

# The Reading Light

Mississippi Library Commission  
Talking Book Services  
Spring 2017

**Do you have the Best Mail Carrier?**



Show your postal carrier some love and nominate him/her for the Talking Book Services 2016 Mail Carrier of the Year! Has your mail carrier gone out of their way to make sure you get your books? Have they gone above and beyond when you least expected it? Tell us about it! If your mail carrier wins, we will contact the mail carrier, their supervisor, and you. We will coordinate a date and time when we all can come out to their post office and present them with a plaque and enjoy some cake together! Let your mail carrier know how much you appreciate them! Below is the form you can fill out and send back to us OR you can call us and tell us over the phone why you love your mail carrier. Give us a call at 601-432-4116 or 1-800-446-0892.

Deadline—5/1/17

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mail Carrier's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Mississippi Library Commission; Talking Book Services; 3881 Eastwood Drive Jackson, MS 39211**

## Attention: LARGE PRINT Services Patrons

The Large Print Direct Service has been undergoing some changes over the past year. We've been working to make the program more accessible and to increase the availability of our materials to patrons, and to make the program itself more efficient overall. Here is an explanation of some of the changes we've made.

The first new implement is the shipping of the books. The mail bags are large enough to hold up to three books at a time; however, the books **do not** need to be returned all at one time. If a patron gets a bag of three books and finishes one, he or she may send only that book back to us in the mail bag and keep the others until finished. More mail bags are sent with books in them each time another bag is returned. This way, a patron will have a constant flow of books instead of having to wait to send all their books back at once.

Next, the catalogs that are sent out each month contain only the new books we have, and are a small sampling of all the material that we offer. Patrons can request any books that are not in the catalog by using the request sheet in the back of each catalog. Tech-savvy patrons can access our online catalog and view our entire collection at

**<http://mlco-verso.auto-graphics.com/mvc/>**.

Normally, the Large Print Service is "request only" meaning that we send only the books that patrons specifically request. We can also send books based on author or genre requests; for instance, if a patron loves mysteries and wants to read as many as possible, they can tell us and we will pick mystery books for them instead of taking only specific book requests.

All books are loaned out for six weeks, just as they have always been; individual patrons are allowed to have up to five books loaned out to them at one time; institutions and libraries may have up to twenty books. All books are shipped in special mail bags that require no postage, but patrons are expected to pay for books lost or damaged while in their possession

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our service and to better serve our patrons, and hope to implement more changes in the future to provide the best service that we can. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Daniel Warren at 601-432-4126 or [dwarren@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:dwarren@mlc.lib.ms.us).

### 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=Ol62uEE8jh8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYFI4W0vWSc>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbK-\\_vD6zbl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbK-_vD6zbl)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EEvzgsiw78>

## Missing Braille Books

We have 5 missing Braille books (loaned to us from our good friends in Utah). They have been checked out since 2016, but we don't know who we loaned them out to (fell through the cracks a bit). If you do get Braille books from us, would you mind having a friend or family member take a look around and see if you might have these Braille titles? The titles are:

- BR 19765 Because It is My Blood
- BR 04159 Mommie Dearest
- BR 17867 Stars 1-2
- BR 21202 April Adventure
- BR 21242 Miss Small is of the Wall.

If you do find that you have any of these titles, please give us a call or email and we'll get them back to their rightful home. No questions asked. 1-800-647-7542 or [talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us).

## 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.

## Book Recommendations

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

Delirium by Lauren Oliver

(Part of a trilogy #2 DB74331 Pandemonium & #3 DB76276 Requiem)

DB72820

Reading time: 11 hours, 8 minutes.

Read by Lauren Jones

Science Fiction

Young Adult

Romance

Recommended by: Shellie

This book is set in a future world where the delirium of love is considered a disease. The government has a “cure” for this ailment, but not everyone is eager to be cured of feelings of love. Main character Lena is eager to receive the cure until something bizarre happens at her consultation. Soon Lena finds herself siding with the resistance. Lena’s future becomes precarious and possibly deadly once she falls in love. Although this is technically a young adult book, the themes and writing style will entice and entrance adults as well.

The Bookseller by Cynthia Swanson - DB081380

Reading Time: 10 hours, 17 minutes

Read By: Kristin Allison

Psychological Fiction

Recommended by: Mary Rodgers

*The Bookseller* is a novel that tells of two realities of Kitty Miller/Katharyn Andersson. This woman is Kitty in her awake life and Katharyn when she goes to sleep. Kitty is a single woman who runs a book shop with her best friend while Katharyn is a woman married to the man Kitty missed out on being able to meet. I liked this story of “what if” while it also became a story of the main character finding out her true self. I recommend this novel as it keeps you, as a reader, perceptive as to what is her real life. I admit that I was surprised to find out which was real and which was a dream to the main character.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë- DB047868

Reading Time: 20 Hours, 15 minutes

Read By: Jennifer Mendenhall

Classic Fiction

Gothic Fiction

Recommended by: Margaret Smitherman

This is the story of a young English girl who grows up in the harsh world of British orphans around the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. She is pushed around and made to feel that no one could ever want to care for someone as bad and plain as she. The only person that she can rely on to care for her needs is herself. She adapts to each new situation with stoicism all the while growing into a young woman. She starts her new life as a governess. She arrives at her new post, only to find that there are strange things happening there. The child is a little French girl named Adele, who is the ward of the owner of the house, Mr. Rochester. As to avoid spoilers, Jane soon learns that many others besides herself have complicated lives, and cannot always do things that they would like to do.

### 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, please 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.



Talking Book Services  
3881 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211

FREE MATTER FOR  
THE BLIND &  
PHYSICALLY  
HANDICAPPED

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*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/>

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