Selections from Talking Book Topics

March-April 2025

Fiction

Mystery & Detective

For Cheddar or Worse

DB121213 10 hours 9 minutes, by Avery Aames, read by Laura Hatch

“It’s time for the annual Cheese Festival in Providence, Ohio, and Charlotte Bessette’s cheese shop is packed with homemade specialties. Meanwhile, her friend Erin is prepping her dairy farm and inn for Lara Berry, pretentious cheese whiz, pompous bestselling author, and pungent critic whose extra sharp tongue can crumble a reputation. Even though any love for Lara by her friends curdled long ago, Charlotte is surprised when the foodie is smothered to death in her room at Erin’s inn. Accusations start flying, but the one laying blame on Erin strikes Charlotte as a crock.” — Provided by WorldCat. 2016.

Constable Country

DB123603 7 hours 0 minutes, by Catherine Aird, read by Erin Jones

“When Mike Wakefield’s business partner absconded with their printing firm’s money, Mike and his wife Stephanie feared bankruptcy. Detective Inspector Sloan is at first tasked with what appears to be a cut-and-dry case of embezzlement, but that is before unsettling events make it clear that someone is really gunning for him. However, Mike Wakefield was determined to finish a print job that had been in hand for a while in time for a launch party at the grand setting of Ornum House. All goes according to plan until one of Mike’s employees was found dead . And he wasn’t the only casualty.” — Provided by WorldCat. Some strong language. 2023.

Swamp Spies

DB125002 9 hours 48 minutes, by Jana DeLeon, read by Cassandra Campbell

“Things have reached a critical point in the Middle East. Carter agreed to serve as a consultant for his old Force Recon unit but for reasons unknown to his friends and family, jumped from the command center and into the field. Now he’s MIA, and Fortune is the only one who can put together a rescue mission that has any chance of being successful. But will her skills and connections be enough? Most Sinful residents are unaware of Carter’s crisis and are going about their daily lives, including local prankster Gage Babin. Everyone knows how unhealthy he was, but Fortune thinks there’s more to his death than a poorly timed prank. Unfortunately, what she knows and what she can prove are two different things.” — Provided by Amazon. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

Death by Chocolate Raspberry Scone

DB124741 9 hours 58 minutes, by Sarah Graves, read by Suzie Althens

“With the August heat strong enough to melt solid chocolate into syrup, Jake and Ellie crave a break from the bakery ovens, despite tourist season promising a sweet payday. But they never envisioned spending the last weeks of summer drifting around Passamaquoddy Bay searching for pirate’s treasure—and a dead body. It’s unusual that a skilled fisherman would vanish along with the gold doubloon he inherited from his grandfather. And his wife isn’t the only one coveting the valuable heirloom for her own.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

The Last Word: A Novel

DB124743 8 hours 43 minutes, by Elly Griffiths, read by Nina Wadia

“Words turn deadly with an unlikely detective duo on the case of a murdered obituary writer in this literary mystery from the internationally bestselling author of the Ruth Galloway series. Perfect for fans of Richard Osman and Anthony Horowitz.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

Romance

Embracing the Change: A River Rain Novel, Book 6

DB125493 9 hours 53 minutes, by Kristen Ashley, read by Alexis Crusher

“Gorgeous New York socialite, Nora Ellington has been waiting a very long time for her happily ever after. So long, she’s given up on it and has decided, even though she’s the plus-one friend without benefits to a man she’s head over heels in love with, an HEA will forever be out of her reach. Handsome billionaire Jamie Oakley thought he’d had two happily ever afters in his life. However, neither lasted long. He’s not about to try it again. And he’s made this decision even if the woman who’s become his constant companion is a woman he loves straight to his soul...and wants with everything that is him. But then, one night, Jamie loses control and kisses Nora. They’ll never be the same. Or will they?” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

The Good Part

DB124976 10 hours 21 minutes, by Sophie Cousens, read by Kerry Gilbert

“Lucy Young is twenty-six and tired. Tired of fetching coffee for senior TV producers, sick of going on disastrous dates, and done with living in a damp flat with roommates who never buy toilet rolls. After another disappointing date, Lucy stumbles upon a wishing machine. Pushing a coin into the slot, Lucy closes her eyes and wishes: Please, let me skip to the good part of my life. When she wakes the next morning to a handsome man, a ring on her finger, a high-powered job, and two storybook-perfect children, Lucy can’t believe this is real—especially when she looks in the mirror, and staring back is her own forty-something face. Has she really skipped ahead like she’s always wanted, or has she simply forgotten a huge chunk of her life?” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Bull Moon Rising

DB124979 17 hours 40 minutes, by Ruby Dixon, read by Felicity Munroe

“As a Holder’s daughter, Aspeth Honori knows the importance of magical artifacts . . . which is why it’s a disaster that her father has gambled all theirs away. Aspeth decides to do something about it. She’ll join the Royal Artifactual Guild and the adventurers who explore ancient underground ruins to retrieve the coveted arcane items. It’s a great plan-with one big problem. The guild won’t let her train because she’s a woman. The best way to get around this problem? Marry someone who will let her become an apprentice. Who better than a surly guild member who requires a favor of his own? He’s a minotaur (it’s fine) who is her teacher (also fine) . . . He also has no idea she’s a noble (oops), and he’ll want nothing to do with her if he discovers her real identity. Now Aspeth just has to dig deep. Literally.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

Vengeance Road

DB124835 13 hours 56 minutes, by Christine Feehan, read by James Frangione

“Breezy Simmons was born into a ruthless motorcycle club—and now that she’s out, she’s never going to be that girl again. But when her past catches up with her, Breezy must go to Sea Haven to seek out the man who almost destroyed her. The man who chose his club over her and left her feeling used and alone. As vice president of Torpedo Ink, Steele never thought he’d find something as pure as his feelings for Breezy, or that keeping her safe would mean driving her away with cruel words that turned her love for him to ash. He’ll do whatever it takes to make Breezy his woman again—especially when he learns the real reason she came to him for help, and that the stakes are higher than he ever could have imagined ...” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

The Pumpkin Spice Café

DB124704 7 hours 5 minutes, by Laurie Gilmore, read by Regina Reagan

“When Jeanie’s aunt gifts her the beloved Pumpkin Spice Cafe in the small town of Dream Harbor, Jeanie jumps at the chance for a fresh start away from her very dull desk job. Logan is a local farmer who avoids Dream Harbor’s gossip at all costs. But Jeanie’s arrival disrupts Logan’s routine and he wants nothing to do with the irritatingly upbeat new girl, except that he finds himself inexplicably drawn to her. Will Jeanie’s happy-go-lucky attitude win over the grumpy-but-gorgeous Logan, or has this city girl found the one person in town who won’t fall for her charm, or her pumpkin spice lattes ... ” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Historical Fiction

The Paris Assignment: A Novel

DB125495 11 hours 21 minutes, by Rhys Bowen, read by Barrie Kreinik

“Londoner Madeleine Grant is studying at the Sorbonne in Paris when she marries charismatic French journalist Giles Martin. As they raise their son, Olivier, they hold on to a tenuous promise for the future. Until the thunder of war sets off alarms in France. Though her perseverance, defiance, and heart will be tested beyond imagining, no risk is too great for a brave wife and mother determined to fight and survive against inconceivable odds.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

An Echo in the Bone

DB125252 45 hours 57 minutes, by Diana Gabaldon, read by Davina Porter

“As battle-scarred Jamie Fraser and his twentieth-century time-traveling wife Claire Randall flee from North Carolina to the high seas during the American Revolution, they encounter privateers and ocean battles. Meanwhile in the relative safety of the 20th century Brianna (Claire and Jamie’s daughter) and Roger MacKenzie, Brianna’s husband, search for clues not only to Claire’s fate—but to their own fate in the Highlands.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

The Oceans and the Stars: A Sea Story, A War Story, A Love Story; the Seven Battles and Mutiny of *Athena*, Patrol Coastal Ship 15

DB124935 21 hours 39 minutes, by Mark Helprin, read by Traber Burns

“A Navy captain near the end of a decorated career, Stephen Rensselaer is determined always to do what’s right. In defending the development of a new variant of warship, he makes an enemy of the President of the United States, who assigns him to command the doomed line’s only prototype—*Athena*, Patrol Coastal 15—with the intent to humiliate. He takes the new assignment in stride, and along the way he falls in last-chance love. Soon thereafter, he is deployed on a mission that subjects him to the ultimate test, and ensures that *Athena* will live forever in the annals of the Navy.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Dreams of the Island

DB123121 10 hours 58 minutes, by Kate Hewitt, read by Terry Donnelly

1911, Amherst Island, Canada: When a chance encounter takes Ellen Copley away from the beautiful island she has called home —she believes it is the new start she has been waiting for. She settles into an exciting, creative new life in Glasgow. And even though she left a part of her heart back on the island, she’s flattered by the attention of her charming benefactor, Henry McAvoy. But tragedy strikes their fledgling relationship, and soon after war looms over Europe. Coming face-to-face with her past, Ellen will learn what she is made of. But can she finally decide where her heart truly belongs?” — Provided by Goodreads. 2020.

The Girls in Navy Blue: A Novel

DB125128 13 hours 51 minutes by Alix Rickloff, read by Carlotta Brentan

“1918: America is at war with Germany, and, for the first time in history, the US Navy has allowed women to join up alongside the men. German-American Marjory Kunwald enlists in the Navy to prove her patriotism. Suffragette Blanche Lawrence to prove women are the equal of men. And shy preacher’s daughter Viv Weston in a desperate attempt to hide from the police. 1968: Peggy Whitby unexpectedly inherits her estranged great-aunt Blanche’s beach cottage outside Norfolk Virginia. She begins to receive mysterious postcards dated 1918 when Blanche served as a Navy yeomanette. Peggy is drawn deeper into the lives of the three young Navy girls. But her digging uncovers more than she bargains for.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

Suspense & Thrillers

To Die For

DB125480 12 hours 1 minute, by David Baldacci, read by Cassandra Morris

“Travis Devine has become a pro at accomplishing any mission he’s given. But this time it’s not his skills that send him to Seattle to aid the FBI in escorting orphaned, twelve-year-old Betsy Odom to a meeting with her uncle, who’s under federal investigation. Instead, he’s hoping to lay low and keep off the radar of an enemy—the girl on the train. But as Devine gets to know Betsy, questions begin to arise around the death of her parents. Devine digs for answers, and what he finds points to a conspiracy bigger than he could’ve ever imagined.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2024.

The Writing Retreat: A Novel

DB125481 11 hours 33 minutes, by Julia Bartz, read by Gail Shalan

“A book deal to die for. Five attendees are selected for a month-long writing retreat at the remote estate of Roza Vallo. Alex, a struggling writer, is thrilled. Upon arrival, they discover they must complete an entire novel from scratch, and the best one will receive a seven-figure publishing deal. Alex’s long-extinguished dream now seems within reach. But then the women begin to die. Trapped, terrified yet still desperately writing, it is clear there is more than a publishing deal at stake at Briar estate. As Alex must confront her own demons and finish her novel to save herself.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

The Sound of Echoes

DB123980 11 hours 56 minutes, by Eric Bernt, read by Alec Volz

“After going on the run — for what he knows and has created — autistic Eddie Parks is back in Harmony House, the think tank that has been his sanctuary for sixteen years. With his miraculous invention, an ‘echo box’ that excavates sounds from the past, Eddie achieved the only thing he wanted: to hear his late mother sing. But where Eddie sees good, others see infamy. Because no conversation ever held will be a secret again. For Bob Stenson, leader of the American Heritage Foundation, whoever controls the echo box controls the future. Eddie has the power of echoes on his side. Now he must follow them— into the most dangerous places he’s ever ventured— to save Skylar and the country.” — Provided by OCLC. Violence and strong language. 2019.

Families and Other Enemies; Hard to Kill; Hidden Truths

DB124742 5 hours 24 minutes, by Christina Dodd, read by Vanessa Johansson

“Kellen Adams has fought battles, saved lives, and earned the respect of her colleagues and the love of her friends. But now can she triumph against the greatest challenge of her life—her family?” — Provided by OCLC. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

An Honorable Assassin

DB125424 8 hours 26 minutes, by Steve Hamilton, read by Ray Porter

“He was released from federal prison to a second life, serving a major Chicago crime lord until the day he finally won his freedom. But that freedom was a lie. Now Mason finds himself on a plane to Jakarta, leading a vast shadow organization that reaches every corner of the globe. This time, there’s only one name on his list: Hashim Baya—otherwise known as the Crocodile—international fugitive and #1 most wanted on Interpol’s ‘Red Notice’ list. And for the first time in his career, Mason fails his mission. Baya gets away alive. But Mason isn’t alone in his search, because for Interpol agent Martin Sauvage, apprehending Baya has become a personal vendetta. Sauvage is a man just as haunted as Mason. And just as determined. Never have the stakes been so high, the forces surrounding him so great.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

Raised by Wolves

DB125159 7 hours 56 minutes, by James Patterson and Emily Raymond, read by Lauren Fortgang

“Two teens appear out of nowhere, ransacking a small-town grocery and attacking the police officers who come to investigate. Their clothes are torn and filthy, their hands and bare feet callused, they have fangs. They’re sister and brother, alone against the world. Where did they come from? Raised by wolves, they say. Kai and Holo are taken in by the police chief and his wife, and begin adjusting to life in a small town. And the mystery of their upbringing brings dark and powerful forces to Kokanee Creek, tearing the town apart and threatening the lives of everyone they love.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

Westerns

Call Me Lonesome

DB125536 13 hours 23 minutes, by Brett Cogburn, read by Bradford Hastings

“The Arkansas Traveler, a hired assassin is obsessed with killing Morgan. He’s waiting for him on the Arkansas River. The Pinkerton Detective Agency have put their best man hunters on his trail. Morgan has one thing going for him. His enemies have made him very mad, and surviving is the only way he can kill them all.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

Smoke Wagon

DB125091 10 hours 55 minutes, by Brett Cogburn, read by Bradford Hastings

“It’s 1873 and the Katy Railroad is hellbent on laying the first set of tracks through Indian Territory, but things have stalled out at a little place called Ironhead Station. The railroad has hired a new chief of police, a man named Morgan Clyde, but the gambling crowd is giving three-to-one that he’ll be dead by the end of the week.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

Killing Texas Bob

DB122234 8 hours 39 minutes by Ralph W. Cotton, read by Dwayne Glapion

“Arizona Ranger Sam Burrack must find Texas Bob Krey, a gambler on the run from a murder charge who was in the wrong place at the wrong time, before bounty hunters and hired guns do. Territorial Judge Bass put up the bounty since it was his brother who was killed, although he was killed in self-defense. Complicating matters, Sheriff’s Deputy Price offered his own ‘reward,’ paid in advance, for Krey’s head, because Price was on the losing end of a love triangle—of sorts.” — Provided by publisher. Violence and strong language. 2007.

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March–April 2025

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