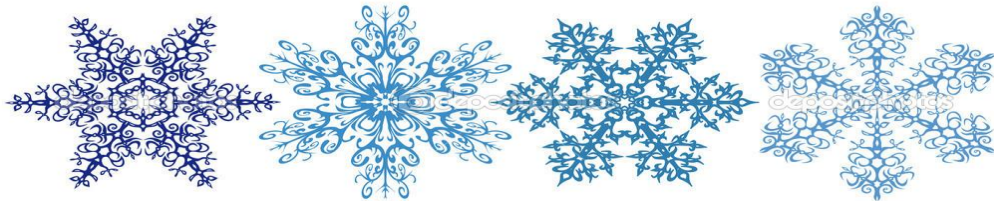


# The Reading Light

Mississippi Library Commission  
Talking Book Services  
Winter 2016



## BARD Express

BARD Express provides NLS patrons with an easy way to access BARD. Use BARD Express to browse thousands of audio books and magazines, download them to your Windows-based computer, and transfer them to an NLS cartridge. BARD Express simplifies the process by providing a menu-driven interface, reducing the need to memorize a complex set of keyboard commands. What does this mean? BARD Express can be used with as few as four keys, while providing advanced functionality for the more adventurous user. Currently BARD Express is only available for PCs not Mac computers.

To download BARD Express software and to start using it, go to website:

<http://bit.ly/Bardexpress>

There are also several YouTube “How-to” videos on BARD Express:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O162uEE8jh8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYFI4W0vWSc>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbK-vD6zbl>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EEvzgsiw78>

### Free Braille Calendars

If you would like a free braille calendar mailed to you, please contact Cindy Nugent at 601-432-4093 or email her at [frizsell@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:frizsell@mlc.lib.ms.us).

### Receive Newsletter by Email?

Want to save some trees? Sign up to receive our newsletter by email. Email us at [talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us) and we'll start sending you our quarterly newsletter by email.

### Challenge Yourself in 2017!

Finding your next good read is always fun. Make your 2017 reading even more enjoyable by following a reading "challenge list." This is a personal challenge list. It can be reading a certain number of books or even putting parameters on the titles you read. Here are two reading lists you might want to use (Source: <http://modernmrsdarcy.com/reading-challenge-2017/>).

#### Reading For Growth: Stretch Yourself in 2017

- A Newbery Award winner or Honor Book
- A book in translation
- A book that's more than 600 pages
- A book of poetry, a play or an essay collection
- A book of any genre that addresses current events
- An immigrant story
- A book published before you were born
- Three books by the same author
- A book with an unreliable narrator or ambiguous ending

- A book nominated for an award in 2017
- A Pulitzer Prize or National Book Award winner

### Reading for Fun: Put the Oomph Back in Your Reading Life

- A book you chose for the cover
- A book with a reputation for being “un-put-down-able”
- A book set somewhere you’ve never been but would like to visit
- A book you’ve already read
- A juicy memoir
- A book about books or reading
- A book in a genre you usually avoid
- A book you don’t want to admit you’re dying to read
- A book in the backlist of a new favorite author
- A book recommended by someone with great taste
- A book you were excited to buy or borrow but haven’t read yet
- A book about a topic or subject you already love

Our reader advisors would love to help you find books that fall into each category. Just give us a call or drop us an email.

601-432-4116; 1-800-446-0892 (toll-free)

[talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us)

### **Book Recommendations**

Here are some books that our staff have read and loved. We think you might like them, too.

#### House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus

DB50033

Reading time: 14 hours, 40 minutes.

Read by Richard Davidson.

Human Relations

Bestsellers

Recommended by: Shellie

This book starts out explaining that due to a tax-office error, a recovering addict is evicted from the home she inherited from her father. Told in parallel stories, an Iranian looking for the American

dream buys the house in an auction. The book will break your heart and have you switching teams on every other page---you will sympathize with both families. The plot ultimately leads to dire consequences that no one sees coming. This is a story that will have you questioning addiction, immigration, home ownership and the decency of the human race. This is one of the few books that I have read more than once. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language. Bestseller. 1999.

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

DB81189

Reading time: 18 hours, 54 minutes

Read by: Laura Giannarelli

Historical Fiction

War Stories

Recommended by: Mary Rodgers

*The Nightingale* describes the life of two sisters, Vianne and Isabelle, during World War II. The sisters are different from each other but both play important roles despite the troubles they face. The chapters shift from the sisters' points of view and this helps to propel the story on while allowing the reader to bond with each sister. I liked that this book showed how seemingly normal women could make a difference in something much bigger than them. This book had me hooked on what would happen next to the main characters.

## **Bookshelf Feature on Digital Players**

When a book cartridge or flash drive has several books or magazines on it, the user can jump from book to book or magazine to magazine by using the bookshelf feature.

1. To activate this feature, hold down the green PLAY/STOP button for a few seconds. The machine will announce, "Bookshelf."
2. The REWIND or FAST FORWARD keys can then be used to move backwards and forwards from book to book and magazine to magazine.
3. When the announcement for the desired book or magazine issue is heard, press the green PLAY/STOP key to listen to that particular book or magazine.

## **What to Do with Defective Books**

Occasionally, you may come across a book that does not play properly. Your player will usually say something like "book error" or "cartridge error" when you put the book in, and it will not play. Or the book will refuse to play past a certain point and just skip to the end. If you run into a book that's defective, here's what you should do.

First, contact us. Staff here at Talking Books have a lot of support options to choose from, including marking the book for repair in our circulation database and reserving a new copy for you if you want one. We can also take you through some quick steps to see if we can get the book to play without having to send it back. To contact us you can call 1-800-446-0892 or email: [talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us) If you are unable to talk to a staff member directly or call during non-business hours, just a leave a

message with your name, phone number, the title and DB number of the defective book, and a brief explanation of the problem.

Second, mark the “Defective” box on the return mailing card. The box is located in the top-left corner of the card when our return address is showing, just above the hole punch. Even if you cannot see the box, any mark or scribble in that general area is cause enough for our circulation staff to set the book aside for additional inspection.

Here are a few things NOT to do, including:

- Please do not write directly on the cartridge or container
- Please do not tape notes to the cartridge
- Please do not put rubber bands around the cartridge or container.

We really appreciate your help identifying books that need a little TLC. Thanks!

## Helpful Hints & Reminders

1. When calling the Mississippi Library Commission, please identify yourself as a Talking Book Services patron. This will assist in expediting your calls to the appropriate department.
2. In order to maintain an active status as a BPH patron, one must check out or download one item each calendar year. Maintaining an active status ensures that you receive this newsletter as well as other updates.
3. **Please do not write on the containers, cartridges or the machines.** All of our items are recycled and sent to other patrons after each use. Please help us conserve funds by not damaging our items with writings or added tape.
4. Please retain the box the digital player arrives in. This box can be used to send the item back should you need a replacement or decide to discontinue service. Do not use duct tape on the box. The player can be mailed back to the library via “Free Matter for the blind and physically handicapped.” The free shipping label is marked on the box.
5. You do not need to send back the “**New Patron Packet**” or **used headphones**. They are both yours to keep.



## FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Talking Book Services  
3881 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211

X

---

*The Reading Light* is written and edited by staff of the Mississippi Library Commission's Talking Book Services Department. It is available in Braille, through email, in large print, as well as via MP3 audio on our website. Any mention of products and services in *The Reading Light* newsletter is for information purposes only and does not imply endorsement.

Library Service Hours: 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday

Phone: 601-432-4116; 1-800-446-0892 (toll-free)

601-432-4476 (Fax)

Email: [talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us)

Website: <http://mlc.lib.ms.us/tbs/>

WebCatalog: <http://bit.ly/TBScatalog>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mslibrarycommission/>

This publication is partially funded under the federal Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Mississippi Library Commission for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.