Selections from Talking Book Topics

March-April 2025

Nonfiction

Biography

John Lewis: A Life

DB125436 24 hours 30 minutes, by David Greenberg, read by David Sadzin

“Born into poverty in rural Alabama, Lewis would become second only to Martin Luther King, Jr. in his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. He was a Freedom Rider who helped to integrate bus stations in the South, a leader of the Nashville sit-in movement, the youngest speaker at the 1963 March on Washington, and the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he made into one of the major civil rights organizations. The book reveals the little-known story of his political ascent first locally in Atlanta, and then as a member of Congress. Greenberg’s biography captures John Lewis’s influential career through documents from dozens of archives, interviews with hundreds of people who knew Lewis, and long-lost footage of Lewis himself speaking to reporters.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2024.

American Heroes

DB125431 11 hours 3 minutes, by James Patterson and others, read by Joe Mantegna

“U.S. soldiers who served in overseas conflicts—from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan—share true stories of the actions that earned them some of America’s most distinguished military medals, up to and including the Medal of Honor. They never acted alone, but always in the spirit of camaraderie, patriotism, and for the good of our beloved country. There has never been a better time for all of us to think about duty, sacrifice, and what it means to be an American hero.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2024.

US History

The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights

DB125358 10 hours 17 minutes, by Sharon McMahon, read by Sharon McMahon

“From America’s favorite government teacher, a heartfelt, inspiring portrait of twelve ordinary Americans whose courage formed the character of our country. In *The Small and the Mighty*, Sharon McMahon proves that the most remarkable Americans are often ordinary people who didn’t make it into the textbooks. This is a book about what really made America—and Americans—great. McMahon’s cast of improbable champions will become familiar friends, lighting the path we journey in our quest to make the world more just, peaceful, good, and free.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2024.

The Unvanquished: The Untold Story of Lincoln’s Special Forces, the Manhunt for Mosby’s Rangers, and the Shadow War That Forged America’s Special Operations

DB124761 13 hours 2 minutes by Patrick K. O’Donnell, read by Fred Sanders

“From the bestselling author of *The Indispensables*, the unknown and dramatic story that inspired the origins of America’s modern special operations forces. The Civil War is most remembered for the grand battles that have come to define it: Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, among others. However, a vital shadow war raged amid and away from the major battlefields that was in many ways equally consequential to the conflict’s outcome. At the heart of this groundbreaking narrative is the epic story of Lincoln’s special forces, the Jessie Scouts, told in its entirety for the first time. The first full chronicle of the shadow war between North and South, (this book) is a dynamic and essential addition to the literature of the Civil War.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

Last Train to Paradise: Henry Flagler and the Spectacular Rise and Fall of the Railroad That Crossed an Ocean

DB124966 8 hours 19 minutes by Les Standiford, read by Del Roy

“The true account of the extraordinary construction and spectacular demise of the Key West Railroad—one of the greatest engineering feats ever undertaken, destroyed in one fell swoop by the Labor Day hurricane of 1935.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2002.

Till the Extinction of This Rebellion: George Rogers Clark, Frontier Warfare, and the Illinois Campaign of 1778–1779

DB123983 6 hours 24 minutes by Eric Sterner, read by Barry Bernson

“In late 1778, leading a small force of one hundred and fifty men, George Rogers Clark entered the Illinois Country where they would capture Great Britain’s major posts along the Mississippi and take British lieutenant governor Henry Hamilton prisoner to achieve one of the most singular victories during the American Revolution. Having suffered at the hands of British-supported Native American raids in Kentucky, Clark and his men embraced a confrontational approach, lumping all Native American nations together as enemies. Now, in light of Clark’s treatment and participation in the subjugation of Native peoples, his legacy has reversed. His lack of nuance led him to misinterpret Indian responses to his military campaign and conclude that his approach produced results. In fact, many Native American nations simply used the American presence on the Mississippi to extort greater support from the British.” — Provided by WorldCat. 2024.

‘Tis Not Our War: Avoiding Military Service in the Civil War North

DB123127 17 hours 14 minutes by Paul Taylor, read by John Haag

“*’Tis Not Our War* answers the question of why men chose not to serve in the Civil War by focusing on the thoughts, opinions, and beliefs of average civilians and soldiers. This vivid and complex portrait of such men shows that the North was never as unified in support of the war as portrayed in much of America’s collective memory.” — Provided by publisher. Some strong language. 2024.

World History

Akhenaten: A Historian’s View

DB123587 14 hours 45 minutes, by Ronald T. Ridley, read by Mark Ashby

“More ink has probably been spilled on Akhenaten and his times (“the Amarna Period”) than any other figure from ancient Egypt, with a vast range of interpretations and theories that can leave the uninitiated utterly bewildered. Against this background, this book examines what scholars have said over the years regarding key aspects of the period, to produce a “history of histories,” exploring exactly how various chains of arguments were arrived at — and how houses of cards thus erected have subsequently come tumbling down. This book thus fills a gap in the literature of the Amarna Period and also contributes to the wider, and much neglected, field of the historiography of ancient Egypt.” — Provided by publisher. 2019.

Cleopatra: A Biography

DB123749 11 hours 33 minutes, by Duane W. Roller, read by George Holmes

“Few personalities from classical antiquity are more famous, yet more poorly understood, than Cleopatra VII, queen of Egypt. In the centuries since her death in 30 BC, she has been endlessly portrayed in the arts and popular culture, from Shakespearean tragedy to paintings, opera, and movies. In this major new biography, Duane Roller reveals that Cleopatra was in fact a learned and visionary leader whose overarching goal was always the preservation of her dynasty and kingdom. Roller’s authoritative account is the first to be based solely on primary materials from the Greco-Roman period: literary sources, Egyptian documents (Cleopatra’s own writings), and representations in art and coinage produced while she was alive. His compelling portrait of the queen illuminates her prowess as a royal administrator who managed a large and diverse kingdom, as a naval commander who led her own fleet in battle, and as a scholar and supporter of the arts.” — Provided by publisher. 2010.

Women in the Valley of the Kings: The Untold Story of Women Egyptologists in the Gilded Age

DB124801 12 hours 12 minutes, by Kathleen Sheppard, read by Elizabeth Wiley

“The never-before-told story of the women Egyptologists who paved the way of exploration in Egypt and created the basis for Egyptology. The history of Egyptology is often told as yet one more grand narrative of powerful men striving to seize the day and the precious artifacts for their competing homelands. But that is only half of the story. During the Golden Age of Exploration, there were women working and exploring before Howard Carter discovered the tomb of King Tut. Women in the Valley of the Kings shows how a group of courageous women charted unknown territory and changed the field of Egyptology forever.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

Shot Down: The True Story of Pilot Howard Snyder and the Crew of the B-17 *Susan Ruth*

DB125094 8 hours 44 minutes, by Steve Snyder, read by Richard Rieman

“*Shot Down* is a compelling story of our B-17 aircrews that flew, fought, and died over Europe to save a continent from tyranny and oppression. There were over 56,000 downed airmen in World War II. Lt. Howard Snyder and the crew of the *Susan Ruth* were one of those crews that went down over Europe.’ — General Duncan J. McNabb, USAF, retired, 33rd Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force.” — Provided by publisher. Originally published 2014. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

Lost at Sea: Eddie Rickenbacker’s Twenty-Four Days Adrift on the Pacific—A World War II Tale of Courage and Faith

DB125448 8 hours 59 minutes, by John Wukovits, read by Nathan Agin

“In the darkest days of World War II, an unlikely civilian was sent to deliver a letter from Washington to General MacArthur in New Guinea. Eddie Rickenbacker was a pioneer of aviation, the greatest fighter pilot of the First World War, recipient of the Medal of Honor, who’d retired to become a renowned race car driver. Now he was again serving his nation, riding high above the Pacific as a passenger aboard a B-17. Forced to crash-land on the ocean surface, the tiny rubber life rafts held eight occupants, hundreds of miles from the nearest speck of land. Wukovits brings to life a gripping story of survival, leadership, and faith in a time of crisis.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Religion

Sacred Belonging: A 40-Day Devotional on the Liberating Heart of Scripture

DB125710 6 hours 30 minutes, by Kat Armas, read by Kat Armas

“In this 40-day devotional, a Cuban-American writer shows us that reading the Bible with fresh eyes allows us experience the divine in new and liberating ways.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Disability in the Christian Tradition: A Reader

DB121831 25 hours 30 minutes, by Brian Brock, read by Mark Ashby

“This book brings together for the first time the views of renowned Christian leaders throughout history — including Augustine, Aquinas, Julian of Norwich, Luther, Calvin, Hegel, Kierkegaard, van den Bergh, Bonhoeffer, Barth, Vanier, and Hauerwas. Fourteen experts in theology and disability studies guide readers through each era or group of thinkers, offering clear commentary and highlighting important themes.” — Provided by publisher. 2012.

Imagine the God of Heaven: Near-Death Experiences, God’s Revelation, and the Love You’ve Always Wanted

DB124990 10 hours 30 minutes, by John Burke, read by John Burke

“Millions of people around the world have reported a near-death experience. Do they prove the existence of a loving God? Never in history, until now, have we been able to hear from so many people around the world who have been brought back from clinical death. Modern medical resuscitation and digital communication have revealed a goldmine of intriguing near-death experiences (NDEs) that show us the character of God. John Burke has spent the last three decades studying the commonalities of more than 1000 NDEs. He unveils the love story and characteristics of this God of all nations, revealed throughout history and in Scripture, now illustrated by these thrilling encounters.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Created to Hear God: 4 Unique and Proven Ways to Confidently Discern His Voice

DB125102 6 hours 53 minutes by Havilah Cunnington, read by Havilah Cunnington

“Hearing God’s voice is one of the greatest gifts we’ve been given, but it can also feel complex and frustrating. As a teenager Havilah Cunnington didn’t think she could hear God’s voice, thinking it was like trying to tune into a radio station and never finding the correct frequency. But one night at a conference, she had an encounter with God that changed everything. She realized He had been speaking to her the whole time—she just hadn’t learned to recognize His voice.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Tell Her Story: How Women Led, Taught, and Ministered in the Early Church

DB125239 7 hours 25 minutes by Nijay K. Gupta, read by Nijay K. Gupta

“For centuries, discussions of early Christianity have focused on male leaders. But there is ample evidence in the New Testament that women were respected leaders at the frontier of the gospel ministry. Nijay Gupta shines light on the inspiring contributions of women like Phoebe, Prisca, Junia, Nympha, and more.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

The Joy of an Uncluttered Life

DB123118 4 hours 11 minutes by Joyce Meyer, read by Halley Kim

“Many of us understand how easy it is for life to become hectic, stressful, and busy. We are overcommitted, have no free time, and feel trapped in the daily demands of life. But there is good news-you don’t have to live this way! These doable tips will teach you to set boundaries, stay positive, clear out clutter in your life, deal with other people in healthy ways, and more.” — Provided by publisher. 2024.

Science

The Science of Why We Exist: A History of the Universe from the Big Bang to Consciousness

DB123125 18 hours 27 minutes, by Tim Coulson, read by J.P. Linton

“From the Big Bang and the evolution of the genetic code to the birth of consciousness, this is the extraordinary story of the chain of events that led to human life on earth. Have you ever wondered why you exist? What had to happen for you to be alive and conscious? Scientists have come a long way in answering this question, and this book describes what they have found out. It also examines whether our existence was inevitable at the universe’s birth 13.77 billion years ago—or whether we are just incredibly lucky. The book is aimed at readers who are interested in science but are not experts. Covering physics, astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences, the emergence of life, evolution, consciousness, the rise of humanity, and how our personalities are molded by genes, chance, and the environment, the journey explains how the universe started as point of intense energy that over time, in our corner of the universe, resulted in our wonderful planet—and in you.” — Provided by WorldCat. 2024.

Free Agents: How Evolution Gave Us Free Will

DB125100 10 hours 56 minutes by Kevin J. Mitchell, read by Kevin J. Mitchell

“An evolutionary case for the existence of free will. Scientists are learning more and more about how brain activity controls behavior and how neural circuits weigh alternatives and initiate actions. As we probe ever deeper into the mechanics of decision making, many conclude that agency-or free will-is an illusion. In *Free Agents*, leading neuroscientist Kevin Mitchell presents a wealth of evidence to the contrary, arguing that we are not mere machines responding to physical forces but agents acting with purpose. Mitchell’s argument has important implications-for how we understand decision making, for how our individual agency can be enhanced or infringed, for how we think about collective agency in the face of global crises, and for how we consider the limitations and future of artificial intelligence. An astonishing journey of discovery, *Free Agents* offers a new framework for understanding how, across a billion years of Earth history, life evolved the power to choose and why this matters.” — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

Selections From Talking Book Topics

March–April 2025

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