**Selections from Talking Book Topics**

**May-June 2025**

**Nonfiction**

**Selections from Talking Book Topics – Nonfiction**

**Biography**

**Under His Wings: How Faith on the Front Lines Has Protected American Troops
DB126211** 7 hours 19 minutes, by Emily Compagno, read by Emily Compagno

"Emily Compagno explores the impact of faith on American soldiers throughout history. Drawing from her own military lineage and experiences visiting troops in Iraq and Kuwait, she shares stories of servicemen whose religious beliefs helped them endure wartime hardships, from World War I to current conflicts. The collection features firsthand accounts, heartfelt letters, and USO visits, serving as an inspiring tribute to the enduring power of faith and a thank-you to the troops." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Once upon a Tome: The Misadventures of a Rare Bookseller
DB126074** 5 hours 44 minutes, by Oliver Darkshire, read by Oliver Darkshire

"Some years ago, Oliver Darkshire stepped into the hushed interior of Henry Sotheran Ltd (est. 1761) to apply for a job. Allured by the smell of old books and the temptation of a management-approved afternoon nap, Darkshire was soon unteetering stacks of first editions and placating the store's resident ghost (the late Mr. Sotheran, hit by a tram). By turns unhinged and earnest, Once Upon a Tome is the colorful story of life in one of the world's oldest bookshops and a love letter to the benign, unruly world of antiquarian bookselling, where to be uncommon or strange is the best possible compliment." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**Catherine, the Princess of Wales: A Biography of the Future Queen
DB126308** 8 hours 57 minutes, by Robert Jobson, read by Lucy Scott

"Through the author's extensive connections within the royal household, this dynamic new biography tells the full story of how Catherine, the Princess of Wales, became the woman she is today. Kate Middleton's life story seems like a modern-day fairy tale. An attractive, clever, and ambitious girl from unexceptional beginnings meets and falls in love with a wealthy prince when they are both college undergraduates. Now, with the British monarchy in transition, Catherine is destined to become the first 'commoner Queen' in British history since Anne Hyde, wife of James II. With her self-deprecation, willingness to laugh at herself, solid work-ethic—along with William's warmth, and accessibility—this dynamic duo has become the most popular members of the royal family." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Letters
DB125921** 28 hours 37 minutes, by Oliver Sacks, read by James Langton

"The letters of one of the greatest observers of the human species, revealing his intimate thoughts on life and work, friendship and art, medicine and society, and the richness of his relationships with friends, family and scientists over the decades. A prolific correspondent, Dr. Oliver Sacks—who describes himself variously in these pages as 'a philosophical physician,' 'an astronomer of the inward’, and 'a consummate observer' with 'a pure love for phenomena'—wrote letters throughout his life to his parents, his beloved Aunt Lennie, to friends and colleagues from London, Oxford, California, and around the world. We see, through his eyes, the beginnings of modern neuroscience as it unlocks many secrets of how the human brain defines us." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**US History**

**Patton: Ordeal and Triumph**
**DB123588** 33 hours 20 minutes, by Ladislas Farago, read by Mark Ashby

"He is America's most famous general. He represents toughness, focus, determination, and the ideal of achievement in the face of overwhelming odds. He was the most feared and respected adversary to his enemies and an object of envy, admiration, and sometimes, scorn to his professional peers. An early proponent of tank warfare, George S. Patton moved from being a foresighted lieutenant in the First World War to commanding the Third Army in the next, leading armored divisions in the Allied offensive that broke the back of Nazi Germany. Ordeal and Triumph provides unique insights into Patton's life and leadership style and is military history at its finest." — Provided by publisher. Some strong language. 1964.

**Paradise Bronx: The Life and Times of New York's Greatest Borough
DB124424** 24 hours 34 minutes, by Ian Frazier, read by Bradley Heller

"For the past fifteen years, Ian Frazier has been walking the Bronx. Paradise Bronx reveals the amazingly rich and tumultuous history of this amazingly various piece of our greatest city. From Jonas Bronck, who bought land from the local Native Americans, to the formerly gang-wracked South Bronx that gave birth to hip-hop, Frazier’s loving exploration is a moving tour de force about the polyglot culture that is America today. The resurgence of community as the borough’s communities learn mutual aid—all are investigated, recounted, and celebrated in Frazier’s inimitable voice." — Provided by publisher. Strong language. 2024.

**Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America
DB125969** 15 hours 14 minutes, by Juan Gonzalez, read by Robert Fass

"The first new edition in ten years of this important study of Latinos in U.S. history, Harvest of Empire spans five centuries—from the first New World colonies to the first decade of the new millennium. Latinos are now the largest minority group in the United States, and their impact on American popular culture—from food to entertainment to literature—is greater than ever. Featuring family portraits of real-life immigrant Latino pioneers, as well as accounts of the events and conditions that compelled them to leave their homelands, Harvest of Empire is required listening for anyone wishing to understand the history and legacy of this increasingly influential group." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

**By the Fire We Carry: The Generations-Long Fight for Justice on Native Land
DB126541** 8 hours 18 minutes, by Rebecca Nagle, read by Rebecca Nagle

"A powerful work of reportage and American history in the vein of Caste and How the Word Is Passed that braids the story of the forced removal of Native Americans onto treaty lands in the nation's earliest days, and a small-town murder in the '90s that led to a Supreme Court ruling reaffirming Native rights to that land over a century later. Here Rebecca Nagle recounts the generations-long fight for tribal land and sovereignty in eastern Oklahoma. By chronicling both the contemporary legal battle and historic acts of Indigenous resistance, By the Fire We Carry stands as a landmark work of American history. The story it tells exposes both the wrongs that our nation has committed and the Native-led battle for justice that has shaped our country. " — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Pearl Harbor: From Infamy to Greatness**
**DB126963** 19 hours 7 minutes, by Craig Nelson, read by George Guidall

"The America we live in today was born, not on July 4, 1776, but on December 7, 1941, when almost four hundred Japanese planes attacked the US Pacific fleet, killing 2,400 men and sinking or damaging sixteen ships. Backed by a research team's five years of efforts with archives and interviews producing nearly a million pages of documents, as well as a thorough re-examination of the original evidence produced by federal investigators, this definitive history provides a blow-by-blow account from both the Japanese and American perspectives and is a historical drama on the greatest scale." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

**World History**

**Irish Travellers: The Unsettled Life
DB123917** 9 hours 8 minutes, by Sharon Gmelch and George Gmelch, read by Terry Donnelly

"Anthropologists George and Sharon Gmelch have lived among the itinerant people known as Travelers since their first fieldwork in the early 1970s. In 2011 they returned to seek out families they had knows decades before—shadowed by a film crew and taking with them hundreds of old photographs that they shared with Traveller friends and acquaintances." — Provided by publisher. Some strong language. 2014.

**Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II
DB126493** 10 hours 59 minutes, by Elyse Graham, read by Saskia Maarleveld

"At the start of WWII, the US found itself in desperate need of an intelligence agency. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to today's CIA, was quickly formed—and, in an effort to fill its ranks with experts, the OSS turned to academia for recruits. Suddenly, literature professors, librarians, and historians were training to perform undercover operations and investigative work—and these surprising spies would go on to profoundly shape both the course of the war and our cultural institutions with their efforts. In Book and Dagger, Elyse Graham draws on personal histories, diaries, and declassified OSS files to tell the story of a small but connected group of humanities scholars turned unlikely spies. These unforgettable characters would ultimately help lay the foundations of modern intelligence and transform American higher education when they returned after the war." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy
DB126309** 20 hours 46 minutes, by David E. Hoffman, read by Bob Walter

"The first full account of how the Cold War arms race finally came to a close, this riveting narrative history sheds new light on the people who struggled to end this era of massive overkill, and examines the legacy of the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that remain a threat today. Drawing on memoirs, interviews in both Russia and the US, and classified documents from deep inside the Kremlin, David E. Hoffman examines the inner motives and secret decisions of each side and details the deadly stockpiles that remained unsecured as the Soviet Union collapsed. This is the fascinating story of how Reagan, Gorbachev, and a previously unheralded collection of scientists, soldiers, diplomats, and spies changed the course of history." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

**The Illusionist: The True Story of the Man Who Fooled Hitler**
**DB126357** 9 hours 23 minutes, by Robert Hutton, read by Al Murray

"Cairo, 1942: If you had asked a British officer who Colonel Clarke was, they would have been able to point him out: always ready with a drink and a story, he was a well-known figure in the local bars. If you then asked what he did, you would have less success. Throughout history, military commanders have sought to mislead their opponents. Dudley Clarke set out to do it on a scale no one had imagined before. Drawing on recently released documents, journalist and historian Robert Hutton reveals the amazing story of Clarke's A Force to thwart the Nazis and save innumerable lives—on both sides." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Shakespeare's Book: The Story behind the First Folio and the Making of Shakespeare**
**DB123918** 19 hours 23 minutes, by Chris Laoutaris, read by George Holmes

"It is difficult to imagine a world without The Tempest, Twelfth Night, Antony and Cleopatra, The Winter’s Tale, and Macbeth, but these are just some of the plays that were only preserved thanks to the astounding labor of love that was the first collected edition of Shakespeare’s plays. When the First Folio hit the bookstalls in 1623, nearly eight years after the dramatist’s death, it provided eighteen previously unpublished plays, and significantly revised versions of close to a dozen other dramatic works. Shakespeare’s Book tells the true story of how the makers of the First Folio created 'Shakespeare' as we know him today." — Provided by publisher. Some strong language. 2023.

**Homelands: A Personal History of Europe
DB126804** 13 hours 40 minutes, by Timothy Garton Sackville, read by John Sackville

"Timothy Garton Ash, Europe's 'historian of the present,' has been 'breathing Europe' for the last half century. In Homelands he embarks on a journey in time and space around the postwar continent, drawing on his own notes from many great events, giving vivid firsthand accounts of its leading actors, revisiting the places where its history was made, and recalling its triumphs and tragedies through their imprint on the present." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**Religion**

**Moving Mountains: Audio Bible Studies; Praying with Passion, Confidence, and Authority
DB126584** 1 hours 42 minutes, by John Eldredge, read by John Eldredge

"In Luke 11:1, the disciples asked Jesus, 'Teach us to pray!' Most of us want to know more about how prayer works. While we are used to offering up prayers, we wonder if we are praying in the most effective way or if we are approaching the throne of God in the "right" way. In this eight-session study, bestselling author John Eldredge shows how we labor under the misconception that prayer is asking God to intervene instead of partnering with him to get things done. When we operate from this position, we approach prayer with far greater confidence." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

**Transforming Loneliness: Deepening Our Relationships with God and Others When We Feel Alone
DB126506** 8 hours 10 minutes, by Ruth Graham and Cindy Lambert, read by Pam Ward

"Bestselling author brings hope and help to those struggling with loneliness, sharing effective strategies for overcoming and embracing solitude as a pathway to a closer relationship with God as well as a way to make meaningful connections with others." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

**How to Let Things Go: 99 Tips from a Zen Buddhist Monk to Relinquish Control and Free Yourself Up for What Matters**

**DB126212** 2 hours 35 minutes, by Shunmyo Masuno, read by Douglas Hachiya

"Amid the relentless cycle of news, social media, emails, and texts, it can be hard to know when, if ever, we can step away from everything clamoring for our attention. Renowned monk Shunmyo Masuno offers us a radical message: We can leave it all be, and indeed sometimes the best thing we can learn is how to do nothing. With practical tips, we can abandon the futile pursuit of controlling everything in our lives and unlock the key to a fulfilling social life, individual well-being, and a calmer, more focused mind." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Pray Bold: Dare to Ask and Believe Big
DB126638** 5 hours 46 minutes, by Joel Osteen, read by Joel Osteen

"Have you ever wondered how to experience great things from God in your life? It's time to bold size your prayers and watch what God can do. New York Times bestselling author Joel Osteen wants you to know that God is listening and waiting for you take the limits off and ask Him for your dreams, for the big things in your heart, for your deepest hopes, for what looks impossible. You'll see God do the extraordinary and show out in ways greater than you ever imagined. Pray with boldness and God will set your miracle in motion." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Science**

**Smelling to Survive: The Amazing World of Our Sense of Smell
DB124074** 8 hours 34 minutes, by Bill S. Hansson, read by Jared Zak

"Smell is arguably the least understood sense, yet it has always been a vital component of the human experience, and that of all living creatures. It has been used by plants and animals for millions of years to warn, to attract, to identify, to navigate and even to mislead. Smelling to Survive explains some of these fascinating processes, and explores how the past would have smelt quite different to our ancestors, and how future technologies will further change the world of scents." — Provided by publisher. 2024.

**Ingenious: A Biography of Benjamin Franklin, Scientist**
**DB126332** 7 hours 20 minutes, by Richard Munson, read by Keith Brown

"The dramatic story of an ingenious man who explained nature and created a country. Benjamin Franklin was one of the preeminent scientists of his time. Driven by curiosity, he conducted cutting-edge research on electricity, heat, ocean currents, weather patterns, chemical bonds, and plants. In this incisive and rich account of Benjamin Franklin's life and career, Richard Munson recovers this vital part of Franklin's story, reveals his modern relevance, and offers a compelling portrait of a shrewd experimenter, clever innovator, and visionary physicist whose fame opened doors to negotiate French support and funding for American independence." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Merlin's Tour of the Universe, Revised and Updated for the Twenty-First Century: A Traveler's Guide to Blue Moons and Black Holes, Mars, Stars, and Everything Far**

**DB125915** 4 hours 21 minutes, by Neil deGrasse Tyson, read by André Santana

"In Neil deGrasse Tyson's delightful journey through the cosmos, his fictional character Merlin responds to popular questions asked by adults and children alike. Merlin's friends include the most important scientific figures and explorers of all time—da Vinci, Magellan, Newton, Einstein, and Hubble. With the help of intermittent humorous cartoons, Merlin clarifies the details of familiar phenomena like gravity, light, space, and time, and travels to distant stars and galaxies to describe what makes them tick, rotate, explode, and collapse. Merlin's Tour of the Universe is perfect for anyone who harbors burning questions on how the cosmos works." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Selections From Talking Book Topics**

**May–June 2025**

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**FL1C**

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Miami-Dade Public Library System

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General Email: talkingbooks@mdpls.org

**FL1D**

**Orange County Library System**

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Staff Email: talkingbooks@ocls.info

**FL1G**

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General Email: talkingbooks@leegov.com

**FL1K**

**Brevard County Talking Books Library**

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**FL1L**

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