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Popular and Contemporary Fiction Favorites 2012 Through 2014

Looking for a good book and not sure where to start? These titles are some of the most popular fiction books published between 2012 to 2014. 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](#).

Life After Life By Kate Atkinson

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 16 hours, 21 minutes
England, 1910. Ursula Todd's first life ends before it even begins. But she is born again--and again and again. Growing to various ages, only to start over, Ursula finally realizes the power her reincarnation provides--a chance to change history. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Life After Life](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076417

The Aviator's Wife By Melanie Benjamin

Read by Gabriella Cavallero Reading time 13 hours, 18 minutes
1927. In this fictionalized biography Anne Morrow, daughter of the ambassador to Mexico, meets the dashing Colonel Charles Lindbergh while visiting her family in Mexico City during the Christmas holidays. Soon Anne and Charles are married and living a glamorous life. Then, their son Charlie is kidnapped and murdered. 2013.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB076448

The Luminaries By Eleanor Catton

Read by Mark Meadows

Reading time 29 hours, 17 minutes

New Zealand, 1866. Shipwreck survivor Walter Moody becomes entangled in a mystery plaguing the town of Hokitika. As Walter travels throughout the land, the underlying motives of the townspeople are revealed. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Man Booker Prize. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Luminaries](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077823

Telegraph Avenue By Michael Chabon

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 19 hours, 17 minutes

Berkeley, California; 2004. Archy and Nat run Brokeland Records. They fear for their store when former NFL quarterback and media mogul Gibson Goode decides to open a megastore and entertainment center two blocks away. Meanwhile, Archy's long-lost son reappears and their wives' business is in turmoil. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Telegraph Avenue](#)

Also available to digital cartridge DB075523

This is How You Lose Her By Junot Díaz

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 5 hours, 14 minutes

Nine short stories by the Pulitzer Prize winner that deal with love in its varied forms. All but one focus on Yunion, a professor and writer, at different stages of his life. In "Nilda" Yunion reminisces about his brother's girlfriend. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: This is How You Lose Her](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075524

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19611](#)

Also available in braille BR019611

The Circle a Novel By Dave Eggers

Read by Abigail Maupin

Reading time 14 hours, 30 minutes

Mae begins work at the Circle--a company that reinvented the Internet by creating one transparent identity for each user. Although enthralled by her increasingly powerful online role, Mae is troubled to learn that the company may have a dark side. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Circle a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077770

The Round House By Louise Erdrich

Read by Gregory Maupin

Reading time 10 hours, 41 minutes

North Dakota, 1988. Thirteen-year-old Joe Coutts's mother Geraldine, a tribal enrollment specialist, is brutally raped at the Ojibwe Round House. Joe and his father, a judge, each search for Geraldine's attacker to bring him to justice. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. National Book Award. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Round House](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075641

Gone Girl By Gillian Flynn

Read by Mare Trevathan

Reading time 17 hours, 55 minutes

Nick and Amy alternate telling the story of their troubled marriage, their move from New York to Nick's Missouri hometown, and Amy's disappearance on their fifth wedding anniversary. As clues begin to implicate Nick, he learns more about Amy. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Gone Girl](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074888

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19868](#)

Also available in braille BR019868

City of Dark Magic by Magnus Flyte

Read by Jennifer Hubbard Reading time 13 hours, 48 minutes

Prague. The Lobkowitz family hires American graduate student Sarah Weston to spend a summer cataloging its music collection, which includes Beethoven manuscripts, in preparation for the opening of a new museum. When she arrives, Sarah discovers conspiracies, murder, and time travel. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2012.

[Download from BARD: City of Dark Magic](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075832

The Signature of All Things By Elizabeth Gilbert

Read by Gabriella Cavallero Reading time 20 hours, 39 minutes

Alma Whittaker, the only birth child of the richest man in Philadelphia, grows up in a life of luxury and intellectual stimulation. Her parents encourage her curiosity and she matures into one of the best botanists of the nineteenth century. Some violence and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Signature of All Things](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077562

Another Piece of My Heart By Jane Green

Read by Cecelia Riddett Reading time 11 hours, 29 minutes

Mill Valley, California. Andi marries Ethan, a divorced father of two, and discovers that she is infertile. After five years, Ethan's disturbed teenage daughter Emily has nearly destroyed the marriage. When Emily becomes pregnant, Andi pins her hopes for happiness on Emily's decision about the baby. Some strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Another Piece of My Heart](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075102

The Fault in Our Stars By John Green

Read by Kate Rudd

Reading time 7 hours, 16 minutes

A miracle drug may have given sixteen-year-old cancer patient Hazel a few more years, but she is still depressed. Then Hazel meets cute Augustus during a support-group meeting and her world shifts in unexpected and inspiring ways. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. Commercial audiobook. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Fault of Our Stars](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074112

And the Mountains Echoed By Khaled Hosseini

Read by Jon Huffman

Reading time 14 hours, 33 minutes

Afghanistan, 1952. Ten-year-old Abdullah cares for and protects his three-year-old sister Pari. Their father remarries and the world around them changes, but Pari remains Abdullah's focus--even after she is given up for adoption to another family. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: And the Mountains Echoed](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076761

The Orphan Master's Son By Adam Johnson

Read by Mark Delgado

Reading time 17 hours, 26 minutes

North Korea. Pak Jun Do spends his childhood on an orphan slave-labor crew--even though his father runs the orphanage. Later he is placed on kidnap duty, snatching Japanese citizens whose skills are needed. Over time, his assignments grow increasingly dangerous. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. Pulitzer Prize Winner Fiction 2013. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Orphan Master's Son](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074282

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry By Rachel Joyce

Read by Gabriella Cavallero Reading time 9 hours, 17 minutes

Six months after retiring, Harold Fry receives a letter from former coworker Queenie Hennessy, who is dying of cancer. Intending to post a reply, Harold instead walks the length of England to personally deliver his note, leaving behind his wife Maureen. Along the way Harold ruminates on his life. Some strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076196

Flight Behavior By Barbara Kingsolver

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 17 hours, 59 minutes

Feathertown, Tennessee. Dellarobia Turnbow is on her way to an adulterous tryst when she sees what looks like a forest fire but is actually the migration of millions of monarch butterflies. Soon, Feathertown residents are caught up in a fight between faith and science. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Flight Behavior](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075798

Orphan Train By Christina Baker Kline

Read by Jessica Almasy Reading time 8 hours, 23 minutes

Foster teen Molly is sent to ninety-one-year-old Vivian Daly's house on coastal Maine to perform community service. As Molly cleans the attic, Vivian reminisces about emigrating from Ireland, losing her family, and being sent to Minnesota on an orphan train--and the two connect. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Orphan Train](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076746

The Dinner By Herman Koch

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 7 hours, 51 minutes

Paul, his politician brother, and their wives meet for dinner in a posh restaurant. As the discussion turns to a horrific situation involving their teenage sons, another grave matter is slowly revealed. Originally published in Dutch in 2009. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Dinner](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076318

The Lowland By Jumphra Lahiri

Read by Andy Pyle

Reading time 13hours, 55 minutes

Brothers Udayan and Subhash grow up on the outskirts of Calcutta. In the 1960s Udayan falls in with a radical movement and helps plot revolution.

Subhash disapproves, but begins a new life in America--until he's called back home. Some violence and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Lowland](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077581

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20304](#)

Also available in braille BR020304

We Are Water By Wally Lamb

Read by Julie-Ann Elliott

Reading time 24 hours, 43 minutes

Successful artist Annie Oh is marrying gallery owner Viveca. As Annie's ex-husband, children, and many other people gather for the wedding, Annie reexamines her life. Ugly truths and long-held secrets are festering just below the surface. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: We Are Water](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077816

Defending Jacob By William Landay

Read by John Polk

Reading time 15 hours, 6 minutes

Assistant district attorney Andy Barber investigates the murder of a fourteen-year-old boy in his New England town. But the evidence points to Andy's son Jacob, the victim's schoolmate, and it becomes known that Andy and Jacob are from a line of violent men. Strong language and some violence. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Defending Jacob](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074312

Leaving the Sea Stories By Ben Marcus

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 10 hours, 24 minutes

Fifteen previously published short stories in which Marcus experiments with different storytelling styles. In the title piece a man explains the downward spiral of his marriage in seven sentences. "On Not Growing Up" and "My Views on the Darkness" rely on character interviews. 2014.

[Download from BARD: Leaving the Sea Stories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078199

The Good Lord Bird By James McBride

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 12 hours, 39 minutes

1856. Henry "Onion" Shackelford is a ten-year-old slave when abolitionist John Brown rolls into town. Henry's father is killed in a scuffle and John Brown takes in Henry, believing him to be "Henrietta." Living as a girl, Henry bears witness to Brown's reign of terror. Violence and strong language. Nat'l Book Award. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Good Lord Bird](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077431

TransAtlantic a Novel By Colum McCann

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 10 hours, 24 minutes

An Irish maid and her descendants cross paths with historical figures: pioneering transatlantic aviators Jack Alcock and Arthur Brown; abolitionist Frederick Douglass, on a speaking tour in Ireland in 1845; and U.S. senator George Mitchell, in Belfast for peace talks in 1998. Strong language. Bestseller. 2013.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB076922

Someone By Alice McDermott

Read by Jill Ferris

Reading time 8 hour, 49 minutes

Marie Commeford, a woman with compromised eyesight, reflects back on her life in Brooklyn. The personalities of her fellow first- and second-generation Irish American neighbors color her world before and after World War II. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Someone](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077561

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20307](#)

Gathering of Waters By Bernice L. McFadden

Read by Mare Trevathan

Reading time 5 hours, 33 minutes

Money, Mississippi. The ghost of a prostitute inhabits the body of little Doll, who grows up to seduce the Reverend August Hilson and become his second wife. Their granddaughter Tass falls in love with Emmett Till when he visits in 1955. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2012.

Download from BARD: [Gathering of Waters](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076604

The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat By Edward Kelsey Moore

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 11 hours, 33 minutes

Indiana. School friends Clarice, Barbara Jean, and Odette--nicknamed after the singing group the Supremes--have been socializing at their mentor Earl's restaurant since childhood. Now in their fifties, the women continue to contemplate life while coping with racism, illness, lost love, and cheating husbands. Some violence and some strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076487

The Husband's Secret By Liane Moriarty

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

Reading time 12 hours, 12 minutes

While searching in the attic, Cecilia Fitzpatrick discovers a letter from her husband John-Paul with instructions that she open it in the event of his death. John-Paul is still very much alive--and the secret inside the letter is devastating. Strong language. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Husband's Secret](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077238

Me Before You By Jojo Moyes

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 12 hours, 58 minutes

Working-class English girl Louisa "Lou" Clark is hired as an aide to wealthy Will Traynor, a former mogul who has been paralyzed since a road accident. Lou tries to keep the embittered Will engaged with the world, while Will encourages Lou to expand her horizons. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Me Before You](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076161

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19900](#)

Also available in braille BR019900

A Tale for the Time Being By Ruth L. Ozeki

Read by Ruth Ozeki

Reading time 14 hours, 45 minutes

Tokyo teenager Nao Yasutani plans to commit suicide to escape bullying. But first Nao writes in her diary about her great-grandmother, a Zen Buddhist nun. Later, a novelist discovers Nao's diary among flotsam on a British Columbian beach and wants to help the teenager. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2013. Was on Man Booker Prize 2013 shortlist.

[Download from BARD: A Tale for the Time Being](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076696

The Storyteller By Jodi Picoult

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 17 hours, 7 minutes

Sage Singer works as a baker at night--hiding her facial scars and avoiding people. But she tentatively begins a friendship with elderly Josef Weber from her grief group, not realizing his hidden past is intertwined with her grandmother's Holocaust experience. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: They Storyteller](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076311

The Expats by Chris Pavone

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 12 hours, 57 minutes

When Kate Moore's husband Dexter is offered high-paying employment in Luxembourg, she leaves the CIA job Dexter knows nothing about. But her plan to recreate herself as a quiet stay-at-home mom is challenged by the double lives of her new expat friends--and of her husband. Violence and strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Expats](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074483

The Yellow Birds By Kevin Powers

Read by Gregory Maupin Reading time 4 hours, 40 minutes

Iraq, 2004. Twenty-one-year-old private John Bartle and eighteen-year-old private Daniel Murphy deploy to Nineveh Province in Iraq. Bartle has promised Murph's mother that he will bring Murph home to her. But the soldiers are unprepared for insurgents and improvised explosive devices that lie ahead. Violence and strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Yellow Birds](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075443

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19619](#)

Also available in braille BR019619

Orfeo a Novel By Richard Powers

Read by Gary Telles Reading time 14 hours, 46 minutes

Future America. When he calls emergency services for help with his dying dog, composer Peter Els sets in motion a chain of events that forces him to flee from Homeland Security. Els's search for music in everything has people thinking he is a bioterrorist. Some strong language. 2014.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB078227

Bleeding Edge By Thomas Pynchon

Read by Dan Bloom

Reading time 17 hours, 39 minutes

New York City, 2001. Before 9/11, self-employed, certification-free fraud investigator Maxine Tarnow is examining the finances of a shady computer-security firm and its wealthy CEO. But the job goes south when some of the odd characters she encounters turn up dead. Strong language. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Bleeding Edge](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077783

In the Shadow of the Banyan By Vaddey Ratner

Read by Jennifer Hubbard

Reading time 14 hours, 31 minutes

Cambodia, 1975. Seven-year-old Raami's father comes home from his morning walk with news of the brewing revolution. Soon, her family is swept into the chaos of the Khmer Rouge regime. As she deals with loss, Raami submerges herself in the stories and poems her father told her. Some violence. 2012.

[Download from BARD: In the Shadow of the Banyan](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075520

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19629](#)

Also available in braille BR019629

The Casual Vacancy By J.K. Rowling

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 17 hours, 25 minutes

In his early forties, councilman Barry Fairbrother dies unexpectedly of an aneurysm. The casual vacancy he leaves on the parish council has a huge effect on the remaining people in the town of Pagford. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Casual Vacancy](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075507

The Enchanted Life of Adam Hope by Rhonda Riley

Read by Mare Trevathan

Reading time 15 hours, 1 minute

1944. Seventeen-year-old Evelyn takes over her deceased great-aunt's farm. One day she discovers what she thinks is a badly burned soldier. Instead, it is a being that miraculously transforms into a mirror image of Evelyn named Addie, then into a man she calls Adam. Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Then Enchanted Life of Adam Hope](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076674

Ghana Must Go By Taiye Selasi

Read by Michael J. McCullough Reading time 13 hours, 47 minutes
After Kweku Sai dies suddenly, his children gather in Accra to settle his estate. They must come to terms with their relationships with Kweku--who was a brilliant surgeon but a poor parent--as well as with each other. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Ghana Must Go](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076458

Where'd You Go, Bernadette By Maria Semple

Read by Margaret Strom Reading time 10 hours, 49 minutes
Seattle. Eighth-grader Bee's request for a family trip to Antarctica is the last straw for her mother Bernadette, who has become so socially inept that she hired a virtual assistant in India to handle her life. Just before the trip, Bernadette vanishes. Heartbroken Bee investigates. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Where'd You Go, Bernadette?](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075351

The Rosie Project a Novel By Graeme C. Simsion

Read by Guy Williams Reading time 8 hours, 12 minutes
Socially stunted geneticist Don Tillman embarks on an endeavor he calls the Wife Project. As he quantifies the qualities of a perfect wife, he encounters Rosie, who seeks Don's help in identifying her real father. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download form BARD: The Rosie Project](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB078150

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore By Robin Sloan

Read by Andy Pyle

Reading time 9 hours, 48 minutes

While hunting for a new job, Web designer Clay Jannon wanders across Mr. Penumbra's Twenty-Four-Hour Bookstore, which sits next to a strip joint. Hired for the night shift, Clay is soon drawn into a world of mystery, intrigue, and kooky customers. Alex Award. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075599

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19723](#)

Also available in braille BR019723

The Light Between Oceans By M.L. Stedman

Read by Collen Delany

Reading time 11 hours, 51 minutes

Western Australia, 1926. On an island one hundred miles from the mainland, lighthouse keepers Isabel and Tom Sherbourne discover a boat carrying a dead man and a crying baby. The decisions they make that day come back to haunt them several years later. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Light Between Oceans](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075192

The Burgess Boys By Elizabeth Strout

Read by Mary Kane

Reading time 9 hours, 45 minutes

Brothers Jim and Bob both left their Maine hometown for New York law careers--Jim in the corporate world, Bob at Legal Aid. When Bob's twin sister calls them back home to help her teenage son fight a hate-crime charge, family history--including the accidental death of their father--colors their interactions. Bestseller. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Burgess Boys](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076375

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt

Read by David Pittu

Reading time 32 hours, 26 minutes

At the age of thirteen, Theo Decker survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is raised by wealthy family friends. His one connection to his mother--a painting--draws Theo into New York City's underground art world as he grows older. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

[Download from BARD: The Goldfinch](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077453

The Shoemaker's Wife By Adriana Trigiani

Read by Laura Giannarelli

Reading time 20 hours, 50 minutes

Teenagers Ciro Lazzari and Enza Ravanelli meet in the Italian Alps when he digs the grave for her sister, but a scandal sends Ciro to America to work as a shoemaker's apprentice. Years later Enza, a celebrated seamstress in Manhattan, crosses Ciro's path again. Some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB074522

The Age of Miracles a Novel By Karen Thompson Walker

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

Reading time 7 hours, 39 minutes

Eleven-year-old Julia wakes up the morning after a sleepover to discover the world has begun to end. As the earth slows, throwing the balance of life off-kilter, Julia and her family must find a new sense of ordinary. Some strong language. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Age of Miracles a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074890

Beautiful Ruins By Jess Walter

Read by Laura Giannarelli

Reading time 14 hours, 28 minutes

Italy, 1962. Pasquale Tursi's seaside hotel receives its first American guest, actress Dee Moray, who had been filming Cleopatra in Rome. Dee is supposedly dying, but fifty years later Pasquale goes to Hollywood in search of her. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Beautiful Ruins](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074948

Alif the Unseen By Willow G. Wilson

Read by Sanjiv Jhaveri

Reading time 15 hours, 23 minutes

Alif hides behind his online pseudonym and helps others remain unseen. He crosses paths on the Internet with "Hand of God"--the head of state security. Now Alif is locked into a battle for the future, with a magical book as the prize. Strong language and some violence. Commercial audiobook. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Alif the Unseen](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074853