



Fall 2024

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

From the Director

I love exploring new books, reading the latest reviews, discussing authors and their work, and offering recommendations. Whether it's listening to audiobooks, reading on my phone, or curling up with a paperback, my passion for books never fades. As a librarian, I'm fortunate to be able to share my love of books and reading with others, and I'm not alone in that enthusiasm. This month, we feature several book lists with recommendations from various sources, including CTBL staff and celebrities.

Check out (pun intended!) the book recommendations from CTBL librarians. They've curated an intriguing selection across genres, including science, historical fantasy, true crime, and experimental fiction. CTBL also follows several celebrity book clubs, offering a fun way to discover popular titles being discussed nationwide. If you enjoy staying in tune with pop culture, this could be a great avenue to find interesting books and authors.

From a real-life espionage tale to a bestselling mystery novel, finding my next favorite book is always fun, but also challenging. I know I've picked out a few books that were duds—okay, more than a few. However, if I don't like a book, I've embraced just moving on to the next book in my ever-growing list of titles to be read. As Frank Zappa is credited with saying, "So many books, so little time." I couldn't agree more.

Happy reading!

Nicolle

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY CTBL STAFF

Our four Reader Advisor Librarians are here to help you with any questions you may have or to help you find your next favorite book! Here are some favorites they recommend:

Liz recommends...

Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine

Written by Alan Lightman ** Narrated by Bronson Pinchot

Physicist presents collection of twenty essays exploring the connections of scientific ideas and the wider world. Topics covered include caves, hummingbirds, stars, atoms, ants, monks, truth, transcendence, laws, doctrine, motion, centeredness, death, certainty, origins, multiverse, humans, and the longing for absolutes in a relative world. Nonfiction Science.

Audio DB092190; Large Print PR028635

Ring Shout: Or, Hunting KU Kluxes in the End Times

Written by P. Djèlí Clark ** Narrated by Channie Waites

In 1915, the Ku Klux Klan spread fear and violence in their plan to bring Hell to Earth. Standing in their way is Maryse Boudreaux and her fellow resistance fighters. Armed with blade, bullet, and bomb, they hunt their hunters and send the Klan's demons straight to Hell. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Paranormal Fiction.

Audio DB101148; Braille BR023636

Andrea recommends...

The Doomsday Book

Written by Connie Willis ** Narrated by Robert Blumenfeld

Kivrin, a young, twenty-first-century history student, travels back in time on assignment to fourteenth-century Oxford. But something goes wrong, and she is stranded in the Middle Ages right at the outbreak of the bubonic plague. As her modern mentor struggles to rescue her, Kivrin must come to terms with life and death in an age of superstition, fear, and suffering. Science Fiction.

Audio DB036888; Braille BR021178

Babel: Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution

Written by R. F. Kuang ** Narrated by Billie Fulford-Brown

1828. Robin Swift, orphaned by cholera in Canton, is brought to London by the mysterious Professor Lovell. There, he trains for years in Latin, Ancient Greek, and Chinese, all in preparation for the day he'll enroll in Oxford University's prestigious Royal Institute of Translation—also known as Babel. Unrated. Historical Fantasy.

Audio DB110624; Spanish Audio DB120306; Large Print PR032183

Lorrie recommends...

We Ride Upon Sticks

Written by Quan Barry ** Narrated by Isabel Keating

In 1989, the Danvers High School field hockey team was experiencing a frustrating losing streak. In this town that hosted witch trials centuries before, the girls decide they will do anything to win—even make a deal with the devil. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Paranormal Fiction.

Audio DB099244

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The Devil in the White City

Written by Erik Larson ** Narrated by Bruce Huntley

The author of "Isaac's Storm" traces the crimes of Dr. H.H. Holmes, a serial killer who preyed on young women during the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in the amazing landscape that architect Daniel H. Burnham created in a mere two years. True Crime.

Audio DB055748; Large Print PR020942; Braille BRG02644

Judy Recommends...

Jitterbug Perfume

Written by Tom Robbins ** Narrated by Bob Askey

Madcap, quixotic novel on the themes of scent and immortality that skips through time and space. Sparkles with comedy, insights, wild ideas, erotic glitter, and unlikely characters. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Experimental Fiction.

Audio DB021231

We Are Not Free

Written by Traci Chee ** Narrated by Carol Jacobanis

Three months after the attack at Pearl Harbor, fourteen-year-old Minoru Ito and her Japanese-American community live in a new nightmarish world. And now things are about to get worse as they are forced into internment camps. Violence and strong language. Historical Fiction.

Audio DB101256; Large Print PR032240

Celebrity Book Clubs at CTBL

Have you ever wondered what the celebrities are reading? Some of them have monthly book clubs. We don't get every title they suggest, but when we do, we're ready to get them to you! You can be signed up to automatically receive them, or call a Reader Advisor at 303-727-9277 and ask which ones made the list.

Let us know if you'd like to get books from these book clubs:

- Good Morning America's Book Club
- LeVar Burton's Book Club
- Oprah's Book Club
- Read With Jenna (Bush Hager)
- Read With Jenna Junior—Children and Young Adult Book Club
- Reese's (Witherspoon) Book Club
- Reese's Young Adult Book Club

Recent Selection from the Read With Jenna (Bush Hager)

Remarkably Bright Creatures

Written by Shelby Van Pelt ** Narrated by Michael Urie & Marin Ireland

Tova Sullivan spends her days with her eccentric circle of friends who call themselves "The Knit-Wits" and works nights cleaning the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Keeping busy helps her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished off a boat over thirty years ago. Tova has become fond of Marcellus, a giant and curmudgeonly octopus at the aquarium. He's

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smarter than anyone can imagine and begins to piece together what happened to Tova's son. Bestseller. Some strong language. 2022. Mystery & Friendship Fiction.

Audio- DB107924; Braille- BR024204

Jenna said about Remarkably Bright Creatures, "This novel is filled with love, humor, joy, and healing. It demonstrates the power and beauty of unexpected friendships. I can't wait for this creative, feel-good story to surprise and delight the Read With Jenna book club."

From the Colorado Collection — Audio Books

These newly recorded audio books were produced in the CTBL studios and feature Colorado authors and local history, as well as books of general interest.

Newly Recorded Fiction

Mixed Company

Written by Jenny Shank ** Narrated by Stephanie Briggs

Shank reveals moments of grace and connection between people of her hometown of Denver. Her stories contrast the city during its oil-bust era of economic troubles and court-ordered desegregation busing with the gentrifying city of recent years. Colorado Book Award winner. Some strong language. 2021. Colorado Fiction.

DBC25807

Told You Twice. Told You Series #2

Written by Kristen Heitzmann ** Narrated by Geri Gingras

Alexis Murphy couldn't be happier planning a wedding with her fiancé, Jeffrey. But stage star, Bo Corrigan, could be a major disruption. She senses trouble, not only danger from Bo's past mistakes, but something inside tearing him apart. Can they get beyond the damage to something that heals and restores? 2016. Christian Romance Fiction. **DBC25805**

The Dunraven Hoard Murders. Ranger McIntyre Mystery #3

Written by James C. Work ** Narrated by Mark Hintz

1920's. Three fraternity brothers have been exploring Colorado's mines in search of buried treasure. One of the boys has been killed during the explorations, and the other two seem the most likely suspects. William, a friend of FBI Agent Vi's, asks McIntyre and Vi to investigate—to keep his son Richard in the clear. 2020. Colorado Mystery. **DBC25803**

The Stones of Peril. Ranger McIntyre Mystery #4

Written by James C. Work ** Narrated by Mark Hintz

1920's. Two park visitors are found dead—one hanged and one poisoned. Also, two cloaked figures have been adding white rocks to Flattop Mountain's ancient stone medicine circle. Why? And where are the rocks coming from? The ranger is going to have help untangling the puzzles: his glamorous friend, Vi, is coming from Denver to visit. 2021. Colorado Mystery. **DBC25804**

Newly Recorded Nonfiction

Colorado Myths and Legends: The True Stories Behind History's Mysteries

Written by Jan Elizabeth Murphy ** Narrated by Hille Dais

From the Anasazi cliff dwellings to tall tales of Buffalo Bill, an unsolved bank robbery to Jon Benet Ramsey, Murphy examines an array of puzzling events in the Centennial State. Read about the mysterious French miner-turned-hotelier, the incongruous Great Sand Dunes that stretch for miles at the base of snow-capped mountains, and the disappearance of an entire ancient civilization. 2017. Colorado History. **DBC13191**

Journey of Souls: Case Studies of Life Between Lives

Written by Michael Newton ** Narrated by Peter Berkrot

Presents first-hand accounts of twenty-nine people who, while in deep hypnosis, described what happened to them in the spirit world after their physical death. 1994. Paranormal Phenomena. **DBC25814**

Ranching Women of Colorado: 17 Legendary Ladies

Written by Linda Wommack ** Narrated by Stephanie Berg Oram

The Homestead Act of 1862 brought thousands of women west for free land, new beginnings, and a new way of life. Wommack tells the stories of these remarkable women who found ways to survive and thrive in the male-dominated ranching industry of the 19th century West. 2019. Colorado History. **DBC13154**

Marijuana: A Short History

Written by John Hudak ** Narrated by Visvaldis Jaunarajs

Hudak profiles the politics and policies concerning marijuana in the US and around the world. An up-to-date look at how a plant with a tumultuous history has emerged from the shadows of counterculture and illegality. 2020. Law & Legal Issues. **DBC25806**

Once Upon a Felony: True Stories of How Four Women Reshaped Their Lives After Prison

Written by Lois Britton ** Narrated by Louise Lederhos

Four women share their stories about their crimes: assault, kidnapping, DUI with vehicular assault, and assault with a deadly weapon. They confront their addictions, face their anger, and accept the blame. They describe their prison experiences, the devastation inflicted upon their families, and their road to resilience. 2022. Colorado Biography. **DBC02996**

Remastered Audio Books

The following locally recorded titles have been remastered and are now available from CTBL and BARD.

Remastered Nonfiction

Dammi la Mano: Give Me Your Hand

Written by Bambi Venetucci ** Narrated by Louise Hausburg

The autobiography of Bambi Venetucci, a CTBL patron. Bambi, though blind from birth, overcame many challenges, and for 30 years taught countless children at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. In 1983, she earned Colorado Teacher of the Year. 1996. Blindness Autobiography. **DBC26086**

The Sand Creek Massacre

Written by Stan Hoig ** Narrated by Herman Urschel

An account of the Indian-White conflict in the Colorado Territory during the early 1860s, which led to the controversial Battle of 1864 or Sand Creek Massacre. 1961. Colorado History. **DBC26087**

The Last Chapter: Gene Amole on Dying

Written by Gene Amole ** Narrated by Herman Urschel

Collection of Amole's columns from the Rocky Mountain News that he wrote in the six months that led to his death. Far from a depressing diary, this collection provides insights into physical infirmity, celebrating his life, and his love for friends and family. 2002. Colorado Autobiography. **DBC26083**

So the Blind Can See

Written by Kay Haraway ** Narrated by Dorothy Laird

A certified Braille transcriber since 1955, Kay Haraway served as Braille Coordinator of the Denver chapter of the American Red Cross. The vignettes in this book recount the lives she touched through her work on various Braille projects. 1993. Blindness Autobiography. **DBC26085**

Need more book recommendations?

Talk to a CTBL Reader Advisor at 303-727-9277 or email at ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us.

Key to Book Numbers

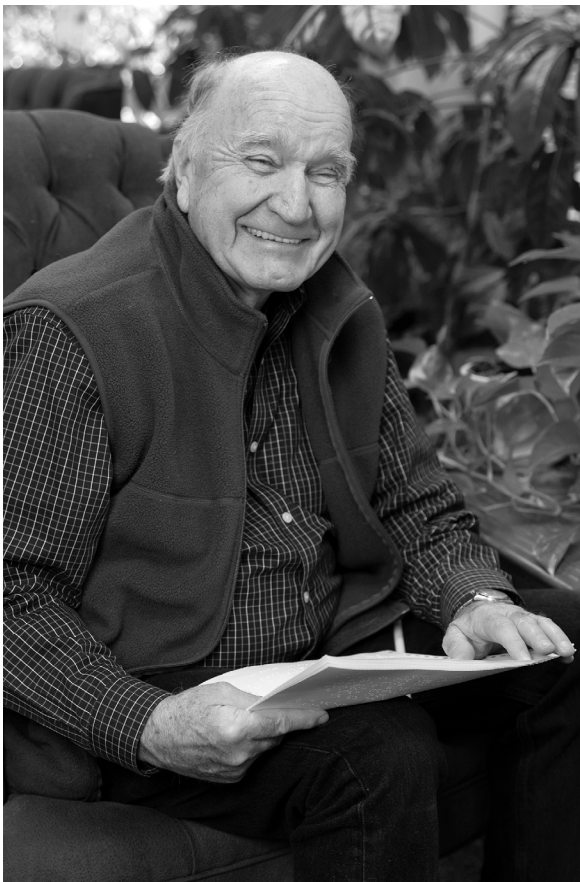
Each book number is preceded by two or three letters. These letters indicate the book's format. Here's a quick guide to help you get the book you want in the format that works best for you.

BR = braille book

DB = digital audio book

DBC = locally recorded digital audio book

PR = large print book



CTBL patron reading braille book.

INTRO TO BRAILLE KIT

Are you in the process of learning braille or interested in practicing your braille skills? You can now request CTBL's new Intro to Braille kit. This kit includes flash cards, a book of Super Short Stories in Uncontracted Braille, a Braille Spelling Dictionary for Beginning Writers, and more. While this kit is not a replacement for braille classes, it is a great starting point for people who are interested in learning braille or looking for supplementary materials to support their learning. Request the Intro to Braille Kit by contacting the library today!

What is OCLC?

Have you heard the letters OCLC at the end of a book description on one of your cartridges and wondered what it meant?

In 1967 when OCLC was founded the letters O C L C stood for Ohio College Library Center. As the organization grew the O C L C stood for Online Computer Library Center. Today the organization is just known by the letters OCLC and it provides its member libraries with a variety of programs, services, and resources that help libraries function. This can include cataloging information like book summaries, which is why it sometimes appears in our book descriptions.

NLS News

Update from the National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

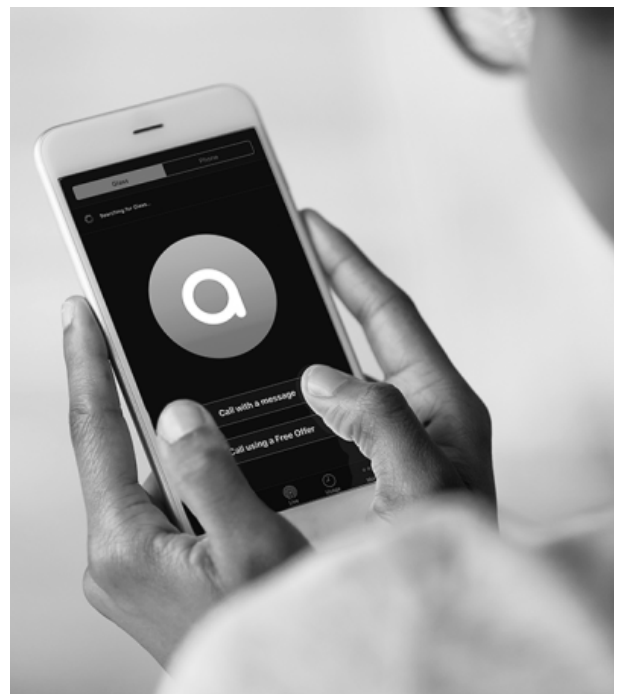
Need a 2025 calendar in braille? NLS provides braille and print/braille calendars to patrons free of charge. Calendars are available in two sizes. The larger wall calendar is print/braille. The smaller pocket-sized calendar is braille only. Once you are subscribed, you will receive a calendar each year unless you stop your subscription. To obtain calendars, please contact CTBL at 1-800-685-2136 or ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us.

NLS rolled out the long-awaited BARD Express Player on August 8. The BARD Player allows patrons to choose an audiobook or magazine from their BARD Express bookshelf and listen to it directly on their PC. Patrons have shared positive feedback, including this comment from the NLS Facebook post: "The player feature has been requested by many of us for a long time. I never

asked for it out loud, but I certainly wished for it. It works quite well!" NLS has provided more information in Section 7 for the BARD Express User Guide online at: www.loc.gov/nls/how-to-enroll/sign-up-for-bard-and-bard-mobile/. Or contact CTBL for more information at 800-685-2136 or ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us.

Aira Expanded to Include State Parks

This summer, Colorado Parks and Wildlife expanded the availability of Aira for visitors to state parks. Since February 2023, the State of Colorado has offered Aira, an app that provides real-time, on-demand visual interpreting through online human assistance. Coloradans can access up to 30 minutes of free service per session while navigating state locations and websites—now including state parks.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife recommends, "Since not all parks have cellular service in all areas, visitors should call the park or visit the CPW [Colorado Parks and Wildlife] website to understand connectivity before visiting. Because Aira relies on streaming video, users should plan to ensure their devices are fully charged and consider bringing a backup power source to prepare for extended connectivity."

Learn more about how to access and use Aira at oit.colorado.gov/accessibility/aira. Download the app to a mobile device via the Apple Store or Google Play.

Contributors to The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library and The Colorado Talking Book Library

Donations (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Note: due to privacy concerns, we are only listing last names for donors.
Thank you!

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Saliman

In Memory of:
Jayne Mitchell

Mitchell Family

In Memory of:
Joanne Rudoff

Kell

In Memory of:
Erin MacArthur

Personal Touch

Senior Services, Inc

Children's Hospital

Colorado Audiology

Department

Barnett

Lerner

Kreeger

Goddard

Newman

Hoffman

Merkel

Thompson

Away

Rouzier

Wheeler

Cokely

Ruppel

Kroepsch

White

Henning

Alcorn

D'Archangelo

Spencer

Fligor

Bair

Edwards

McShane

Florence

Piper Family

Holloway

York

Marotta

Bautists

Katz

Vovk

Ashton-Lilo

Castioni

Curry

Wilson

Holloway-Smith

Strange

Hendrick

Kreiter

Lamb

Peffer

Contacting CTBL

Whether you need help with your account, want new books, or just moved, CTBL's Reader Advisors can help.

Contact us by phone or email:

303-727-9277—metro Denver

1-800-685-2136—outside Denver

ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us.

www.myctbl.org

Legacy Gifts

Legacy gifts to the Friends of CTBL are a vital way to ensure ongoing support for all the services the library provides to patrons. The Friends have established **Eyes to the Future** that honors and recognizes the generosity and vision of patrons, families and friends who have chosen to leave a legacy through their estates or other deferred gifts.

We invite you to become a member of **Eyes to the Future**. Enrollment in this honorary group is simply a matter of advising us about your plans to make a legacy gift, such as a bequest in a will or living trust or designating The Friends of CTBL as beneficiary of an individual retirement plan, 401k or life insurance policy. The Friends of CTBL is a public 501 c 3 charity and the tax ID is 23-7243950.

Contributions to The Friends of the Colorado Talking Book Library and The Colorado Talking Book Library

An additional way to contribute to either the Friends or to CTBL is through a charitable bequest as part of a will or through life insurance. You do not have to rewrite your current document but can add a written amendment called a codicil. Such a bequest only becomes irrevocable at your death. Giving to the library helps support the programs and service we provide to our patrons and helps to secure the future.

How to Reach Us:

Colorado Talking Book Library
180 Sheridan Blvd.
Denver, CO 80226

303-727-9277 Metro Denver
1-800-685-2136 Outside Denver
www.myctbl.org

- Susana Córdova,
Commissioner of Education

- Nicolle Davies, State Librarian
- Nicolle Steffen, CTBL Director



The Colorado Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age, in access to, employment in, or provision of any of CDE's programs, benefits, or activities.

CTBL WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

Thursday and Friday, November 28-29, 2024
Monday - Wednesday, December 23-25, 2024
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

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Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped



**COLORADO
TALKING BOOK
LIBRARY**