# **Talking Books: Reading Never Sounded So Good LogoTouch and Listen**

***The Newsletter of the Florida Braille and Talking Book Library***

***Spring 2022***

***Reading time\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

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## NLS News You Can Use

### A Look Back:

### The beginning: March 3, 1931

American soldiers fought in World War I for only six months, but they suffered a terrible toll: more than 53,000 killed in battle and another 200,000 wounded, many of them blinded by gas attacks or shrapnel.

Concern for “the boys who were blinded in the recent war” led Congress in the 1920s to authorize the US Veterans Bureau to buy books in raised type for blinded soldiers. And in 1930, World War I veterans were very much on the minds of Rep. Ruth Pratt of New York and Sen. Reed Smoot of Utah when they introduced identical bills to appropriate money to the Library of Congress to provide books for adults with vision loss.

The Pratt-Smoot Act became law on March 3, 1931—the date we commemorate as the founding of NLS. It established the framework for the NLS network of cooperating libraries and stipulated that veterans receive priority service—a commitment that NLS still honors.

### Talking Book Topics

### Ongoing supply-chain issues and worldwide paper shortages continue

If you subscribe to Talking Book Topics (TBT) in large print, did you know you can get fast access to the latest issue (and find back issues too!) on the NLS website and in a downloadable PDF? The website version has direct links to BARD—the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download service—for downloading or adding

books to your wish list immediately, and the PDF includes printable order forms for mailing. You’ll find them at **www.loc.gov/nls/tbt**. TBT audio is also available on cartridge, on BARD and the BARD Mobile app.

Haven’t signed up for BARD yet? You can get more than 100,000 books and 6,000 magazine issues there—including the latest bestsellers—anytime you want them. And there’s nothing to return! Call your Reader Advisor to sign up.

Please be aware of other ways to get new book information, as the printed TBT catalog is not available.

**Six alternative ways to access TBT:**

* Connect to BARD for a TBT audio download through the website [**www.loc.gov/nls/tbt**](http://www.loc.gov/nls/tbt)
* A printable PDF order form located at [**www.loc.gov/nls/tbt**](http://www.loc.gov/nls/tbt)
* Audio cartridge subscription, which comes with a print order form
* BARD audio magazine, downloadable to cartridge or to BARD Mobile wish list
* Braille Book Review’s TBT Abridged section in hardcopy Braille
* Braille Book Review’s TBT Abridged section as a BRF downloadable through BARD or from [**www.loc.gov/nls/bbr**](http://www.loc.gov/nls/bbr)

Patrons can also learn about the latest titles added to BARD through the “Recently added books and magazines” link on the BARD website or the “Recently added to BARD” feature on the “Get Books” tab on the BARD Mobile app.

Please call your library to subscribe to the audio on cartridge version.

### Popular BARD Books

BARD features a “Most Popular Books” section where it lists the most downloaded books from the past 30 days. In the mobile App, this option is found on the Get Books tab. Using the BARD website, [**NLSBARD.loc.gov**](https://nlsbard.loc.gov/nlsbardprod/login/FL1A),it is the second link down at the very top. Below are a few options currently featured. Non-BARD users can still call to request these titles on cartridge through the mail!

* DB106775 – Abandoned in Death by J.D. Robb. Suspense Fiction, Mystery and Detective Stories
* DB106591- The Family You Make by Jill Shalvis. Humor, Romance.
* DB106298 - The Maid: A novel by Nita Prose. Suspense Fiction, Mystery and Detective Stories, Bestsellers
* DB105742 - Wish You Were Here: A novel by Jodi Picoult. Suspense Fiction, General
* DB106359 - Slaughter of the Mountain Man by William W. Johnstone. Adventure, Western Stories
* DB105487 - Seeing Without Eyes: One Man's Journey Out of Darkness by Joe Koury. Biography, Disability

## News from Florida

### TBT and NFB Newsline

The Talking Book Topics is available on NFB-NEWSLINE. NFB-NEWSLINE is a free audio news service for anyone who is blind, low-vision, deafblind, or otherwise print-disabled that offers access to more than 500 publications, emergency weather alerts, job listings, and more.

This allows patrons with different degrees of vision loss to read these publications with their technology. You can also call in and listen to the publications on your phone. It works with Amazon’s Alexa. Those who prefer using an iPad or iPhone can use our NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile app, and those who enjoy using their computer can use our secure website, [**www.nfbnewsline.org**](http://www.nfbnewsline.org).

Patrons with low vision will be able to use their screen enlargement software on the NFB-NEWSLINE Mobile app or computer.

Patrons who read Braille can also use the IOS app and website with a connected Braille display.

When a patron wishes to order one of the books that appears in Talking Book Topics, the NFB-NEWSLINE app and website can send the book annotation to them via email to forward to their Reader Advisor for processing. For patrons who do not use email, the system is designed to read the book order number slowly so they can better understand the number to provide it to their Reader Advisor.

To sign up for NFB-NEWSLINE, visit [**www.nfbnewsline.org**](http://www.nfbnewsline.org)**,** or call your local library.

### Annual Summer Reading Program for All Ages

Traditionally, summer reading programs aim to keep reading levels up during the time school is closed. Reading just 4 to 6 books over the summer can potentially prevent “summer slide” effect, a decline in reading achievement scores from the spring to the fall, so even small steps are very beneficial.

Here in Florida, we open the fun for all ages!

This year's theme is **"Oceans of Possibilities”**, and runs **June 20 through August 1**, entirely online. Bookmark this page from our website: [**dbs.fldoe.org/Library/Summer-2022**](https://dbs.fldoe.org/Library/Summer-2022/index.html)and check back for details, booklists, and fun activities!

* To register, email your name and 999 ID number to **reading@dbs.fldoe.org.**
* Read about ocean life and conservation, the moon and tides, beaches, summer fun, beach parties, sand and sandcastles …but also the possibilities of dreaming big!
* Take pictures of your family friendly activities and crafts, and let us know what books you read.
* Write book reviews to be included on our website and in future newsletters.

All Florida patrons, regardless of what library they are registered with, can register for this fun way to explore new books, and earn fun incentives like totebags, water bottles, and more.

### Calling in to the Regional Library

We are happy to help and appreciate receiving your calls! Calls are answered in the order in which they are received. Sometimes, due to the increased time we are dedicating to helping other patrons on the phone, your call may not be returned upwards of 24 hours. We are doing everything we can, as soon as we can, on a patron by patron basis, so please understand we take your questions, comments, and book orders seriously.

We recommend emailing orders to this address: **OPAC\_librarian@dbs.fldoe.org****.**

Occasionally we send out postcards to help us discover who may need updates to their accounts and how we can further assist.  In many cases we are glad to hear you are receiving books and enjoying the service.  We are only requesting the return of the players from anyone who no longer wants the service or has decided to use their own device to download our books and material from BARD.

Thank you for your patience as we help everyone get what they need.

### Talking Book Player: Did You Know?

There are some controls on the Talking Book player that you may have forgotten about but might find useful.

* The **white speed control buttons** are on the top right side of the player. Press the arrow pointing up to speed up the narrator and read faster. Press the arrow pointing down to slow down playback; this may help if you have trouble understanding the narrator.
* The **white tone control buttons** are on the top left side of the player. Narrators have a wide variety of voices, from deep to high pitched. Adjusting the tone may allow you to better hear or understand a particular narrator. It can also help when listening to older books that were originally recorded on tape.
* The **sleep button** is shaped like a crescent moon and is located just above the large green Play/Stop button. If you press it, the player will play for 15 minutes, then automatically shut off. This comes in handy if you tend to fall asleep while listening. You can press it twice for 30 minutes, 3 times for 45 minutes, or 4 times for an hour of play.
* Don’t forget the player has **built-in instructions**. Make sure there is no book cartridge in the player, press the red power button to turn it on, then press any button to hear how it works.

### Duplication on Demand

Both the regional library and subregional libraries across the state are working with the National Library Service (NLS) this year on their network wide initiative, Duplication on Demand (DOD). At this time, we fill your requests from a large collection of permanent cartridges, each one containing a single title. When using DOD, multiple titles are downloaded from BARD onto one cartridge created just for you and then erased and reused upon return.

No work is needed on your part to use DOD! The system uses your existing preference settings and requests. This increases access to the wide range of older and newer titles available in our collection and less waiting time for new books to arrive on cartridge.

**Benefits of Using DOD:**

* You’ll get all of your books on one cartridge instead of multiple ones.
* The cartridge will only contain your series, your favorite authors and subjects, and the books you’ve requested.
* You’ll have a quicker turnaround time on your book requests. No more waiting for books to check in.
* No more waiting lists for books on reserve. Even the most recently added books will be available to you.

The transition will be gradual over the course of this year. We will continue to keep you updated.

### Fresh from the Recording Studio: New Books

**New Books**

**A Curse So Dark and Lonely** by Brigid Kemmerer **DBC12793**. Harper lives in present-day Washington, D.C. with her mother and brother, but a good deed transports her to enchanted Emberfall. Cursed Prince Rhen, now a wicked beast, hopes Harper is the key to breaking the spell—and maybe more? Narrator: Kathy Taylor. Reading time: 15 hrs. 40 min.

**Trapped! A Framed Novel** by James Ponti **DBC17110**. Middle school FBI agents Florian and Margaret team up again to investigate a cold case with a personal connection. They’ll turn Washington D.C. upside down if that’s what it takes to free their boss, Marcus. Sequel. Narrator: Patrick Forestell. Reading time: 8 hrs. 35 min.

**Whisper** by Lynette Noni **DBC12795**. Jane Doe lives in an underground facility in Australia, subject to her captors’ experiments but keeping a secret of her own. When she is assigned to a new evaluator, Jane finds out how instrumental she is to the facilities misdeeds. Narrators: Toni Blankenship and Susie Baldwin. Reading time 13 hours.

**Spooky Florida: Tales of Hauntings, Strange Happenings, and Other Local Lore**. Retold by S.E. Schlosser **DBC17165**. Collection of 25 tales of hauntings, eerie happenings, and strange occurrences throughout the state of Florida re-told by a master storyteller. Narrator: Nancy Shea. Reading Time 4 hrs. 15 min.

**End of Touch and Listen** the newsletter of the Florida Braille and Talking Book Library Winter 2022. If you are listening to this on a cartridge, please return it as soon as possible.

The Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services are part of the

**Florida Department of Education, Division of Blind Services.**

Visit our websites at www.dbs.fldoe.org or www.fldoe.org

**Contact us at 1-800-226-6075 or via email at** **OPAC\_librarian@dbs.fldoe.org**