

For Your Ears Only Autumn 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of For Your Ears Only, including plenty of titles to keep you entertained through the season.

There is a bumper selection in this copy as we missed a summer edition, so it includes all those books too. If you are looking for new authors, then why not try “The Lamplighters” by Emma Stonex which is based on a true story of a mystery where some lighthouse keepers disappeared. If you fancy a trip to Victorian London then Elizabeth MacNeal’s slightly sinister story “The Doll Factory” may appeal, as it features The Great Exhibition and the Victorian’s fascination with the macabre. If you want to truly escape the autumn chill, then journey to the Caribbean with Robert Thorogood’s “A Meditation On Murder” the first in the “Death in Paradise” series which is also now a television drama.

You can email us at membershipservices@calibre.org.uk, or telephone Membership Services on 01296 432339 to add books to your list. Please be aware that any books you ask for will be added on to the end of your request list, so if you have a long list it may be some time before you get them. If you would like to talk about your request list, then please get in touch with Membership Services.

Happy reading from the Editorial Team

Emma Scott and Denise James

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

X - Denotes Sex, Violence or Strong Language

Time - Approximate listening time

All books are available on USB memory stick
and can be streamed via Calibre's website or downloaded
via the Dolphin Easy Reader app.

+ Fiction

+ 20TH CENTURY CLASSICS

14540 A SINGLE MAN

By Christopher Isherwood Reader Mike Duffin

George is a gay middle-aged English professor, adjusting to solitude after the tragic death of his young partner. A Single Man follows him over the course of an ordinary twenty-four hours. Behind his British reserve, tides of grief, rage, and loneliness surge - but what is revealed is a man who loves being alive despite all the everyday injustices.

Vintage Classics; 2010

5hrs 30mins

14614 AIDING AND ABETTING

By Muriel Spark Reader Hilary Spiers

When Lord Lucan walks into psychiatrist Hildegard Wolf's Paris office, there is one problem: she already has a patient who says he's Lucan, the fugitive murderer who bludgeoned his children's nanny in a botched attempt to kill his wife. As Dr Wolf sets about deciding which of her patients, if either, is the real Lucan, she finds herself in an exciting chase across Europe.

Anchor Books; 2002

4hrs

14624 CAKES AND ALE

By Somerset Maugham Reader Ian Masters

Cakes and Ale is both a wickedly satirical novel about contemporary literary poseurs, and a skilfully crafted study of freedom. As he traces the fortunes of Edward Driffield and his wife Rosie, one of the most delightful heroines of twentieth-century literature, Maugham's sardonic wit and lyrical warmth expertly combine in this accomplished and unforgettable novel.

Vintage Classics; 2000

7hrs 30mins

14613 DONKEY BOY

By Henry Williamson Reader Richard Simpson

This is volume 2 of Williamson's acclaimed novel sequence: 'A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight'. It tells of Richard Maddison's first-born son Phillip, nicknamed 'donkey boy' because his life was saved in infancy by being fed with ass's milk. The boy grows up in the Edwardian era, something of a misfit, at odds with his father.

Faber & Faber; 2011

19hrs

14581 EXPIATION

By Elizabeth Von Arnim Reader Judy Franklin

When Millie is suddenly widowed, the whole edifice of her daily life is kicked open wide to the world. Was she wronged or was she dealt her just deserts? Secrets tumble out and sureties are questioned.

Persephone; 2019

14hrs 30mins

14740 HOUSE-BOUND

By Winifred Peck

Reader Brenda White

A book of special appeal to women, this is set in the early years of the Second World War when domestic help was unavailable. Mrs Fairlaw, a cultured well-to-do woman in her fifties faces up to the problem of managing house and family on her own. She meets both trouble and tragedy with fortitude.

Persephone; 2007

10hrs

14842 RIGHT HO, JEEVES

By P G Wodehouse

Reader Simon Jones

Gussie Fink-Nottle's knowledge of the common newt is unparalleled. Drop him in a pond of newts and his behaviour will be exemplary, but introduce him to a girl and watch him turn pink, yammer, and suddenly stampede for great open spaces. And his chum Tuppy Glossop isn't getting on much better. With so many broken hearts lying about him, Bertie Wooster can't sit idly by. The happiness of a pal - two pals, in fact - is at stake.

Alison Larkin Presents; 2020

8hrs 30mins

14584 THE CROWDED STREET

By Winifred Holtby

Reader Angela Holland

This is the story of Muriel Hammond, living within the suffocating confines of Edwardian middle-class society. A career is forbidden to her. Then comes the First World War, which tragically revolutionises the lives of her generation. But for Muriel it offers work, friendship, and one last chance to find a special kind of happiness...

Virago; 1981

11hrs 30mins

14636 THE RADETZKY MARCH

By Joseph Roth

Reader Bob Rollett

Strauss's Radetzky March, signature tune of one of Europe's most powerful regimes, presides over this account of three generations of the Trotta family, professional Austro-Hungarian soldiers and career bureaucrats of Slovenian origin - from their zenith during the empire to the nadir and breakup of that world during and after the First World War.

Penguin Classics; 2016

14hrs

14612 THE SEA WOLF

By Jack London

Reader Peter Oughton

Acclaimed for its exciting adventure, The Sea Wolf offers a thrilling tale of life at sea, while exploring the many difficulties that may erupt on board a ship captained by a brutally hedonistic and controlling individual.

Wordsworth Editions; 2015

10hrs

14688 THE SHUTTLE

By Frances Hodgson Burnett

Reader Ann Stutz

When he no longer has enough money to keep up his English estate, Sir Nigel Anstruthers comes to New York in search of an heiress. He finds and marries the pretty and cosseted Rosalie Vanderpoel, the daughter of an American millionaire. But on their return to England, Nigel and his mother isolate Rosalie from her family. Many years later, Rosalie's now-grown up sister Bettina, arrives at Stornham Court to investigate why she has not heard from her sister for over a decade.

Persephone; 2007

14hrs

ADVENTURE STORIES

14745 NO HIGHWAY

By Nevil Shute

Reader Tony Pearce-Smith

Theodore Honey is a shy, inconspicuous aircraft engineer whose eccentric interests in quantum mechanics and spiritualism are frowned upon in aviation circles. But when a passenger plane crashes in unexplained circumstances, Honey must convince his superiors that his unorthodox theories are correct before more lives are lost.

Vintage; 2009

12hrs 30mins

14620 WARLOCK

By Wilbur Smith

Reader Paul Moriarty

In his long life, Taita has gone from slave to warlock, and now his wisdom and abilities are known throughout the kingdom. But even his immense skills cannot protect those close to him from the evil Lord Naja, self-proclaimed Regent until the Prince comes of age. Taita must summon all of his formidable gifts to protect the true ruler, the young prince Nefer. As enemy forces join together to bring destruction to the whole land, it is no longer a matter of simple magic. To defeat the false Pharaohs, the gods and armies must share their powers with a mortal warlock...

Zaffre; 2018

28hrs 30mins

14533 WREKIN WRAITHS, REBELS AND ROMANS

By Allan Frost

Reader Anita Gilson

When Tim and Caroline visit the Iron Age hill fort on top of Wrekin Hill, Shropshire's most famous landmark, they don't expect to find themselves transported back 2,000 years! They become involved in a conflict between Wrekin druid Gwirocon and the Roman army. They can't be seen except in bright light, but will that be enough to save them?

Wrekin Books; 2006

9hrs

+ CLASSIC FICTION

14461 EVELINA

By Fanny (Frances) Burney

Reader Anne Marlow

First published in 1778, this novel of manners tells the story of Evelina, a young woman raised in rural obscurity who is thrust into London's fashionable society at the age of eighteen. There, she experiences a sequence of humorous events that teach her how quickly she must learn to navigate social snobbery and veiled aggression. As an innocent young woman, she deals with embarrassing relations, being beautiful in an image-conscious world, and falling in love with the wonderfully eligible Lord Orville.

OUP; 2008

19hrs 30mins

**14449 PETER PAN: & THE INCONSIDERATE
WAITER**

By J M Barrie

Reader Alison Larkin

A re-telling of J M Barrie's classic tale of Peter Pan, the boy who never grows up which also includes 'The Inconsiderate Waiter'. In the world of the Victorian Club, it does not do for a gentleman to be seen to take an interest in any member of the working class. How dreadfully inconvenient then, when the narrator's waiter begins to display alarming tendencies towards having a personality, and feelings of his own.

Alison Larkin Presents; 2016

6hrs 30mins

+ CONTEMPORARY FICTION

14509 A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF EAST AFRICA

By Nicholas Drayson

Reader Alan Bowen

For the past three years, the widower Mr Malik has been secretly in love with Rose Mbikwa, who leads the weekly bird walks of the East African Ornithological Society. Just as he is getting up the nerve to invite Rose to the Nairobi Hunt Club Ball, who should pop up but Malik's nemesis from his school days. So begins the competition: whoever can identify the most species of birds in one week's time gets the privilege of asking the object of his affection to the ball.

Penguin; 2012

7hrs 0mins

14761 A PATCHWORK PLANET

By Anne Tyler

Reader Judy Le Besque

Barnaby Gailtin has less in life than he once had: his ex-wife left him and their native Baltimore several years ago, taking their baby daughter with her, and he has acquired an unalterably fixed position as the black sheep of the family. Then Sophia enters his life and it seems as if all this is set to change. But can he shake off his past?

Vintage; 1999

8hrs 30mins

14894 A TOWN CALLED SOLACE

By Mary Lawson

Reader Miscellaneous

Set in Northern Ontario in 1972, A Town Called Solace explores the relationships of three people brought together by fate and the mistakes of the past: Clara, distraught by the disappearance of her sister, Liam newly arrived in town and suspected of a crime, and Elizabeth, who desperately wants to make amends for a past action before she dies. By turns gripping and darkly funny, it shows that sometimes a new life is possible.

Penguin Audio; 2021

7hrs 30min

14905 ALL ADULTS HERE

By Emma Straub

Reader Emily Rankin

After Astrid Strick - a widowed, 68-year-old mother of three living in upstate New York - witnesses an accident, she resolves to live more honestly, starting with the mistakes she made in raising her family. But are her kids, tangled in their own messy adult lives, really ready to be treated like grown ups?

Penguin Audio; 2020

11hrs

14808

AMNESTY

By Aravind Adiga

Reader Vikas Adam

Danny, an undocumented Sri Lankan immigrant is working as a cleaner and living out of a grocery storeroom in Sydney. For the last four years he has been trying to create a new identity for himself. One morning, he learns that his client Radha Thomas has been murdered. A jacket was left at the scene, which he believes belongs to another client, a doctor with whom Radha was having an affair. Suddenly Danny is confronted with a choice: Come forward as a witness and risk being deported? Or say nothing, and let justice go undone?

Clipper; 2020

8hrs 30mins

14623

DEATH AND THE PENGUIN

By Andrey Kurkov

Reader Michael Rabin

Viktor is an aspiring writer with only Misha, his pet penguin, for company. Although he would prefer to write short stories, he earns a living composing obituaries for a newspaper. He longs to see his work published, yet the subjects of his obituaries continue to cling to life. But when he opens the newspaper to see his work in print for the first time, his pride swiftly turns to terror. He and Misha have been drawn into a trap from which there appears to be no escape.

Vintage; 2002

6hrs 30mins

14500 FINISHING TOUCHES

By Patricia Scanlan

Reader Kay Morrison

School friends Cassie, Laura and Aileen, shared their secrets and dreams as young girls. Now they are together again, sharing their aspirations as Cassie launches her interior design business, with a legacy that is to bring out the worst and the best in her family and friends. Will they support her when she dares to make her impossible dream come true? And then there's the enigmatic David Williams, who touches Cassie's life in a way she will never forget as she finds independence and success despite family opposition.

Simon & Schuster; 2015

19hrs

14735 INJURY TIME

By Beryl Bainbridge

Reader Hilary Spiers

Edward is throwing a dinner party with Binny, his mistress. Aware that she has long been denied those small intimacies that his wife takes for granted, he wants to give her a chance to feel more involved in his life, to socialise with some of his friends (the discreet ones). Things are a little awkward to begin with, but everything seems to be going well until some uninvited guests arrive, and it doesn't look like Edward is going to make it home on time. A gripping thriller based on the Balcombe Street siege.

Abacus; 2003

4hrs 30mins

14261 KEEPING THE WORLD AWAY

By Margaret Forster Reader Anne Marlow

This novel follows the fictional adventures, over a hundred years, of an early 20th-century painting and the women whose lives it touches. It is a novel about what it means and what it costs to be both a woman and an artist, and an unusual, compelling look at a beautiful painting and its imagined afterlife.

Virago; 2007

16hrs

14817 LETTERS FROM THE PAST

By Erica James Reader Jemma Redgrave

With its winding high street lined with a greengrocers, post office, pub and church, Melstead St Mary is the perfect English village. But when residents start to receive anonymous letters containing secret information about their pasts - secrets that no one else is meant to know - life in Melstead St Mary is about to change, possibly forever...

Clipper; 2020

13hrs 30mins

14511 LOVE HEART LANE

By Christie Barlow Reader Yvonne Clemenson

Flick Simons returns to Heartcross only expecting to stay for a few days. Love Heart Lane holds too many painful memories, and of one man in particular – Fergus Campbell. When a winter storm sweeps in, the only bridge to the main land is swept away. The villagers pull together and as the snow begins to melt, maybe there is a chance that Fergus's heart will thaw too...

One More Chapter; 2019

10hrs

14682 MY SISTER IS MISSING

By Julia Barrett Reader Hilary Spiers

Just weeks after giving birth, new mum Stephanie Henderson and her baby girl disappear. With husband Adam in despair, and the police investigation stalled, it's up to her sister Jess to find them. But when Adam starts to behave suspiciously, Jess begins to question what really happened.

RedDoor; 2019

8hrs 30mins

14738 OUR FATHERS

By Rebecca Wait Reader Kay Morrison

When Tom was eight years old, his father took a shotgun and shot his wife, his son and baby daughter, before turning the gun on himself. Only Tom survived. For twenty years he's tried to escape his past. Until now. He needs answers - from his uncle, who should have known. From his neighbours, who think his father 'just snapped'. And from the silent ones who know more about what happened - and why - than they have ever dared admit.

Riverrun; 2021

9hrs

14454 PARIS IMPERFECT

By Susie Vereker Reader Ann Stutz

Clio, twice-married and unhappy in love, has become a realist. What she craves above all is stability for her son, Alex. This means she should marry her lover, Philippe, a cultured Frenchman with a large and conventional family. However difficult it is to cope with his perfectionist ways, not to mention his terrifying mother, Clio must not rock the boat. But then hunky Canadian Joe begins to untidy her sensible thoughts.

Severn House; 2009

8hrs 0mins

14512 PASSING ON

By Penelope Lively

Reader Maggie Stokes

Helen is 52 and Edward 49 when their mother dies, ending her reign of terror and leaving them ill-equipped to deal with their lives. Helen makes the charming Giles Carnaby, family solicitor, the object of a belated schoolgirl crush; while Edward, free to express his sexuality at last, finds it gets the better of him. Dorothy may be dead and buried, but her iron grip continues to hold them in its power.

Penguin; 1990

10hrs

14627 REUNION

By Fred Uhlman

Reader Edward Peel

On a grey afternoon in 1932, a Stuttgart classroom is stirred by the arrival of a newcomer. Middle-class Hans is intrigued by the new boy, Konradin, and before long they become best friends. It's a friendship of shared interests, long conversations and growing up together. But the boys live in a changing Germany...

Vintage; 1997

2hrs 30mins

14901 SORROWLAND

By Rivers Solomon

Reader Karen Chilton

Vern, a hunted woman alone in the woods, gives birth to twins. But something is wrong - not with them, but with her own body. It's changing, it's stronger, it's not normal. To understand her body's metamorphosis, Vern must investigate the secluded religious compound from which she fled..

Penguin Audio; 2021

12hrs

14854 STILL LIFE

By Sarah Winman

Reader Sarah Winman

1944, in the ruined wine cellar of a Tuscan villa, as bombs fall around them, two strangers meet and share an extraordinary evening. Ulysses Temper is a young British soldier, Evelyn Skinner is a sexagenarian art historian and possible spy. She has come to Italy to salvage paintings from the wreckage and relive memories of the time she encountered EM Forster and had her heart stolen by an Italian maid in a particular Florentine room with a view. Evelyn's talk of truth and beauty plants a seed in Ulysses' mind that will shape the trajectory of his life – and of those who love him – for the next four decades.

Harper Collins; 2021

15hrs

13448 SWALLOWTAIL SUMMER

By Erica James

Reader Richard Trinder

Linton End on the Norfolk Broads has been the holiday home to three families for many years. The memories of their time there are ingrained in their hearts. But widower Alastair has been faced with a few of life's surprises recently. Now, he is about to shock his circle of friends with the decisions he has made - and the changes it will mean for them all. For some, it feels like the end. For others, it might just be the beginning..

Clipper Audio; 2019

13hrs 30mins

14634 TEA IS SO INTOXICATING

By Mary Essex

Reader Grace Dives

David Tompkins thinks it is a splendid idea to open a tea garden at his Kentish cottage. His wife, Germaine, is not so sure. The local villagers are divided on the matter, and not necessarily supportive, particularly Mr Perch at the Dolphin, who sees it as direct competition to Mrs Perch's own tea garden. With rumour rife that the couple are - whisper it - not actually married, the lady of the manor, who has failed to realise that nowadays that title carries no real weight, makes it her mission to shut the enterprise down.

British Library; 2020

8hrs

14810 THE BUTTERFLY ROOM

By Lucinda Riley

Reader Nicolette McKenzie

Posy Montague is approaching her seventieth birthday and still living in her family home set in the glorious Suffolk countryside where she spent her own idyllic childhood catching butterflies with her beloved father. Despite the memories the house holds, it is crumbling around her, and Posy knows the time has come to sell it. Then Freddie, who abandoned her and left her heartbroken fifty years ago re-appears but she is reluctant to trust in Freddie's renewed affection. And unbeknown to Posy, Freddie and Admiral House have a devastating secret to reveal...

Clipper; 2019

17hrs 30mins

14855 THE COWS

By Dawn O'Porter

Reader Miscellaneous

Tara, Cam and Stella are very different women. Yet in a society that sets the agenda, there's something about being a woman that ties invisible bonds between us. When one extraordinary event rockets Tara to online infamy, their three worlds collide in ways they could never imagine – and they discover that one woman's catastrophe might just be another's inspiration. Through friendship and conflict, difference and likeness, they'll learn to find their own voices.

Harper Collins; 2017

11hrs 30mins

14907 THE FORTUNE MEN

By Nadifa Mohamed

Reader Hugh Quarshie

Mahmood Mattan is a fixture in Cardiff's Tiger Bay, 1952. He is a father, chancer, petty criminal. He is many things, but he is not a murderer. So when a shopkeeper is brutally killed and all eyes fall on him, Mahmood isn't too worried. Since his wife, Laura, kicked him out for racking up debts he has wandered the streets more often, and there are witnesses who allegedly saw him enter the shop that night. It is only in the run-up to the trial, as the prospect of returning home dwindles, that it will dawn on Mahmood that he is in a fight for his life - against conspiracy, prejudice and cruelty - and that the truth may not be enough to save him.

Penguin Audio; 2021

10hrs 30min

14618 THE FOURTH HAND

By John Irving

Reader Richard Langley

While reporting a story from India, a New York journalist has his left hand eaten by a lion; millions of TV viewers witness the accident. In Boston, a renowned hand surgeon awaits the opportunity to perform the nation's first hand transplant. A married woman in Wisconsin wants to give the reporter her husband's hand, that is, after her husband dies. But the husband is very much alive.

Black Swan; 2002

11hrs 30mins

14582 THE GIRL AND THE SUNBIRD

By Rebecca Stonehill

Reader Judy Le Besque

East Africa 1903: When eighteen year old Iris Johnson is forced to choose between marrying the frightful Lord Sidcup or a faceless stranger, Jeremy Lawrence, in a far-off land, she bravely decides on the latter. But when Iris meets Jeremy, she realizes that they will never be compatible. Determined to make the best of her new life, Iris begins to adjust to the windswept plains of Nairobi, and the delightful sunbirds that visit her window every day. And when she meets Kamau, a school teacher, Iris must make a choice. But if she follows her heart, the price she must pay will be devastating.

Bookouture; 2016

13hrs 0mins

14800

THE LAMPLIGHTERS

By Emma Stonex

Reader Tom Burke

Cornwall, 1972. Three keepers vanish from a remote lighthouse, miles from the shore. The entrance door is locked from the inside. The clocks have stopped. The Principal Keeper's weather log describes a mighty storm, but the skies have been clear all week. What happened to those three men, out on the tower? Twenty years later, the women they left behind are still struggling to move on. And then a writer approaches them. He wants to give them a chance to tell their side of the story. But only in confronting their darkest fears can the truth begin to surface...

Picador; 2021

8hrs 30mins

14909

THE LIVING SEA OF WAKING DREAMS,

By Richard Flanagan

Reader Essie Davis

In a world of perennial fire and growing extinctions, Anna's aged mother is dying - if her three children would just allow it. Condemned by their pity to living, she increasingly escapes through her hospital window into visions of horror and delight. When Anna's finger vanishes and a few months later her knee disappears, Anna too feels the pull of the window. She begins to see that all around her others are similarly vanishing. All Anna can do is keep her mother alive. But the window keeps opening wider, taking Anna and the listener ever deeper into a strangely beautiful novel about hope and love and orange-bellied parrots.

Penguin Audio; 2021

7hrs

14622 THE LONG FORGOTTEN

By David Whitehouse Reader James Murphy

When the black box flight recorder of a plane that went missing 30 years ago is found at the bottom of the sea, a young man named Dove begins to remember a past that isn't his. In present-day London, Dove is consumed by the memories, which might just hold the key to the mystery of his own identity and what happened to the passengers on that doomed flight, *The Long Forgotten*.

Picador; 2019

8hrs 30mins

14457 THE PET SHOP AT PENNYCOMBE BAY

By Sheila Norton Reader Yvonne Clemenson

In need of a fresh start, Jess has moved to the Devon seaside town of Pennycombe Bay. However it isn't the new beginning she was hoping for. Then she meets handsome stranger Nick on the beach, but her hopes of romance are quickly dashed when she finds out he's seeing another woman... Can Jess make Pennycombe feel like home?

Ebury; 2019

11hrs

14514 THE PRIVATE PARTS OF WOMEN

By Lesley Glaister Reader Ann Stutz

Inis has run away from her husband and children. Her new neighbour Trixie is eighty-four years old and a hymn-singing Salvation Army veteran. Trixie's life is one of apparent calm but beneath the surface lie not one but three different personalities. One of them is very private. And very dangerous.

Bloomsbury; 1996

9hrs 30mins

14464

THE SLEEP OF BIRDS

By Sara MacDonald Reader Vivienne Ennemoser

Jake is older, talented, exciting. But when Sigrid is isolated with him in a remote cottage on the moors, he becomes as dangerous and frightening as the landscape. Flying from Jake's violence, Sigrid takes refuge with friends in St Ives and begins to find peace and a new love. But Jake explodes again into this safe life, making her face her conflicting and powerful feelings for him. Across the rugged coastline of Cornwall and the bleak and beautiful spaces of Dartmoor, the cycle of damage must be broken before the future can emerge.

Headline; 2000

8hrs 30mins

14826

THE SUN SISTER

By Lucinda Riley Reader Sophie Roberts

Electra's already tenuous control over her state of mind has been rocked by the death of her father, Pa Salt, the elusive billionaire who adopted his six daughters from across the globe. Struggling to cope, she turns to alcohol and drugs. As those around her fear for her health, Electra receives a letter from a stranger claiming to be her grandmother. From the frenetic atmosphere of Manhattan to the magnificent wide-open plains of Africa, The Sun Sister is the sixth tale in the Seven Sisters series.

Clipper; 2020

26hrs

14458 THE TRIALS OF TIFFANY TROTT

By Isabel Wolff

Reader Vivien Tomlinson

Tiffany is attractive, eligible and sparky so why is she 'a complete failure with men'? She decides she'll hunt down Mr Right herself but as she ponders her lack of a lifepartner, Tiffany watches her friends face problems of their own and begins to wonder whether marriage and motherhood is quite what she wants after all...

HarperCollins; 2008

13hrs 30mins

14616 THE WAITING GAME

By Bernice Rubens

Reader Ann Stutz

At The Holyhocks old people's home, the inhabitants are 'waiting for the scythe'. But while they are waiting Lady Celia runs a lucrative blackmailing business on the quiet, Mr. Cross seizes each day with a tantalizing 'who will I outlive next?', and Mrs. Green seems to be hiding a mysterious past. Then two newcomers arrive to disturb the life of the home.

Abacus; 1998

8hrs

14830 THE WEIGHT OF SMALL THINGS

By Julie Lancaster

Reader Harrie Dobby

Nine-year-old Frankie Appleton likes to count gates. One day she hopes to design the perfect gate - a gate to keep the bad things out. Little does she know that the bad things have already got in. Now her mother is dead, and the only other person with a house key has disappeared. Frankie thinks she knows who it is. But first she has to prove it.

Clipper; 2021

10hrs

14585

UNSETTLED GROUND

By Claire Fuller

Reader Anne Marlow

Twins Jeanie and Julius have always been different from other people. At 51 years old, they still live with their mother, Dot, in rural isolation and poverty. But when Dot dies suddenly, threats to their livelihood start raining down. Jeanie and Julius would do anything to preserve their small sanctuary against the perils of the outside world, even as their mother's secrets begin to unravel, putting everything they thought they knew about their lives at stake.

Fig Tree; 2021

11hrs 30mins

14621

WHITE SHADOW

By Roy Jacobsen

Reader Yvonne Clemenson

Ingrid is alone on Barrøy, the island that bears her name, while the war of her childhood has been replaced by a new more terrible war and Norway is under the Nazi boot. When the bodies from a bombed troopship begin to wash up on the shore, Ingrid cannot know that one will be alive and warm enough to erase a lifetime of loneliness. She cannot know what she will suffer in protecting her lover from the Germans and their Norwegian collaborators, nor the journey she will face, wrenched from her island once more, to return home. Or that, amid the suffering of war, among refugees fleeing famine and scorched-earth retreats, she will be given a gift whose value is beyond measure.

MacLehose; 2020

7hrs

+ DETECTIVE & MYSTERY STORIES

14658 A DAY IN THE DEATH OF DOROTHEA CASSIDY

By Ann Cleeves

Reader Simon Mattacks

For vicar's wife Dorothea Cassidy, Thursdays were special. Every week she would look forward to the one day she could call her own. But one Thursday in June was to be more special than any other. As the small town of Otterbridge prepares for its summer carnival, Inspector Stephen Ramsay begins a painstaking reconstruction of Dorothea's last hours. It is not until a second body is discovered that Ramsay starts to understand how Dorothea lived and why she died.

Isis; 2017

6hrs

14852 A MEDITATION ON MURDER

By Robert Thorogood

Reader Phil Fox

Aslan Kennedy has an idyllic life as leader of a spiritual retreat for wealthy holidaymakers on one of the Caribbean's most unspoilt islands, Saint Marie. Until he's murdered, that is. The case seems open and shut: Aslan was inside a locked room with only five other people, one of who has already confessed to the murder. DI Richard Poole is fed up with talking to witnesses who'd rather discuss his aura than their whereabouts at the time of the murder. But he also knows that the facts of the case don't quite stack up. In fact, he's convinced that the person who's just confessed to the murder is the one person who couldn't have done it.

Harper Collins; 2016

10hrs

14502 BLOOD AND JUDGEMENT

By Michael Gilbert Reader Nigel Bonyng

When the wife of a recently escaped prisoner is found murdered and partially buried near a reservoir, Patrick Petrella, a Metropolitan Police Inspector, is called in. Suspicion falls on the escaped convict, but what could have been his motive?

House of Stratus; 2009

6hrs

14811 CLEAN BREAK

By Val McDermid Reader Chloe Massey

When a Monet is stolen from a stately home, Manchester-based private eye Kate Brannigan goes head to head with organized crime as she hunts the thieves through Europe. Meanwhile, someone is leaving a trail of bodies across the Northwest. As Kate confronts some harsh truths in her own life, the case stretches her love and loyalty to its limits.

Clipper; 2019

8hrs

14856 COLD GRANITE

By Stuart MacBride Reader Steve Worsley

It's DS Logan McRae's first day back after a year off sick, and it couldn't get much worse. Three-year-old David Reid's body is discovered in a ditch and he's only the first. There's a serial killer stalking the Granite City and the local media are baying for blood. Soon the dead are piling up in the morgue almost as fast as the snow on the streets, and Logan knows time is running out.

Harper Collins; 2017

13hrs 30mins

14446 DANSE MACABRE

By Gerald Elias

Reader Jim Frangione

Daniel Jacobus, reclusive blind concert master and amateur sleuth, returns to solve a most despicable crime and to clear an innocent man when violinist and humanitarian Rene Allard is brutally murdered.

Alison Larkin Presents; 2010

8hrs 30mins

14795 DEAD AT FIRST SIGHT

By Peter James

Reader Daniel Weyman

A man waits at a London airport for the love of his life to arrive. Across the Atlantic, a retired NYPD cop waits in a bar for his first date with the lady who is his soulmate. The two men are about to discover they've been scammed out of almost every penny they have in the world – and that neither woman exists. Detective Superintendent Roy Grace is called to investigate.

PanMacMillan 2021

12hrs 30mins

14813 DEAD MAN'S BLUES

By Ray Celestin

Reader Christopher Ragland

Chicago, 1928. In the stifling summer heat three disturbing events take place. A clique of city leaders is poisoned in a fancy hotel. A gangster is found mutilated in an alleyway in the Blackbelt. And a famous heiress vanishes without a trace. Three parties all launch their own investigations and as they edge closer to the truth, their paths cross. But will any of them find the answers they need in the capital of blues, booze and corruption?

Clipper; 2017

14hrs 30mins

14353 DEADLY BELOVED

By Alanna Knight

Reader Paul Moriarty

Inspector Faro is invited to dinner at the house of the city's foremost police surgeon. Then the surgeon's wife is reported missing, and a woman's torn and bloodstained cloak is found, but neither body nor real proof is present. As revelations regarding the woman's home life become more sinister and bizarre, Faro is convinced she is dead, and who has better opportunity for disposing the corpse of an unwanted wife than a police surgeon..

Pan; 1994

7hrs

14757 DEATH HAS DEEP ROOTS

By Michael Gilbert

Reader Richard Simpson

At the Central Criminal Court, a crowd awaits the trial of Victoria Lamartine, a participant in the Resistance during the war. She is now employed at the Family Hotel in Soho, where Major Eric Thoseby has been found murdered. Thoseby is believed to have fathered Lamartine's child, and the prosecution insist that his death is revenge for his abandonment of Lamartine and her arrest by the Gestapo. Lamartine's defence counsel grants solicitor Nap Rumbold just eight days to prove her innocence, with the highest of stakes should he fail.

British Library; 2019

8hrs 30mins

14892 DEATH IN THE EAST

By Abir Mukherjee

Reader Simon Bubb

1905, London. When Bessie Drummond, an old flame of Sam Wyndham's is attacked, he is determined to get to the bottom of it. But the next day, Bessie is found dead and Wyndham soon finds himself caught up in her murder investigation. 1922, India. Wyndham heads for the hills of Assam, ready to put his opium addiction behind him. But when he arrives, he sees a ghost from his life in London - a man thought to be long dead. Wyndham knows he must call his friend and colleague Sergeant Banerjee for help. He is certain that this figure from the past can only be after one thing: revenge.

Penguin Audio; 2019

13hrs

14447 DEVIL'S TRILL

By Gerald Elias

Reader Jim Frangione

With a stolen Stradivarius, and a strangled teacher of child prodigies blind violinist and amateur sleuth, Daniel Jacobus, is not only the chief investigator of these misdeeds, he's the prime suspect! The police hot on his tail, Jacobus roams the bucolic Berkshires, hallowed Carnegie Hall, and tradition-bound Japan, searching for answers only he can see. With alluring student Yumi and jazz loving Nathaniel at his side, Jacobus feels his way through self doubt and darkness.

Alison Larkin Presents; 2017

12hrs 15mins

14510 DROP SHOT**By Harlan Coben****Reader Paul Moriarty**

The young woman was shot dead in cold blood, outside the stadium. Once, her tennis career had sky rocketed. Now, the headlines were being made by another young player from the wrong side of the tracks. When Myron Bolitar investigates, he uncovers a connection between the two players and a six-year-old murder at an exclusive club. And with a dirty US senator, a jealous mother and the mob all drawn into the case, he finds himself playing the most dangerous game of all...

Orion; 2014

10hrs

14619 GIDEON'S DAY**By John Creasey****Reader Nigel Bonyng**

Gideon's day is a busy one. He balances family commitments with solving a series of seemingly unrelated crimes from which a plot nonetheless evolves, and a mystery is solved. One of the most senior officers within Scotland Yard, George Gideon's crime solving abilities are in the finest traditions of London's world famous police headquarters. His analytical brain and sense of fairness is respected by colleagues and villains alike.

House of Stratus; 2008

6hrs 0mins

14803 HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

By Jeffrey Archer

Reader George Blagden

Newly promoted Detective Sergeant William Warwick has been reassigned to the drugs squad. His first case: to investigate a notorious south London drug lord known as the Viper. But as William and his team close the net around a criminal network unlike any they have ever encountered, he is also faced with an old enemy, Miles Faulkner. It will take all of William's cunning to devise a means to bring both men to justice, a trap neither will expect, one that is hidden in plain sight.

PanMacMillan 2021

8hrs

14532 IN TWO MINDS

By Alis Hawkins

Reader David Hobbs

When a faceless body is found on an isolated beach, Harry Probert-Lloyd, acting coroner of Teifi Valley must lead the inquest. But his pursuit of the truth begins to ruffle feathers. Especially when he decides to work alongside a local doctor with a dubious reputation and experimental theories considered radical and dangerous. Refusing to accept easy answers might not only jeopardise Harry's chance to be elected coroner permanently but could, it seems, implicate his own family in a crime.

Dome Press; 2019

13hrs 30mins

14748 MYSTERY MILE

By Margery Allingham

Reader Judy Franklin

Judge Crowdy Lobbett is a man of justice, a pillar of American society. And now he's a man in deadly peril, tailed across the Atlantic by the ruthless Simister gang. Luckily he meets one Albert Campion during his voyage to England. The amateur sleuth bundles the judge off to the country house of Mystery Mile, where it's a race against time to pinpoint the identity of the mastermind behind their criminal empire...

Vintage; 2004

9hrs 15mins

14637 NECROCHIP

By Cynthia Harrod-Eagles

Reader Edward Peel

Detective Superintendent Dickson is to be replaced by DS Baverstock, who has no desire to be loved by his subordinates. It is all par for the course for Detective Inspector Bill Slider as he faces the fact of a dismembered corpse in a catering establishment, a case which takes him through Hammersmith and Notting Hill.

Sphere; 1998

12hrs 0mins

14537 RAPSCALLION

By James McGee

Reader Edward Peel

For a French prisoner of war, there is only one fate worse than the gallows: the prison ships. Escape, it's said, is impossible. Yet amid reports of a smuggling operation, the Royal Navy send two of its officers to investigate. But when they disappear without trace, the Navy turns to Bow Street for help. It's time to send in Bow Street Runner, Matthew Hawkwood...

Picador; 2019

17hrs

14747 SHED NO TEARS

By Caz Frear Reader Vivienne Ennemoser

Christopher Masters, known as 'The Roommate Killer', strangled three women over a two-week period in a London house in November 2012. Holly Kemp, his fourth victim, was never found. Until now. Her remains have been unearthed in a field in Cambridgeshire and DC Cat Kinsella is called in. But immediately there are questions surrounding the manner of her death. And with Masters now dead, no one to answer them...

Zaffre; 2020

11hrs 30mins

14543 THE DARK ENQUIRY

By Deanna Raybourn Reader Elizabeth Goodrich

While setting up housekeeping in London, newlyweds Lady Julia and Nicholas Brisbane agree to help Julia's brother expose the exclusive Ghost Club, a dark place where reputations and trust are destroyed. But they find their own relationship in danger when their investigation makes the headlines.

MIRA; 2011

12hrs 0mins

14853 THE KILLING OF POLLY CARTER

By Robert Thorogood Reader Phil Fox

Supermodel Polly Carter was famed for her looks and party-girl lifestyle. Now she's dead, apparently having thrown herself from the clifftop near her home on the island of Saint-Marie. Those who knew her say Polly would never have killed herself... and when he is called in to investigate, DI Richard Poole is inclined to agree.

Harper Collins; 2016

8hrs 30mins

14816

THE LAST PROTECTOR

By Andrew Taylor

Reader Leighton Pugh

No one in England wants a return to the bloody days of the Civil War. But Oliver Cromwell's son, Richard, has abandoned his exile and slipped back into England. James Marwood, a traitor's son turned government agent, is tasked with uncovering Cromwell's motives. But his assignment is complicated by his friend Cat Lovett – who knew the Cromwells as a child, and who now seems to be hiding a secret of her own about the family. When Marwood and Cat find themselves on a top secret mission in the Palace of Whitehall, they realise they are risking their lives... and could even be sent to the block for treason.

Lamplight; 2020

12hrs 15mins

14893

THE LONG DROP

By Denise Mina

Reader David Monteath

Glasgow, 1957. It is a December night and William Watt is desperate. His family has been murdered and he needs to find out who killed them. He arrives at a bar to meet Peter Manuel, who claims he can get hold of the gun that was used. But Watt soon realises that this infamous criminal will not give up information easily. Inspired by true events, The Long Drop follows Watt and Manuel along back streets and into smoky pubs, and on to the courtroom where the murder trial takes place. Can Manuel really be trusted to tell the truth? And how far will Watt go to get what he wants?

Random House Audio; 2017

7hrs

14796 THE TRACK OF SAND

By Andrea Camilleri Reader Mark Meadows

Inspector Montalbano rises one morning to find the carcass of a horse on the beach in front of his seaside home. But no sooner do his men arrive, than the body has mysteriously vanished. Before long Rachele, a beguiling equestrian champion, turns up at police headquarters to report her horse missing. The horse had been stabled at the grounds of a certain Saverio Lo Duca, one of the richest men in Sicily, who has lost one of his own horses too. Montalbano, his curiosity piqued, investigates, but before long things take a more disturbing turn.

PanMacMillan 2021

6hrs

14615 THOSE WHO KNOW

By Alis Hawkins Reader David Hobbs

Harry Probert-Lloyd has inherited the estate of Glanteifi and appointed his assistant John as under-steward. But Harry must campaign if he is to be voted as coroner permanently, and politicking is not his strength. On the hustings, Harry and John are called to examine the body of Nicholas Rowland, a radical schoolteacher whose death may not be the accident it first appeared. Harry's determination to uncover the truth threatens to undermine both his campaign and his future.

Dome Press; 2020

13hrs 30mins

13978 U IS FOR UNDERTOW

By Sue Grafton

Reader Liza Ross

In 1960s' Santa Teresa, California, a child is kidnapped and never returned. When the case is reopened after twenty years, Michael Sutton contacts private detective Kinsey Millhone claiming to have recalled a disturbing memory which just might provide the key to the mystery - he may have stumbled across the kidnappers burying Mary Claire Fitzhugh's body. And while stepping back into the past, Kinsey discovers more about her own history too...

Isis Audio Books; 2010

14hrs

14804 WISH YOU WERE DEAD

By Peter James

Reader Daniel Weyman

Roy Grace and his family have left Sussex behind for a week's holiday in France. The website promised a grand house, but when they arrive the place is very different from the pictures. Then an old enemy of Roy is let out of jail and knows where Roy and his family have gone on holiday, and soon it becomes clear that their holiday nightmare is only just beginning.

PanMacMillan 2021

2hrs 30mins

+ FAMILY SAGAS

14196 A FARTHING WILL DO

By Lilian Harry Reader Brenda White

Ruth, Lizzie and Heather each have their own reasons for greeting the end of the war with mixed feelings. With the coming of peace, life changes more than anyone had expected as the 'love and laughter' that had been promised turn to bewilderment, anger and disappointment. Yet, although nothing is quite as they had hoped it would be, they are able to move into a future without war, and learn to live with peace.

Orion; 2005

14hrs

14630 CHASE THE WIND

By E V Thompson Reader Pat Steadman

Josh Retallick, hardy son of a respected Cornish family, and the wild Miriam, daughter of a copper miner, explore together the secret places and wild creatures of Bodmin Moor, unaware that fate will soon sweep them apart. Yet destiny brings them together again through hard and bitter years when the forces of property and power fight to crush the sturdy mining folk who refuse, come what may, to see their spirit broken... Book 2 of the 'Retallick' series.

Sphere; 2010

22hrs 30mins

14793 CHRISTMAS AT WOOLWORTHS

By Elaine Everest Reader Annie Aldington

Best friends Sarah, Maisie and Freda are brought together by their jobs at Woolworths. With their loved ones away on the front line, their bonds of friendship strengthen each day. Betty Billington is the manager at Woolworths, and a rock for the girls. As the year draws to a close, and Christmas approaches, the girls must rely on each other to navigate the dark days that lie ahead. With so much change, can their friendship survive the war?

PanMacMillan 2021

10hrs 30mins

14758 LIZZIE OF LANGLEY STREET

By Carol Rivers Reader Pat Steadman

Following her mother's untimely death, Lizzie Allen is facing desperate times. Her sweetheart Danny is heading for Australia to seek his fortune. Determined to keep her family together, heartbroken Lizzie is tricked into marriage by Danny's unscrupulous brother, Frank. Can she escape her increasingly unhappy and violent marriage and save her family? And will she ever be reunited with her one true love, former barrow-boy, Danny Flowers?

Simon & Schuster; 2019

15hrs

14635 MARRYING MISS MARTHA

By Anna Jacobs Reader Wendy Denison

When Captain Merridene dies penniless, his daughters Martha and Penelope take an unusual job offer - as teachers in the distant town of Tapton, working for mill owner Jonas Wright. But soon they realise life in Tapton will be more complicated than they had bargained for. Penelope meets Clem Porter, whose family have been brought to starvation by a rival mill owner. Meanwhile, Martha is drawn - against her better judgement - to Ben Seaton, the father of one of her students. The sisters must face hardships and challenges in their new lives, but will they also find love?

Canelo; 2018

9hrs 30mins

14633 SECRETS IN THE HEATHER

By Gwen Kirkwood Reader Vivienne Ennemoser

Victoria Lachlan is orphaned at birth and raised by Jane McCrady whom she believes is her great-grandmother. When Jane dies Victoria is offered a home with the Pringles and a job in Darlonachie Castle kitchens. But times are changing both above and below stairs following the First World War. As Victoria grows into a beautiful young woman she has to face difficult choices and come to terms with a long buried secret from the past.

Accent Press; 2014

9hrs 0mins

14426 THE LIVERPOOL MATCHGIRL

By Lyn Andrews Reader Julie Maisey

Liverpool, 1901. The Tempest family is barely able to put food on the table and when 13-year-old Lizzie finds herself parentless, she knows that she must find work to keep herself off the streets. In a stroke of luck, she gets a job in the match factory, and foreman George Rutherford takes her under his wing. But the years ahead will be far from trouble-free. So when Lizzie gives her heart, how can she be sure she has chosen a better man than her own father?

Soundings Audio; 2018

11hrs 0mins

14821 THE ORPHAN OF IRONBRIDGE

By Mollie Walton Reader Lu Corfield

Hettie Jones has grown up in Ironbridge. Since her mother's death, she has been brought up by the Malone family, who treat her as one of their own. She works as a pit girl at the local coal mine, alongside her childhood playfellow, Evan, but when Queenie King takes a fancy to her, Hettie's life is transformed. Trained first as a lady's maid, and then hurtled into a world of luxury and gentility, she finds her new position difficult to reconcile with her past life. And with Queenie's daughter-in-law scheming against her, Hettie's situation becomes dire.

Lamplight; 2021

11hrs

14794 THE TEASHOP GIRLS

By Elaine Everest Reader Annie Aldington

It is early 1940 and World War Two has taken a hold on the country. Rose Neville works as a Lyon's Teashop Nippy on the Kent coast. When Capt. Benjamin Hargreaves enters the teashop one day, Rose is drawn to him. But is the dashing captain all that he seems?

PanMacMillan 2021

10hrs 30mins

14827 TWO SISTERS

By Josephine Cox Reader Carole Boyd

The pretty Arnold sisters have grown up on their father's farm and yearn for something more out of life. Ellen, is her father's favourite, but Georgina can't please a father who has never shown her love. While Ellen follows the steady path, Georgina takes a darker road and soon her actions will have fateful consequences for them all. Only Ellen can help them, but will a sister's love be enough?

Lamplight; 2020

11hrs

14792 WARTIME AT WOOLWORTHS

By Elaine Everest Reader Annie Aldington

Maisie, is devoted to her young family and her work at Woolworths. But her happy life with her RAF officer husband and their baby daughter leads her to think of the family she left behind. Sarah and her husband, Alan, are blissfully happy and long for a sibling for their daughter. While Freda heads home to Birmingham, to go in search of her family. With families' separated by war, will the Woolworths girls be able to pull together?

PanMacMillan 2021

9hrs 30mins

+ FANTASY FICTION

14850 CITY OF DRAGONS

By Robin Hobb

Reader Saskia Butler

The dragons and their keepers have discovered Kelsingra but so far only Heeby has succeeded in flying over the river to enter the fabled city. The other dragons, with their deformed wings and feeble muscles, are afraid to risk failure and humiliation. But wondrous things wait in Kelsingra, a city built for dragons and their Elderling keepers. Part 3 of the Rain Wild Chronicles.

Harper Collins; 2021

13hrs

14851 BLOOD OF DRAGONS

By Robin Hobb

Reader Avita Jay

The legendary blue dragon Tintaglia is dying of wounds inflicted by hunters sent by the Duke of Chalced, and danger threatens from beyond the city too. For war is coming; war between dragonkind and those who would destroy them. Part 4 of The Rain Wild Chronicles.

Harper Collins; 2018

19hrs 30mins

14805 THE BURNING PAGE

By Genevieve Cogman

Reader Kristin Atherton

Librarian spy Irene has standards to maintain, especially while on probation. When gates back to the Library are malfunctioning across dozens of worlds, and her nemesis Alberich is responsible, Irene and assistant Kai are posted to St Petersburg, to help combat this threat. The third book in The Invisible Library series.

PanMacMillan 2021

12hrs 30mins

14802 THE MASKED CITY

By Genevieve Cogman Reader Kristin Atherton

Librarian-spy Irene is working undercover in an alternative London when her assistant Kai goes missing. She discovers he's been kidnapped by the fae faction and the repercussions could be fatal. Not just for Kai, but for whole worlds. Kai's dragon heritage means he has powerful allies, but also powerful enemies in the form of the fae. With this act of aggression, the fae are determined to trigger a war between their people – and the forces of order and chaos themselves. The second book in The Invisible Library series.

PanMacMillan 2021

12hrs 30mins

**14897 THE SCIENCE OF DISCWORLD III:
DARWIN'S WATCH**

By Terry Pratchett Reader Miscellaneous

Roundworld is in trouble again, and this time it looks fatal. Having created it in the first place, the wizards of Unseen University feel vaguely responsible for its safety. They know the creatures who lived there escaped the impending Big Freeze by inventing the space elevator - they even intervened to rid the planet of a plague of elves, who attempted to divert humanity onto a different time track. But now it's all gone wrong. Unless something drastic is done, there won't be time for anyone to invent spaceflight and the human race will be turned into ice-pops.

Random House Audio; 2012

11hrs 30min

+ GENERAL FICTION

14908 GREAT CIRCLE

By Maggie Shipstead

Reader Miscellaneous

In 1950, Marian Graves embarks on her life's dream - to fly a Great Circle around the globe, pole to pole. But after a crash landing, she finds herself stranded on the Antarctic ice without enough fuel. With one fearsome piece of water separating her from completion of the Circle, she writes one last entry in her logbook. She is ready for her final journey. Half a century later, Hadley Baxter, a brilliant, troubled Hollywood starlet is irresistibly drawn to play Marian Graves, a role that will lead her to probe the deepest mysteries of the vanished pilot's life.

Penguin Audio; 2021

25hrs

14790 MUM AND DAD

By Joanna Trollope

Reader Yolanda Kettle

It's been 25 years since Gus and Monica left England to start a new life in Spain, building a vineyard and wine business from the ground up. However, when Gus suffers a stroke and their idyllic Mediterranean life is thrown into upheaval, it's left to their three grown-up children in London to step in. As the children descend on the vineyard, it becomes clear that each has their own idea of how best to handle their mum and dad, as well as the family business. But as long-simmering resentments rise to the surface and tensions reach breaking point, can the family ties prove strong enough to keep them together?

PanMacMillan 2021

10hrs

14617 THE SCHOOL AT THRUSH GREEN

By Miss Read

Reader Pauline Beale

Beloved primary school teachers Dorothy Watson and Agnes Fogerty announce their retirement and make plans to leave Thrush Green and buy a new home at Barton-on-Sea. The village people are aflutter with the news, musing about the teachers' replacements, the fate of the schoolhouse, and an appropriate farewell gift. Further drama unfolds as Dorothy takes up driving and Agnes finds a new friend in a stray cat.

Orion; 2009

8hrs 30mins

14899 NATIVE SON

By Richard Wright

Reader Peter Francis James

Gripping and furious, Native Son follows Bigger Thomas, a young black man who is trapped in a life of poverty in the slums of Chicago. Unwittingly involved in a wealthy woman's death, he is hunted relentlessly, baited by prejudiced officials, charged with murder and driven to acknowledge a strange pride in his crime. Native Son shocked readers on its first publication in 1940 and went on to make Richard Wright the first bestselling black writer in America.

Penguin Audio; 2020

17hrs 30min

14896

THE DIG

By John Preston

Reader Miscellaneous

In the long hot summer of 1939 Britain is preparing for war. But on a riverside farm in Suffolk there is excitement of another kind. Mrs Pretty, the widowed farmer, has had her hunch proved correct that the strange mounds on her land hold buried treasure. As the dig proceeds against a background of mounting national anxiety, it becomes clear that this is no ordinary find. John Preston's recreation of the Sutton Hoo dig - the greatest Anglo-Saxon discovery in Britain - brilliantly and comically dramatizes three months of intense activity when locals fought outsiders, professionals thwarted amateurs, and love and rivalry flourished in equal measure.

Penguin Audio; 2020

7hrs

14849

WHISPERS IN THE SAND

By Barbara Erskine

Reader Katy Federman

Recently divorced Anna Fox decides to cheer herself up by retracing a journey her great grandmother Louisa made in the mid-19th century - a Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan. Anna carries with her two of Louisa's possessions: an ancient Egyptian scent bottle and an illustrated diary. But when two men from the tour party develop an unfriendly rivalry for her attention, while showing a disturbing interest in Louisa's mementoes, Anna becomes worried. And most frightening of all, she finds herself the victim of a spectral presence that grows in strength and threat as the dramatic stories from three different eras intertwine in a terrifying climax.

Harper Collins; 2021

16hrs 30mins

+ HISTORICAL FICTION

14586 ALL THIS, AND HEAVEN TOO

By Rachel Field

Reader Grace Dives

A novel based on the true story of one of the most notorious murder cases in French history. The heroine, Henriette Deluzy-Desportes, governess to the children of the Duc de Praslin, found herself strangely drawn to her employer; when the Duc murdered his wife in the most savage fashion, she had to plead her own case before the Chancellor of France in a sensational murder trial that helped bring down the French king. After winning her freedom, Henriette took refuge in America, where she hosted a salon visited by all the socialites of New York and New England.

Must Have Books; 2019

22hrs 30mins

14797 CIRCUS OF WONDERS

By Elizabeth Macneal Reader Tuppence Middleton

1866. In a coastal village in southern England, Nell picks violets for a living. But when Jasper Jupiter's Circus of Wonders arrives in the village, Nell is kidnapped. Her father has sold her, promising Jasper Jupiter his very own leopard girl. It is the greatest betrayal of Nell's life, but as her fame grows she finds friendship with the other performers, and Jasper's gentle brother Toby. As she falls in love with Toby, can he detach himself from his past and the terrible secret that binds him to his brother?

Picador; 2021

11hrs 30mins

14904 CUNNING WOMEN

By Elizabeth Lee

Reader Taj Atwal

Seventeenth-century Lancashire is a dark place. Ten years after the notorious Pendle witch trials, Sarah Haworth and her family live as outcasts. The inhabitants of the nearby village despise 'cunning folk' like them, but their services will always be in demand. A chance meeting sees Sarah become acquainted with Daniel, a young man from the village. As they are drawn closer together, a new magistrate arrives in the area to investigate a spate of strange deaths befalling the villagers. Inevitably, his eye falls on Sarah's family and in the face of persecution, something as fragile as love seems impossible.

Penguin Audio; 2021

10hrs

14751 MR PEACOCK'S POSSESSIONS

By Lydia Syson

Reader James Murphy

Oceania, 1879. The Peacocks, a determined family of settlers, have struggled to make a remote volcanic island their home. At last, a ship appears. The Pacific Islanders on board have travelled hundreds of miles in search of new horizons. Hopes are high, until a vulnerable boy vanishes. The search for the lost child uncovers far more than they were looking for. The island's secrets force young Lizzie Peacock to question her deepest convictions, and slowly this tiny, fragile community begins to fracture . . .

Zaffre; 2019

13hrs 30mins

14744 SONG OF THE NIGHTINGALE

By Marilyn Pemberton Reader Edward Peel

Philippe, the narrator of this tale, is secretary to Count De Lorenzo, and lover to the Count's young wife. He is tasked with buying young boys from poor villagers, having them castrated and taking them to Florence to be taught to sing. The boys are innocents, victims of circumstances beyond their control. Surely they can have nothing to do with a barber's mysterious death, or the suicide of an abusive Jesuit priest?

Conrad Press; 2019

11hrs

14798 THE DOLL FACTORY

By Elizabeth Macneal Reader Tuppence Middleton

London. 1850. On a crowded street, the dollmaker Iris Whittle meets the artist Louis Frost. Louis is a painter and is desperate for Iris to be his model. Iris agrees, on the condition that he teaches her to paint. Dreaming of freedom, Iris throws herself into a new life of art and love, unaware that she has caught the eye of a second man: Silas Reed. As Iris's world expands, Silas's obsession grows. And it is only a matter of time before they meet again...

Picador;

11hrs

14791 THE MERCIES

By Kiran Millwood Hargrave Reader Jessie Buckley

Winter, 1617. The sea around the remote Norwegian island of Vardø is thrown into a reckless storm. A young woman, Maren, watches as the men of the island, out fishing, perish in an instant. Vardø is now a place of women. Eighteen months later, Absalom Cornet arrives. Summoned from Scotland to take control, he knows what he needs to do to bring the women of the island to heel. With him travels his young wife, Ursa. In her new home, and in Maren, Ursa finds something she has never seen before: independent women. But Absalom sees only a place flooded with a terrible evil, one he must root out at all costs...

Picador; 2020

11hrs

14752 VENETIA

By Georgette Heyer Reader Grace Dives

In all her twenty-five years, Venetia Lanyon has never been further than Harrogate. Nor has she enjoyed the attentions of any man aside from her two wearisomely persistent suitors. Then, in one extraordinary encounter, she meets a neighbour she only knew by reputation – the infamous Jasper Damerel. Before she realises it, Venetia is encouraging a man whose way of life has scandalised the North Riding for years.

Arrow; 2004

13hrs

+ HORROR STORIES

14746 THE STEPFORD WIVES

By Ira Levin

Reader Jenny Clay

Idyllic Stepford, Connecticut, is an affluent, suburban Eden populated with successful hubbies and beautiful, dutiful wives. For Joanna Eberhart, newly arrived with her husband and children, it all seems too good to be true. But just beneath the town's flawless surface, something is sordid and wrong - and it may already be too late for Joanna to save herself from being devoured by Stepford's hideous perfection.

Corsair; 2011

5hrs

+ HUMOUROUS FICTION

14542 THE MYSTERY OF HENRI PICK

By David Foenkinos

Reader Ellen Staples

In a small town in Brittany, a library houses manuscripts that were rejected for publication. Visiting while on holiday, young editor Delphine Despero is thrilled to discover a novel so powerful that she feels compelled to bring it back to Paris to publish it. The book is a sensation, prompting fevered interest in the identity of its author - apparently one Henri Pick, a now-deceased pizza chef from Crozon. Sceptics cry that the whole thing is a hoax: how could this man have written such a masterpiece? An obstinate journalist, Jean-Michel Rouche, heads to Brittany to investigate.

Pushkin Press; 2020

8hrs 30mins

+ LOVE STORIES

14820 AN OFFER FROM A GENTLEMAN

By Julia Quinn

Reader Rosalyn Landor

Sophie Beckett never dreamed she'd be able to sneak into Lady Bridgerton's famed masquerade ball - or that "Prince Charming" would be waiting there for her! Though the daughter of an earl, Sophie has been relegated to the role of servant by her disdainful stepmother. But now, spinning in the strong arms of the debonair and devastatingly handsome Benedict Bridgerton, she feels like royalty. Alas, she knows all enchantments must end when the clock strikes midnight.

Rosa; 2017

12hrs 30mins

14828 THE VIEW FROM ALAMEDA ISLAND

By Robyn Carr

Reader Therese Plummer

Lauren Delaney has a life to envy--a successful career, a solid marriage to a prominent surgeon and two beautiful daughters who are off to good colleges. But on her twenty-fourth wedding anniversary Lauren decides she won't pretend anymore. She defies the controlling husband who has mistreated her throughout their marriage and files for divorce. But Lauren's husband wants his "perfect" life back and his actions are shocking. Facing an uncertain future, Lauren discovers an inner strength she didn't know she had as she fights for the love and happiness she deserves.

Clipper; 2019

10hrs

14829 THE VISCOUNT WHO LOVED ME

By Julia Quinn

Reader Rosalyn Landor

Anthony Bridgerton needs a wife. Edwina Sheffield is considered the most beautiful debutante of the season. She is also sweet, innocent and eminently biddable. Anthony is sure she'll make a perfectly acceptable wife. The only obstacle in his way is Edwina's sister, Kate who is determined to allow her sister the chance to marry for love rather than convenience.

Rosa; 2017

12hrs 30mins

14631 WARTIME SWEETHEARTS

By Lola Jaye

Reader Kay Morrison

When Rose meets American GI William there is no denying their attraction even though she knows her family would not approve of her relationship with a black soldier. However Rose has a secret of her own and when war separates them before she can confide in William, Rose has to deal with the consequences...

Ebury; 2019

11hrs 30mins

14831 WHAT WE FIND

By Robyn Carr

Reader Therese Plummer

Neurosurgeon Maggie Sullivan knows she needs to slow down before she burns out completely, so she heads home to Sullivan's Crossing. But Maggie's world is rocked and she must take responsibility for the Crossing. When Cal Jones, offers to lend a hand, Maggie is suspicious of his motive. As Cal and Maggie spend more time together it gives Maggie hope for something brighter just on the horizon...

Clipper; 2017

10hrs

+ SHORT STORIES

14739 THE EARTH THY GREAT EXCHEQUER READY LIES

By Jo Lloyd

Reader Clare Francis

A lyrical and compassionate collection of short stories in which the characters are united by a quest for lasting value, as they ask how we should treat our world, our work, our selves, and each other.

Swift Press; 2021

6hrs

+ SPY STORIES

14809 BOX 88

By Charles Cumming

Reader Charlie Anson

1989: The Cold War will soon be over, but for BOX 88, a top secret spying agency, the espionage game is heating up. Lachlan Kite is sent to France to gather intelligence on the Lockerbie bombing. What he uncovers is terrifying... Fast forward to 2020: Kite has been taken captive and brutally tortured. He now has a choice, reveal the truth about what happened in France thirty years earlier – or watch his family die.

Clipper;2021

16hrs

+ THRILLERS

14680 AIRPORT

By Arthur Hailey

Reader David Hobbs

As a raging blizzard wreaks havoc at Lincoln International Airport outside Chicago, airline personnel try to cope with this unstoppable force of nature that is endangering thousands of lives. And in the air, a lone plane struggles to reach its destination. Over the course of seven hours, a tense human drama plays out as a brilliant airport manager, an arrogant pilot, a tough maintenance man, and a beautiful stewardess strive to avert disaster.

Chancellor Press; 1994

19hrs

14788 HOTEL

By Arthur Hailey

Reader David Hobbs

During five sultry days, the lives of the guests, the management, and the workers at New Orleans' largest and most elite hotel converge: the owner has four days to raise the money to save his financially ailing property; the general manager, once blacklisted from the hospitality business, struggles with one crisis after another; a rebellious heiress will do anything to attain her secret desires; a duke and duchess in the lavish presidential suite are covering up a crime, and; within one of the many guest rooms hides a professional thief.

Chancellor Press; 1994

16hrs

13519 THE BEAUTIFUL DEAD

By Belinda Bauer Reader Andrew Wincott

An obsessed killer craves an audience for his crimes - even advertising them beforehand. As London is gripped by the fear that there is no safety in numbers, ambitious TV reporter Eve Singer is keen to be first with the news from every gory scene - until she starts to suspect that the killer has two obsessions. One is public murder. And the other one is her...

Isis Audio Books; 2016

9hrs 15mins

14812 THE CUT

By Chris Brookmyre Reader Eilidh Beaton

Millie Spark can kill anyone. A special effects make-up artist, her talent is to create realistic scenes of bloody violence. Then, one day, she wakes to find her lover dead in her bed. Twenty-five years later, her sentence for murder served, Millicent meets troubled film student and reluctant petty thief Jerry. Together, they begin to discover that all was not what it seemed on that fateful night and someone doesn't want them to find out why.

Clipper; 2021

14hrs 30mins

14847 THE MOTIVE

By Khurrum Rahman Reader Waleed Akhtar

Business has been slow for Hounslow's small-time dope-dealer, Jay Qasim. A student house party means quick easy cash, but it also means breaking his own rules. But desperate times lead him there – and Jay finds himself in the middle of a crime scene. Quick Reads

Harper Collins; 2021

2hrs

14785 WEDDING STATION

By David Downing Reader David Hobbs

Berlin, February 1933. John Russell watches the Reichstag burn, but it's no scoop, even for a crime reporter. Four weeks after Hitler's accession, brownshirt mobs stalk the streets and the press prints what the Party tells it. Russell, a former communist with a British passport should be packing his bags, but while family ties bind him, his assignments draw him closer to the savage heart of the new regime.

Old Street Publishing; 2021

11hrs

+ Non-Fiction

+ ARTS – GENERAL

**14583 A FORGER'S TALE: CONFESSIONS OF
THE BOLTON FORGER**

By Shaun Greenhalgh Reader Bob Wildgust

In 2007, Bolton Crown Court sentenced Shaun Greenhalgh to four years and eight months in prison for the crime of producing artistic forgeries. Working out of a shed in his parents' garden, Greenhalgh had successfully fooled some of the world's greatest museums. During the court case, the breadth of his forgeries shocked the art world and tantalised the media. What no one realised was how much more of the story there was to tell.

Allen & Unwin; 2018

15hrs 0mins

**14545 PATCH WORK: A LIFE AMONGST
CLOTHES**

By Claire Wilcox

Reader Pamela Todd

Claire Wilcox has been a curator of fashion at the Victoria and Albert Museum for most of her working life. Here, she turns her curator's eye to the fabric of life itself, tugging at the threads of memory: a cardigan worn by a child, a tin button box, the draping of a curtain, a roll of lace, a pin hidden in a seam. Through these intimate and compelling close-ups, we see how the stories and the secrets of clothes measure out the passage of time, our gains and losses, and the way we use them to unravel and write our histories.

Bloomsbury; 2020

6hrs 30mins

**14515 THE BRONTËSAURUS: AN A-Z OF
CHARLOTTE, EMILY AND ANNE BRONTË (&
BRANWELL)**

By John Sutherland

Reader Ann Clark

Distinguished literary critic John Sutherland takes an idiosyncratic look at the world of the Brontës, from the bumps on Charlotte's head to the nefarious origins of Mr Rochester's fortune, by way of astral telephony, letterwriting dogs, an exploding peat bog, and much, much more. Also features 'Jane Eyre abbreviated' by the author John Crace who narrates Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece in five minutes!

Icon Books; 2017

7hrs

+ BIOGRAPHY - ART MUSIC & LITERATURE

14536 FANNY BURNEY: A BIOGRAPHY

By Claire Harman

Reader Clare Francis

At the age of fifteen, Fanny Burney made a bonfire of all her works, 'with the sincere intention to extinguish for ever in their ashes her scribbling propensity'. She was anxious that she might turn into an author, a fate incompatible with respectability for a woman. This portrait of the eighteenth-century author and satirist chronicles her literary career, her adventure-filled life, and her influence on the work of later writers.

Flamingo; 2010

18hrs

14499 MARIA CALLAS: SACRED MONSTER

By Stelios Galatopoulos

Reader Grace Dives

This is a definitive portrait of the life and work of one of the greatest and most celebrated opera singers of the twentieth century. Written by an opera critic who first met Callas in 1947, and later became a close friend, it reveals her personal thoughts and provides a view of each of her roles.

Fourth Estate; 1998

19hrs 30mins

**14683 MUSIC, MY LIFE: A GALLIMAUFRY OF
MUSICAL MEMORIES**

By Brian Kay

Reader Jeremy Neville

Brian Kay has spent his entire working life in a career that is both successful and rewarding. He was the founder bass of the internationally renowned vocal group The King's Singers, and spent 25 years writing and presenting thousands of programmes for BBC Radio. His fascinating collection of memories and anecdotes throws a hugely entertaining light on a life entirely devoted to the joy of music and music-making.

Umbria Press; 2020

7hrs

+ BIOGRAPHY – ENTERTAINMENT

14741 BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE

By Alec Guinness

Reader Simon Edginton

The reknowned actor Sir Alec Guinness talks about his youth, training, stage and film career, family, and beliefs in this fascinating memoir which also includes a highly entertaining collection of theatrical moments, interspersed with portraits of friends and fellow actors.

Warner Books 1987

11hrs

+ BIOGRAPHY – GENERAL

14898 BLACK BOY

By Richard Wright Reader Peter Francis James

At four years old, Richard Wright set fire to his home in a moment of boredom, at five his father deserted the family, by six Richard was - temporarily - an alcoholic. Moved from home to home, from brick tenement to orphanage he had had, by the age of twelve, only one year's formal education. But gradually he learned to play Jim Crow in order to survive in a world of white hostility, secretly satisfying his craving for books and knowledge until the time came when he could follow his dream of justice and opportunity in the north.

Vintage Audio; 2020

15hrs 30min

14801 GOTTA GET THEROUX THIS

By Louis Theroux Reader Louis Theroux

In this book, Louis takes the listener on a joyous journey through his life and unexpectedly successful career. Nervously accepting the BBC's offer of his own series, he went on to create an award-winning documentary style that has seen him immersed in worlds as diverse as racist US militias and secretive pro wrestlers, the violent gangs of Johannesburg and extreme drinkers in London. Filled with wry observation, larger-than-life characters, and self-deprecating humour, this is Louis at his insightful and honest best.

PanMacMillan 2021

13hrs 30mins

14580

THE YORKSHIRE SHEPHERDESS

By Amanda Owen

Reader Katherine Shaw

Amanda Owen was inspired by the James Herriot books to leave her town life behind and head to the countryside. After working as a freelance shepherdess, she eventually settled down as a farmer's wife at Ravenseat, alongside her husband Clive and seven children. She reveals how she has dealt with the ups and downs of farming life - from the tragedy of foot and mouth disease to the joy of breeding a champion tup, and from the pleasures of living in tune with the changing seasons to the challenges of raising children in such a remote location.

Pan; 2015

10hrs

+ BIOGRAPHY – HISTORICAL

14632

**GRESHAM'S LAW: THE LIFE AND
WORLD OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I'S BANKER**

By John Guy

Reader Fred Parker

Thomas Gresham was arguably the first true wizard of global finance. He rose through the mercantile worlds of London and Antwerp to become the hidden power behind three out of the five Tudor monarchs. A story of adventure and jeopardy, greed and cunning, loyalties divided, mistaken or betrayed, this is a biography fit for a merchant prince. Five hundred years after Gresham's birth, now is the time to reckon up his legacy.

Profile Books; 2019

12hrs 0mins

**14823 SHADOW KING: THE LIFE AND DEATH
OF HENRY VI**

By Lauren Johnson

Reader Jennifer Ness

Firstborn son of a warrior father who defeated the French at Agincourt, Henry VI of the House of Lancaster inherited the crown not only of England but also of France. Perhaps the most troubled of English monarchs, Henry VI was a pious, gentle, well-intentioned man who was plagued by bouts of mental illness. In *Shadow King*, Lauren Johnson tells his remarkable and sometimes shocking story in a fast-paced and colourful narrative that captures both the poignancy of Henry's life and the tumultuous and bloody nature of the times in which he lived.

Clipper; 2020

20hrs 30mins

14824 SQUARE HAUNTING

By Francesca Wade

Reader Corrie James

In London during the interwar years, five women's lives intertwined around one address, Mecklenburgh Square. In an era when women's freedoms were fast expanding, the modernist poet H. D., detective novelist Dorothy L. Sayers, classicist Jane Harrison, economic historian Eileen Power, and author and publisher Virginia Woolf sought a space where they could live, love and - above all - work independently. From the square, these trailblazing women pushed the boundaries of scholarship, literary form and social norms. Wade's luminous group biography reveals five unforgettable characters who forged careers that would have been impossible without these rooms of their own.

Clipper; 2020

13hrs 10mins

+ BIOGRAPHY – HUMOROUS

14501 JEREMY HARDY SPEAKS VOLUMES

By Jeremy Hardy

Reader Fred Parker

Jeremy Hardy, who died in February 2019, was perhaps the most distinctive comedian to arise from the 80s' alternative comedy circuit. This fitting celebration of the brilliant comedian, edited by his wife, Katie Barlow, contains material from his stand-up to his radio monologues, political satire and the joyfully silly gems, as well as tributes from his friends and fellow comedians. It is curated to encompass everything about Jeremy that fans adored.

Two Roads; 2020

8hrs 30mins

+ BIOGRAPHY – POLITICAL

14686 PITT THE ELDER: MAN OF WAR

By Edward Pearce

Reader John Hobday

At the heart of the conflict with France was William Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham and Britain's future Prime Minister. Weaving together military history and political biography Edward Pearce provides a portrait of the man 'with an eye like a diamond'- a man who had close ties with the slave trade and who preached war and British supremacy on a world stage. Alongside detailed descriptions of battles in Europe and North America we follow Pitt's career as a politician - one that was closely intertwined with General James Wolfe at Quebec; American independence; the slow mind of George III; and the quick one of the rake and outsider John Wilkes.

Pimlico; 2011

19hrs 30mins

+ BIOGRAPHY – SPORT

14685 THE BOXING DIARIES: HOW I GOT HOOKED

By Marion Dunn

Reader Derina Dinkin

Aged fifty, Marion Dunn joined a boxing gym on a whim. Training to improve fitness quickly became something of an addiction, and then a source of transformation. This is her myth-busting tale of four years of slogging in an amateur boxing gym in northern England.

Saraband; 2020

10hrs 30mins

+ CRIME

14848 MURDER: THE BIOGRAPHY

By Kate Morgan

Reader Emilia Fox

The stories and the people involved in the history of murder are stranger, darker and more compulsive than any crime fiction. There's Richard Parker, the cannibalised cabin boy whose death at the hands of his hungry crewmates led the Victorian courts to decisively outlaw a defence of necessity to murder. Dr Percy Bateman, the incompetent GP whose violent disregard for his patient changed the law on manslaughter; and Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged in England in the 1950s; played a crucial role in changes to the law around provocation in murder cases. A gruesome and utterly captivating portrait of the legal history of murder.

Harper Collins; 2021

10hrs 30mins

**14754 PURE EVIL: INSIDE THE MINDS AND
CRIMES OF BRITAIN'S WORST CRIMINALS**

By Geoffrey Wansell

Reader Mike Duffin

A fascinating exposé of the country's most violent murderers and their horrifying crimes, based on years of research. Delving deeper into the stories of lifers such as Jeremy Bamber, Joanna Dennehy and Ian Huntley, 'Pure Evil' asks whether they are just that... or something more complex. Geoffrey Wansell exposes the killers' motivations and remorse, but also seeks out an answer to the vital question: should life always mean life?

Penguin; 2018

14hrs 30mins

+ DISABILITIES

14578 A DESCENT INTO DARKNESS

By Simon Mahoney

Reader Alan Bowen

This book is intended as some kind of comfort and guide in the new and frightening world experienced by recently diagnosed individuals who are facing the unknown territory of vision loss. It outlines many of the things that people new to sight loss need to know, but are rarely told, and it is intended as a guide for those with sight loss as well as those who care for and love them.

Aye Aye Publishing; 2018

6hrs 30mins

+ ECONOMICS, POLITICS & CURRENT AFFAIRS

14895 THE GOOD IMMIGRANT

By Nikesh Shukla Reader Miscellaneous

Bringing together 21 exciting black, Asian and minority ethnic voices emerging in Britain today, The Good Immigrant explores why immigrants come to the UK, why they stay and what it means to be 'other' in a country that doesn't seem to want you but still needs you for its diversity monitoring forms. Inspired by discussion around why society appears to deem people of colour as bad immigrants until, by winning Olympic races or being conscientious doctors, they cross over and become good immigrants, editor Nikesh Shukla has compiled a collection of essays that are poignant, challenging, angry, humorous, heartbreaking, polemic, weary and – most importantly – real.

Random House Audio; 2017

7hrs

14891 THE PURPOSE OF POWER

By Alicia Garza Reader Alicia Garza

Black Lives Matter began as a hashtag when Alicia Garza wrote what she calls 'a love letter to Black people' on Facebook. But hashtags don't build movements, she tells us. People do. Interwoven with Garza's experience of life as a Black woman, The Purpose of Power is the story of how she responded to the persistent message that black lives are of less value than white lives by galvanizing people to create change.

Penguin Audio; 2020

9hrs 30min

+ HEALTH & WELLBEING

14815 A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MINDFULNESS: BE PRESENT IN THIS MOMENT

By Tessa Watt

Reader Tessa Watt

Mindfulness is growing in popularity as a technique which teaches us to appreciate our life. This Practical Guide explores how to listen to your body to reduce stress and anxiety in all areas of your life; how to focus better at work by becoming more aware of what is happening in the present; and how to enjoy life more by bringing mindfulness into everyday actions.

Clipper; 2020

5hrs

14902 HEAVY LIGHT: A JOURNEY THROUGH MADNESS MANIA AND HEALING

By Horatio Clare

Reader Horatio Clare

After a lifetime of ups and downs, Horatio Clare was committed to hospital under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act. From hypomania in the Alps, to a complete breakdown and a locked ward in Wakefield, this is a gripping account of how the mind loses touch with reality, how we fall apart and how we can be healed - or not - by treatment. A story of the wonder and intensity of the manic experience, as well as its peril and strangeness, it is shot through with the love, kindness, humour and care of those who deal with someone who becomes dangerously ill.

Penguin Audio; 2021

9hrs 30min

**14903 MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOVE: A
STORY OF LIFE LOVE AND THE NHS**

By Michael Rosen

Reader Michael Rosen

Michael Rosen wasn't feeling well. Soon he was struggling to breathe, and then he was admitted to hospital, suffering from coronavirus as the nation teetered on the edge of a global pandemic. What followed was months on the wards, six weeks in an induced coma, and many more weeks of rehab and recovery as the NHS saved Michael's life, and then got him back on his feet. Combining stunning new prose poems and the moving coronavirus diaries of his nurses, doctors, and his wife, this is a beautiful book about love, life and the NHS.

Penguin Audio; 2021

3hrs

+ HISTORY – BRITISH

14900 A SHORT HISTORY OF LONDON

By Simon Jenkins

Reader Anthony Howell

London: a settlement founded by the Romans, occupied by the Saxons, conquered by the Danes and ruled by the Normans. This unremarkable place - not even included in the Domesday Book - became a medieval maze of alleys and courtyards, later to be chequered with grand estates of Georgian splendour. It swelled with industry and became the centre of the largest empire in history. From the prehistoric occupants of the Thames valley to the preoccupied commuters of today, Simon Jenkins offers a matchless portrait of the capital.

Penguin Audio; 2019

13hrs 30mins

14799 BLACK AND BRITISH

By David Olusoga Reader Kobna Holdbrook-Smith

In this vital re-examination of a shared history, historian and broadcaster David Olusoga tells the rich and revealing story of the long relationship between the British Isles and the people of Africa and the Caribbean. This edition, fully revised and updated, features a new chapter encompassing the Windrush scandal and the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020. Black and British is vivid confirmation that black history can no longer be kept separate and marginalised - it is woven into the cultural and economic histories of the nation, and it belongs to us all.

PanMacMillan 2021

24hrs 30min

**14534 LONDON'S DOCKLANDS: A HISTORY
OF THE LOST QUARTER**

By Fiona Rule

Reader Derina Dinkin

In its heyday, the Port of London was the biggest in the world. It was a sprawling network of quays, wharves, canals and basins, providing employment for over 100,000 people. From the dockworker to the prostitute, the Romans to the Republic of the Isle of Dogs, London's docklands have always been a key part of the city. Here, historian Fiona Rule ensures that, though the docklands may be all but gone, they will not be forgotten.

History Press; 2019

16hrs 0mins

14768 RURAL RIDES

By William Cobbett

Reader Bob Rollett

Travelling on horseback through southern England in the early 19th century, William Cobbett provides evocative and accurate descriptions of the countryside, colourful accounts of his encounters with labourers, and indignant outbursts at the encroaching cities and the sufferings of the exploited poor. This new edition places these lively accounts of rural life in the context of Cobbett's political and social beliefs and reveals the volume as his platform for rural radical reform.

Penguin Classics; 2001

21hrs

**14825 SUMMER OF BLOOD: THE PEASANTS'
REVOLT OF 1381**

By Dan Jones

Reader Kris Dyer

The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 is one of the most dramatic and bloody events in English history. Starting with village riots in the Essex countryside, chaos rapidly spread across much of the south-east of England, as tens of thousands of ordinary men and women marched in fury to London, torching houses, slaughtering their social superiors and terrifying the life out of those who got in their way. The burning down of Savoy Palace, home to the most powerful magnate in the realm, marked one of the Revolt's most violent episodes.

Clipper; 2020

8hrs

+ HISTORY – GENERAL

14838 BLACK POPPIES: BRITAIN'S BLACK COMMUNITY AND THE GREAT WAR

By Stephen Bourne

Reader John Hobday

In this acclaimed study of the black presence in Britain during the First World War, Stephen Bourne illuminates fascinating stories of black servicemen of African heritage. These accounts of the fights for their 'Mother Country' are charted from the outbreak of war in 1914 to the conflict's aftermath in 1919, when black communities up and down Great Britain were faced with anti-black 'race riots' despite their dedicated services to their country at home and abroad.

History Press; 2019

7hrs 15mins

+ HISTORY - WORLD

14460 EMPRESS OF THE EAST: HOW A SLAVE GIRL BECAME QUEEN OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

By Leslie Peirce

Reader Clare Francis

Abducted by slave traders from her home in Ruthenia, now Ukraine, in 1515, Roxelana was brought to Istanbul as a concubine for Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, ruler of the Ottoman Empire. Until now Roxelana has been seen by historians as a seductress who brought ruin to the empire, but historian Leslie Peirce reveals the compelling story of an elusive woman who transformed the Ottoman harem into an institution of imperial rule.

Icon Books; 2020

14hrs 30mins

+ HOME AND GARDEN

14814 GARDENING FOR THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

By Isabel Lloyd

Reader Phil Clarke

A grow-your-own guide for the generation who'd rather eat compost than watch Gardeners' World, this book teaches you how to plan and plant your site for maximum nutrition. It also suggests gardening projects to get underway while civilisation still stands - from growing dinner in a dustbin to a juice bar on a balcony. Irreverent, straightforward and useful, it shows even complete beginners how to grow enough of their own food to survive when Armageddon arrives and imports collapse. Or even if they don't.

Clipper; 2020

7hrs 10mins

14687 SCOFF: A HISTORY OF FOOD AND CLASS IN BRITAIN

By Pen Vogler

Reader Clare Francis

In this fascinating social history of food in Britain, Pen Vogler examines the origins of our eating habits and reveals how they are loaded with centuries of class prejudice. Covering such topics as fish and chips, roast beef, avocados, tripe, fish knives and the surprising origins of breakfast, Scoff reveals how in Britain we have become experts at using eating habits to make judgements about social background. Bringing together evidence from cookbooks, literature, artworks and social records from 1066 to the present, Vogler traces the changing fortunes of the food we encounter today, and unpicks the aspirations and prejudices of the people who have shaped our cuisine for better or worse.

Atlantic Books; 2020

17hrs

+ PLAYS, THEATRE & DANCE

14840 TINA TALKS: SIX MASTERCLASSES ON SHAKESPEARE

By Tina Packer

Reader Tina Packer

In the spring of 2020, theatres all over the world were shut down due to the pandemic. So, once a week for six weeks, Tina decided to look at Shakespeare's plays through a different lens - philosophical, poetical, physical, political, psychological, and personal. The result? A series of completely original master classes that explore Shakespeare's plays from different angles, revealing the underlying messages and major questions that interested Shakespeare, and how his ability as a dramatist allowed him to express them in action as well as words.

Alison Larkin Presents; 2021

5hrs 30mins

+ POETRY

14629 CROW COUNTRY

By Mark Cocker

Reader Alan Bowen

One night Mark Cocker followed the flock of rooks and jackdaws which regularly passed over his Norfolk home on their way to roost in the Yare valley. Step by step he uncovers the complexities of the birds' inner lives, the unforeseen richness hidden in the raucous crow song he calls 'our landscape made audible'. The result is a prose poem describing a landscape which we cohabit with thousands of other species, and the richly complex fellowships which cannot be valued too highly.

Vintage; 2008

8hrs 0mins

14750 MR MENSH

By Michael Rosen

Reader Michael Rabin

In this collection of poems for grown-ups, Michael Rosen offers a view of the world based on some of the characters found at the kitchen table of a secular Jewish family in North London in the 1950s. Mr Menseh is a book about the absurdities of everyday life, soup, raspberry pips, toe-nails, warts and all. Its also a book about the violent absurdities of everyday politics in the twenty-first century, the End of Austerity, anti-Semitism, Racism and Fascism.

Smokestack Books; 2019

3hrs

14541 SONGS OF A SOURDOUGH

By Robert W Service

Reader Tony Pearce-Smith

Set in the Yukon during the great Klondike gold rush, this collection of poems is full of the wild characters, the freezing snow storms and the vast, staggering beauty of the Arctic wilderness.

CreateSpace; 2014

2hrs 0mins

14626 X AIR YEAR, THE

By Caroline Bird

Reader Katherine Shaw

The Air Year is a time of flight, transition and suspension: signatures scribbled on the sky. Bird's speakers exist in a state of unrest, trapped in a liminal place between take-off and landing, undeniably lost. Love is uncontrollable, joy comes and goes at hurricane speed. They walk to the cliff edge, close their eyes and step out into the air. Includes sexually explicit passages.

Carcenet Press; 2020

1hr 30mins

14625 THE HISTORIANS

By Eavan Boland

Reader Katherine Shaw

Throughout her nearly sixty-year career, acclaimed poet Eavan Boland came to be known for her exquisite ability to weave myth, history, and the life of an ordinary woman into mesmerizing poetry. Her final volume, *The Historians*, is the culmination of her signature themes, exploring the ways in which the hidden, sometimes all-but-erased stories of women's lives can powerfully revise our sense of the past.

Carcanet Press; 2020

0hrs 30mins

+ PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY

14818 A LONG WAY FROM HOME

By Cathy Glass

Reader Denica Fairman

The true story of two-year-old Anna, abandoned by her natural parents and left alone and neglected in an orphanage. Elaine and Ian had travelled halfway round the world to adopt little Anna. With no experience of looking after children and wanting to make up for Anna's past suffering they gave in to her constant demands such that she became unmanageable. The author takes over when she had to go into foster care. She was her third foster carer in a week and despite her best efforts, and years of experience looking after children, it seemed there was little she could do to help her.

Jammer; 2018

10hrs 30mins

**14743 INFERNO: A MEMOIR OF
MOTHERHOOD AND MADNESS**

By Catherine Cho Reader Vivienne Ennemoser

Catherine Cho's son was three months old when she found herself in an involuntary psychiatric ward, separated from her husband and child, unable to understand who she was, or remember how she got there. In her two weeks on the ward, Catherine turned to her notebook to reconstruct who she was from the fragments of her life as they drifted back to her. The result is this powerful exploration of psychosis and motherhood, at once intensely personal, yet holding within it a universal experience - of how we love, live and understand ourselves in relation to each other.

Bloomsbury; 2021

6hrs 30mins

14764 WILD CHILD

By Patrick Barkham Reader James Murphy

From climbing trees to making dens, many of the activities we associate with a happy childhood take place outdoors. And yet, the reality for many contemporary children is very different. Studies tell us that we are raising a generation who are so alienated from nature that they can't identify the commonest birds or plants, they don't know where their food comes from, they are shuttled between home and school and spend very little time in green spaces. In this book, writer Patrick Barkham draws on his own experience as a parent, and a forest school volunteer, to explore the relationship between children and nature.

Granta Publications; 2021

10hrs

+ RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

14841 GAY THE PRAY AWAY

By Erika Allison

Reader Erika Allison

If you are an LGBTQIA+ person who has experienced rejection, conversion therapy, or religious harm due to your sexual identity, you may be carrying around residual wounds that are sabotaging your happiness, and your relationships. It's time to get your gay back! Don't wait another minute to reclaim your joy. Find true, fulfilling love, and shine your beautiful rainbow light in the world.

Alison Larkin Presents;2021

6hrs

14839 THE GOSPELS: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN

Reader Miscellaneous

The four New Testament books known as the Gospels give us a rich perspective into the life of Jesus. While each may focus on various spiritual themes or present different aspects of Jesus's earthly life, each gospel should be respected and appreciated for its literary and historical integrity.

Alison Larkin Presents; 2021

11hrs

14762 WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF LOVE

By The Dalai Lama Reader Bob Rollett

From the teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, comes a practical, seven-step guidebook for developing your love for others and transforming your relationships in life. Basing his views on the human capacity to improve, and drawing on exercises and techniques established in Tibetan monasteries over more than a thousand years, the Dalai Lama's teachings are supremely relevant to our lives today.

Rider & Co; 2005

4hrs 15mins

+ SPORT & GAMES

14513 THAT WILL BE ENGLAND GONE

By Michael Henderson Reader Michael Rabin

Neville Cardus once said there could be no summer in England without cricket. Michael Henderson revisits much-loved places to see how the game he grew up with has changed since 1965 when he saw the great fast bowler Fred Trueman in his pomp. As well as reflections on his childhood hero, Farokh Engineer, and other great players, there are digressions on subjects as various as Lancashire comedians, Viennese melancholy and the films of Michael Powell.

Constable; 2020

13hrs 0mins

+ TRANSPORT

14531 THE LUNATIC EXPRESS

By Charles Miller

Reader Jeremy Neville

In 1895, George Whitehouse arrived at the east African post of Mombasa to perform an engineering miracle: the building of the Mombasa-Nairobi-Lake Victoria Railway – a 600-mile route that was largely unmapped and barely explored. This book explores the building of this great railway but, above all, it is the story of the white intruders whose combination of avarice, honour and tenacious courage made them a breed apart.

Penguin; 2002

22hrs 30mins

+ TRAVEL - EUROPEAN

14873 LEV'S VIOLIN: AN ITALIAN ADVENTURE

By Helena Attlee

Reader Hilary Spiers

From the moment she hears Lev's violin for the first time, Helena Attlee is captivated. She is told that it is an Italian instrument, named after its former Russian owner. Eager to discover all she can about its ancestry and the stories contained within its delicate wooden body, she sets out for Cremona, birthplace of the Italian violin. This is the beginning of a beguiling journey whose end she could never have anticipated.

Patriculr Books; 2021

7hrs

+ TRAVEL – WORLD

14759 BIRDS OF PASSAGE: THE INDIAN TRAVELS OF HENRIETTA CLIVE

By Nancy Shields

Reader Derina Dinkin

Remaining unread in a Welsh castle, this is a story that has waited 200 years to be told. Married to Lord Edward Clive, son of Clive of India and Governor of Madras, the journals of Lady Henrietta Clive take us on a double journey, across war-torn southern India in the last decade of the 18th Century. This book is edited and annotated by the Texan anthropologist, Nancy Shields.

Eland; 2016

13hrs 30mins

+ UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA

14755 THE MOST HAUNTED HOUSE IN ENGLAND: TEN YEARS INVESTIGATION OF BORLEY RECTORY

By Harry Price

Reader Bob Wildgust

Borley Rectory was the house that gained infamy as 'the most haunted house in England' after its ten-year-long paranormal investigation by the psychic researcher Harry Price. The rectory was subject to classic poltergeist activity, most notable of which is the figure of a nun, known for walking across the garden. It could be said that the story of Borley Rectory is as much a story of a haunted house and ghosts as it is about the living. Borley's saga includes sensationalist tabloid headlines, a scandalous affair and a captivating investigator whose discoveries are still questioned to this day.

Independently published; 2020

14hrs 30mins

+ WORLD WAR II

14684 CHILDREN OF WAR

By Susan Goodman

Reader Maggie Stokes

When Susan Goodman, herself a child in WWII, appealed for wartime stories from her peers, the response was overwhelming. Nostalgic, funny, everyday or tragic - the responses reveal a rich tapestry of life in WWII through the eyes of children.

John Murray; 2005

16hrs 30mins

14733 WHY THE ALLIES WON

By Richard Overy

Reader John Hobday

The Allied victory in 1945 – though comprehensive – was far from inevitable. By 1942 almost the entire resources of continental Europe were in German hands and Japan had wiped out the western colonial presence in Asia. Democracy appeared to have had its day. In this remarkable study, Richard Overy explores the deeper factors that determined success and failure: industrial strength, fighting ability, the skills of leaders, and the moral contrasts between the two sides.

Pimlico; 2006

22hrs