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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](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

#### **The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett**

Read by Jill Fox

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.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB066149

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#### **Heart and Soul by Maeve Binchy**

Read by Annie Wauters

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

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

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

### **An Elm Creek Quilts Sampler the First Three Novels in the Popular Series by Jennifer Chiaverini**

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

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

### **The Bookshop on the Corner a Novel by Jenny Colgan**

Read by Pilar Witherspoon

11 hours, 22 minutes

Downsizing has left English librarian Nina out of a job. But she is not willing to give up on her love of finding people their perfect book. While on vacation in a small village in Scotland, she impulsively buys a van and opens a mobile bookshop. 2016.

[Download from BARD: The Bookshop on the Corner](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB086665

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR21744](#)

Also available in braille BR021744

### **Prayers for Sale by Sandra Dallas**

Read by Faith Potts

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 by Richard Paul Evans**

Read by Guy Williams

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

10 hours, 15 minutes

Elmwood Springs, Missouri. After octogenarian Elner Shimfissle falls off her ladder and dies, the townsfolk reminisce about her. When Elner 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

### **The Land of Mango Sunsets by Dorothea Benton Frank**

Read by Carol Dines

11 hours, 50 minutes

New York socialite Miriam Swanson, estranged from her grown sons, has become a miserable social pariah since her divorce. But, after visiting her aging hippie mother in Sullivans Island, South Carolina, Miriam changes her attitude. With the help of her tenants she begins to enjoy life. 2007.

[Download from BARD: The Land of Mango Sunsets](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB064906

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17385](#)

Also available in braille BR017385

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

Read by Yvonne Fair Tessler

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 digital cartridge DB035924

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

Also available in braille BR015407

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

Read by Barry Bernson

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 digital cartridge DB023282

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

Also available in braille BR017784

### **The Scent of Water by Elizabeth Goudge**

Read by Jill Ferris

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 digital cartridge DB051360

### **Home to Harmony: A Harmony Novel by Philip Gulley**

Read by Derald Breneman

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

### **Promised to Me Coming to America by Robin Lee Hatcher**

Read by Laura Giannarelli

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

7 hours, 5 minutes

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

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

Also available in braille BR009311

### **Saving CeeCee Honeycutt a Novel by Beth Hoffman**

Read by Nona Pipes

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 a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072437

### **A Light in the Window by Jan Karon**

Read by Gary Tipton

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 digital cartridge DB044195

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

Also available in braille BR012270

### **Lady of Milkweed Manor by Julie Klassen**

Read by Kristin Allison

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 Lake Devine a Novel by Elinor Lipman**

Read by Anne Hancock

7 hours, 56 minutes

Romantic comedy set in the 1960s. As a child of twelve, Natalie is offended when her Jewish family is told by a Vermont innkeeper that their most "comfortable" guests are gentiles. Over the years she develops various schemes to infiltrate the resort, and eventually she spends a weekend with the owner's son.

[Download from BARD: The Inn at Lake Devine a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048606

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

Read by Theresa Conkin

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

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

### **Corduroy Mansions by Alexander McCall Smith**

Read by Jill Ferris

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

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 digital cartridge DB014907

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

Also available in braille BR007431

### **Flowers in the Rain & Other Stories by Rosamunde Pilcher**

Read by Jill Ferris

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 digital cartridge DB034018

### **The Empty House By Rosamunde Pilcher**

Read by Jill Ferris

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 digital cartridge DB041478

Also available in braille BR002793

### **The Beloved Invader by Eugenia Price**

Read by Terry Hayes Sales

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 digital cartridge DB033235

### **Bright Captivity by Eugenia Price**

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

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 digital cartridge DB033002

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

Also available in braille BR008538

### **Ellie and the Harpmaker by Hazel Prior**

Read by Katharine McEwan and Philip Battley

10 hours, 5 minutes

Dan Hollis lives a happy, solitary life carving exquisite Celtic harps in his barn in the countryside of the English moors. On the anniversary of her father's death, Ellie Jacobs takes a walk in the woods and comes across Dan's barn. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Ellie and the Harpmaker](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096388

### **Winter in Thrush Green by Miss Read**

Read by Patricia Kilgariff

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 digital cartridge DB030166

### **Miss Julia Paints the Town by Anne B. Ross**

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

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 from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18121](#)

Also available in braille BR018121

### **Laddie, a True Blue Story by Gene Stratton-Porter**

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

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 digital cartridge DB032108

Also available in braille BR008394

### **The Magic Garden by Gene Stratton-Porter**

Read by Faith Potts

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

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

Read by Corrie James

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

### **An Irish Country Doctor by Patrick Taylor**

Read by David Cutler

10 hours, 38 minutes

Newly graduated doctor Barry Laverty accepts his first job as assistant to Dr. O'Reilly in the Northern Ireland town of Ballybucklebo. Barry is puzzled by the village eccentrics and Dr. O'Reilly's bedside manner and falls in love with engineering student Patricia Spence. Includes recipes. 2004.

[Download from BARD: An Irish Country Doctor](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB067767

### **Very Valentine by Adriana Trigiani**

Read by Laura Giannarelli

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

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 digital cartridge DB042722