



Popular and Contemporary Fiction Favorites 2009 Through 2011

Looking for a good book and not sure where to start? These titles are some of the most popular fiction books published between 2009 to 2011. 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 Peach Keeper a Novel By Sarah Addison Allen

Read by Michael J. McCullough Reading time 7 hours, 27 minutes

North Carolina. Former high school classmates Willa and Paxton join forces to uncover long-hidden secrets after a skeleton is found beneath a peach tree on the grounds of a mansion. The house once belonged to Willa's family and is being restored by the Women's Society Club, headed by Paxton. 2011.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB073530

The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes

Read by Jim Zeiger Reading time 5 hours, 21 minutes

London. Retired divorcé Tony Webster is bequeathed a journal that belonged to his schoolmate Adrian, who committed suicide forty years ago. Tony reflects on the past, which included a bitter parting from his first lover Veronica, who next dated Adrian. Some strong language. Man Booker Prize. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Sense of an Ending](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073935

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Also available on braille BR019472

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake By Aimee Bender

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 8 hours, 2 minutes

On her ninth birthday, Rose realizes she can taste her mother's emotions baked into a slice of cake. Eating becomes agonizing for Rose as she uncovers everyone's feelings. But she learns in adulthood to put her ability to good use. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071699

Secrets of Eden By Christopher A. Bohjalian

Read by Jack Fox

Reading time 11 hours, 15 minutes

The murder-suicide of Alice and George Hayward in their small Vermont town the day after Alice's baptism devastates their fifteen-year-old daughter Katie and minister Stephen Drew. State attorney Catherine Benincasa investigates when she learns that George may not have killed himself. Some violence and some strong language. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Secrets of Eden](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071164

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille](#)

Also available in braille BR018949

Caleb's Crossing By Geraldine Brooks

Read by Mitzi Friedlander

Reading time 12 hours, 44 minutes

Bethia Mayfield secretly befriends Caleb, a Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag Indian. After smallpox kills Caleb's family, Bethia's minister father takes him in to be educated. Bethia follows Caleb and her brother Makepeace to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1660 as an indentured servant while the boys prepare to attend Harvard College. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Caleb's Crossing](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073473

The Weird Sisters By Eleanor Brown

Read by Mitzi Friedlander Reading time 12 hours, 18 minutes

The three Andreas sisters return home to help their Shakespearean-scholar father care for their mother. But each sibling has her own issues: penniless Cordelia is pregnant, Rosalind is losing her adjunct professorship--and her fiancé, and Bianca was fired for stealing. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. 2011.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB073212

A Dog's Purpose By Bruce W. Cameron

Read by Chuck Young Reading time 8 hours, 18 minutes

Through four lifetimes a dog finds his reason for being. His first experience is as a feral puppy. Reincarnated as a golden retriever, he bonds with an eight-year-old named Ethan. After returning to life as a K-9 unit German shepherd, his final journey reunites him with an aged Ethan. 2010.

[Download from BARD: A Dog's Purpose](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072218

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19261](#)

Also available on braille BR019261

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

Room By Emma Donoghue

Read by Steven Carpenter Reading time 9 hours, 8 minutes

Five-year-old Jack describes the locked room he has always lived in with his mother. He stays in the wardrobe when Old Nick visits and brings supplies. Jack watches television but thinks all of it is make believe. Then Jack's mother asks him to help with an escape plan. Bestseller. Alex Award. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Room](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071989

A Visit from the Goon Squad By Jennifer Egan

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 8 hours, 26 minutes

The members of a fictional 1980s San Francisco punk band, along with their groupies, enjoy temporary fame and settle into middle age. Sasha, a secretary and kleptomaniac, and her music-producer boss Bennie Salazar, the former bass player, self-destruct before seeking redemption. Strong language and some violence. Pulitzer Prize. 2010.

[Download from BARD: A Visit from the Goon Squad](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071810

The Marriage Plot By Jeffrey Eugenides

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 16 hours, 55 minutes

Brown University, 1980s. English major Madeleine is drawn to bipolar student Leonard, even though divinity student Mitchell secretly wants to marry her. After graduation Madeleine helps Leonard recover from a breakdown, while Mitchell volunteers in India. All three struggle with the meaning of life. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Marriage Plot](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073797

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet By Jamie Ford

Read by Barry Bernson

Reading time 10 hours, 15 minutes

Seattle, 1986. Newly widowed Chinese American Henry Lee reminisces about his World War II boyhood when he was in love with another student, Japanese American Keiko Okabe. Henry recalls visiting the Okabe family, despite his father's objections, during their internment in Idaho and waiting--in vain--for Keiko's return to Seattle. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071540

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18465](#)

Also available in braille BR018465

Fall of Giants By Ken Follett

Read by Roy Avers

Reading time 35 hours, 3 minutes

Saga of five interrelated families in the early twentieth century. Welshman Billy Williams enters the coal mines, British lady Maud Fitzherbert falls for German spy Walter von Ulrich, Russians Grigori and Lev Peshkov endure revolution, and American Gus Dewar becomes a diplomat. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Fall of Giants](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071970

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter By Tom Franklin

Read by Jack Fox

Reading time 8 hours, 57 minutes

Rural Mississippi. Larry Ott has lived a lonely life--especially since high school when a girl disappeared after a date with him. Now years later, another girl goes missing and Larry is brutally attacked. Silas Jones, the town constable and Larry's only childhood friend, investigates. Violence and strong language. Edgar nominee. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072709

Freedom By Jonathan Franzen

Read by Robert Sams

Reading time 21 hours, 58 minutes

St. Paul, Minnesota. Liberal environmentalists Walter and Patty Berglund pioneer the gentrification of their neighborhood. But their seemingly perfect life disintegrates when their son moves in with Republican neighbors and Walter assists the coal industry. Walter's musician friend Richard and Patty's estranged family further complicate matters. Strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Freedom](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071329

The Love of My Youth By Mary Gordon

Read by Laura Giannarelli

Reading time 10 hours, 54 minutes

Thirty-six years after they broke up, middle-aged former sweethearts Miranda and Adam meet each other in Rome by coincidence. On daily walks through the city, the two reminisce about the past and wonder what would have happened had they stayed together. Some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Love of My Youth](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074023

The Kitchen House By Kathleen Grissom

Read by Orlagh Cassidy

Reading time 12 hours, 59 minutes

1791. The Pyke family takes in orphaned Lavinia McCarten as an indentured servant. She is placed in the kitchen house under the care of Belle, Captain Pyke's illegitimate daughter. Over the years Lavinia's bonds with the Pykes and their slaves grow and change. Some violence. Bestseller. Commercial audiobook. 2010.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB075504

Night Road By Kristin Hannah

Read by Michael J. McCullough

Reading time 14 hours, 20 minutes

Pine Island, Washington. Fourteen-year-old freshman Lexi, a former foster child, becomes wealthy Mia's best and only friend. By senior year Mia's popular twin brother Zach and Lexi are a couple. But bad choices made by the three teens lead to disaster for both families. Some strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Night Road](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073536

The Art of Fielding By Chad Harbach

Read by Erik Sandvold

Reading time 19 hours, 7 minutes

Henry Skrimshander is a baseball star at his small Wisconsin college, but his life goes awry after he throws a wayward ball. Meanwhile, Henry's gay roommate has a risky affair with the school president, Guert Affenlight. And Guert's long-lost daughter returns home after a divorce. Strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Art of Fielding](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073791

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

Russian Winter By Daphne Kalotay

Read by Mitzi Friedlander Reading time 17 hours, 37 minutes

Boston. In deciding to sell her jewels, septuagenarian Nina Revskaya, a former star with the Bolshoi Ballet, hopes to put her past to rest. But an inquisitive auction-house assistant and the anonymous donation of a stunning pendant to her collection spark flashbacks and reveal a personal tragedy. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Russian Winter](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072723

11/22/63 a Novel By Stephen King

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 30 hours, 59 minutes

The dying owner of Al's Diner has a shocking request for his friend, English teacher Jake Epping: go back in time through a portal in Al's storeroom and stop JFK's assassination. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: 11/22/63 a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073931

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18758](#)

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Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok

Read by Elisabeth Rodgers Reading time 9 hours, 9 minutes

Eleven-year-old Ah-Kim "Kimberly" Chang and her widowed mother move to New York City before the 1997 Chinese takeover of their native Hong Kong. They live in an unheated apartment and work in Kimberly's aunt's Brooklyn sweatshop. But Kimberly's intelligence earns her a private-school scholarship and hope for the future. Alex Award. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Girl in Translation](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073069

Chronic City a Novel By Jonathan Lethem

Read by Barry Bernson Reading time 15 hours, 21 minutes

Future Manhattan. Former child actor Chase finds himself back in the limelight when his fiancée, an astronaut, is trapped in orbit. Chase befriends wayward culture critic Perkus Tooth and ghostwriter Oona Laszlo as an escaped tiger and a simulated parallel universe terrorize the city. Strong language. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Chronic City a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070289

Wolf Hall By Hilary Mantel

Read by Roy Avers

Reading time 24 hours, 10 minutes

Thomas Cromwell, a closet Protestant and blacksmith's son who becomes advisor to Henry VIII of England, realizes that he can accumulate power and wealth by assisting the king in obtaining an annulment and simultaneously help commoners and his country by destroying the corrupt Catholic clergy. Booker Prize. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Wolf Hall](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070074

The Glass Room By Simon Mawer

Read by Barbara Rappaport

Reading time 18 hours, 19 minutes

Newlyweds Liesel and Victor, a Jew, commission Viennese architect Rainer von Abt to build them a modern glass and concrete house in Czechoslovakia. But they must let their new home pass into other hands when Nazis invade. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Man Booker nominee. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Glass Room](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072809

The Paris Wife By Paula McLain

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

Reading time 11 hours, 42 minutes

Ingénue Hadley Richardson falls in love with war hero Ernest Hemingway, eight years her junior, in 1920s Chicago. After marrying, the couple moves to Paris and becomes part of the literary crowd. Hadley raises their son as Hemingway begins an affair with Hadley's friend Pauline. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Paris Wife](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072814

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet a Novel By David Mitchell

Read by Jack Fox

Reading time 17 hours, 55 minutes

Nagasaki, Japan; 1799. Dutch clerk Jacob de Zoet hopes to make his fortune helping uncover theft for the Dutch East Indies Company. He falls in love with disfigured midwife Orito, a samurai's daughter, but treachery awaits both Jacob and Orito. Some violence and some strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071475

A Gate at the Stairs By Lorrie Moore

Read by Erin Jones

Reading time 10 hours, 9 minutes

Naive college student Tassie is a nanny for Sarah and Edward, who are trying to adopt their biracial foster child. During the school year Tassie struggles with her job, falls for a Brazilian classmate, encounters racism, and endures a family tragedy. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: A Gate at the Stairs](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069697

The Last Days of Ptolemy of Gray By Walter Moore

Read by Chuck Young

Reading time 7 hours, 35 minutes

Ninety-one years old and suffering from dementia, Ptolemy Grey lives in squalor. When his great-grandnephew and helper is murdered, seventeen-year-old Robyn steps in. She finds a doctor who offers a drug that will temporarily improve Ptolemy's memory, and Ptolemy seizes the chance to aid his family. Strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: The Last Days of Ptolemy Gray](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072324

The Night Circus By Erik Morgenstern

Read by Gabriella Cavallero

Reading time 13 hours, 11 minutes

At the Circus of Dreams magicians Celia and Marco are pitted against each other in an epic magical battle. Their mentors plan for it to have only one survivor, not foreseeing that Celia and Marco will fall in love. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Night Circus](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073783

1Q84 By Haruki Murakami

Read by Alison Hiroto

Reading time 46 hours, 26 minutes

Tokyo, 1984. Aomame enters a parallel world with two moons. Her friend Tengo ghostwrites a novella about this world that Aomame calls 1Q84--where the Q stands for a question mark. Originally published in Japanese in 2009 and 2010. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. Commercial audiobook. 2011.

[Download from BARD: 1Q84](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073846

Her Fearful Symmetry a Novel By Audrey Niffenegger

Read by Laura Giannarelli Reading time 15 hours, 21 minutes
Mirror-image twins Julia and Valentina inherit the London flat of Aunt Elspeth Noblin, their mother's estranged twin sister. After moving from Chicago to London, the young women meet obsessive-compulsive neighbor Martin, Elspeth's shy younger lover Robert, and Elspeth's ghost, who has plans for Robert and Valentina. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Her Fearful Symmetry](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070505

The Tiger's Wife a Novel By Tea Obreht

Read by Jill Fox Reading time 11 hours, 48 minutes
Dr. Natalia Stefanovic, on a goodwill mission to inoculate Balkans war orphans, learns that her grandfather has died in a nearby village. Natalia uncovers the origins of his stories about a "deathless" man and a deaf-mute woman's strange relationship with a tiger. Strong language and some violence. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Tiger's Wife a Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073205

State of Wonder By Ann Patchett

Read by Erin Jones Reading time 11 hours, 23 minutes
Vogel Pharmaceutical sends pharmacologist Marina Singh to Amazonian Brazil to locate elusive employee Dr. Annick Swenson, who was once Singh's professor. While investigating the status of Swenson's fertility-drug research, Singh also hopes to uncover the fate of colleague Anders Eckman, whom Swenson reported dead. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: State of Wonder](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073464

The Leftovers By Tom Perrotta

Read by David Hartley-Margolin Reading time 11 hours, 53 minutes
Millions disappear in a Rapture-like instant--and not just Christians. Those left behind react in different ways. Laurie Garvey joins the Guilty Remnant, a silent cult; her son follows a prophet; and her daughter and husband--the town's mayor--are left to flounder. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Leftovers](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073792

House Rules By Jodi Picoult

Read by Joe Peck

Reading time 18 hours, 59 minutes

Eighteen-year-old Jacob Hunt, who has Asperger's syndrome, lives with his mother and younger brother and has a social-skills tutor. Jacob is obsessed with forensic science. When a murder occurs in Jacob's small world, both his hobby and his condition make him a suspect. Strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

[Download from BARD: House Rules](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071010

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR18863](#)

Also available in braille BR018863

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

The Imperfectionists a Novel By Tom Rachman

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee

Reading time 9 hours, 37 minutes

In 1953 financier Cyrus Ott establishes an international, English-language newspaper in Rome for former love Betty and her reporter husband. Fifty years later editor in chief Kathleen's open marriage founders, obituary writer Arthur suffers personal tragedy, and financial officer Abbey cuts jobs. Strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB071341

Swamplandia! By Karen Russell

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 13 hours, 48 minutes

A family-owned alligator-wrestling park in Florida struggles after thirteen-year-old Ava Bigtree's mother--the attraction's star performer--dies. Then Ava's father disappears, her brother takes a job at a competitor, and her sister runs away with a ghost. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Swamplandia!](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072823

The Tale of Beautiful Girl By Rachel Simon

Read by Cecelia Riddett

Reading time 11 hours, 35 minutes

1968. Linnie, a developmentally disabled white woman, and Homan, a deaf-mute black man, escape from a Pennsylvania institution and take refuge with widowed schoolteacher Martha. Before the authorities arrive, Linnie entrusts her newborn daughter to Martha and Homan flees. Linnie and Homan long for one another over the decades. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Tale of Beautiful Girl](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074553

The Taste of Salt by Martha Southgate

Read by Eva Wilhelm

Reading time 6 hours, 31 minutes

Thirty-six-year-old marine biologist Josie Henderson is trying to forget her childhood with an alcoholic dad. But when her brother comes out of rehab, Josie--an African American with a white husband--is forced to confront her emotions about marriage, race, and addiction. Strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Taste of Salt](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074498

The Help By Kathryn Stockett

Read by Jill Fox

Reading time 17 hours, 37 minutes

Jackson, Mississippi; 1962-1964. College grad and fledgling writer Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan searches for a book-worthy project. At the urging of an editor, Skeeter interviews African American maids Aibileen and Minny about their relationships with their employers. Violating integration laws, the three women question their lives. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2009.

[Download from BARD: The Help](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068889

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR19132](#)

Also available in braille BR019132

Maine a Novel By Courtney J. Sullivan

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee Reading time 15 hours, 27 minutes

Bullying Irish Catholic matriarch Alice Kelleher presides over her dysfunctional family at their beach house in Maine. Alice's unwed granddaughter Maggie shows up with some surprising news--she's pregnant. Soon Alice's angry hippie daughter Kathleen and goody-goody daughter-in-law Ann Marie arrive. Strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB073395

The Lonely Polygamist a Novel By Brady Udall

Read by Barry Bernson Reading time 20 hours, 19 minutes

Despite having four wives and twenty-eight children, overwhelmed construction company owner Golden Richards is lonely. He finds solace from an unexpected source--the Guatemalan wife of his latest client. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2010.

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

Also available on digital cartridge DB073276

Cutting for Stone By A. Verghese

Read by Mark Ashby Reading time 21 hours, 24 minutes

Ethiopia, 1954. Twin brothers Shiva and Marion Stone's Indian-nun mother dies during their birth and their British father abandons them. As revolution brews decades later, Marion, a surgeon, flees to America, where he eventually confronts his past. Some violence, some strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Cutting for Stone](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070131

The Pale King an Unfinished Novel By David Foster Wallace

Read by Barry Bernson Reading time 21 hours, 6 minutes

David Wallace and other trainees arrive at the IRS center in Peoria, Illinois, in 1985 to begin their careers as agents--the same year that the IRS began to operate like a for-profit business. The work is so tedious that boredom-survival training is offered. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Pale King and Unfinished Novel](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073248