



## **Popular and Contemporary Fiction 2006 through 2008**

Looking for a good book and not sure where to start? These titles are some of the most popular fiction books published between 2006 to 2008. 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](#).

### **The Lace Reader** By Brunonia Barry

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 10 hours, 59 minutes

Towner Whitney, like her female forebears, can predict the future by reading lace patterns. When her great-aunt Eva mysteriously disappears, Towner goes home to Salem, Massachusetts, to uncover the truth. Towner revisits her past psychiatric troubles, family secrets, and her twin sister's death. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Lace Reader](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067406

Also available on cassette RC067406

### **The Uncommon Reader** By Alan Bennett

Read by Jill Fox Reading time 2 hours, 30 minutes

England. When the royal dogs stray into a mobile library parked near the palace, the Queen feels obligated to borrow a book. She soon develops an obsession with reading that changes her worldviews, distracts her from official duties, and prompts her to write her own masterpiece--with surprising consequences. Bestseller. 2007.

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Also available on digital cartridge DB066149

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**2666** By Roberto Bolaño

Read by Ken Kliban

Reading time 41 hours, 38 minutes

Three scholars travel to the Mexican border town of Santa Teresa searching for German writer Benno von Archimboldi. Professor Amalfitano and his daughter Rosa also move there, and African American reporter Oscar Fate arrives to cover a boxing match. Meanwhile dozens of women are murdered. Some strong language. Nat'l Bk. Critics Circle. Bestseller. 2008.

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Also available on digital cartridge DB068418

**People of the Book** By Geraldine Brooks

Read by Lisette Lecat

Reading time 16 hours, 16 minutes

Australian book conservator Hanna Heath analyzes a Hebrew manuscript created in medieval Spain and saved from destruction in 1990s Sarajevo. Hanna's discoveries--an insect wing, salt crystals, and wine and blood stains--reveal the codex's past and the lives of its guardians. Some descriptions of sex and some violence. Bestseller. 2008.

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Also available on digital cartridge DB066059

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17613](#)

Also available in braille BR017613

**America America a Novel** By Ethan Canin

Read by Fred Major

Reading time 14 hours, 8 minutes

Upstate New York, 1970s. Corey Sifter, a plumber's son, befriends members of the influential Metarey family, who eventually send him to prep school. Sifter observes the presidential campaign of Metarey protégé senator Henry Bonwiller--and its self-destruction caused by scandals and corruption. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: America America a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067300

**His Illegal Self** By Peter Carey

Read by Kevin Collins

Reading time 8 hours, 30 minutes

In 1972, Che, the young son of radical underground activists, lives in New York with his wealthy grandmother. When a woman arrives for a visit, Che assumes she is his mother and eagerly runs away with her. But nothing that follows happens as he expected. Strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: His Illegal Self](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067653

**The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao** by Junot Díaz

Read by Barry Bernson

Reading time 9 hours, 33 minutes

New Jersey. Overweight Dominican American Oscar works as a substitute teacher and dreams about being a famous writer. Oscar grew up with his rebellious sister Lola and beautiful mother, but the ancient curse of fukú haunts their lives--until he decides to do something about it. Violence and strong language. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#)

Also available on cassette RC065402

**The Plague of Doves** By Louise Erdrich

Read by Annie Wauters

Reading time 10 hours, 32 minutes

The long-ago murder of a white family and subsequent mob lynching of innocent Native Americans still haunt the town of Pluto, North Dakota, and the nearby Ojibwe reservation. Evelina, her grandfather Mooshum, Judge Coutts, and Doctor Lochran, whose lives intertwine, are unknowingly affected by the past. Some violence. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Plague of Doves](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066886

**Water For Elephants** By Sara Gruen

Read by Nick Sullivan

Reading time 12 hours, 44 minutes

1931. Veterinary student Jacob Jankowski's world comes crashing down when his parents die in a car accident. Broke, Jacob joins the circus, falls for Marlena, a married circus star, and cares for animals like Rosie the elephant. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Water for Elephants](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062718

Also available on cassette RC062718

**A Case of Exploding Mangoes** By Mohammed Hanif

Read by Michael Scherer      Reading time 10 hours, 14 minutes

Pakistan, 1988. Junior military officer Ali Shigri believes his father's suicide was actually a murder and holds General Zia, the country's president, responsible. With the help of his friend and sometime lover, Baby O, Ali plots revenge--the general's assassination. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Case of Exploding Mangoes](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068020

**A Map of Home** By Randa Jarrar

Read by Annie Wauters      Reading time 7 hours, 41 minutes

Boston-born Nidali, daughter of a Greek Egyptian mother and a Muslim Palestinian father, grows up in Kuwait. When Iraq invades in 1990, Nidali's family flees first to Egypt and later Texas, where--to her parents' dismay--Nidali quickly adapts to teen culture. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Map of Home](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070156

**Duma Key** By Stephen King

Read by David Hartley-Margolin      Reading time 23 hours, 15 minutes

An accident left self-made construction millionaire Edgar Freemantle brain damaged and without an arm. When Edgar's rage results in divorce, his therapist suggests he spend a year painting in Florida. With his phantom arm's help, Edgar soon produces incredible, but dangerous, artwork. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Duma Key](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065691

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Also available in braille BR017475

**Unaccustomed Earth** By Jhumpa Lahiri

Read by Gabriella Cavallero      Reading time 10 hours, 46 minutes

Eight short stories by Pulitzer Prize-winning author explore the nature of family and love. In the title story, a mother in Seattle nervously hosts her widowed father, who helps tend her garden but hides a secret. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Unaccustomed Earth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066192

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17928](#)

Also available in braille BR017928

**Alfred and Emily** By Doris May Lessing

Read by Laura Giannarelli      Reading time 8 hours, 4 minutes

Nobel Laureate and prolific author of *The Golden Notebook* (RC 23376) provides a fictional alternate account of her parents' lives. The Great War never happened and Brits Alfred and Emily marry others and have enjoyable careers. The novella is followed by the real account of their war-ravaged marriage. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Alfred and Emily](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068213

**The Bad Girl** By Mario Vargas Llosa

Read by Fred Major      Reading time 12 hours

Ricardo Somocurcio recounts his romance with the mysterious woman who captivates him for three decades. He first encounters the metamorphic "bad girl" as teenage Lily in 1950s Peru and is later ensnared by her in the guises of "Comrade Arlette" and "Madame Arnoux." Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2006.

[Download form BARD: The Bad Girl](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066877

**Beijing Coma** By Jian Ma

Read by David Hartley-Margolin      Reading time 29 hours, 28 minutes

Dai Wei lies in a coma for ten years after being shot in the head at Tiananmen Square in 1989. His thoughts wander between physical sensations and memories--of his family, the university student movement, and his girl friend Tian Yi. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Beijing Coma](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068877

**The Emperor's Children** By Claire Messud

Read by Faith Potts      Reading time 16 hours, 49 minutes

March to November 2001. College friends Marina, Danielle, and Julius, residents of New York City since the 1990s, are still striving for success. When misfit cousin Bootie comes to work for Marina's self-important father, their social circle is destabilized. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. Bestseller. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Emperor's Children](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063693

Also available on cassette RC063693

**The Senator's Wife** By Sue Miller

Read by Mary Kane      Reading time 11 hours, 8 minutes

Newly pregnant Meri and her professor husband move next door to Delia and her husband, a philandering, retired senator. Their parallel lives eventually collide as the older couple contends with a complex relationship and Meri struggles with childhood memories of neglect. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Senator's Wife](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066483

**Dangerous Laughter Thirteen Stories** By Steven Millhauser

Read by Guy Williams      Reading time 8 hours, 47 minutes

A Pulitzer Prize winner's tales of obsession, dark humor, and alternate history. In "The Room in the Attic" a young boy becomes infatuated with a classmate's ill sister. "Cat 'n' Mouse" reimagines a deadly ritual between cartoon rivals. Includes the title story, in which teenage hysteria has fatal consequences. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Dangerous Laughter Thirteen Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067461

**A Mercy** By Toni Morrison

Read by Tonya Baltimore                      Reading time 5 hours, 32 minutes

Colonial North America, 1680s. An Anglo-Dutch trader reluctantly accepts a young slave girl named Florens as payment for a bad debt. Her mother hopes the transaction will prove a mercy to Florens, but subsequent years in Jacob Vaark's household reveal the harsh reality of being under another's dominion. Some violence. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: A Mercy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069148

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Also available in braille BR018095

**Songs for the Missing** By Steward O'Nan

Read by Mary Kane                      Reading time 9 hours, 41 minutes

Ohio, 2005. Graduate Kim Larsen looks forward to leaving her small hometown for college. On the way to her summer night job at the Conoco station, Kim disappears. Her parents, friends, and younger sister try to cope during the three-year-long search. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Songs for the Missing](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068473

**Netherland** By Joseph O'Neill

Read by Robert Sams                      Reading time 9 hours, 16 minutes

New York City. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, Dutch-born Hans van den Broek's British wife Rachel returns to London with their son Jake. Lonely Hans joins a local cricket league and befriends Trinidadian Chuck Ramkissoon, who is a shady businessman but a great pal. Strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Netherland](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067189

**Lush Life** By Richard Price

Read by Jim Zeiger

Reading time 15 hours, 43 minutes

New York, Lower East Side. Frustrated actor-writer Eric Cash claims two teens mugged him and his drinking companions as they stumbled home, shooting Ike, an aspiring writer. But when Ike dies, detectives Matty Clark and Yolonda Bello arrest Eric for homicide. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Lush Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066237

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17827](#)

Also available in braille BR017827

**Goldengrove** by Francine Prose

Read by Mare Trevathan

Reading time 7 hours, 55 minutes

New England. Thirteen-year-old Nico's older sister Margaret drowns after diving from a rowboat into a lake near their house. Emotionally abandoned by her grieving parents, Nico is drawn to Margaret's artistic boyfriend, Aaron, who shares Nico's feelings of loss and guilt. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Goldengrove](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068266

**Indignation** by Philip Roth

Read by Barry Bernson

Reading time 4 hours 44 minutes

In 1951, during the Korean War, eighteen-year-old Marcus Messner, only child of a kosher butcher, leaves Newark, New Jersey, to attend Ohio's Winesburg College. He experiences rudeness, heartache, and fear of expulsion before his death at age nineteen--which devastates his parents. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Indignation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067841

**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

**The Art of Racing in the Rain** By Garth Stein

Read by Peter Ganim

Reading time 9 hours, 11 minutes

Enzo, a mixed-breed dog, believes he will be reincarnated as a human. He stands by his master Denny Swift's side through Denny's race-car driving career, the birth of his daughter Zo, the death of his wife Eve, and a bitter custody battle with Eve's parents. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Art of Racing in the Rain](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066787

Also available on cassette RC066787

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17801](#)

Also available in braille BR017801

**The Story of Edgar Sawtelle a Novel** By David Wroblewski

Read by Steven Carpenter

Reading time 17 hours, 34 minutes

Wisconsin, 1970s. Gar and Trudy Sawtelle raise an intuitive and intelligent dog breed on their farm. One dog, Almondine, can communicate with the Sawtelle's mute son Edgar. After Gar's brother arrives, Gar dies and fourteen-year-old Edgar flees into the forest with three of the dogs. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Story of Edgar Sawtelle a novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066656

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17799](#)

Also available in braille BR017799

**The Book Thief** By Mark Zusak

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 15 hours, 32 minutes

Death narrates the tale of nine-year-old Liesel from 1939 to 1943 in Nazi Germany. Liesel copes with a foster family, air raids, her friend Rudy, and a hidden Jew, sustained by the books she steals. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2006.

[Download from BARD: The Book Thief](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062431

Also available on cassette RC062431

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17409](#)

Also available in braille BR017409