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## **Romance: RITA Award-Winning Books**

These romance novels have won the Romance Writers of America (RITA) award. The RITA is awarded in several categories such as: contemporary romance, first book, romantic suspense, paranormal romance, inspirational romance, historical romance, erotic romance and others. To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Select titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

### **Enclave** By Ann Aguirre

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 7 hours

In a post-apocalyptic future, Deuce, a loyal huntress, brings back meat while avoiding the deadly Freaks outside her underground enclave. But when she is partnered with outsider Fade, she begins to see that the ways of the elders may be horrifically wrong. Violence. For senior high and older readers. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Enclave](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074167

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Also available in braille BR019589

### **The Inheritance** By Tamera Alexander

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

Reading time 11 hours, 25 minutes

1877. McKenna "Kenny" Ashford and her troublesome teenage brother leave Missouri to join their cousin Janie in Copper Creek, Colorado. Then Janie dies, leaving Kenny her bankrupt ranch and five-year-old daughter. Kenny doesn't need any more complications--but widowed marshal Wyatt Caradon falls in love with her. Rita Award. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Inheritance](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074009

**My Lady Notorious** By Jo Beverley

Read by Madelyn Buzzard                      Reading time 13 hours, 26 minutes

Lord Cynric Malloren is riding in a coach that is captured by Chastity Ware, a lady disguised as a highwayman. Chastity is helping her widowed sister Verity and Verity's baby escape from a guardianship battle. Cyn joins them and falls in love. Some explicit descriptions of sex. Rita Award. 1993.

[Download from BARD: My Lady Notorious](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067663

**The Black Hawk** By Joanna Bourne

Read by J. Michael McCullough      Reading time 12 hours 51 minutes

London, 1818. After a near-fatal attack former French spy Justine DuMotier takes refuge at the safe house run by her ex-lover and adversary Sir Adrian Hawkhurst. They reminisce and ponder their future together. Sequel to The Forbidden Rose (DB 74091). Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Rita Award. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Black Hawk](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076154

**My Lord and Spymaster** By Joanna Bourne

Read by Julie-Ann Elliott                      Reading time 13 hours, 24 minutes

When Cockney smuggler Josiah Whitby is accused of being the infamous traitor Cinq and imprisoned, his daughter Jess sets out to prove his innocence. Her attempt to pickpocket Josiah's accuser, Captain Sebastian Kennett, leads to an uneasy alliance. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Rita Award. 2008.

[Download from BARD: My Lord and Spymaster](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070509

**Treasure** By Helen Brenna

Read by Kristin Allison                      Reading time 6 hours, 26 minutes

Jake Rawlings has sought the sunken Spanish galleon Concha his whole life, and marine archaeologist Annie Miller thinks she can locate it. They voyage to the Bahamas--Jake hoping for riches, Annie hoping to end an ancient curse. But they find love. Some explicit descriptions of sex. Rita Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Treasure](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069062

**Against the Tide** By Elizabeth Camden

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 9 hours, 24 minutes

Boston, 1891. Lydia Pallas works as a translator for the Navy Yard. When Lieutenant Alexander Banebridge requires Lydia's skills for a case, she becomes his assistant. As Lydia is drawn deeper into Bane's mission to end the opium trade, a relationship develops between them. RITA Award, Christy Award. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Against the Tide](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077493

**Oh. My. Gods.** By Tera Lynn Childs

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 7 hours, 1 minute

Phoebe Castro's life turns upside down when her mother becomes engaged to a near stranger and moves herself and Phoebe to Serfopoula, Greece. After Phoebe learns her new school is an academy for descendants of Greek gods, she tries to fit in. Some strong language. For senior high readers. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Oh. My. Gods.](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070013

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Also available in braille BR018714

**Forget About It** By Caprice Crane

Read by Colleen Delany

Reading time 12 hours, 29 minutes

New York City. Advertising agency minion Jordan Landau has a cheating boyfriend, a critical family, and an unappreciative boss. After she's hit by a car while biking to work, Jordan fakes amnesia; invents a confident, demanding persona; and changes her life--for the better. Strong language. Rita Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Forget About It](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069105

**Seducing Mr. Darcy** By Gwyn Cready

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 10 hours, 49 minutes

Philippa, a.k.a. Flip, gets transported into Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* by a magical masseuse. Returning, Flip is horrified to learn that her dalliance with Mr. Darcy has changed the novel's plot. She needs attractive Austen scholar Magnus to fix things. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. RITA Award. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Seducing Mr. Darcy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071238

**A Night to Surrender** By Tessa Dare

Read by Catherine Byers Reading time 12 hours, 23 minutes

Spindle Cove, England; 1813. In her community, Susanna Finch has cultivated a tranquil safe haven for young women--free of men and militia. Susanna is outraged when her father gives injured officer Victor Bramwell the title of earl and sends Victor to protect a nearby castle. Explicit descriptions of sex. 2011.

[Download from BARD: A Night To Surrender](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074458

**Romancing the Duke Castles Ever After** By Tessa Dare

Read by Abigail Maupin Reading time 8 hours, 45 minutes

Izzy Goodnight, the penniless, orphaned daughter of an acclaimed fantasy author, inherits a castle from her godfather. Izzy discovers that the blind duke of Rothbury still lives in the castle and does not know that his estate has been sold. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Romancing the Duke Castles Ever After](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078316

**The Sweet Spot** by Laura Drake

Read by Jennifer Hubbard Reading time 9 hours, 3 minutes

After the tragic death of their son, Charla Rae and James "JB" Denny's marriage falls apart. Now, with the ranch in trouble, Charla needs help and JB plans to persuade her to give their love another chance. Descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Sweet Spot](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080348

**Perfect Chemistry** By Simone Elkeles

Read by Laura Giannarelli                      Reading time 10 hours, 58 minutes

Assigned as lab partners in senior chemistry, well-to-do Brittany Ellis and Latino Blood gang member Alex Fuentes clash in and out of class. As their heated exchanges lead to a forbidden attraction, their lives begin to change. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. For senior high readers. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Perfect Chemistry](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069609

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18720](#)

Also available in braille BR018720

**Adiós to My Old Life** By Caridad Ferrer

Read by Michele Schaeffer                      Reading time 7 hours, 11 minutes

Seventeen-year-old Cuban American Ali Montero from Miami enters a Latin American singing contest and wins a chance to compete on television. Her father, a music professor, reluctantly allows her to continue. Ali learns about the business--and falls in love. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. Rita Award. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Adios to My Old Life](#)

Also available on cassette RC065488

**Show No Mercy; Take no Prisoners** By Cindy Gerard

Read by Mare Trevathan                      Reading time 15 hours, 39 minutes

First two novels featuring the Black Ops, Inc., elite mercenary team. In Show No Mercy a bombing reunites an ex-hostage with her rescuer. In RITA Award-winning Take No Prisoners an ex-operative seduces a Vegas blackjack dealer to find a criminal. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Show No Mercy; Take No Prisoners](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071343

**Not Another Bad Date** By Rachel Gibson

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 7 hours, 42 minutes

Writer Adele Harris returns to her Texas hometown to help her pregnant sister. Adele, who has had bad luck with boyfriends, runs into her first love, football coach Zach Zemaitis, whose late wife had tormented Adele throughout their school years. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Not Another Bad Date](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066997

**Dragon Bound** By Thea Harrison

Read by Mare Trevathan Reading time 10 hours, 58 minutes

Pia Giovanni, who has hidden her half-Wyr side, is blackmailed into stealing a coin from dragon shapeshifter Dragos Cuelebre, the leader of the Wyr kingdom. Dragos pursues the thief, and discovers that she is his mate. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. RITA Award. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Dragon Bound](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074620

**Catch of the Day** By Kristan Higgins

Read by Margaret Strom Reading time 11 hours, 28 minutes

Maine. Thirty-two-year-old Maggie Beaumont, who has been single since her high school boyfriend dumped her, keeps busy by running a diner, volunteering, and helping with her twin sister's family. Maggie doesn't notice her brother's colleague, lobsterman Malone, although Malone is acutely aware of her. Some strong language. Rita Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Catch of the Day](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068034

**Too Good to Be True** By Kristan Higgins

Read by Colleen Delany

Reading time 11 hours, 41 minutes

After prep-school teacher Grace Emerson's fiancé dumps her to date her younger sister, Grace makes up an imaginary boyfriend to stave off her family's nosiness. Grace meets her new neighbor--handsome, ex-con Callahan O'Shea--and, despite having misgivings about his past, falls in love. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Too Good to Be True](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069116

**Snowbound** By Janice Johnson

Read by Annie Wauters

Reading time 6 hours, 37 minutes

Teacher Fiona MacPherson and eight students are stranded by a blizzard in Oregon's Cascade Mountains. They find shelter at Thunder Mountain Lodge, run by wounded Iraq War veteran John Fallon. Among many mishaps, Fiona and John fall in love. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Rita Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Snowbound](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069320

**Charley Davidson Series. Books 1-4 First Grave on the Right ; Second Grave on the Left ; Third Grave Dead Ahead ; Fourth Grave Beneath My Feet** By Darynda Jones

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

Reading time 41 hours, 22 minutes

Books one through four, written between 2011 and 2012, featuring part-time investigator and full-time Grim Reaper, Charley Davidson. Paranormal tales include: First Grave on the Right, Second Grave on the Left, Third Grave Dead Ahead, and Fourth Grave beneath My Feet. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Charley Davidson Series. Books1-4 First Grave...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080427

**The Firebird** By Susanna Kearsley

Read by Lucy Rayner

Reading time 18 hours, 18 minutes

Art gallery worker Nicola Marter can touch an object and see those who owned it in past. When she encounters a carving that belonged to Empress Catherine, Nicola travels to Russia with her ex-lover Rob McMorran to authenticate its provenance--and uncovers a historic love story. Some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Firebird](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077034

**Five Days in Skye** By Carla Laureano

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 8 hours, 28 minutes

Instead of heading to Tahiti for her dream vacation, thirty-year-old Andrea Sullivan is sent to the Isle of Skye to land celebrity chef James MacDonald as a client for her hospitality consulting firm. She soon realizes God works in mysterious ways. RITA Award. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Five Days in Skye](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080141

**No Good Duke Goes Unpunished the Third Rule of Scoundrels** By Sarah MacLean

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

Reading time 13 hours, 22 minutes

London, 1831. William "Killer Duke" Harrow is suspected of murdering his father's fiancée twelve years ago--until the lady in question, Mara Lowe, reappears. Mara's brother is in debt to the duke's gambling establishment, and Mara offers a deal. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: No Good Duke Goes Unpunished the Third Rule...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077949



**A Rogue By Any Other Name** By Sarah MacLean

Read by J. Michael McCullough      Reading time 13 hours, 24 minutes  
London, 1831. Lady Penelope Marbury and Michael, the marquess of Bourne, were childhood friends. Then Michael lost his entire estate on a bet--and departed for the London underworld. Ten years later, marriage to Penelope is key to his plans for regaining his lands. Explicit descriptions of sex. 2012.

[Download from BARD: A Rogue By Any Other Name](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074329

**The Farm** By Emily McKay

Read by Jill Fox      Reading time 12 hours, 55 minutes  
When vampire-like mutants threaten to devour all humans, teenagers are quarantined for their "protection." Seventeen-year-old Lily plots to escape with her twin sister Mel, who has autism. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Farm](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076214

**The Measure of Katie Calloway a Novel** By Serena Miller

Read by Emily Pike Stewart      Reading time 10 hours, 19 minutes  
1867. Escaping her abusive husband in Georgia, Katie and her younger brother find sanctuary in a north woods lumber camp. Camp owner Robert wonders if Katie can survive the harsh environment and the hard life of a cook, but the two soon develop feelings for each other. 2011

[Download from BARD: The Measure of Katie Calloway a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081086

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19812](#)

Also available in braille BR019812

**Crazy Thing Called Love** By Molly O'Keefe

Read by Carol Dines

Reading time 11 hours, 57 minutes

Morning television host Madelyn Cornish is determined to make it to the big network shows. When her producer suggests a makeover story, Madelyn is not sure how to handle the proposed subject: bad-boy hockey star Billy Wilkins--her ex-husband. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. RITA Award. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Crazy Thing Called Love](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB080142

**How to Bake a Perfect Life** By Barbara O'Neal

Read by Dale Allen

Reading time 11 hours, 30 minutes

Bakery owner Ramona Gallagher of Colorado Springs is struggling financially. When her daughter Sofia's husband is wounded in Afghanistan and Sofia leaves for Germany to tend to him, Ramona takes in her thirteen-year-old step-granddaughter and falls in love with a long-lost friend. Includes recipes. Rita Award. 2011.

[Download from BARD: How to Bake a Perfect Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076646

**What Happens in London** By Julia Quinn

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

Reading time 10 hours, 5 minutes

Lady Olivia Bevelstoke becomes interested in her new London neighbor Sir Harry Valentine. Harry, a spy, falls in love with Olivia while he watches a treacherous Russian prince court her. Companion to The Secret Diaries of Miss Miranda Cheever (DB 65036). Some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: What Happens in London](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069534

**Concealed in Death** By J. D. Robb

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 12 hours, 20 minutes

After her husband finds human remains in the wall of a building he is retrofitting, Lieutenant Eve Dallas's team discovers twelve bodies hidden there--all girls between the ages of twelve and sixteen. Now Eve must identify the victims--and their killer. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Concealed in Death](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078480

**New York to Dallas** By J. D. Robb

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 12 hours, 20 minutes

A dozen years ago rookie New York cop Eve Dallas brought down serial rapist Isaac McQueen. Now McQueen has escaped from prison and is taunting Dallas to find him--in Dallas, a city that holds awful memories for her. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download](#) from BARD: New York to Dallas

Also available on digital cartridge DB073705

**Tribute** By Nora Roberts

Read by Annie Wauters

Reading time 14 hours, 40 minutes

Cilla purchases the neglected Virginia farm where her grandmother Janet, a famous actress, committed suicide. As Cilla works on the house, she meets her intriguing graphic-novelist neighbor, discovers Janet's mysterious love letters--and becomes the target of threatening vandalism. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Tribute](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067339

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17818](#)

Also available in braille BR017818

**The Edge of Impropriety** By Pam Rosenthal

Read by Patricia Kilgarriff      Reading time 10 hours, 15 minutes

London, 1829. Acclaimed romance writer Marina Wyatt, the widowed countess of Gorham, falls in love with the scholarly Jasper Hedges, an uncle of her young friend Sir Anthony Hedges. While indulging in their clandestine affair, Marina is blackmailed for past indiscretions. Explicit descriptions of sex. Rita Award. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Edge of Impropriety](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069955

**Lady Luck's Map of Vegas** By Barbara Samuel

Read by Constance Crawford      Reading time 9 hours, 28 minutes

India drives her mother, Eldora, from Colorado to Las Vegas to relive her youth after India's father dies. They also search for India's schizophrenic twin sister. Eldora burdens India with her sordid past, while India's pregnancy forces her to make decisions. Some descriptions of sex. Rita Award. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Lady Luck's Map of Vegas](#)

Also available on cassette RC063489

**One in a Million a Lucky Harbor Novel** By Jill Shalvis

Read by Angèle Masters      Reading time 8 hours, 49 minutes

Wedding planner Callie returns to her hometown of Lucky Harbor, only to find her high school crush, Tanner, is as sexy as she remembers. Meanwhile, deep-sea diver Tanner is trying to live down his wild past and deal with having his teenaged son back in his life. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

[Download from BARD: One in a Million](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB081836

**Simply Irresistible** By Jill Shalvis

Read by Elizabeth Jasicki      Reading time 10 hours, 34 minutes

Maddie and her two half sisters inherit a resort in Lucky Harbor, Washington. Maddie, recently fired by her boss and dumped by an abusive boyfriend, hires sexy Jax Cullen to renovate the inn--and desperately tries to resist his charms. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Simply Irresistible](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072926

**The Haunting of Maddy Clare** By Simone St. James

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 9 hours, 48 minutes

London, 1922. Working as a temp, Sarah Piper is assigned to assist ghost investigator Alistair Gellis. Alistair has discovered an apparition who will only talk to women and needs Sarah to uncover the mystery behind the ghost's death. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence. RITA Award. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Haunting of Maddy Clare](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077359

**Ice Blue** By Anne Stuart

Read by Annie Wauters

Reading time 8 hours, 32 minutes

Museum curator Summer Hawthorne's Japanese nanny gives her a blue ceramic bowl just before dying. Summer is then kidnapped for the coveted relic and rescued by handsome, dangerous Takashi O'Brien. Takashi also desperately wants the bowl and--despite himself--Summer. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. Rita Award. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Ice Blue](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068031

**Welcome to Harmony** By Jodi Thomas

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 8 hours, 4 minutes

Longing to belong, foster teen Reagan "borrows" the last name of a deceased nursing-home patient to pass as the woman's great-granddaughter. Then she heads to Harmony, Texas, where she moves in with her pretend great-uncle Jeremiah Truman, attends school, and befriends the locals. Some strong language. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Welcome to Harmony](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071471

**His at Night** By Sherry Thomas

Read by Annie Wauters

Reading time 10 hours, 5 minutes

England, 1897. Lord Vere hides his vocation as a secret agent by acting as an "amusing idiot" in society. But while investigating Miss Elissande Edgerton's uncle, Lord Vere and Elissande become entangled in a marriage of convenience. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. RITA Award. 2010.

[Download from BARD: His at Night](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074561

**Finding Stefanie: Noble Legacy, Book 3** By Susan May Warren

Read by Theresa Conkin

Reading time 10 hours, 55 minutes

Rancher Stefanie Noble and the residents of Phillips, Montana, deal with disruption in their town. Movie star Lincoln Cash--who is hiding his multiple sclerosis--plans a film festival. And three runaway siblings accidentally burn down Cash's newly purchased ranch house. Meanwhile, someone is plotting more serious trouble. Rita Award. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Finding Stefanie: Noble Legacy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071718

**Lakeside Cottage** By Susan Wiggs

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 9 hours, 30 minutes

Unemployed journalist Kate Livingston and her nine-year-old son are spending the summer at her family's Washington state cottage. Nearby, military medic J.D. Harris seeks refuge from the press after saving the president's life. The two meet and fall in love despite obstacles. Some strong language. Rita Award. 2005.

[Download from BARD: Lakeside Cottage](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063442

Also available on cassette RC063442

**The Mischief of the Mistletoe** By Lauren Willig

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 10 hours, 30 minutes

Christmas, 1803. Arabella Dempsey, a friend of Jane Austen, takes a teaching position after her suitor marries her wealthy aunt. Arabella meets a pupil's brother, Reginald "Turnip" Fitzhugh, and becomes drawn into international intrigue when a message in French is found on a pudding wrapper. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Mischief of the Mistletoe](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072787