



# Winter 2026 CTBL News

Colorado Talking Book Library • Denver

## Letter From the Director

Hello fellow readers!

A highlight of the Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL) is the collection of local interest books recorded here at the library. Tyler Kottman, the recording studio director, leads this program, working with more than 40 dedicated volunteers who record and engineer each audiobook. Over the years, CTBL has recorded more than 880 books and magazines, which are available to library patrons in Colorado as well as talking book patrons nationwide.

Many of the most popular books recorded in the CTBL studio are nonfiction titles that explore the American West and the people who have called it home, particularly early settlers, ranchers, and Native American tribes.

Below is a sampling of titles recorded at the CTBL studio, curated by Tyler.

### **Ranching Traditions: Legacy of the American West**

Written by Kathleen Jo Ryan \*\* Narrated by Mark Hintz

A collection of essays examines the history, work, and traditions of ranching in the American West, including the origins of ranching, the role of the cowboy, and ranch family structures across generations. It also explores livestock management, equipment, seasonal tasks, community relationships, and the economic, environmental, and social changes shaping ranch life over time.

**Audio DBC25876**

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## *Letter From the Director, continued from page 1*

### **“The Utes Must Go!” American Expansion and the Removal of a People**

Written by Peter R. Decker \*\* Narrated by Sharon Huckins

Tracing three centuries of Ute Indian history, the author chronicles the policies and incidents that led to the involuntary removal of the Ute Indians from Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

**Audio DBC13237**

### **The Dominguez-Escalante Journal : Their Expedition Through Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico in 1776**

Written by Silvestre Vélez de Escalante \*\* Narrated by Hille Dais

This chronicle recounts the 1776 expedition of Fray Francisco Atanasio Domínguez and Fray Silvestre Vélez de Escalante through the Rocky Mountains, eastern Great Basin, and Colorado Plateau to survey lands for Spain and seek a route from Santa Fe to Monterey, California.

**Audio DBC13172**

### **Black Women of the Old West**

Written by Williams Loren Katz \*\* Narrated by Louise Lederhos

This book traces how African American women challenged white bigotry, labored to create new lives, and ultimately helped to transform sparse frontier settlements into thriving western states. It reveals how these pioneers brought culture to the early communities from Ohio, Kansas, and Texas to Oklahoma, Nevada, and California.

**Audio DBC13166**

### **Chipeta: Queen of the Utes**

Written by Cynthia S. Becker \*\* Narrated by Toni Gwinn

A biography of Chipeta written by the authors of a book about her husband, Ute Chief Ouray. Portrays Chipeta as a trusted confidante and faithful companion to her husband and as an exemplary lifelong citizen of the Ute nation.

**Audio DBC26010**

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### **My Ranch, Too**

Written by Mary Budd Flitner \*\* Narrated by Judith Knapp

In this memoir of life in Wyoming's high country, Mary Flitner offers an authentic portrait of ranch life, blending humorous and lighthearted recollections with darker, more challenging moments.

**Audio DBC13035**

### **Letters of a Woman Homesteader**

Written by Elinore Pruitt Stewart \*\* Narrated by Betty Sullivan

This autobiographical sketch tells the story of a young widow who supports herself and her daughter by working on a Wyoming cattle ranch in the early 1900s. Her first-person account reveals the isolation, beauty, and joy of prairie life as she proves a woman could ranch.

**Audio DBC26096**

### **Objects of Survivance: A Material History of the American Indian School Experience**

Written by Lindsay M. Montgomery \*\* Narrated by Stephanie Berg Oram

Between 1893 and 1903, Jesse H. Bratley worked in Indian schools on five Western reservations, where he was charged with forcibly assimilating Native Americans but instead became deeply interested in their cultures, documenting them through photographs and collected artifacts.

**Audio DBC13148**

### **Bent's Fort**

Written by David Sievert Lavender \*\* Narrated by Barbara Anne Green

William Bent built the first of his forts on the Arkansas River in southern Colorado in the early 1800's. This is the fascinating history of the Native Americans, trappers, traders, and ranchers of the southwest and the part that Bent, his brothers, and partners played in its settlement.

**Audio DBC03130**

**Please call the library for more book recommendations. We love to talk books.**

**Happy Reading!**

*Nicolle*

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# CTBL Virtual Book Club

Connect with fellow readers and engage in thoughtful conversation at CTBL's quarterly Virtual Book Club. Join us online on Monday, March 23rd at 5 PM where we will be discussing "Go as a River" by Shelley Read (**DB117785, PR034428, BR025488**). Please email librarian Judy Craigo-Robb at [craigo-robb\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:craigo-robb_j@cde.state.co.us) for the Zoom link to join the book club.

**Audio DB089592**

## 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...**

### **This Dog Will Change Your Life**

Written by Elias Weiss Friedman \*\* Narrated by Elias Weiss Friedman

A heartwarming book that explores the profound impact dogs have on human lives, blending personal anecdotes with stories from his work as a popular dog photographer. Unrated. Biography.

**Audio DB130292**

### **Frankie**

Written by Graham Norton \*\* Narrated by Graham Norton

Frankie by Graham Norton is a warm, sweeping novel about 84-year-old Frankie Howe, who reflects on her extraordinary life—from a difficult childhood in post-war Ireland to adventures in London and 1960s New York. Unrated. Historical Fiction.

**Audio DB127095**

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**Judy recommends..**

**The Library of Lost Dollhouses: A Novel**

Written by Elise Hooper \*\* Narrated by Caroline Hewitt

When a young librarian discovers historic dollhouses in a hidden room, she embarks on an unexpected journey that reveals surprising secrets about the lost miniatures. Unrated. Historical Fiction.

**Audio DB132188**

**The Bookseller**

Written by Cynthia Swanson \*\* Narrated by Kristin Allison

Kitty runs a bookstore in 1960s Denver and lives a quiet, single life. At night, however, she experiences vivid dreams of a different life where she marries and has kids, a life that becomes almost more real to her than her own. Some descriptions of sex. Psychological Fiction.

**Audio DB081380; Large Print PR023485**

**Liz recommends...**

**The Berry Pickers**

Written by Amanda Peters \*\* Narrated by Aaliya Warbus

A four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a tragic mystery that haunts the survivors, unravels a family, and remains unsolved for nearly fifty years. Strong language. Mystery Fiction.

**Audio DB117941; Large Print PR032680; Braille BR025422**

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## *What are You Reading?, continued from page 5*

### **My Friends**

Written by Fredrik Backman \*\* Narrated by Marin Ireland

Louisa, an aspiring artist, becomes determined to uncover the story behind three overlooked figures in a famous seascape painting that unexpectedly comes into her possession. Her journey reveals a past summer where a group of troubled teens formed a deep bond, a connection that ultimately inspired the artwork and changed their lives. Strong language and some violence. Friendship Fiction.

**Audio DB129483; Large Print PR032858; Braille BR026313**

### **Lorrie recommends...**

#### **Yellowface**

Written by R.F. Kuang \*\* Narrated by Helen Laser

After her literary rival Athena, dies in a freak accident, author June Hayward steals her unfinished masterpiece and claims it as her own, launching a success built on deception. As evidence mounts and Athena's shadow looms, June is forced to confront how far she's willing to go to protect the life she believes she deserves. Strong language. Psychological Fiction.

**Audio DB114930; Braille BR024934**

#### **Forest Euphoria: The Abounding Queerness of Nature**

Written by Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian \*\* Narrated by Aven Shore

Through stories of intersex slugs, multi-sex fungi, and mysterious eels, this book reveals how nature is full of the unusual and overlooked—and how these lives can reshape how we see both science and ourselves. Unrated. Nature and the Environment.

**Audio DB131279**

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# 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

### **All That Is Secret. Annalee Spain Series #1**

Written by Patricia Raybon \*\* Narrated by Nancy Crandall

In the winter of 1923, Professor Annalee Spain—a daring but overworked theologian at a small Chicago Bible college—receives a cryptic telegram calling her home to Denver to solve the mystery of the murder of her beloved but estranged father. Christy Award winner. Some violence. Historical Colorado Mystery. 2021.

**Audio DBC25835**

### **Jane and the Madness of Lord Byron. Jane Austen Mystery #10**

Written by Stephanie Barron \*\* Narrated by Cathy Gloeckner

The lifeless body of a beautiful young society miss is discovered in the bedchamber of Lord Byron. Byron has carved out a shocking reputation for himself—but no one would accuse him of being capable of murder. Now Jane must investigate without falling victim to the legendary charisma. 2010. Cozy Historical Mystery.

**Audio DBC25837**

### **The Blue Hour**

Written by Laura Pritchett \*\* Narrated by Geri Gingras

Eris is a remote island with only one house, once home to artist Vanessa and now to solitary Grace. When a shocking discovery in London draws a visitor, the island's long-hidden secrets begin to surface. Some strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. 2017. Psychological Thriller.

**Audio DBC13127**

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### **The Detachment. Private Palmer Series #2**

Written by Gary Reilly \*\* Narrated by Mark Hintz

Private Palmer, an MP now, flies to Vietnam. The scenery changes, but not his efforts to keep his head down and survive the war. How he reacts to hostile forces, both the enemy outside the wire and the chain of command within, ultimately reshapes this young soldier and the man he will become. 2016. Vietnam War Fiction.

**Audio DBC13073**

### **Where the Truth Lies**

Written by Anna Bailey \*\* Narrated by Laura Hatch

In Whistling Ridge, Colorado, 17-year-old Abigail disappears after a party. Her best friend Emma refuses to believe she ran away and starts her own search, uncovering dark secrets about Abigail's family and the town. Strong language and some violence. 2021. Colorado Mystery.

**Audio DBC25850**

## **Newly Recorded Juvenile Fiction**

### **Hardscrabble**

Written by Sandra Dallas \*\* Narrated by Nancy Crandall

In 1910, the US offers 320 acres of land free to homesteaders who farm the land for five years. So twelve-year-old Belle Martin, along with her parents and six siblings, move west. But storms, locusts, and heartbreaking losses challenge their faith. Do the Martins have what it takes to thrive in their new prairie life? For grades 3-6. 2018. Colorado Historical Fiction.

**Audio DBC25860**

### **Mystery in Rocky Mountain National Park. National Park Mystery Series #1**

Written by Aaron Johnson \*\* Narrated by Judith Knapp

Before Jake's grandfather died, he was on the trail of a centuries-old mystery. He entrusted that mystery to Jake, leaving behind a set of hidden codes, riddles, maps, and other clues that lead Jake and his friends on a scavenger hunt into the heart of Colorado's wild and rugged Rocky Mountain National Park. For grades 3-6. 2022. Historical Colorado Mystery.

**Audio DBC25844**

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## **Sisterhood of Sleuths**

Written by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman \*\* Narrated by Karen Cranford  
Maizy thinks she knows everything about her grandmother, Jacuzzi, until she finds a strange old photo. With new friends, she investigates and uncovers a past that changes how she sees herself. 2022. Mystery Fiction.

**Audio DBC25849**

## **Newly Recorded NonFiction**

### **Gilgamesh to Gierach: Four Thousand Years of Fishing, Fish, and Water Stories**

Written by James W. White \*\* Narrated by Visvaldis Jaunarajs  
A collection of three hundred fishing, water, and fish tales spanning four millennia and numerous genres. From legends and literature to nursery rhymes, poems, and humorous fish tales. 2024. Nature & the Environment.

**Audio DBC25874**

### **Just Because I Am Blind Does Not Mean I Can't See!: Autobiographical Memoirs**

Written by Linda Joy Wirth \*\* Narrated by Lori Kinney  
Though Linda is blind, the underlying theme of this book is not really her blindness, but more the experience with a sighted world that can't see from her perspective. She shares stories which shine light on her diverse educational experiences, college, marriage, children, music, dance, theatre, travel and career. 2020. Blindness & Disability, Biography.

**Audio DBC13171**

### **Land of Grass and Sky: A Naturalist's Prairie Journey**

Written by Mary Taylor Young \*\* Narrated by Louise Lederhos  
The author's odyssey through the austere yet beautiful shortgrass prairie offers stories of connection to the land. Part nature lore, part history, part meditation, this narrative reveals an intricately woven landscape of wildlife, plants, and people. 2002. Nature & the Environment.

**Audio DBC03081**

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### **Ordinary Magic: A Father-Son Journey on The Colorado Trail**

Written by Todd Fahnstock \*\* Narrated by Mark Hintz

On July 13, 2020, in the year of COVID-19, Todd and his son embark on a trek through the Rocky Mountains. They encounter breathtaking vistas, new friends, hardships, hunger, wild animals, and a death-defying flight from lightning. 2024. Adventure Nonfiction.

**Audio DBC25873**

### **The Moffat Tunnel: A Brief History**

Written by Charles Albi \*\* Narrated by Hille Dais

Short history of the construction of the Moffat Tunnel. Tells the story of how David Moffat struggled to build the railroad with almost no outside assistance. Discusses the problems that were encountered in the endeavor, the solutions that were found, and highlights the lives of the workers. 2002. Colorado History.

**Audio DBC25831**

### **The World's Littlest Book on Climate: 10 Facts in 10 Minutes about CO2**

Written by Mike Nelson \*\* Narrated by Lajeune Austin

One of the smallest books on one of the world's biggest problems: CO2 and climate change. Provides a quick introduction to the science of climate change. It is a concise primer for anyone interested in how CO2 impacts our climate. 2020. Climate Science.

**Audio DBC13180**

### **Winter Army: The World War II Odyssey of the 10th Mountain Division, America's Elite Alpine Warriors**

Written by Maurice Isserman \*\* Narrated by Visvaldis Jaunarajs

The true story of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division, whose elite soldiers broke the last line of German defenses in Italy's mountains in 1945, spearheading the Allied advance to the Alps and final victory. Winner of the International Skiing History Association's ULLR Award. Some violence. 2019. World War II Nonfiction.

**Audio DBC13177**

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# Remastered Audio Books

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

## Remastered Nonfiction

### **Electronic Musical Instruments: What They Do, How They Work**

Written by Larry Kettelkamp \*\* Narrated by Arlys Lohmuller  
Explains the principles of electronic music, discusses the uses of such electronic instruments as oscillators, synthesizers, electronic organs, and sound processors. Gives advice on performing and recording electronic music. Informative on basic operations, but no longer completely up-to-date. 1984. Music Nonfiction.

**Audio DBC26100**

### **I Will Fight No More Forever**

Written by Merrill D. Beal \*\* Narrated by Betty Sullivan  
The story of the tragic Nez Perce War against the U.S. Cavalry. Using the words of the title, Chief Joseph ended this short, savage episode in American-Indian relations in the Montana winter of 1877. 1963. Indians of North America

**Audio DBC26099**

## 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

# Where in the World is Flat LB?!

Here at CTBL our mascot is “LB”, a stuffed animal seeing eye dog, named in honor of Louis Braille. As our mascot, LB greets our visitors at the door, as well as accompanies us to outreach and library events around the state. He’s often mistaken for a real dog by both people and other dogs! When we can’t take our full-sized LB with us, Flat LB comes along for the ride.

Flat LB had quite an adventurous 2025, below are a few pictures from his travels to different libraries around the world! Please note, for picture descriptions when we say “Flat LB”, we are referring to a laminated paper print out of a cartoon golden retriever who is wearing a collar that says LB.



Image 1: Flat LB is wearing a winter hat and is in front of the Japan Braille Library.



Image 2: Flat LB is wearing a baseball cap, standing in front of the Chicago Public Library. Fun Fact, this location houses the outreach and reader advisory portion of the Illinois Talking Book and Braille Service!



Image 3: Flat LB is wearing a winter hat, placed on the audiobook shelf at the Nederland Public Library.



Image 4: Flat LB wearing a baseball cap, in front of the Radcliffe Camera, a building that is part of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, England.



Image 5: Flat LB wearing a winter hat with the stone lion statue in front of the New York Public Library.

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## 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](http://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 501c3 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](http://www.myctbl.org)

• Susana Córdova,  
Commissioner of Education

• Nicolle Steffen, CTBL Director



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## CTBL will be closed on the following days:

Monday, May 25, 2026

Friday, July 3, 2026

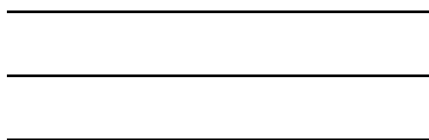
Friday, June 19, 2026

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.  
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Free Matter for the  
Blind & Handicapped



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