



FALL 2025

CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

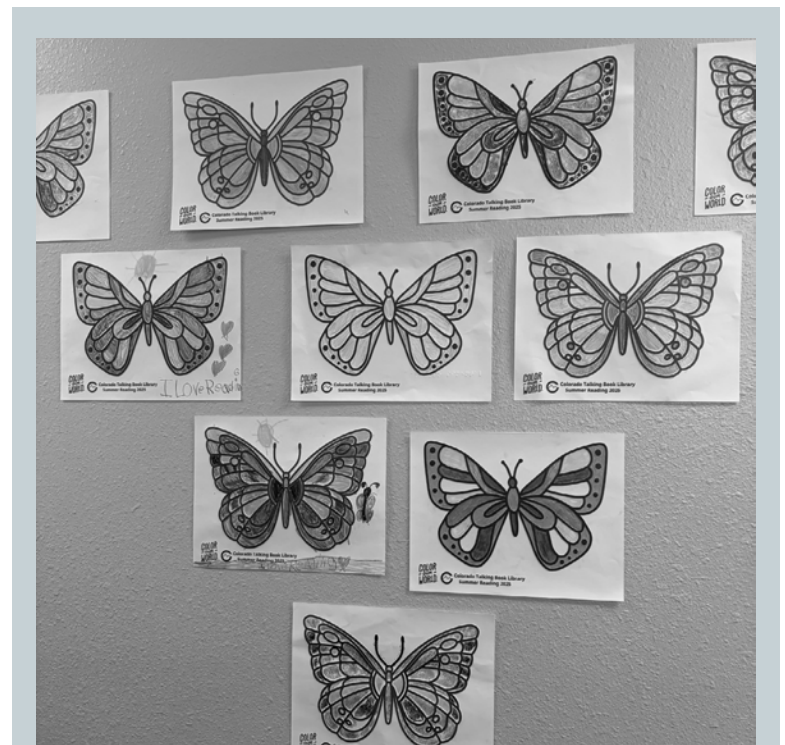
Letter From the Director

Happy Fall, Everyone!

It's been a busy and exciting few months at CTBL. Over the summer, we had a new fence installed around the library at 180 Sheridan to add extra security—and it looks great, too. One of our volunteers even said, “It really dresses up the place.”

We also celebrated our biggest Summer Reading Program yet, with registrations up more than 300%! Readers took on fun activities like tactile coloring kits, seed kits, and NLS author events, then earned a CTBL hat or sling bag as a reward. We can't wait to build on this success and “Unearth a Story” with you next summer.

But you don't have to wait until then to join the fun—our all-ages Winter Book Bingo program is coming soon. See the next page for details.



Tactile butterfly coloring pages sent to CTBL from patrons participating in Summer Reading

continued on page 2

Letter From the Director, continued from page 1

We also host an online Patron Advisory Group, where readers can connect with our staff and each other about library news and services. Watch your email for the next meeting invite, and reach out if you'd like more information.

Finally, a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers. From the recording studio to circulation, machine repair to technical services, they truly keep CTBL running—and many have been with us for over a decade. We couldn't do it without them!

Happy Reading!

Nicolle



CTBL's mascot, LB, a stuffed animal dog, wearing the summer reading prizes, which are a hat and a sling bag.



Winter Book Bingo

Get ready for Winter Book Bingo January 5th - February 27th, 2026! Readers of all ages can take on this reading challenge to find their next favorite book, explore what CTBL has to offer, and earn a fun prize. Beginning January 5th go to myctbl.org, call, or email the library to request your bingo card.

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 favorite titles they recommend:

Andrea recommends...

Cat Pictures Please and Other Stories

Written by Naomi Kritzer ** Narrated by Joe Peck

Collection of 17 quirky science fiction short stories, including the Hugo Award-winning *Cat Pictures Please*—When an artificial intelligence spontaneously emerges from a search engine, it wants two things: to help humans, and pictures of cats. Cat pictures are easy to come by, but helping humans is far more difficult than it had anticipated. *Short Stories.*

Audio DB086979

Chronicles of St. Mary's- Books 1-3

Written by Jodi Taylor ** Narrated by Eva Wilhelm

The disaster-magnets of St Mary's Institute of Historical Research ricochet around History in their time-travel pods. Their aim is to observe and document - to try to find the answers to many of History's unanswered questions...and not to die in the process. A clever, plucky heroine, hair-raising adventures in time, and a mysterious undercurrent of sabotage make this series a delight!. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. *Science Fiction.*

Audio DB089592

continued on page 4

What Are You Reading, continued from page 3

Judy recommends...

Crying in H Mart: A Memoir

Written by Michelle Zauner ** Narrated by Michelle Zauner

The author reflects on her experiences growing up Korean American, struggling with expectations, meeting her husband, and losing her mother to cancer. She also discusses her journey to forge her own identity and claim the taste, language, and history left to her by her mother. Some strong language. Autobiography.

Audio DB103413; Spanish Audio DB121318; Large Print PR030956; Braille BR024119

Water Moon

Written by Samantha Sotto ** Narrated by Cindy Kay

A woman inherits a pawnshop where you can sell your regrets--and then embarks on a magical journey when a charming young physicist wanders into the shop in this dream-like and enchanting fantasy novel. Fantasy.

Audio DB126937

Liz recommends...

The Rabbit Hutch

Written by Tess Gunty ** Narrated by Scott Brick

The automobile industry has abandoned Vacca Vale, Indiana, leaving the residents behind, too. In a run-down apartment building on the edge of town, commonly known as the Rabbit Hutch, a number of people now reside quietly, looking for ways to live in a dying city. Unrated. Family Fiction.

Audio DB109788; Large Print PR025831; Braille BR024629

Americanah

Written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ** Narrated by Erin Jones
After studying in the United States for thirteen years, Ifemelu, a Nigerian woman who blogs about race, returns home to Lagos. She has endured enough cultural issues and misses her first love. But the Nigerians label her an “Americanah.” Some strong language. Award Winner.

Audio DB077188; Large Print PR028096

Lorrie recommends...

The Cemetery of Untold Stories

Written by Julia Alvarez ** Narrated by Alma Cuervo
When celebrated writer Alma Cruz inherits a small plot of land in the Dominican Republic, she turns it into a place to bury her untold stories--literally. She creates a graveyard for manuscript drafts and revisions and the characters whose lives she tried and failed to bring to life and who still haunt her. Alma wants her characters to rest in peace, but they have other ideas, and the cemetery becomes a mysterious sanctuary for their true narratives. Strong language and some violence. Magical Realism.

Audio DB120722; Large Print PR034591

We'll Prescribe You a Cat

Written by Syou Ishida ** Narrated by Naruto Komatsu
Tucked away in an old building at the end of a narrow alley in Kyoto, the Kokoro Clinic for the Soul can only be found by people who are struggling in their lives and genuinely need help. The mysterious clinic offers a unique treatment to those who find their way there: it prescribes cats as medication. Patients are often puzzled by this unconventional prescription, but when they “take” their cat for the recommended duration, they witness profound transformations in their lives, guided by the playful, empathetic, occasionally challenging yet endearing cats. Animal Fiction.

Audio DB124064



Want more reading recommendations from our Librarians? Call or email CTBL and ask about our booklists!

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

A Daughter's Wages

Written by Joanne M. Brand ** Narrated by Judith Knapp
Ten-year-old Isabella watched Papa drive away, ordering her to find work so he could collect her pay. It was 1889, and Yankton, South Dakota, felt overwhelming to a farm child. With no family, schooling, or guidance, Isabella faces a lonely life shaped by hardship and historic events such as the Wounded Knee massacre, the financial crash, and the depression of 1893. 2016. Historical Fiction.

Audio- DBC13153

Birdie Nook: A Short Horror Story

Written by Laurie Ann Pokin ** Narrated by A. W. Miller
Birdie Nook lives a reclusive life. Overweight, isolated, and haunted by a troubled childhood, she rarely leaves her apartment. Her uneasy solitude begins to crack when she senses something watching her—an unseen presence invading her space. As disturbing memories surface, the darkness closes in, and she can't ignore it. 2012. Psychological Horror Fiction.

Audio DBC25875

Bratwurst Haven: Stories

Written by Rachel King ** Narrated by Louise Lederhos
Nearly a decade after the Great Recession, Colorado's St. Anthony Sausage still struggles—so do its workers: a laid-off engineer, an exiled techie, a young mother, and a sick older man. Under the owner and his rebellious daughter, they face hard choices in a fractured, unforgiving postindustrial America. Although they may help or comfort each other, they also have to do what's best for themselves. Colorado Book Award winner. Strong language. 2022. Colorado Short Stories.

Audio DBC25865

Fluke

Written by James Herbert ** Narrated by James Ryder
Fluke, a stray dog with hazy human memories, roams the streets searching for answers. Guided by Rumbo, a street-smart companion, Fluke begins to recall fragments of a past life—a wife, a child, a different existence. Driven by these visions, he sets out to uncover the truth about who he was. Adapted into a movie with the same title starring Samuel L. Jackson in 1995. Some strong language and violence. 1977. Animal Fiction.

Audio DBC25848

Swift Justice: Charlie Swift Mystery #1

Written by Laura A. H. DiSilverio ** Narrated by Nancy Crandall
Charlotte "Charlie" Swift, a former Air Force investigator turned private eye, likes her solitary existence. When her silent partner flees the country, leaving his socialite wife Gigi with a half interest in the business, Charlie must find a way to cope with her while also investigating the case of an abandoned baby. Some strong language. 2010. Colorado Mystery Fiction.

Audio DBC25816

continued on page 8

True Heart's Desire: Colorado Hearts Series #2

Written by Caroline Fyffe ** Narrated by Patricia Jonietz
Their father's death summoned Lavinia Brinkman and her four sisters to Eden, Colorado, but Lavinia's heart's desire—creating the elaborate hats she loves—doesn't belong in this small town. How can she choose between the life she has and the life she wants? Especially when she's so utterly vexed by the handsome scoundrel who's just arrived in Eden. 2018. (Sequel to "Heart of Eden" DBC13025/ PR028747.) Historical Romance Fiction.

Audio DBC13103; Large Print PR028957

Newly Recorded NonFiction

Desert Chrome: Water, a Woman, and Wild Horses in the West

Written by Kathryn Wilder ** Narrated by Louise Lederhos
After suffering grief and addiction, Wilder finds solace in the high desert of the Colorado Plateau, where she makes a home bordering a mustang herd. As she navigates the challenges of land stewardship, Wilder reflects on the deep connection between humans and nature, advocating for humane solutions to wild horse overpopulation to ensure both horses and habitats remain wild in the arid West. Colorado Book Award and Nautilus Book Award winner. Strong language. 2021. Colorado Autobiography.

Audio DBC25812

The Haunted Heart of Denver

Written by Kevin Pharris ** Narrated by Stephanie Briggs
Rumors swirl that the gates of hell are beneath a hotel near Denver's capitol building, restless spirits are in Cheesman Park, and the murderous poltergeist of the Capitol Hill Thug roams the city streets. Even in the stately mansions of Millionaires' Row, a sad Victorian lady begs for help in the Sheedy Mansion and an eerie face appears on the facade of the Cresswell House. Join tour guide Kevin Pharris on a chilling journey through Denver's haunted heart. Some violence. 2011. Colorado Ghost Stories.

Audio DBC25817

Two Ends of a Leash: Unshackled

Written by Grace D. Napier ** Narrated by Andrea Loughry
Born blind in New Jersey, Grace was misunderstood by her teachers, who assumed she was mentally disabled and left her idle in class. Nevertheless, Grace had a hunger to learn. Her life changed when she entered a special education program and met Miss Katharine Taylor. Grace began using Seeing Eye dog guides when she was seventeen years old. She went on to become a lifelong educator, teaching children and graduate students at three universities. 2008. Colorado Blindness Autobiography

Audio DBC13192

You're Ok, Kid!: The Search for a Father's Love

Written by Floyd Edward Reinhardt ** Narrated by Mark Stine
Charts the lives of three generations of Reinhardt men: Floyd Early, who left his young son during World War II to build military bases for the government in Alaska; Floyd Edward, who struggled nearly his whole life with feelings of inadequacy because of his father's desertion, and young Eddie, who heroically overcame the odds to survive a terrible football injury that burst a blood vessel in his brain. Some strong language. 2004. Colorado Biography.

Audio DBC25863

Key to Book Numbers

Each book number is preceded by two or three letters. 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

NLS Update: Collection Connections

Looking to discover something new to read each month? “Collections Connections” is a monthly e-newsletter from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), featuring themed reading suggestions from the collection. Recent topics include the 25th National Book Festival, summer reads, theater and literary adaptations, Nordic Noir, and cozy winter picks.

Subscribe at the NLS website or email connections@loc.gov. Unsubscribe anytime.

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

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.

CTBL will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, November 27, 2025

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Friday, November 28, 2025

Friday, December 26, 2025

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.

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 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.

This newsletter was published with funding from the Friends of CTBL and was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Design services provided by State of Colorado/Integrated Document Solutions

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

Free Matter for the
Blind & Handicapped



Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver