**Selections from Talking Book Topics**

**May-June 2025**

**Fiction**

**Selections from Talking Book Topics - Fiction**

**Mystery and Detective**

**Seven Threadly Sins**

**DB125196** 10 hours 47 minutes, by Janet Bolin, read by Victoria Westlake

"Threadville, Pennsylvania, is famous for its fabric, needlecraft, and embroidery, so it’s only natural that it would become the home of the Threadville Academy of Design and Modeling. While Willow Vanderling has certainly never wanted to be a model, here she is, voluntarily strutting her stuff in a charity runway show in outrageous clothing, all to support the Academy’s scholarship fund. But the lascivious, mean-spirited director of the academy, Antonio, is making the fashion show a less-than-fabulous affair. After Antonio plays a shocking prank on Willow and her friends that doesn’t exactly leave the ladies in stitches, he mysteriously winds up dead—and someone is trying to pin the blame on Willow. Now, she must do whatever it takes in order to clear her name, even if it means needling around in other people’s secrets…." — Provided by publisher. 2015.

**Murder at a London Finishing School**

**DB125764** 9 hours 25 minutes, by Jessica Ellicott, read by Barbara Rosenblat

"Neither Beryl nor Edwina are the least bit interested in attending events at their alma mater, Miss Dupont's Finishing School for Young Ladies. However, when a letter arrives from Miss Dupont herself requesting their help, they pack their bags. Upon arrival, they learn that students have reported items missing, damaged possessions, and strange noises in the night. Then a mother of a prospective student is found dead on the school grounds. If Beryl and Edwina are to a chance of solving the murder, they can't rule out the possibility that Miss Dupont herself may have finished off the victim." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**Off the Air**

**DB126303** 8 hours 34 minutes, by Christina Estes, read by Marcella Black

"Jolene Garcia is a local TV reporter in Phoenix, Arizona, splitting her time between covering general assignments—anything from a monsoon storm to a newborn giraffe at the zoo—and special projects. When word gets out about a death at a radio station, Jolene and other journalists swarm the scene, intent on reporting the facts first. The body is soon identified as Larry Lemmon, a controversial talk show host, who died under suspicious circumstances. Jolene conducted his final interview, giving her and her station an advantage. But not for long. As the story heats up, so does the competition. It's an investigation that could make or break her career—if it doesn't break her first." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Now or Never**

**DB126056** 7 hours 42 minutes, by Janet Evanovich, read by Lorelei King

"She said yes to Morelli. She said yes to Ranger. Now Stephanie Plum has two fiancés and no idea what to do about it. But the way things are going, she might not live long enough to marry anyone. While Stephanie stalls for time, she buries herself in her work as a bounty hunter, tracking down an unusually varied assortment of fugitives from justice. But only she can decide what to do about the two men she actually loves. She can't hold Ranger and Morelli at bay for long, and she's keeping a secret from them that is the biggest bombshell of all. Now or never, she's got to make the decision of a lifetime." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2024.

**The Man in Black: And Other Stories**

**DB126188** 7 hours 56 minutes, by Elly Griffiths, read by Beth Eyre

"From the internationally bestselling author of the Ruth Galloway Mysteries, an eclectic, thrilling collection of short stories, featuring many characters that readers have come to know and love. Elly Griffiths has always written short stories to experiment with different voices and genres as well as to explore what some of her fictional creations such as Ruth Galloway, Harbinder Kaur, and Max Mephisto might have done outside of the novels. There are ghost stories, cozy mysteries, tales of psychological suspense, and poignant vignettes of love and loss. The Man in Black illustrates the breadth and variety of Elly Griffiths's talent for blood-chilling, page-turning stories all with her trademark humor and heart." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Romance**

**Remember When**  
**DB126689** 11 hours 43 minutes, by Mary Balogh, read by Rosalyn Landor

"The Dowager Countess of Stratton, Clarissa Ware returns to Ravenswood, intending to spend the summer alone there. But the summer has other plans for her. Born a gentleman, Matthew Taylor has chosen to spend his life as the village carpenter. Growing up, he and Clarissa were close—dangerously so, considering his family's modest fortune. Now everything is different—Clarissa has already lived the life expected of her by society. And Matthew is as attractive and intriguing as he was when they were young. As their summer friendship deepens into romance, they stand together on the precipice of change— with renewed passion and the potential to take their lives in an entirely new direction." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Under Loch and Key  
DB126182** 12 hours 22 minutes, by Lana Ferguson, read by Flint Park

"Keyanna "Key" MacKay is used to secrets. Raised by a single father who never divulged his past, it's only after his death that she finds herself thrust into the world he'd always refused to speak of. Key has no idea what she'll find in Scotland. But repeating her father's mistakes and being rescued by a gorgeous, angry Scotsman—who thinks she's an idiot—is definitely the last thing she expects. Up against time, mystery, and a centuries old curse, they'll quickly discover that magic might not only be in fairy tales, and that love can be a real loch-mess." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Both Feet in the Grave  
DB126489** 10 hours 9 minutes, by Jeaniene Frost, read by Will Watt

"Cat disappeared from Bones' life to protect him, but this Master vampire will keep his promise to find her. Two hundred years of bounty hunting made Bones the best at what he does, yet it's still taken him four long years to find Cat, the half vampire now known as the 'Red Reaper.' But has time hardened Bones too much to love again? Or will his passion for Cat burn through every obstacle—alive, undead, or otherwise—between them?" — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**Not in My Book**  
**DB126663** 11 hours 33 minutes, by Katie Holt, read by Frankie Corzo

"Rosie, an idealistic and passionate Peruvian American, leaves her Tennessee hometown to pursue her dream of making it in New York as a writer. But her plan is derailed when she ends up in class with her archnemesis and ex-crush, Aiden Huntington—an obnoxious literary fiction writer who doesn't have much patience for the romance genre or for Rosie. Rosie and Aiden regularly go to verbal battle in workshop until their professor reaches her breaking point. She allows them to stay in her class on one condition: they must cowrite a novel that blends their genres." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Shattering Dawn**  
**DB126918** 8 hours 48 minutes, by Jayne Ann Krentz, read by Eva Kaminsky

"Amelia Rivers, a member of the Lost Night Files podcast team, hires private investigator Gideon Sweetwater to catch the stalker who has been watching her. Amelia suspects that whoever it is may be connected to the shadowy organization responsible for the night that she and her two friends lost to amnesia—a night that upended their lives and left them with heightened paranormal talents. Now the pair is on the run, with no choice but to return to the haunting ruins of the old hotel where Amelia's lost night occurred. They are desperate to stop a killer, as well as the people who are conducting illegal experiments with a dangerous drug designed to enhance psychic abilities. If they are to survive, they will have to trust each other and the passion that bonds them." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Historical Fiction**

**Can't We Be Friends: A Novel of Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe  
DB125932** 11 hours 19 minutes, by Denny S. Bryce and Eliza, read by Caroline Hewitt

"One woman was recognized as the premiere singer of her era with perfect pitch and tireless ambition. One woman was the most glamorous star in Hollywood, a sex symbol who took the world by storm. And their friendship was fast and firm... 1952: Ella Fitzgerald is a renowned jazz singer whose only roadblock to longevity is society's attitude toward women and race. Marilyn Monroe's star is rising despite ongoing battles with movie studio bigwigs and boyfriends. This novel reveals and celebrates their surprising bond over a decade and serves as a poignant reminder of how true friendship can cross differences to bolster and sustain us through haunting heartbreak and wild success." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Beyond Summerland**  
**DB126913** 11 hours 4 minutes, by Jenny Lecoat, read by Hannah Curtis

"The German occupation is over. The Channel Islands, the only captured territory within the British Isles, are finally liberated. But the people of Jersey are left as scarred as the landscape. No longer a 'summerland' holiday paradise, the island now boils with tension as locals seek revenge on anyone suspected of collaborating with the enemy during the war. Nineteen-year-old Jean Parris, still adjusting to this fractious peace, is shocked to learn that Hazel, a teacher who lives over her dad's shop, may be responsible for her father's wartime arrest. Hazel denies all accusations but has reasons to conceal what really happened. But Jean's need to know the truth may consume everything she once believed about her home, her family and herself." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**The Champagne Letters  
DB126522** 9 hours 40 minutes, by Kate MacIntosh, read by Cassandra Campbell

"Reims, France, 1805: Barbe-Nicole Clicquot has just lost her beloved husband but is determined to pursue their dream of creating the premier champagne house in France: Veuve Clicquot. With the Russians poised to invade, competitors fighting for her customers, she must set herself apart if she, and her business, are to survive. In present day Chicago, broken from her divorce, Natalie Taylor runs away to Paris. Natalie finds a collection of the Widow Clicquot's published letters and uses them as inspiration to step out of her comfort zone and create a new, empowered life for herself. But when her Parisian escape takes a shocking and unexpected turn, should she accept her losses and return home, or fight for the future she's only dreamed about?" — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**For a Lifetime  
DB125964** 12 hours 28 minutes, by Gabrielle Meyer, read by Rachel Botchan

"Identical twin sisters Grace and Hope are time-crossers who simultaneously live in 1692, as daughters of a tavern owner during the Salem Witch Trials, and in 1912, as an aviatrix and a journalist. As their twenty-fifth birthday approaches, they will each have to choose one life to keep and one to leave behind forever—no matter the cost." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**The Royal Librarian  
DB126326** 11 hours 16 minutes, by Daisy Wood, read by Laurel Lefkow

"Windsor, 1940: Secretly tasked with foiling a suspected plot, Sophie Klein is placed in the Royal Library at Windsor castle, where the princesses reside. But when she learns that Windsor is compromised, Sophie must sacrifice everything she knows to save the future queen of England... Philadelphia, Present day: Looking through her grandmother's papers, Lacey Jones comes across a mysterious letter stamped with the Windsor Castle crest. But how did it come to be in her family's possession? And so begins a journey that will take Lacey deep into the heart of the oldest inhabited castle in the world, and change her life forever..." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Suspense and Thrillers**

**Havoc: A Novel  
DB126616** 11 hours 3 minutes, by Christopher Bollen, read by Maggi-Meg Reed

"Eighty-one-year-old widow Maggie Burkhardt came to the Royal Karnak to escape. Maggie, a compulsive fixer of other people's lives, may have found herself in hot water at her last hotel in Switzerland and just might have needed to get out of there fast... But here at the Royal Karnak, she has a comfortable suite, and a handful of sympathetic friends. One morning, however, Maggie notices a new arrival at check-in: a mournful-looking young mother named Tess and her impish eight-year-old, Otto. Eager to help, Maggie invites them into her world. But it isn't long before Maggie realizes that in her longing to be a part of their family, she has let in an enemy much stronger than she bargained for. In Otto, Maggie Burkhardt has finally met her match." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Clever Little Thing: A Novel  
DB126339** 11 hours 10 minutes, by Helena Echlin, read by Ashley Tucker

"Charlotte's daughter Stella is sensitive and brilliant, perhaps even a genius, but a recent change in her behavior has alarmed her parents. Following the sudden death of Stella's babysitter, Blanka, the once disruptive and anti-social child has become docile and agreeable. But what's unsettling is that Stella has begun to mirror Blanka's personality, from Blanka's repetitive phrases to her accent, to fierce cravings for Armenian meat stew after being raised a vegetarian. As Charlotte becomes increasingly obsessed, she is sure that only she can save her daughter...even though it's soon clear that her husband believes this is all in Charlotte's head." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**The Three Lives of Cate Kay: A Novel**  
**DB126786** 9 hours 56 minutes, by Kate Fagan, read by Corey Brill

"Cate Kay knows how to craft a story. As the creator of a bestselling book trilogy that struck box office gold as a film series, she's one of the most successful authors of her generation. The thing is, Cate Kay doesn't really exist. She's never attended author events or granted any interviews. Her real identity had been a closely guarded secret, until now. As a young adult, she and her best friend Amanda dreamed of escaping their difficult homes and moving to California to become movie stars. But the day before their grand adventure, a tragedy shattered their dreams and Cate has been on the run ever since, taking on different names and charting a new future. But after a shocking revelation, Cate understands that returning home is the only way she'll be a whole person again." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**A Good Family  
DB125721** 9 hours 1 minutes, by Matt Goldman, read by Rebecca Gibel

“Katie Kuhlmann's marriage is falling apart. But she has a secure job, her children are healthy, and her house is beautiful. She can almost ignore the way her husband, Jack, has been acting—constantly checking his phone, not going to work, disappearing from the house. Tension in the Kuhlmann house only gets worse when Adam 'Bagman' Ross, a mutual friend from college, needs a place to stay. Jack is quick to welcome him, but Jack's strange behavior only gets worse, and Katie fears their new guest is also harboring a dark secret." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**Loss of Innocence  
DB125763** 10 hours 23 minutes, by Richard North Patterson, read by Julia Whelan

"A family drama of dark secrets and individual awakenings is set against the backdrop of the turbulent summer of 1968 in Martha's Vineyard, where twenty-two-year-old Whitney Dane begins questioning her goals and sense of independence at the side of a fiercely ambitious, underprivileged man." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

**Westerns**

**Rhapsody in Red**  
**DB121106** 4 hours 38 minutes, by George G. Gilman, read by David Hartley-Margolin

"High Mountain, a small frontier town in Colorado, is to stage a musical extravaganza and wild festival. Rollo Stone, the famous violinist is the main attraction and hordes of music lovers pack the town to witness the event. But with the crowds comes trouble. The fragile rule of law and order collapses as a bunch of hired guns take over. The sheriff is gunned down and Edge, forever in the thick of things, is left to sort out the mess." — Provided by publisher. Violence and strong language. 1976.

**The Angry Land  
DB126539** 9 hours 11 minutes, by William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone, read by Cody Roberts

"The completion of a new railroad line from Colorado to Texas is a dream come true for Smoke Jensen and the other ranchers of Big Rock. But this dream turns into their worst nightmare when the first herd they load onto the train is stolen by a vicious gang of kill-crazy rustlers. Now Smoke is saddling up and riding out—to get the prairie rats who murdered his friend. A pair of undercover lawmen from Texas have managed to infiltrate the gang by pretending to be dangerous outlaws. To make sure they're really on board, the gang wants them to prove their loyalty—by eliminating their biggest threat: Smoke Jensen..." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**A Lamb to the Slaughter  
DB126401** 8 hours 16 minutes, by William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone, read by John Waters

"Welcome to Tinhorn, Texas. Now go home. Two drifters, flush with cash and looking to buy cattle, arrive in town—one nursing a bullet wound he claims he received accidentally when his friend was cleaning his gun. Jackson and Moran are suspicious but have no reason to challenge their story—until four more drifters show up looking for the first two. Moran may not be lightning quick when it comes to numbers, but reports say the Wells Fargo office was held up by six men... But Moran is going to need more bullets. He's been called upon to go after Abel Crowe and his three sons on a murder and kidnapping charge. And with Jesse Slocum breaking out of prison to wreak vengeance on Sheriff Jackson, who killed Slocum's brother, the young deputy is going to make his name one bullet at a time—or die trying..." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

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**May–June 2025**

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