorney and law professor discusses founding the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need. Describes one of his first cases--defending Walter McMillian, a young man sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

### **DB 80380 Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End**

By Atul Gawande

One of the most unforgettable books I've ever read...Surgeon and author of Complications (DB 56061) and The Checklist Manifesto (DB 70422) examines the state of end-of-life-care in the twenty-first century. Discusses medical advances which have extended life expectancy, limited training of physicians to discuss mortality with patients and family members, and ways to be honest. Bestseller. 2014.

### **Barbara Recommends:**

### **DB 102938 The Heiress: the Revelations of Anne de Bourgh**

By Molly Greely

Anne is a very minor character from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (DB 50549) dismissed by Elizabeth Bennett as being quiet, pale, and sickly. In Greely's book, we learn that Anne has been sheltered by her overbearing mother and kept in a docile state with daily doses of laudanum since infancy. Once she comes into her inheritance, she breaks her addiction and learns to live on her own terms.

## **The Earthsea Series** by Ursula LeGuin

I first read this series in high school, and have read it multiple times, but only recently read the final novel. This fantasy series for grades 6-9 and older readers is set in a world of small islands where magic is an everyday occurrence. In the first book, **DB 25315 A Wizard of Earthsea**, young Ged is sent to the Wizard's School on the Isle of Roke, where pride leads him to unleash an evil power. (This was written decades before Harry Potter.) Followed by **DB 24584 The Tombs of Atuan**, **DB 32957 The Farthest Shore**, **DB 32958 Tehanu**, and **DB 53745 The Other Wind**.

## **News for Braille Readers**

Five new braille magazines have been added to the NLS collection. Contact KTBL at 800-372-2968 or [ktbl.mail@ky.gov](mailto:ktbl.mail@ky.gov) to request a subscription.

- **Cricket**—Stories, poems, and articles by internationally known authors, plus songs, jokes, and crafts. For ages nine through fourteen. 9 issues/year.
- **Dell Sunday Crosswords**—60 themed puzzles. 4 issues/year.
- **Knitscene**—Highlights seasonal patterns and styles for knitting hobbyists. 4 issues/year.
- **National Geographic Kids**—Articles for children about people, places, customs, animals, and plants. 10 issues/year.
- **Sports Illustrated Kids**—Sports news and articles for ages eight through thirteen. Features sports personalities, events, and cards; youths who are excelling in athletics; and a regular column by youths discussing controversial sports-related issues. 11 issues/year.

**Readers Digest** is currently available in both braille (DIG1) and audio (DIG4). The braille version is currently only available via hard copy braille but will be provided on BARD in the near future.

**Braille Book Review** order forms previously contained the book number and title in print, as well as braille, so library staff could read the selected books and add them to the patron's request list. NLS is no longer able to find a producer who can supply the print/braille version of the order form, so it is now only in braille. However, we don't have anyone on staff who can read braille. We can slowly translate the braille book numbers, but apologize in advance for any mistakes we might make. For better accuracy, please call or email your selections to us if possible.

## **BARD Language Settings**

Whether you prefer to stick to English or want to download books in another language, there are new settings in BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) that allow you to search for books in the language you want.

### **To set your default language preference:**

Log in to the BARD Main Page and look under the Search the Collection box for a link that says “language preference settings”, or scroll down to My BARD and Account Settings to find the same link. Click the link and a list of languages will appear. Check the language you want as your default, then click the Update button below the list. After that, BARD searches will only display books in that language. You can still do a temporary search for books in another language by selecting it from the drop-down list next to Search the Collection.

If you are multi-lingual, you may be interested in a new NLS Publication, ***Foreign Language Quarterly (FLQ)***. Thanks to the Marrakesh Treaty, NLS is adding more foreign language books to its catalog than ever before. To help both patrons and librarians locate these titles, FLQ features a selection of the most popular foreign language titles recently added to the NLS collection. This is an online publication only, but the FLQ page features a Print button that will allow you to create a printer-friendly version for your convenience.

## **Donations**

KTBL extends its thanks to everyone who has donated to KTBL in 2021! We especially want to thank the Louisville Downtown Lion’s Club for continuing to sponsor our newsletter. (Learn more about Lion’s Club International at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).)

KTBL happily accepts donations from those who wish to show their appreciation for our service. We use these funds to purchase supplies, equipment, books for our recording studio, and to produce our newsletter. Can’t afford a large donation? No amount is too small—just don’t send cash in the mail. Don’t need any more Christmas, birthday, or anniversary gifts? Name KTBL as a recipient of donations in lieu of gifts. You can even make donations in memory of a loved one or include us in your estate planning. We will send a letter of thanks and acknowledgement that you can use for tax reporting. To contribute, make checks payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library and mail to:

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

## **Order Form**

Put a checkmark by the books you would like added to your request list and call 800-372-2968, email [KTBL.Mail@ky.gov](mailto:KTBL.Mail@ky.gov), or mail to KTBL, PO Box 537, Frankfort KY 40602.

### **Book Club Books**

- DB 92948 Unsheltered
- DB 92117 The Death of Mrs. Westaway
- DB 96370 The Secrets We Kept

### **New KY Books**

- DBC 15981 Hidden History of Western Kentucky
- DBC 15991 Missing: The Secrets of Crittenden County, Book 1
- DBC 17560 Dream of Night
- DBC 17563 The Common Man: Poems

### **Staff Recommendations**

- DB 98616 A Good Girl's Guide to Murder
- DB 34701 The Eye of the World: Wheel of Time, Book 1
- DB 68244 Charity Girl
- DB 54995 Frederica
- DB 69136 The Black Moth
- DB 59285 Devil's Cub
- DB 100531 Anxious People
- DB 84158 Lafayette in the Somewhat United States
- DB 80936 Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania
- DB 80035 Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
- DB 80380 Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End
- DB 102938 The Heiress: the Revelations of Anne de Bourgh
- DB 25315 A Wizard of Earthsea
- DB24584 The Tombs of Atuan
- DB 32957 The Farthest Shore
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- DB 53745 The Other Wind



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**PO Box 537**  
**Frankfort KY 40602**

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