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## **Gentle and Inoffensive Fiction Books**

These books are uplifting and hopeful and contain no strong language, no violence, no sex, and with characters that face mild confrontation and challenges. These books should be ideal for the most sensitive of readers. 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](#).

### **Heart and Soul** By Maeve Binchy

Read by Annie Wauters Reading time 12 hours, 47 minutes

While her philandering husband wants a divorce and her immature adult daughters still live at home, Dublin cardiologist Clara Casey opens and runs an underfunded heart clinic at St. Brigid's hospital. Clara assembles a compassionate staff, ultimately realizing their efforts are making a difference and people can change. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Heart and Soul](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068437

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR18107](#)

### **A Week in Winter** By Maeve Binchy

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 11 hours, 31 minutes

Chicky Starr returns home to Stoneybridge in western Ireland after twenty years in New York City. Chicky restores a dilapidated mansion and makes it into a boutique hotel with the help of her niece and a friend's son. A motley crew of characters becomes their first guests. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: A Week in Winter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076309

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR19902](#)

Also available in braille BR019902

**The Banishment** By Marion Chesney

Read by Yvonne Fair Tessler      Reading time 5 hours, 32 minutes

In Regency England, Isabella, the eldest of six Beverley daughters, is disappointed to have gone through the London season without becoming engaged. The men were bored by her only interest: Mannerling, the family mansion. When her father gambles away the home, the Beverleys, banished to poorer surroundings, all agree Isabella must marry Mannerling's new owner to reclaim their wealth.

[Download from BARD: The Banishment](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB042437

Also available on cassette RC042437

**An Elm Creek Quilts Sampler the First Three Novels in the Popular Series**

By Jennifer Chiaverini

Read by Mitzi Friedlander      Reading time 35 hours, 5 minutes

Women forge friendships while sharing their needlecraft. In The Quilter's Apprentice, Waterford, Pennsylvania, newcomer Sarah McClure takes quilting lessons from her crotchety employer Sylvia Compson. In Round Robin, the quilters open an instructional camp. In The Cross-Country Quilters, five new members join the group. 2001.

[Download from BARD: An Elm Creek Quilts Sampler the First Three...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065774

**Prayers for Sale** By Sandra Dallas

Read by Faith Potts      Reading time 9 hours, 8 minutes

Depression-era Middle Swan, Colorado; 1936. Elderly Hennie Comfort befriends newcomer Nit Spindle, a newly married seventeen-year-old. Hennie, a natural storyteller, entertains the lonely girl by reminiscing about the seventy years she has spent in the mountains while the menfolk mined for gold. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Prayers for Sale](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069184

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18622](#)

Also available in braille BR018622

**The Walk** Richard Paul Evans

Read by Guy Williams

Reading time 5 hours, 38 minutes

Seattle advertising executive Alan Christoffersen has everything--until his beloved wife dies, his business partner steals their clients, and his house is repossessed. Alan decides to walk across America to Key West, Florida, in search of new meaning while keeping a journal and befriending people along the way. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Walk](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071348

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19058](#)

Also available in braille BR019058

**Can't Wait to Get to Heaven** by Fannie Flagg

Read by Jill Ferris

Reading time 10 hours, 15 minutes

Elmwood Springs, Missouri. After octogenarian Elnor Shimfissle falls off her ladder and dies, the townsfolk reminisce about her. When Elnor meets her late sister Ida in heaven, Ida is still fuming over her bad-hair day at her funeral--then a miracle happens. Includes recipes. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Can't Wait to Get to Heaven](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062789

**Charms for the Easy Life** By Kaye Gibbons

Read by Yvonne Fair Tessler

Reading time 7 hours, 10 minutes

The tale of three generations of North Carolina women, narrated by Margaret, daughter of Sophia and granddaughter of Charlie Kate. Charlie Kate once rescued the victim of a lynching, who gave her the "easy-life charm" he had been wearing. It does not always work for Charlie Kate, known to the community as a midwife and healer, but she maintains her status as family matriarch and sees that Sophia and Margaret have a better life. Bestseller. 1993.

[Download from BARD: Charms for the Easy Life](#)

Also available on cassette RC035924

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15407](#)

Also available in braille BR015407

**Cheaper by the Dozen** By Frank B. Gilbreth

Read by Barry Bernson                      Reading time 6 hours, 23 minutes

An account of happy family life in the 1920s. The author's father, an efficiency expert who believed in living fully, entertained and practiced some very unconventional ideas about raising his many children. This edition contains an update on the twelve original Gilbreths and their many children. 1963.

[Download from BARD: Cheaper by the Dozen](#)

Also available on cassette RC023282

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR17784](#)

Also available in braille BR017784

**The Scent of Water** By Elizabeth Goudge

Read by Jill Ferris                              Reading time 10 hours, 39 minutes

Middle-aged businesswoman Mary Lindsay retires to an English country home, left to her by an eccentric cousin (whom she never met). Seeking solutions to her own problems, Mary helps her neighbors solve theirs. At the same time, she begins to understand her cousin's enigmatic personality. 1963.

[Download from BARD: The Scent of Water](#)

Also available on cassette RC051360

**Home to Harmony: A Harmony Novel** By Philip Gulley

Read by Derald Breneman                      Reading time 6 hours, 37 minutes

Quaker minister Sam Gardner and his family move back to Sam's small midwestern hometown. There Sam relives his childhood in a series of vignettes and introduces town residents including a narrow-minded church elder and Dr. Neely, who was Harmony's only doctor for fifty years. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Home to Harmony: a Harmony Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB059650

Also available on cassette RC059650

**Promised to Me Coming to America** By Robin Lee Hatcher

Read by Laura Giannarelli                      Reading time 8 hours, 19 minutes

1908. Karola Breit leaves Germany for Idaho after waiting eleven years for her beloved, farmer Jakob Hirsch, to send for her. Karola wants romance--but when she arrives she discovers that Jakob is widowed and has three children who need a mother. 2003.

[Download from BARD: Promised to Me Coming to America](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076436

**In Tune with Wedding Bells: A Novel of Enduring Romance** By Grace

Livingston Hill

Read by Lynn Schrichte                      Reading time 7 hours, 5minutes

Reuben Remington is about to embark on a month-long vacation when coworker Gillian Guthrie faints at her desk and needs to be taken to the hospital. But she will not go until she knows someone will take care of Noel, her five-year-old brother. Having no specific holiday plans, Reuben volunteers. Attracted to Noel's religious beliefs, Reuben soon finds faith in God is important in his life, as are Gillian and Noel.

[Download from BARD: In Tune with Wedding Bells: a Novel of Enduring...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB036841

Also available on cassette RC036841

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR09311](#)

Also available in braille BR009311

**A Light in the Window** By Jan Karon

Read by Gary Tipton                      Reading time 14 hours, 10 minutes

Father Tim has returned from his two-month visit to Ireland and finds much in the Southern village of Mitford the same. His neighbor, Cynthia, still has a special place in his heart, but he just can't seem to commit himself to her. And a wealthy widow is chasing after him. Sequel to At Home in Mitford (DB 44194).

[Download from BARD: A Light in the Window](#)

Also available on cassette RC044195

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR12270](#)

Also available in braille BR012270

**Out to Canaan** By Jan Karon

Read by Gary Tipton

Reading time 11 hours, 44 minutes

Changes are coming to the small town of Mitford. Father Tim Kavanagh, the Episcopal priest, and his wife Cynthia are thinking about retirement, the two candidates for mayor seem to be splitting the town in half, the bakery may be closing, and a real estate company out of Florida wants to turn Fernbank into a spa. Sequel to These High, Green Hills (RC 44196). Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Out to Canaan](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044958

Also available on cassette RC044958

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR12272](#)

Also available in braille BR012272

**Lady of Milkweed Manor** By Julie Klassen

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 11 hours, 24 minutes

England, early 1800s. Charlotte Lamb, a twenty-year-old vicar's daughter, is banished to a London home for unwed mothers when she becomes pregnant. Charlotte is mortified to find her former suitor, Dr. Daniel Taylor, working there, but Daniel--now married--becomes her protector. She soon discovers he has a secret. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Lady of Milkweed Manor](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075572

**The Inn at Rose Harbor** by Debbie Macomber

Read by Theresa Conkin

Reading time 10 hours, 44 minutes

Army widow Jo Marie Rose buys a bed-and-breakfast in Cedar Cove, Washington, and makes it her own with help from handyman Mark. Her first guests include Josh, returned to reconcile with his dying stepfather, and Abby, in town for her brother's wedding. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Inn at Rose Harbor](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075370

**44 Scotland Street** By Alexander McCall Smith

Read by Annie Wauters

Reading time 11 hours, 17 minutes

Follows the episodic adventures of an eclectic group of residents of an Edinburgh apartment building. There's overbearing Irene and her precocious young son Bertie, sixty-year-old widow Domenica, twenty-year-old newcomer Pat, and handsome, self-absorbed surveyor Bruce--Pat's flatmate. At her new gallery job Pat identifies an expensive portrait that subsequently disappears. 2005.

[Download from BARD: 44 Scotland Street](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064303

Also available on cassette RC064303

**Corduroy Mansions** By Alexander McCall Smith

Read by Jill Ferris

Reading time 13 hours, 47 minutes

Tale of the quirky residents of Corduroy Mansions, a four-story building in the London neighborhood of Pimlico. Middle-aged widower William French hopes his grown son Eddie moves out; young ladies Jo, Caroline, and Dee share a flat; and caterer Marcia fancies William. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Corduroy Mansions](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074001

**Anne of Avonlea** By L.M. Montgomery

Read by Gerry Kasarda

Reading time 8 hours, 13 minutes

Anne Shirley, once a scrawny, tempestuous, red-haired orphan, is now a lovely young woman teaching in the school where she herself was taught. As she goes about her daily tasks, love slips into her life so gradually that she doesn't even recognize it. For grades 5-8 and older interested readers.

[Download from BARD: Anne of Avonlea](#)

Also available on cassette RC014907

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR07431](#)

Also available in braille BR007431

**Winter in Thrush Green** By Miss Read

Read by Patricia Kilgarriff                      Reading time 6 hours, 36 minutes

The Christmas season in an English village is captured in this novel about the lives of the town's inhabitants. Plans for a suitable memorial to a respected citizen, weddings, births and a robbery take place amid Christmas preparations.

[Download from BARD: Winter in Thrush Green](#)

Also available on cassette RC030166

**Flowers in the Rain & Other Stories** By Rosamunde Pilcher

Read by Jill Ferris                                      Reading time 10 hours, 6 minutes

A collection of sixteen stories, mostly concerned with the romances of British women in their thirties. The title story tells of a reunion between a young woman who visits an old friend and the friend's grandson, on whom she once had a crush. Other stories portray a mother talking with her son on his wedding day; a young woman jilted by her lover; and a boy's love for his sister and widowed mother. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Flowers in the Rain & Other Stories](#)

Also available on cassette RC034018

**The Empty House** By Rosamunde Pilcher

Read by Jill Ferris                                      Reading time 5 hours, 36 minutes

Three months after her husband's accidental death, Virginia Keile reluctantly leaves her children with her mother-in-law and their nanny and takes a vacation in Cornwall. There she encounters Eustace Philips, a farmer she had fallen in love with at seventeen. As Eustace chides her into taking control of her life, the two untangle the reasons they drifted apart years before.

[Download from BARD: the Empty House](#)

Also available on cassette RC041478

Also available in braille BR002793

**The Beloved Invader** By Eugenia Price

Read by Terry Hayes Sales                      Reading time 9 hours, 22 minutes

The romantic, inspiring story of a northerner who comes to war-ravaged Georgia on business. He loses his heart to St. Simons Island and dedicates his life to its people. First novel of the St. Simons trilogy; the second is New Moon Rising (RC 10711), and the third is Lighthouse (RC 23288).

[Download from BARD: The Beloved Invader](#)

Also available on cassette RC033235

**Bright Captivity** By Eugenia Price

Read by Mitzi Friedlander                      Reading time 23 hours

St. Simons Island, Georgia, 1815. Anne Couper, about to celebrate her eighteenth birthday, is positive that something dramatic is going to happen in her life. When the British arrive and capture all the guests at a house party on a nearby island, Anne immediately falls in love with her captor, Lieutenant John Fraser. After being allowed to marry, the couple struggles over where to live--England or Georgia. Volume 1 of Georgia Trilogy. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Bright Captivity](#)

Also available on cassette RC033002

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR08538](#)

Also available in braille BR008538

**Miss Julia Paints the Town** By Anne B. Ross

Read by Mitzi Friedlander                      Reading time 11 hours, 17 minutes

Miss Julia rallies her town of Abbotsville, North Carolina, to protest plans of a New Jersey developer to replace city hall with condominiums. Miss Julia plots to scare off the Yankee by showcasing local eccentrics. In the meantime the husbands of three of Miss Julia's friends have disappeared. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Miss Julia Paints the Town](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067666

[Download form BARD as Electronic Braille BR18121](#)

Also available in braille BR018121

**Laddie, a True Blue Story** By Gene Stratton-Porter

Read by Mitzi Friedlander                      Reading time 14 hours, 45 minutes

Little Sister, the narrator of this autobiographical novel, is the twelfth child in the Stanton family. She is dubbed the "unwanted child," but as a result of her special relationship with her older brother Laddie--a paragon of virtue, intellect, and physical attainment--she is eventually recognized as a special gift to the family.

[Download from BARD: Laddie, a True Blue Story](#)

Also available on cassette RC032108

Also available in braille BR008394

**The Magic Garden** By Gene Stratton-Porter

Read by Faith Potts

Reading time 4 hours, 19 minutes

After her parents' divorce, young Amaryllis Minton runs away and meets painter's son John Forrester. John introduces Amaryllis to his magic garden and romance blossoms, but John's father sends Amaryllis home. Years pass, but neither John nor Amaryllis forget their love as they await their reunion. 1927.

[Download from BARD: The Magic Garden](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062396

Also available on cassette RC062396

**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** By Mary Ann Shaffer

Read by Corrie James

Reading time 7 hours, 56 minutes

London, 1946. Writer Juliet Ashton corresponds with Dawsey Adams and other members of a literary society created as a front during the Nazi occupation of the British channel island Guernsey. Through letters, Juliet learns about their wartime experiences. Intrigued, Juliet sails to Guernsey, where she finds new inspiration. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067526

Also available on cassette RC067526

**Very Valentine** By Adriana Trigiani

Read by Laura Giannarelli

Reading time 14 hours, 3 minutes

Valentine Roncalli rescues the Greenwich Village custom shoe-making company of her grandmother Teodora Angelini. While learning the business from Teodora, Valentine falls in love with restaurant owner Roman Falconi, who also has strong Italian American familial ties. Valentine and Teodora travel to Italy, where they discover family secrets. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Very Valentine](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068757

**Delta Wedding** By Eudora Welty

Read by Laura Giannarelli

Reading time 10 hours, 44 minutes

A quiet novel celebrating a large Southern family. In September 1923 nine-year-old Laura travels to her cousin's wedding in the Mississippi delta. Laura is glad to be enveloped by the family because her mother has recently died. She enjoys the boys' wildness, the girls' companionship, and her aunts' and uncles' strong love. .

[Download from BARD: Delta Wedding](#)

Also available on cassette RC042722