



Women's Lives and Relationships Fiction

These realistic fiction books are focused on the lives and relationships of women, their families and friends and the issues and concerns in their lives. Tones and subjects range from humorous, literary, upbeat, romantic, tragic, and serious. This list provides a sampling of different authors and books available in this genre and is by no means exhaustive. 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](#).

Garden Spells By Sarah Addison Allen

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 6 hours, 59 minutes

North Carolina caterer Claire Waverly uses the family's magical garden to enhance her cooking. Her sister Sydney never wanted the horticultural legacy and left home just like their mother did years ago. Now Sydney has returned with her young daughter after escaping an abusive husband. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Garden Spells](#)

Also available on cassette RC065395

Summer Rental By Mary Kay Andrews

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 12 hours, 34 minutes

Unemployed banker Ellis, model Julia, and teacher Dorie--once childhood friends in Savannah, Georgia--rent a beach house in Nags Head, North Carolina, for a month. The women, now in their thirties, share hopes and disappointments and shelter a stranger on the run from her husband. Strong language and some violence. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Summer Rental](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074258

Dream When You're Feeling Blue by Elizabeth Berg

Read by Elizabeth Berg

Reading time 9 hours, 58 minutes

1940s. Kitty and Louise see their boyfriends off to fight in World War II, while their younger sister Tish has fun dancing and flirting at USO events.

Commercial audiobook. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Dream When You're Feeling Blue](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063750

Also available on cassette RC063750

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17718](#)

Also available in braille BR017718

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 from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18107](#)

The Gap Year a Novel By Sarah Bird

Read by Jennifer Hubbard

Reading time 12 hours, 31 minutes

Lactation consultant Cam Lightsey prepares for her college-bound daughter Aubrey's departure. But Aubrey falls in love with football star Tyler, starts losing interest in continuing her education, and secretly corresponds with her long-absent father, who abandoned his family for a cult. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2011.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB075284

Secrets From the Past By Barbara Taylor Bradford

Read by Kristin Allison

Reading time 10 hours, 9 minutes

Serena Stone is writing a biography of her late father, a famous war photojournalist. After she finds old photos of a woman who resembles her--and who appears to be her father's pregnant lover--Serena searches for the truth of her parentage. Some descriptions of sex. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Secrets From the Past](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077031

Queen of Babble by Meg Cabot

Read by Annie Wauters

Reading time 8 hours 47 minutes

New Yorker Lizzie Nichols's big mouth lands her in trouble and leaves her stranded in London with no place to stay. Lizzie joins her friend Shari, a caterer at a French chateau, where Lizzie again reveals secrets and falls for a Frenchman. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2006.

[Download from BARD: Queen of Babble](#)

Also available on cassette RC063557

Seen It All and Done the Rest a Novel By Pearl Cleage

Read by Victoria Gordon

Reading time 8 hours, 47 minutes

Anti-Americanism sends African American actress Josephine Evans home to Atlanta after a thirty-year career in Europe. Josephine reconnects with her granddaughter Zora, from Baby Brother's Blues (RC 63550), and the West End community, where she rebuilds her late mother's house despite threats from developer Greer Woodruff. Strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Seen It All and Done the Rest a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066669

Must Love Dogs a Novel By Claire Cook

Read by Cyn Delafield

Reading time 7 hours, 39 minutes

At the urging of her large family, forty-year-old divorced preschool teacher Sarah Hurlihy turns to the personal ads to find a date. When the first guy turns out to be her own father, she figures things can only get worse, until she borrows her brother's dog as bait. Some strong language. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Must Love Dogs](#)

Also available on cassette RC056004

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Read by Jennifer Hubbard

Reading time 12 hours, 10 minutes

Eighteen-year-old Victoria Jones, abandoned as an infant, ages out of California's foster-home system. Victoria's only decent home was with Elizabeth, who taught Victoria to care for flowers. Victoria eventually finds work with a florist and meets Elizabeth's nephew Grant, who also speaks through flowers. Some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Language of Flowers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074148

The Jane Austen Book Club By Karen Joy Fowler

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

Reading time 9 hours, 31 minutes

Sylvia, lesbian daughter Allegra, friend Jocelyn, French teacher Prudie, senior citizen Bernadette, and bachelor Grigg meet to discuss Jane Austen's works. Over the next few months, each participant's life is influenced differently by personal interpretations of the novels. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller. 2004.

[Download from BARD: The Jane Austen Book Club](#)

Also available on cassette RC058362

Heart of the Matter By Emily Giffin

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 11 hours, 55 minutes

Boston. Two women, Tessa and Valerie, describe events surrounding an infidelity. Stay-at-home mom Tessa is married to Nick, a renowned pediatric plastic surgeon. After a marshmallow-roasting accident, lawyer Valerie's young son Charlie becomes Nick's patient. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Heart of the Matter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071280

Family Pictures By Jane Green

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 10 hours, 58 minutes
Sylvie and Maggie live on opposite coasts and both have husbands who travel constantly for work and children nearing college age. When Sylvie's daughter meets Maggie's in New York City the lives of both families implode. The two families struggle to recover--with surprising consequences. Some strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Family Pictures](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076673

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20175](#)

Winter Garden By Kristin Hannah

Read by Susan Ericksen Reading time 14 hours, 46 minutes
Sisters Meredith, a homebody, and Nina, a world-traveling photojournalist, reunite at their father's deathbed along with Anya, their coldhearted Russian mother. Anya promises her husband that she will tell the girls the story of her past in war-torn Leningrad. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Winter Garden](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070583

The Island By Elin Hilderbrand

Read by Madelyn Buzzard Reading time 14 hours, 52 minutes
Two generations of Tate women--recently divorced matriarch Birdie; her restless daughter Tate; her other daughter Chess, who is reeling from her ex-fiancé's death; and Birdie's widowed sister India--seek solace at a rustic family-owned cottage on Tuckernuck Island near Nantucket. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Island](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071796

The Story Sisters by Alice Hoffman

Read by Kate Kiley

Reading time 10 hours, 28 minutes

Teenage sisters Elv, Meg, and Claire Story have always been close. But tragedy, illness, and betrayal threaten to tear them apart as their brooding, divorced mother detaches and Elv retreats into a dark fantasy world of drug addiction and self-destructiveness. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Story Sisters](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070824

Saving CeeCee Honeycutt By Beth Hoffman

Read by Nona Pipes

Reading time 11 hours, 1 minute

1967. After twelve-year-old CeeCee's mentally ill mother dies in Ohio, CeeCee's great-aunt Tallulah "Tootie" Caldwell decides to take her home to Savannah, Georgia, rather than leave CeeCee with her negligent father. CeeCee is introduced to genteel Southern living, eccentric family friends, and the housekeeper Oletta. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Saving CeeCee Honeycutt](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072437

The Charming Man By Marian Keyes

Read by Colleen Delany

Reading time 20 hours, 50 minutes

Ireland. Playboy politician Paddy's engagement to social climber Alicia shocks many, including Paddy's recent girlfriend, Lola; his emotionally unstable former lover, Marnie; and Marnie's journalist sister, Grace. The women reexamine their relationships with Paddy while scandal erupts and Grace seeks revenge. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: The Charming Man](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068459

Confessions of a Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 10 hours, 1 minute

Young London journalist Rebecca Bloomwood loves to shop for clothes, makeup, shoes, and other trendy extravagances she can ill afford on her meager wages. Her banker is pressing her about her enormous overdue credit-card bill, but Becky just can't seem to control her addiction. Some strong language. 2001.

[Download from BARD: Confessions of a Shopaholic](#)

Also available on cassette RC054435

Trading Dreams at Midnight a Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 9 hours, 20 minutes

Philadelphia. Nan raises her granddaughters Neena and Tish after Nan's mentally ill daughter, Freeda, abandons the girls. Neena spends her adult life searching for her mother and preying on married men for money. When Tish suffers through a fragile pregnancy, the family regroups. Strong language and some violence. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Trading Dreams at Midnight a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067818

Who Asked You? By Terry McMillan

Read by Mary Kane

Reading time 9 hours, 33 minutes

Betty Jean, "BJ," who delivers room service at a hotel, is dealing with her senile husband, incarcerated son and his elitist brother, and her two sisters when BJ's daughter Trinetta drops off her own two sons. Trinetta returns to drug addiction, forcing BJ to keep the grandchildren. Strong language. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Who Asked You?](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077681

Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20336

The Three Mrs. Parkers By Joan A. Medlicott

Read by Margaret Strom

Reading time 9 hours, 53 minutes

Facing foreclosure on her family's South Carolina homestead, middle-aged widow Zoe Parker turns to her wealthy, estranged mother-in-law, Winifred. Winifred moves in, as does Zoe's grieving daughter, Katie. Facing unexpected challenges and dangers, the three generations of Parker women resolve old grievances and form new bonds. 2005.

[Download from BARD: The Three Mrs. Parkers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062168

Also available on cassette RC062168

Up Close and Personal by Fern Michaels

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 9 hours, 51 minutes
South Carolina. Thirty years ago, heiress Sarabess Windsor conceived a daughter, Trinity, as a bone-marrow donor for her first child, now deceased. Raised by a local family, Trinity ran away at fifteen. Childhood friend attorney Jake Forrest must find Trinity before her inheritance reverts to Sarabess. Some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Up Close and Personal](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB065306

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

Miss New India By Bharati Mukherjee

Read by J. Michael McCullough Reading time 12 hours, 40 minutes
With the help of her American teacher, Anjali Bose flees her catastrophic arranged marriage in northern India. In the teeming city of Bangalore, Anjali meets a diverse group of people and struggles to find a job at a call center. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Miss New India](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074363

Sing You Home a Novel By Jodi Picoult

Read by Erin Jones Reading time 13 hours, 44 minutes
After years of fertility treatments, Zoe delivers a stillborn son. Her husband Max can't face more attempts and they divorce. When Zoe later marries a woman, Vanessa, Max fights Zoe's plan to impregnate Vanessa with Max and Zoe's three remaining frozen embryos. Strong language and descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Sing You Home a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072862

Every Last One A Novel By Anna Quindlen

Read by Kimberly Schraf Reading time 10 hours, 20 minutes

Mary Beth and Glen Latham worry about their withdrawn son Max, who along with his twin brother Alex is about to enter high school where their sister Ruby will be a senior. When undetected tensions culminate in an act of violence, Mary Beth is left reeling. Some strong language. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Every Last One a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073048

Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind By Ann B. Ross

Read by Terry Hayes Sales Reading time 8 hours, 37 minutes

Miss Julia, of Abbotsville, North Carolina, is just recovering from the shock of her husband's death, when Hazel Marie Puckett arrives on her doorstep with a nine-year-old boy. Mr. Springer might have left Miss Julia well off financially (which she is just beginning to enjoy), but he also left her with a stepson.

[Download from BARD: Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind](#)

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR12542](#)

Also available in braille BR012542

Shanghai Girls a Novel By Lisa See

Read by Mary Kane Reading time 12 hours, 14 minutes

In 1937 Shanghai, after their gambling father loses everything, beautiful Pearl and May Chin are married off to two Chinese brothers living in Los Angeles. Escaping from the invading Japanese, the sisters arrive in California and experience unexpected difficulties as they adapt to a new life. Some violence. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Shanghai Girls a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069160

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18386](#)

A Wedding in December a Novel By Anita Shreve

Read by Linda Emond.

Reading time 9 hours, 51 minutes

Widowed Berkshires innkeeper Nora hosts six of her longtime school friends for a wedding. Forty-three-year-old cancer-stricken Bridget, a single mother, is marrying a former lover after a chance encounter reunites them. Old secrets and hurts are divulged and forgiven. Strong language. Bestseller. Commercial audiobook. 2005.

[Download from BARD: A Wedding in December a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB061489

Also available on cassette RC061489

The Sins of the Mother By Danielle Steel

Read by Cassandra Campbell Reading time 12 hours

Olivia Grayson, the head of a successful home-furnishings corporation, regrets not spending more time with her children--Cass, Liz, John, and Phillip--who are now all grown adults. Instead Olivia plans a lavish family vacation every year that she hopes will compensate for her absence. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. Commercial audiobook. 2012.

[Download from BARD: The Sins of the Mother](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075670

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19682](#)

The Debutante Divorcee a Novel By Plum Sykes

Read by Gabra Zackman

Reading time 7 hours, 3 minutes

When Sylvie Mortimer's husband, Hunter, leaves on business during their honeymoon, Sylvie befriends fellow New Yorker Lauren Blount, an heiress celebrating her divorce. Sylvie joins Lauren's socialite circle but worries Hunter might be having an affair with his new employee Sophie, a notorious "husband huntress." Some strong language. Bestseller. 2006.

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

Also available on cassette DB062446

Earthly Possessions By Anne Tyler

Read by Celeste Lawson

Reading time 6 hours, 39 minutes

Maryland housewife Charlotte Emory goes to her local bank while planning to leave her boring husband. Would-be bank robber Jake Simms Jr. takes her hostage and hustles her away. During their flight, Charlotte recounts her life story and the events that landed her in her present predicament. 1977.

[Download from BARD: Earthly Possessions](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062138

Also available on cassette RC062138

Dirty Girls on Top By Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez

Read by Laura Giannarelli

Reading time 14 hours, 37 minutes

College friends--Latinas Lauren, Elizabeth, Sara, Rebecca, Usnavys, and Cuicatl, from The Dirty Girls Social Club (RC 56472)--reunite at a New Mexico resort. Now in their thirties, the women discuss their diverse careers and families. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download from BARD: Dirty Girls on Top](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067586

Fly Away Home a Novel By Jennifer Weiner

Read by Faith Potts

Reading time 13 hours, 14 minutes

The disclosure of U.S. senator Richard Woodruff's illicit affair sparks changes in his family. Wife Sylvie retires to her seaside home. Daughters Diana, a physician, and Lizzie, a recovering addict, join Sylvie in contemplating the past and future. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Fly Away Home a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071594

Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood a Novel By Rebecca Wells

Read by Kimberly Schraf

Reading time 14 hours, 53 minutes

At forty, Sidda Walker is a famous theater director whose life spirals downward after a New York Times interview implies that her mother, Vivi, was a child abuser. Vivi immediately disowns Sidda, but the Ya-Yas, Vivi's longtime friends, intervene. Sequel to *Little Altars Everywhere* (RC 36350). Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB045768

Also available on cassette RC045768

Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR14189