



Greetings from Stephanie Baltzer Kom

Greetings! My name is Stephanie Baltzer Kom, and I am the new director of the North Dakota Talking Books program. I started in July, and like many other things, my experience thus far has been colored by COVID-19 and the lack of normal operating procedures. I am still learning many aspects of the program. We have also lost an anchor of the program to another position in the State Library as the new Tribal and Academic Library Specialist. James Murphy transitioned out of Talking Books at the end of January, and he will be missed greatly.

I am very excited about being a part of this program!

Significant Anniversaries

Twenty-five years ago, on September 1, 1995, the North Dakota Talking Books program sent out its first talking book. We are looking to have a celebration in the coming months. March 3, 2021, will mark the 90th anniversary of the Pratt-Smoot Act being signed into law. That act established the National Library Service (NLS) and the Talking Book Network of libraries. We hope to have the governor sign a proclamation declaring March 3, 2021, as Talking Books Awareness Day in the state of North Dakota.

Volunteers

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our volunteers have been unable to come in and continue recording. We hope to resume sometime in the coming months.

We Don't Want You to Be Left Without a Book

The coronavirus has put a stop to a lot of the activities we used to enjoy. Fortunately, that doesn't include reading, and there's no better time than now to enjoy the company of a good book. The Talking Book Program allows a maximum of five cartridges for each patron. Many patrons receive multiple books on each cartridge, keeping them well-stocked with reading material. But there are some patrons who only receive one book per cartridge and when mail delivery is slow, that can leave them empty-handed from time to time. If you are only getting one book per cartridge, you may want to consider adding a few extra. Accessing each book is simple. When you get to the end of a book, your machine will prompt you to press the big, green play/stop button and instantly take you to the next book. We'd also like to remind you to return each cartridge as soon as you are finished listening to it. You will only get a new book cartridge when you return what you currently have. Promptly returning your cartridges will keep books flowing back and forth more quickly. If you are not getting the maximum number of cartridges and would like to receive more, or if you would like to have more books on a cartridge, please call us at 1-800-843-9948 or email us at tbooks@nd.gov. Our staff will be happy to assist you!

The Talking Book staff wants to thank you for the concern you showed for our department during the COVID-19 pandemic and acknowledge your appreciation of our efforts to continue circulating books. We are happy that we have been able to send books to our patrons and were not forced to close like many Talking Book libraries around the country.

Ordering Books

Our patrons often have a long list of new books they want to read after receiving the latest issue of Talking Book Topics. You can either mail the order form, email the book numbers or call the library with your order.

If returning a machine for a deceased relative, please write "deceased" on the repair sheet as we do not usually know otherwise. This action will allow us to avoid unnecessary phone calls regarding the reason for the return of the equipment.

Loaning Materials and Equipment to Others

The materials and equipment that patrons check out from Talking Books are assigned to an individual account. Each patron is responsible for taking care of and keeping track of these items. Materials include digital and large print books, audio Bibles, and audio magazines. Equipment includes digital players and headphones.

Equipment and materials sent to our patrons are the property of the United States Federal Government (Library of Congress). They are loaned to patrons of the Talking Book Program. Equipment and books should never be loaned to others, thrown away, sold, or donated to charities such as Goodwill.

Sharing items among patrons is discouraged for several reasons. First, materials are easily misplaced or lost. It is also very easy to forget who you loaned items to. Second, if you share materials with other Talking Book patrons, your ability to have any more items sent out is negatively affected. Items are still on the original account until they are checked in by us.

If you want to recommend a title to a friend who is a Talking Book patron, have them call and order their own copy. Do not loan the copy you have. Patrons who need a copy of the Bible can call us, and we will send them one. Please remember that individuals who are not registered Talking Book patrons cannot use any of our books or equipment.

Where Are My Books?

If you ever feel like you are not receiving all your books, the following are some reasons why this may happen.

- You have reached the limit of books allowed. Remember that books in transit still count as being checked out to you.
- You have read all the books written by your favorite authors.
- You are set up as “request only” and have not given us new titles to add to your account.
- Your desired reading interest preferences are too limited.
- You have exhausted your reading interest list, and there are no longer any books available to add to your request list.

Getting Started With BARD

Our free book download system, BARD, puts our full collection of audiobooks at your fingertips. If you have a smartphone or a tablet and haven't downloaded the BARD Mobile app, this is a perfect time!

The layout of the app:

- 1) Bookshelf- This contains the books you have downloaded.
- 2) Get books- Contains wish list, recently to BARD, previous downloads, most popular books, browse magazines, and the BARD website.
- 3) Settings- Audio settings, display settings, and user account settings
- 4) Now reading – This is where you can play the books that you've downloaded. The screen is set up like a mini version of the digital talking book player.

Tips and Tricks:

In the settings, under audio settings, turn the "Background Playback" on so your device does not have to stay open and run the battery down while you listen to a book. If a book doesn't play all the way through or there's an error message, there are two options that will usually get you back on track. One option is to completely shut down the app and bring it back up, or you can delete the book and re-download it from the "Previous Downloads" section of the "Get Books" heading.

Cartridges Now Available For Patrons to Download Books

The Talking Book Library can now loan patrons one cartridge and a cartridge cable to download books from BARD. If interested, please call the library at 1-800-843-9948 or email at tbooks@nd.gov.

Wanted – Unused Playback Machines

If you have a player that you are not using, please send it back to the Talking Book Library, so we can pass it on to another person.

ON THE SHELF: WINTER 2021

CALL 1-800-843-9948 TO ORDER

LD 00836 - The Brothers Krimm: The Bank Robber and the Hero by Cecile Wehrman with H. Rob Krimm and Charlene Krimm

A tale of two brothers who choose very different paths while suffering from childhood trauma. One becomes a serial bank robber and takes his own life when surrounded by police in Williston, N.D., while the other struggles with military life in the U.S. Air Force. Contains violence, strong language, and explicit description of sex. 2011.

LD 00837 - With the World I Know (True North, #2) by Marilyn Gregoire

The continuing tale of how truth - or lack of it - among lovers, friends, and neighbors can trip people up or touch their hearts. 2017.

LD 00838 - Dear Bob and Sue: One Couple's Journey Through the National Parks by Matt Smith

Matt and Karen Smith chronicle the joys and challenges of their travels to all 58 national parks through a series of emails they sent to their friends during their journey.

LD 00839 - Shoot-Out in Hell: A Western Duo; The Devil's Bride; The Devil's Fury by Peter Brandvold

Two westerns featuring the adventures of bounty hunter Lou Prophet. Contains explicit descriptions of sex, violence, and strong language. 2017.

LD 00840 - What the Heart Hears (Fair Viking Princess, #3) by Marilyn Gregoire

Portrays the contrast in lifestyles of two women as they face the world around them and struggle against their demons. 2014.

LD 00843 - Did You Know That...? 47 Fascinating Stories About People Who Have Lived in North Dakota, #7 by Curt Eriksmoen

A collection of the author's newspaper columns about notable people, places and events concerning North Dakota. 2013.

LD 00844 - Hidden History of Fargo by Danielle Teigen

Reveals the intriguing true stories behind many of Fargo's most engaging characters and what continues to make the city unique. 2017.

LD 00845 - Amber's Choice (Prairie Pastor Series, #2) by Gayle Larson Schuck

An independent, career-minded young woman is offered a promotion and a marriage proposal within a day's time, causing her to question how one choice would affect the other. A calamitous series of events leads to a surprising decision. 2019.

LD 00847 - Heaven Sent Rain by Lauraine Snelling

A successful woman's orderly life is turned upside down when she meets a seven-year-old boy and his dog on the street in front of her office building. 2014.

LD 00852 - Bank of North Dakota: From Surviving to Thriving – The First 100 Years by Mike Jacobs

A look at the financial and political history of the only state-owned bank in the United States. 2018.

LD 00853 - Found Treasure by Grace Livingston Hill

Effie Martin finds out she is not wanted at a picnic celebration by other girls because they think she is tomboy. She decides to go anyway and show them how lady like she can be. 1928.

LD 00854 - The Girl in the Photograph: The True Story of a Native American Child, Lost and Found in America by Byron L. Dorgan

Recounts the story of Senator Byron Dorgan coming to the aid of a young American Indian girl suffering abuse in foster care. She disappears and only reconnects with him many years later. This is her story, and that of a people and a nation. Contains some descriptions of violence. 2019.

The Talking Book Library does not endorse any particular product, but we're encouraged by new technologies which are created with accessibility in mind, and which may be useful for our patrons.

Book Review by Liz, Talking Book Reader Advisor

"Hot Ice" by Nora Roberts

Pandemic be damned! This book brings back all the adventure and excitement life had to offer before the coronavirus handcuffed you to your couch. All you have to do is open its pages and jump into a world that has no limits...

The main characters are Whitney MacAllister, a beautiful, wealthy, globe-trotting socialite who longs for more purpose in life. Then there's Douglas Lord, a smart, handsome, educated man who spends his time swindling rich women out of their money for the sole purpose of indulging in the world's finest luxuries.

But Lord is no common criminal, and he's ready to move on from his usual heists. A mobster agrees to pay him thousands of dollars to steal a journal dating back to the French Revolution that holds the key to the long-hidden location of precious jewels aristocrats smuggled out of battle-torn France. Lord takes the deal, but soon learns the mobster only intends to give Lord a bullet to the head in exchange for the valuable papers. So Lord keeps the journal, intending to find the treasure himself and grab that personal utopia he dreams of.

Fate throws Whitney and Lord together when Lord hijacks Whitney's Mercedes and kidnaps her while trying to escape the thugs hired to kill him. Danger gives Whitney no choice but to help Lord. So she throws her hat in the ring and negotiates a cut of any fortune they find.

Initially, Whitney and Lord's partnership is based on trying to stay alive long enough to solve the mystery of the historic treasure. But there's an unmistakable chemistry that binds them together beyond greed. Desire shows itself in moments of vulnerability, but giving in to passion would only complicate matters. Theirs remains an exotic quest for meaning that will see them travel the globe until the game is played out to its terrifying conclusion in the sultry wilds of Madagascar.

Nora Roberts never fails to put together a great story, and this book is no exception. At a time when we have so little, "Hot Ice" has it all: adventure, history, mystery, and romance. Enjoy!

**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND**

**North Dakota State Library
Talking Books
604 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0800**

DISCOVERY

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WINTER 2021

THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

Donations and Memorials given to Talking Books

Janet Bartz in memory of Debbie Skow
Sandra Sauls in memory of Debbie Skow
Robert L. Arneson in memory of Debbie Skow
Charles & Mavis Olson in memory of Charles T. Olson
Doug & Kathy Sitzler in memory of Alfred Anderson
Randall & Deborah Anderson in memory of Alfred Anderson
Laverne Lottes in memory of Doris Ritz
Alan & Jill Ritz in memory of Doris Ritz
Jennifer Turnbow in memory of Doris Ritz
Dennis Johnson in memory of Doris Ritz
Anna Anderson in memory of Doris Ritz

**TALKING BOOK
CLOSURE DATES**

April 2
May 31
July 5
September 6
November 11
November 25
December 24