

# The Reading Light

Mississippi Library Commission  
Talking Book Services

Winter 2017



## Descriptive Audio Service

Descriptive DVDs and Described audio programming has become easier to access. You can find descriptive language service on almost all relatively new (past few years) DVDs as well as streaming video service (Netflix, Amazon Prime, etc.)

Where to look and turn on Descriptive Audio Service:

### DVDs:

Audio description on a DVD is generally listed as Descriptive Audio, English Audio Description or English DVS under “Languages.”

### Amazon Television/Prime:

Amazon entered the audio described video market in June 2017. It now offers over 350 movies and Amazon-produced TV shows with audio description tracks, with multiple viewing devices supported.

1. Start playback of a movie or TV show with Audio Descriptions available.
2. Select the “Subtitles and Audio” option in your playback controls.
3. Select the audio track with the “Audio Description” tag or the desired audio language without the tag.

Netflix: Once a member, you can find a link labeled "Audio Description" at the bottom of the main page when viewed via a

web browser, or in a menu on other devices, or you can see the alphabetized list of “Audio Described Programs on Netflix.”

Here is a comprehensive list of all streaming television and Internet content that offers descriptive audio service:

<http://www.acb.org/adp/streaming.html>

### **Be My Eyes App**

The Be My Eyes app can make life a lot easier for the blind. This app connects visually impaired people with sighted people through a direct video call. Through the video call a sighted person can help someone find the expiration date on milk or a particular can of vegetables in the pantry. Small, everyday tasks that might not normally be successful are made easy with a sighted helper. The app gives blind people the opportunity to ask a sighted volunteer for help with tasks that require normal vision. The sighted helper is able to see and describe what the blind person is showing the sighted helper by filming with the video camera in the smartphone. That way, by working together they are able to solve the problem that the blind person is facing. This app was launched at the beginning of this year. Already 300,000 sighted people and 22,800 blind people have signed up. For more information: <http://www.bemyeyes.org> or download at the App or Android Google Play Store.

### **BARD Kits**

BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) allows patrons to download books using a computer or iOS/Android device. Downloading your own books puts you in control of what books you receive and there is no waiting for the mail carrier!

The library has created a number of new instructional materials to help patrons navigate and use the BARD website and iOS app.

We've created a new BARD user guide that can be accessed on our website, or requested in large print or Braille. There are also two instructional videos available on our website that demonstrate how to download books on BARD using a computer or iOS device. <http://mlc.lib.ms.us/tbs/bard/>

In addition to the new instructional resources, the library also has created a limited number of BARD starter kits available to patrons who wish to sign up for BARD. The BARD kits contain a blank digital cartridge, a USB cord, and a copy of the BARD user guide. Patrons can download their books to the blank cartridge and play on their digital player. The starter kits are limited in number and restricted to patrons who meet the following criteria:

- Have internet access (free access at your local library if you don't have access at home)
- Have an email address (free through [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com) or [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com))
- Not be a current BARD member

To request a BARD starter kit or a BARD user guide please contact Mary Rodgers Beal at [mrbeal@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:mrbeal@mlc.lib.ms.us), 1-800-446-0892 or 601-432-4116. This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

### **Increase Your Battery Life**

Here's a helpful little tidbit: instead of always leaving your digital player plugged in, unplug the machine and use it in "battery mode." By actually using the battery you'll keep it working properly. Always keeping it plugged in and never using the battery will only enable the battery to lose life and eventually stop working.

## **Need Help?**



Not getting the books you like?

Not getting enough?

Getting too many?

Have your books stopped completely and you're not sure why?

Have you changed your address or phone number?

Do you need to update your address?

Let us help you. Call a Reader's Advisor at 1-800-446-0892 or email us at [talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:talkingbooks@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.

## **New Book Suggestions**

Here are some titles that our staff have read and enjoyed, and we think you might enjoy them too!

Fire and Fury by Michael Wolff- DB89802

Reading Time: 11 hours, 57 minutes

Narrator: Holter Graham

Subject: Government and Politics. U.S. History.

Journalist examines the first nine months of President Trump's administration. Discusses, among other things, the staff's opinions of Trump, the reasons for FBI director James Comey's firing, the story behind Trump's claims of being wire-tapped by President Obama, and the state of White House strategies

following Steve Bannon's departure. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018

Hardcore Twenty-Four: A Stephanie Plum Novel by Janet Evanovich DB89584

Reading Time: 6 hours, 10 minutes

Read by: Lorelei King

Subject: Humor; Mystery and Detective Stories

Professional grave robber and semiprofessional loon Simon Diggery won't let bounty hunter Stephanie Plum take him in until she agrees to care for his boa constrictor, Ethel. Meanwhile, funeral home and morgue corpses that have had the heads removed appear around town, and a homeless man is murdered. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017

The Good Daughter by Karin Slaughter – DB88747

Reading Time: 16 hours, 46 minutes

Read By: Teresa Willis.

Subject: Suspense Fiction; Mystery and Detective Stories; Bestsellers

Twenty-eight years ago, teen sisters Charlie and Sam Quinn survived a horrific attack that left their mother dead. Now, Charlie practices law like their defense attorney father. Sam, also an attorney, is estranged in New York. A school shooting reunites them. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2017

Sisters First: Stories from Our Wild and Wonderful Life by Jenna Hager Bush; Barbara Bush; Laura Welch Bush. DB89560

Reading Time: 6 hours, 38 minutes

Read By: Laura Bush

Subject: Biography; U.S. History

Former first daughters reflect on growing up in the public eye as their grandfather and father each became president in turn. They

discuss the difficulties of their lifestyle, describe how they forged their own identities, and tell stories from their shared childhood. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017

## **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 us at [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

\*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.

\*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.

\*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.

\*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.

\*You do not need to send back the “**New Patron Packet**” or **used headphones**. They are both yours to keep.





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## 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 by the Mississippi Library Commission.

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