

For Your Ears Only Spring 2007

Already it is time for the Spring issue of **For your ears only**, how time flies. As usual it has been a pleasure to research and produce the articles and we hope that you find them enjoyable, informative and useful when you are selecting the books you wish to read. If you have any suggestions for future articles we would love to hear from you.

We have enclosed an order form which you can use, if you wish, to add any of the books mentioned in this edition to your reading list. You can also telephone us or e-mail us with the numbers of the books you would like.

For your ears only is available in large print, on cassette, on MP3 disk, by e-mail or on our website, www.calibre.org.uk

Happy reading from the Editorial Team

Christine Ronaldson, Linda Downey & Elizabeth Twining

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Tudors and Stuarts

At Calibre, we know that many of our members have a huge interest in historical times and the people of history. As we have a large number of history books and historical biographies, I thought it would be interesting to look at some of the books in these categories, concentrating on a particular time frame, namely the reigns of the Tudor and Stuart monarchs, and the Commonwealth.

In 1485, Henry Tudor, the Lancastrian claimant brought to an end the Wars of the Roses when he won the battle of Bosworth. To further secure his throne Henry VII married Elizabeth of York. Throughout his reign he strengthened the power of the monarchy, increased royal revenues and created a strong dynasty.

Over the next two centuries, under subsequent Tudor and Stuart sovereigns, the country saw enormous changes in cultural, political and social life. It experienced changes of official religion, from Catholicism to Protestantism under Henry VIII, and back again under his daughter, Mary I. Elizabeth I followed her parents' Protestant form of worship, but throughout her reign, and later in Stuart times, there were various plots in favour of Roman Catholicism.

Because of religious debate and radical politics, Charles I eventually fought a civil war with his Parliament, and was executed in 1649. Oliver Cromwell became head of state, but the Commonwealth lasted for only eleven years before the monarchy was restored in 1660. During the reign of Charles II London suffered two devastating events, the Great Plague and the Great Fire.

Charles II was succeeded by his brother James II, but James' Catholic leanings were regarded suspiciously and after a very short time he was deposed in the Glorious Revolution by his daughters, Mary and his son-in-law, William of Orange. They ruled as joint sovereigns, and were succeeded by the last Stuart queen, Anne.

6158 BASTARD PRINCE: Henry VIII's lost son
by Beverley Murphy

For a great part of his reign Henry VIII was concerned to produce a legitimate male heir, yet for much of this time he had a son, albeit illegitimate. Henry Fitzroy was born in 1519 and became the Duke of Richmond and Somerset in 1525. Educated as a Renaissance prince, how close did he get to becoming Henry IX?

6615 BY PERMISSION OF HEAVEN
MP3 by Adrian Tinniswood

The Great Fire of London is a key moment in English history. Adrian Tinniswood looked at the fire and its consequences, and has produced a highly readable re-creation of what happened to the people when the streets of London ran with fire.

4662 CHARLES II: His Life and Times
MP3 by Antonia Fraser

An abridged version of the author's biographical portrait of Charles II - popular with his people and in control of his country when he died.

1673 CROMWELL: OUR CHIEF OF MEN
by Antonia Fraser

A favourable look at the life of Cromwell by the renowned historical biographer.

6002 THE DREADFUL JUDGEMENT

MP3 by Neil Hanson

On September 2nd 1666 London was destroyed by the Great Fire. This is a vividly written, historical detective story using modern forensics and investigative techniques to explain the events of 1666.

4656 THE GUNPOWDER PLOT

MP3 by Antonia Fraser

The author untangles the intricate relationship between religion and politics in the early 17th century. The drama of the plot reads like a gripping detective story. Gruesome descriptions of torture.

6286 HIS INVENTION SO FERTILE

MP3 by Adrian Tinniswood

Although he was the greatest architect Britain has ever known, Sir Christopher Wren was much more than that. A founder member of the Royal Society, with his interest in scientific thought he made a vital contribution to the work of Halley, Newton and Boyle. This book explores the great man, and the times he lived in.

4371 THE JOHN TRADESCANTS

by Prudence Leith-Ross

In the 16th and 17th centuries John Tradescant and his son created some of the most famous gardens in England and introduced many new plants.

764 KING JAMES VI OF SCOTLAND, I OF ENGLAND

by Antonia Fraser

A short, readable and sympathetic biography of the first Stuart King of England.

4193 THE KING'S PEACE

by C V Wedgwood

Four uneasy years that exploded into civil war in 1641 and the execution of Charles 1.

4223 THE KING'S WAR
by C V Wedgwood

An interesting and very readable account of the Civil War from 1641- 47 to the capture of Charles 1.

5140 THE LIFE OF THOMAS MORE
MP3 Peter Ackroyd

A fascinating portrait of the Lord Chancellor who dominated the court of Henry VIII, but lost his life because of his Roman Catholic faith.

6033 THE MARLBOROUGHS
MP3 by Christopher Hibbert

An entertaining biography of John and Sarah Churchill, the First Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. He became the greatest military commander of his generation, whilst she was a confidante of Queen Anne.

3979 MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS
by Antonia Fraser

The intrigue and turbulence of Mary Queen of Scots' reign.

6180 SAMUEL PEPYS
by Claire Tomalin

The 2003 winner of the Whitbread Book of the Year Prize, this is a magnificent and readable biography of Samuel Pepys.

6008 SAMURAI WILLIAM
MP3 by Giles Milton

In 1611 an English Mariner wrote a letter to London's merchants revealing his life in Japan for over a decade. Although James I dismissed this as a lie, seven men were sent to find William Adams. When they arrived they were amazed by his life and influence in Japanese society.

5418 SIR FRANCIS DRAKE: THE QUEEN'S PIRATE
by Harry Kelsey

The author paints a fascinating picture of Drake as an amoral privateer more interested in lining his pockets with Spanish booty than forwarding the political goals of Elizabeth I.

5917 SISTERS TO THE KING
by Maria Perry

The fascinating lives of Margaret Tudor, Queen of Scotland and Mary Tudor, Queen of France, both sisters of Henry VIII.

3814 THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII
by Antonia Fraser

A dramatic and enthralling story of rivalry and jealousy.

4306 THE TRIAL OF CHARLES I
MP3 by C V Wedgwood

Sequel to: 'The King's Peace' (4193). The trial and execution of King Charles 1 contain all the elements of an exciting and moving story.

6728 UNGRATEFUL DAUGHTERS
by Maureen Waller

As James II increasingly favoured Catholicism he alienated the country and his staunchly Protestant daughters, Mary and Anne. In 1688 the birth of the Prince of Wales started a family quarrel and a revolution as Mary and Anne, the 'ungrateful daughters', usurped their father's crown and stole their brother's birthright.

3259 THE VIRGIN QUEEN
by Christopher Hibbert

Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I and her court.

6622 THE WINDING STAIR
by Daphne Du Maurier

Francis Bacon was an obscure but ambitious lawyer. He became Solicitor-General and rapidly rose to the office of Lord Chamberlain, whilst writing a stream of books that would influence later generations of scientists and thinkers. His time of influence was short lived as he was stripped of office after being accused of corruption.

Some of you may prefer to read your history as fiction and we also have a number of historical novels in the library covering the reigns of the Tudors and the Stuarts. Here are just a few suggestions of my own favourites.

AFTER MARY	by Katherine Mahon	6074
THE DESPERATE REMEDY	by Martin Stephen	6204
DISSOLUTION	by CJ Sansom	6664
THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL	by Philippa Gregory	5982
GREEN DARKNESS	by Anya Seton	6686
THE GROVE OF EAGLES	by Graham Winston	5769
THE KING'S GENERAL	by Daphne du Maurier	4503
A PARCEL OF PATTERNS	by Jill Paton Walsh	5006
THE QUEEN'S FAVOURITES	by Jean Plaidy	5604
YEAR OF WONDERS	by Geraldine Brooks	6194

Christine Ronaldson

The Art of Deduction

In the library at Calibre we have several hundred books in the popular Detective and Mystery category. In an earlier edition of For Your Ears Only we did an article called 'The Detectives' featuring the employees of various police departments. In this edition we have decided to highlight those stalwarts of detective fiction, the amateur sleuths.

At all levels of society murders and other dastardly crimes are committed, and frequently the police seem to have difficulty apprehending the criminal. To the rescue come the amateur sleuths, some might even call them Nosey Parkers, but all somehow manage to solve the case before the police.

They come from all walks of life from Peers of the Realm to priests. Actors, authors, journalists, barristers, spinsters, the recently retired and even a cat have all solved crimes. Some, like **Miss Marple**, have become household names, whilst others are less well known, but just as successful. We will start with **Miss Marple**, the creation of **Agatha Christie**, an elderly spinster from the village of St Mary Mead. Whether she is participating in village life, or staying with her numerous friends and acquaintances, it is not long before she is called upon to solve the odd mystery or two.

CARIBBEAN MYSTERY	2182
AT BERTRAM'S HOTEL	4390

Agatha Raisin, created by **MC Beaton**, is another spinster who suddenly finds herself with a crime on her hands, but she is very different from Miss Marple. She too lives in a rural village, but she chose to move to the Cotswolds when she retired as the head of a PR agency in London. Village life is not quite what the opinionated Agatha expected, and she is soon bored and looking for a diversion, but when a sudden nasty death is considered an accident, she is suspicious and is determined to find out the exact cause.

AGATHA RAISIN AND THE QUICHE OF DEATH	6243
AGATHA RAISIN AND THE POTTED GARDENER	6697

Carole Seddon an ex-civil servant has chosen to retire to Fethering, on the Sussex Coast. An independent but reserved lady, she had looked forward to blending into the background in her new home. But she had not reckoned on her new neighbour, the outgoing Jude. When Carole discovers a body on the beach, which then disappears, her curiosity is aroused, and with Jude's encouragement she is soon trying to solve the riddle of the death, just the first of their joint investigations. Carole Seddon is the creation of **Simon Brett**.

THE BODY ON THE BEACH	5466
THE TORSO ON THE BEACH	6093

One of Simon Brett's earlier characters is actor **Charles Parris**, who is frequently called upon to solve the odd mystery in the theatre. In fact he probably spends as much time sleuthing as acting.

CORPORATE BODIES	3382
SICKEN AND SO DIE	4471

The aristocracy, even a Prince of Wales, are often portrayed as crime solvers. The most famous of these is **Lord Peter Wimsey**, the debonair amateur sleuth from the pen of **Dorothy L Sayers**, who features in many of her novels.

HAVE HIS CARCASE	5435
IN THE TEETH OF THE EVIDENCE	2457

Peter Lovesey writes detective fiction featuring a variety of characters, but in several of his books the main character is **Bertie**, the Prince of Wales, who fancies himself as a detective.

BERTIE AND THE TINMAN	3079
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More recently **David Roberts** has written a series of novels set in the 1930s featuring **Lord Edward Corinthe** and his friend Verity Brown. The pair find themselves solving crimes involving the rich and famous.

BONES OF THE BURIED	6271
HOLLOW CROWN	6220
SWEET POISON	5844

Baroness 'Jack' Troutbeck, by **Ruth Dudley Edwards**, has recently been awarded a peerage and elevated to the House of Lords. Even amongst the great and the good she finds evidence of crimes being committed. With the assistance of her friend Robert Amiss she sets about righting wrongs and catching criminals.

CARNAGE ON THE COMMITTEE	6996
TEN LORDS A-LEAPING	6389

Journalists are naturally driven to investigate situations around them hoping for a scoop, and often end up pursuing enquiries that lead to them solving crimes. **Philip Dryden**, created by **Jim Kelly**, was a top Fleet Street journalist. When his wife is left in a coma following an accident, he moves to a small weekly paper in Ely to be near her. With all the time he has he finds himself investigating crimes in the Fens.

THE WATERCLOCK	6968
FIRE BABY	7121

Another journalist caught up in crime detection is **Jim Qwilleran**, created by **Lilian Jackson Braun**. Qwilleran has a very unusual assistant, an aristocratic cat called Koko.

THE CAT WHO COULD READ BACKWARDS	6678
THE CAT WHO TAILED A THIEF	6684

This is a very small selection of the 'amateur detective' fiction available from Calibre. I hope you will enjoy trying to solve the crimes before these experts.

Christine Ronaldson

Recent additions to the library

X - Sex, Violence or Strong Language

Time - Maximum listening time

MP3- Also available on MP3

EU – Available in the European Union

UK – Only available in the UK

Fiction

General Fiction

6995 LADY'S MAID By Margaret Forster

MP3 BBC Audio Books 2005 Reader Carole Boyd

This is a fictionalised account of the love story between Robert and Elizabeth Browning. It is narrated by Elizabeth Wilson who was employed at Wimpole Street as a lady's maid.

Cassettes 16 Time 22hrs 30mins EU

6998 SLEEP, PALE SISTER By Joanne Harris

MP3 BBC Audio Books 2005 Reader Steven Pacey

Henry Chester, a domineering and puritanical Victorian artist, discovers the perfect model in nine-year-old Ellie. Ten years later they marry, but Ellie is being drawn into a dangerous underground world where she discovers Henry's secret past.

Cassettes 10 Time 13hrs 30mins EU

7001 THE ROTTER'S CLUB By Jonathan Coe

MP3 BBC Audio Books 2004 Reader Colin Buchanan

Set in the 1970s against a backdrop of terrorism and the downfall of 'Old Labour', three friends take over the editorship of their school magazine. A very funny look at this period through the eyes of teenagers.

Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

- 7005 THE VIRGIN BLUE** By Tracy Chevalier
 BBC Audio Books 2003 Reader Laurel Lefkow
 When Ella Turner moves to France, she has time on her hands. She decide to look into the history of her family, particularly the tragic life of Isabelle, who lived in the sixteenth century.
 Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU
- 7006 THE DOCTOR** By Tom Conti
 MP3 BBC Audio Books 2005 Reader Tom Conti
 Haunted by his past as a Special Operations Pilot, and by the tempestuous Francesca, Hal flees England. He begins a new life as a pilot with a flying doctor service in Africa. Once there he discovers that the past is not easy to shed.
 Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU
- 7007 THE HISTORY MAN** By Malcolm Bradbury
 BBC Audio Books 1975 Reader Paul Shelley
 Howard Kirk is a trendy, radical lecturer at Watermouth University. This book captures the complexities of academic life, and the very modern marriage of Howard and Barbara Kirk.
 Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU
- 7011 THE SHOOTING PARTY** By Isabel Colegate
 BBC Audio Books 2004 Reader Derek Jacobi
 In 1913 Sir Randolph Nettleby hosts a shooting party at his country estate. The guests create an opulent and decorative finale to the Edwardian era.
 Cassettes 8 Time 7hrs 0mins EU
- 7015 X TELLING ONLY LIES** By Jessica Mann
 BBC Audio Books 2004 Reader June Barrie
 Novelist Anne Medlicott made an accidental remark on a TV progamme about Nazi sympathisers in Britain and is now facing a libel suit. Forced out of the cosy cocoon of her life, Anne faces truths that are harsh and painful.
 Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7064 AN ACT OF PEACE **By Ann Widdecombe**

Weidenfeld & Nicolson 2005 **Reader Tony Lister**

Sequel to 'An Act of Treachery' (6366). Klaus-Pierre, the love child of a French woman and a German officer, lives with hostility from his French family. When his father's family learn of his existence he goes to live in Germany, where he is loved and happy. Eventually he tries to make his own peace with his French family.

Cassettes 9

Time 12hrs 45mins

EU

7065 A LONG WAY DOWN **By Nick Hornby**

Viking 2005

Reader Richard Ratcliffe

On New Year's Eve at Toppers' House, London's most popular suicide spot, four strangers realise that this will not be the private, final act they had imagined. They start to talk, but can an evening with other 'losers', and pizza, see them through the long dark night?

Cassettes 10

Time 9hrs 30mins

EU

7066 THE RESCUE **By Nicholas Sparks**

Time Warner 2006

Reader Pauline Beale

Volunteer fireman, Taylor McAden, always takes the most terrifying risks to save a life. When a storm hits town a young woman's car skids off the road, and Taylor rescues her. He soon realises that her son is missing from the car, and as they search for four-year-old Kyle, Denise and Taylor become very close.

Cassettes 8

Time 10hrs 45mins

EU

7067 X ANGELS AND MEN **By Catherine Fox**

Penguin 1997

Reader Brenda Usherwood

Mara, with her twin sister Hester, was involved with a sinister sect, and needing to recover from this, she tries to keep herself aloof from other people. But she had not reckoned on the allure of her fellow students, and with their interest she is slowly able to confront her demons.

Cassettes 11

Time 15hrs 15mins

EU

7069 SOPHIE'S BAKERY FOR THE BROKEN HEARTED

By Lolly Winston

Arrow 2005

Reader Patricia Knight-Webb

When 36-year-old Sophie Stanton's husband dies, she wants to be a graceful, composed widow - instead she is more of a Jack Daniels kind. When she falls apart, she loses her job and her waistline. She moves to Oregon where she opens a fabulous bakery, but will she ever be able to fall in love again.

Cassettes 9

Time 13hrs 15mins

EU

7070 PLANT LIFE

By Pamela Duncan

Piatkus 2004

Reader Maureen Marshall

Laurel Granger is returning to Russell, North Carolina, for her annual visit. Normally she dreads these visits, but as her marriage disintegrates she realises that the town she thought of as a stifling place is, in reality, a safe haven, where a group of extraordinary women have things to teach her.

Cassettes 9

Time 13hrs 15mins

EU

7073 X ONE-HIT WONDER

By Lisa Jewell

Penguin 2001

Reader Rosemary Cross

Bee Bearhorn had one hit single in 1985. Fifteen years later she was found dead, and her young half-sister had to clear out her flat. Ana slowly begins to unravel Bee's life, and sets out to discover what exactly happened to the one-hit wonder.

Cassettes 9

Time 13hrs 30mins

EU

7075 TRUE BELIEVER

By Nicholas Sparks

Time Warner 2005

Reader Tony Lister

Science journalist, Jeremy Marsh, wants to find the real reasons for mysterious lights over a cemetery in North Carolina. Always a sceptical man, he begins to realise that science can only go so far in providing answers, especially in understanding the mysteries of the human heart.

Cassettes 8

Time 11hrs 30mins

EU

7078 PRODIGAL SUMMER By Barbara Kingsolver

Faber 2000

Reader Jeanne Partridge

Through a long humid summer, the lives of two women slowly change. Deanna Wolfe, a reclusive wildlife expert is caught off guard when a young hunter arrives at her mountain cabin. Meanwhile, lower down the mountain, a young widow, Lusa Landowski, decides to continue working her husband's farm in the face of opposition from her in-laws.

Cassettes 13

Time 18hrs 5mins

EU

7081 THE DISTANT LAND OF MY FATHER By Bo Caldwell

Arrow 2003

Reader Dorrie Oliver

Anna had a magical childhood in Shanghai as the daughter of an expatriate millionaire in the 1930s. With war looming Anna and her mother return to California, but Joseph stayed believing, mistakenly, that his connections would keep him safe. Anna grows up without her father, but many years later Joseph suddenly re-appears.

Cassettes 10

Time 13hrs 45mins

EU

7098 THE ONE YOU REALLY WANT By Jill Mansell

Headline 2005

Reader Pat Steadman

Nancy is very disappointed when she realises that her husband has bought her a red lawn mower for Christmas - so who got the diamonds she was expecting? Nancy's friend, Carmen, is not surprised, and persuades her to move to London. Once there she meets Connor, but can he ever be her type?

Cassettes 12

Time 17hrs 45mins

EU

7120 THE RINGMASTER'S DAUGHTER By Jostein Gaarder

Phoenix 2003

Reader Tony Lister

Petter, a precocious child and fantasist grows up to be a storyteller of disturbing mischief. He makes his living selling stories and ideas to professional writers, but eventually finds himself in a trap of his own making.

Cassettes 9

Time 8hrs 30mins

EU

7130 ITALIAN FEVER By Valerie Martin
Phoenix 2005 Reader Nicola Down
New Yorker Lucy Stark works for a best-selling, but untalented, author. When he dies at a villa in Tuscany, Lucy travels to Italy to settle his affairs. There she experiences secrets, mysteries, and even romance.
Cassettes 9 Time 8hrs 15mins EU

7235 THE GREATEST MAN IN CEDAR HOLE
By Stephanie Doyon
Clipper Audio Books 2006 Reader Jeff Woodman
Cedar Hole is a non-descript town, and its inhabitants a hopeless and lethargic bunch. A young cheerful boy, Robert J Cutler, goes against the norm, and seems to be heading for great things - certainly more than his town can offer him.
Cassettes 10 Time 18hrs 0mins EU

7236 QUEEN OF THE BIG TIME By Adriana Trigiani
Clipper Audio Books 2005 Reader Ruth A Phimister
Roseta, Pennsylvania, is populated by a group of Italians who emigrated en masse from a village near Bari in the late 1800s. The residents re-created their former lives in their new country. Farmer's daughter, Nella, aspires to a genteel town life, until she meets the poet Renato Lanzara.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7237 THE AMATEUR MARRIAGE By Anne Tyler
Clipper Audio Books 2004 Reader Liza Ross
Michael and Pauline seem like the perfect couple - he was smitten the first time he saw her in Baltimore. In the heat of the moment, in World War II, they were hastily wed. But perhaps they should never have married.
Cassettes 11 Time 15hrs 0mins EU

7238 GOODNIGHT NOBODY By Jennifer Weiner
Clipper Audio Books 2006 Reader Johanna Parker
Kate finds life in suburbia distinctly underwhelming. When a local superwoman is found dead at home, Kate and her friend, Janie, launch a murder investigation. Soon, having been drawn into the dead woman's double life, they realise that suburbia is not so ordinary after all.
Cassettes 9 Time 12hrs 0mins EU

Classic Fiction

7273 THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK By Alexandre Dumas
New Millenium 2001 Reader Christopher Cazenove
The final adventure of the famous Muskateers, but now they are on different sides in a power struggle that may undermine the young Louis XIV. Who is the prisoner in the iron mask, and why has he been in the Bastille for eighteen years?
Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

Contemporary Fiction

7092 A SHORT HISTORY OF TRACTORS IN UKRAINIAN
By Marina Lewyckha
MP3 BBC Audio Books 2006 Reader Sian Thomas
Vera has been brought up in Britain, but her parents were refugees from the Ukraine. Since her mother's death her eighty-year-old father has been keen to support fellow Ukrainians. He marries a young, brassy immigrant who is determined to be kept in the luxury she craves!
Cassettes 8 Time 7hrs 0mins EU

7109 THE TYRANT'S NOVEL By Thomas Keneally
Sceptre 2004 Reader Andrew Burt

In a Middle Eastern country ruled by a dictator, lives a successful writer and war veteran. Personal tragedy causes him to catch the eye of Great Uncle. Suddenly forced to choose between endangering his friends and sacrificing his integrity or death, he flees the country to become an unwelcome asylum seeker.

Cassettes 9 Time 8hrs 15mins EU

7265 JACKSON'S DILEMMA By Iris Murdoch
New Millenium 2002 Reader Juliet Mills

A mysterious and charismatic English butler derails the marriage of his employer, a young aristocrat, in this psychological drama.

Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7269 GOOD APPRENTICE, THE By Iris Murdoch
New Millenium 2003 Reader Christopher Cazenove

Edward Baltram's nasty little prank has gone tragically wrong, and his friend has fallen to his death. Overwhelmed with guilt, Edward seeks redemption via a reunion with his famous father, reclusive artist Jesse Baltram.

Cassettes 14 Time 19hrs 30mins EU

Detective & Mystery Stories

6996 CARNAGE ON THE COMMITTEE
By Ruth Dudley Edwards

MP3 BBC Audio Books 2004 Reader Bill Wallis
When the chairperson of a prestigious literary prize dies suspiciously, fellow judge Robert Amiss summons Baroness 'Jack' Troutbeck to step into the breach. Whilst the judges continue cutting down the short-list, the killer is cutting down the judging panel, but Jack Troutbeck saves the day.

Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

- 7000 CHAPTER AND HEARSE** **By Catherine Aird**
MP3 BBC Audio Books 2004 **Reader Bruce Montague**
A collection of short mystery stories, some featuring Detective Inspector Sloan, whilst others feature Malcolm Venables of the Secret Service.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU
- 7008 DIAMOND DUST** **By Peter Lovesey**
BBC Audio Books 2002 **Reader Steve Hodson**
At the end of a successful court case, DI Peter Diamond is keen to take on another case. When a body is discovered in a park in Bath, he dashes there to take on the case, only to find that the victim is his beloved wife, Steph!
Cassettes 10 Time 13hrs 30mins EU
- 7009 FREAKY DEAKY** **By Elmore Leonard**
BBC Audio Books 1988 **Reader Peter Whitman**
Ex-revolutionaries Robin Abbott and Skip Gibb have been released from prison, and are after Woody Ricks, convinced that he shopped them to the FEDs. Motown cop Chris Mankowski now has his hands full trying to keep Ricks, a dope-addled rich kid, from being blown up by Abbott and Gibb.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU
- 7010 MAXIMUM BOB** **By Elmore Leonard**
BBC Audio Books 1991 **Reader Peter Whitman**
Palm Beach County Judge Bob Giggs enjoys sending offenders away to do hard time, and there are a large number of ex-cons who would like to see him dead. Kathy Baker, a probation officer now representing some of Maximum Bob's clients, is determined to keep him alive.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

- 7016 THE LAST DANCE** By Ed McBain
 BBC Audio Books 2000 Reader Garrick Hagon
 Suicide is suspected after a man is found hanging, but when detectives from the 87th precinct discover that he was drugged and unconscious, they realise that he could not have hung himself. The investigation takes them into the politics and passion of creating a musical stage show.
 Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU
- 7017 SO LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE** By Ed McBain
 BBC Audio Books 2001 Reader Garrick Hogan
 The 87th precinct had been celebrating the marriage of Detective Kling, but not for long! As soon as the reception was over the bride was snatched from the honeymoon suite!
 Cassettes 4 Time 4hrs 30mins EU
- 7018 AGATHA RAISIN AND THE VICIOUS VET**
 By M C Beaton
 BBC Audio Books 2002 Reader Diana Bishop
 Agatha Raisin has convinced herself that the new village vet is attracted to her, but before romance can blossom he accidentally kills himself! Once more she is forced to be chummier with her neighbour, James Lacey, as they work together to solve the mystery of the vet's death.
 Cassettes 4 Time 4hrs 30mins EU
- 7063 DEADLY DECISIONS** By Kathy Reichs
 Heinemann 2000 Reader Patricia Knight-Webb
 Violence spills onto the streets of Montreal and a nine-year-old girl is killed in crossfire between rival biker gangs. As Dr Temperence Brennan examines this, and an associated murder, she begins a perilous investigation into a lawless underworld of organised crime.
 Cassettes 9 Time 12hrs 30mins EU

7082 A PRESUMPTION OF DEATH

By Dorothy L Sayers & Jill Paton Walsh

MP3 BBC Audio Books 2003 Reader Edward Petherbridge

During the 1940's Blitz in London, Lord Peter Wimsey is conducting secret business for the Foreign Office. Meanwhile, in the country, Harriet is shocked by the murder of a young Land Girl.

Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7264 FAREWELL MY LOVELY By Raymond Chandler

New Millenium 2002 Reader Elliott Gould

Moose Molloy is a giant of a man, and after eight years in the Pen he wants little Velma back, and no cops or mobsters will stand in his way. Philip Marlow, private investigator, realises that there has never been a happy ending in the story of beauty and the beast!

Cassettes 5 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

Historical Fiction

7076 THE CONSCIENCE OF THE KING By Martin Stephen

Little, Brown 2003 Reader Terrence Hardiman

Gentleman spy Henry Gresham is called to the deathbed of his archenemy, Robert Cecil, and given the task of retrieving letters that could be used against the King. Little does he realise that he is being set up, as live bait, to draw out a madman determined to destroy James I.

Cassettes 8 Time 12hrs 0mins EU

7205 DAUGHTER OF THE GAME By Tracy Grant

Headline 2003 Reader Brenda Usherwood

In 1819, when their six-year-old son disappears, Charles and Melanie Fraser's perfect aristocratic life falls apart. In a desperate race to save Colin, they enter London's underworld, where they discover that deception and betrayal come more easily than truth and fidelity.

Cassettes 10 Time 15hrs 0mins EU

Humorous Fiction

- 7152 THE TAILOR AND ANSTY** By Eric Cross
Mercier Press 1942 Reader Paul Connell
All of human life is in this book - marriages, inquests, matchmaking and wakes - and observing all these events are the tailor, his wife and their black cow.
Cassettes 10 Time 9hrs 15mins EU

Love Stories

- 7002 X PS, I LOVE YOU** By Cecelia Ahern
MP3 BBC Audio Books 2005 Reader Caroline Lennon
Holly and Gerry have always joked that she would never cope without him, so when Gerry dies of a brain tumour, Holly's world falls apart. Then she finds a package from Gerry, with a letter and a pile of envelopes to help her.
Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

- 7266 MOUNT VERNON LOVE STORY**
By Mary Higgins Clark
Audioworks Books 2002 Reader Linda Emond
When George Washington stepped down as the President of the newly created United States of America, he returned, with his wife Martha, to their Mount Vernon home. Here the couple renewed the feelings and emotions of the early years of their marriage.
Cassettes 4 Time 4hrs 30mins EU

Science Fiction

- 7268 THE SALMON OF DOUBT** By Douglas Adams
New Millenium 2002 Reader Stephen Fry, et al.
This last hitch-hike through the galaxy is the third novel about holistic detective Dirk Gently. The book also contains several non-fiction pieces by Douglas Adams.
Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7272 DIRK GENTLEY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY

By Douglas Adams

New Millenium 2001

Reader Douglas Adams

Dirk Gently is the sole investigator of a detective agency that exploits the interconnectedness of everything to solve a case, and he is staggeringly successful at finding the truth. In this book he travels the universe to find a cat, to solve a murder and to save the human race.

Cassettes 4

Time 4hrs 30mins

EU

Short Stories & Anthologies

6999 THE COLLECTED STORIES OF ANGELA HUTH

By Angela Huth

MP3 BBC Audio Books 2005

Reader Joanna David

Angela Huth is a respected novelist, but she is also a master of the short story. This collection spans twenty-five years of writing and includes some of the best pieces from her previous collection along with new pieces.

Cassettes 12

Time 16hrs 30mins

EU

Thrillers

7003 DEEP BLACK

By Andy McNab

MP3 BBC Audio Books 2005

Reader Clive Mantle

Nick Stone has lost the only person he has ever loved, and his future seems bleak. He is offered a second chance with a visit to Baghdad. He soon realises that second chances don't exist and that he is being used as bait.

Cassettes 10

Time 13hrs 30mins

EU

7013 ROYAL FLUSH By Linda La Plante
BBC Audio Books 2002 Reader Sean Barrett

'The Colonel' was rumoured to be the mastermind behind many successful robberies for the last forty years. Edward de Jersey is a wealthy man, whose pride is his stud farm. When he faces financial ruin he resurrects his criminal past, and uses the Internet to put together a team of experts to pull off an audacious heist.

Cassettes 14 Time 19hrs 30mins EU

7014 X SLEEPING CRUELTY By Linda La Plante
BBC Audio Books 2000 Reader Christian Rodska

A wealthy entrepreneur suddenly finds himself at the centre of a political scandal. With his reputation in tatters, and shunned by his so-called friends, he determines to take his revenge on these fickle socialites.

Cassettes 10 Time 13hrs 30mins EU

7101 THE GEOGRAPHER'S LIBRARY By Jon Fasman
Hamish Hamilton 2005 Reader Richard Ratcliffe

An Estonian history professor is found dead in a quiet Connecticut town. Paul Tomm, a young reporter, struggles to come up with any facts for the man's obituary. As he digs into the professor's strange life he realises that someone is trying to prevent his search.

Cassettes 10 Time 14hrs 0mins EU

7119 THE OXFORD MURDERS By Guillermo Martinez
Abacus 2005 Reader Tony Lister

A young South American mathematician, newly arrived in Oxford, had barely met his elderly landlady, when she was murdered in her wheelchair. This was the first in a series of murders inspired by a book by philosopher Arthur Seldom. Our hero uses a mathematical theorem to try to solve the mystery.

Cassettes 6 Time 6hrs 0mins EU

7271 DRINK WITH THE DEVIL By Jack Higgins
New Millenium 2002 Reader Patrick Macnee
A dangerous IRA prisoner has escaped from a top-security US prison. His presence threatens the latest peace process, and only one man, Sean Dillon, has the expertise to avert disaster.
Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

Twentieth Century Classics

7012 TENDER IS THE NIGHT By F Scott Fitzgerald
BBC Audio Books 1991 Reader Peter Marinker
From the First World War, the French Riviera was a popular haunt for rich Americans. The most fashionable people are Dick and Nicole Divers who hold court at their villa. When Rosemary Hoyt enters their circle, she blows apart the delicate structure of their marriage.
Cassettes 10 Time 13hrs 30mins EU

Non-fiction

Biography & Autobiography - General

7099 KNOW THE TRUTH: A MEMOIR By George Carey
HarperCollins 2004 Reader Michael St. John
This candid memoir marks the first time in history that an Archbishop of Canterbury has written an autobiography. From a childhood in Dagenham to Lambeth Palace, he examines his journey, as one of the few in his generation to break through social and wealth barriers and gain senior public office.
Cassettes 18 Time 26hrs 15mins EU

7116 THE VANISHED LANDSCAPE By Paul Johnson
Phoenix 2005 Reader Jim Swingler
Historian Paul Johnson grew up in the Potteries in the 1930s. Here he describes his free and un-supervised childhood, and the strange beauty of the industrial landscape around Stoke-on-Trent.
Cassettes 8 Time 8hrs 0mins EU

Biography & Autobiography - Historical

7071 DISCOVERING DOROTHEA By Karolyn Shindler
HarperCollins 2005 **Reader Nicola Down**

In 1898, Dorothea Bate, a nineteen-year-old girl, marched up to the Natural History Museum and demanded a job. This was the start of her association with the museum that was to last over fifty years. In the 1900s she explored Crete and Cyprus, becoming an internationally acclaimed palaeontologist.

Cassettes 10 Time 14hrs 45mins EU

7074 CATHERINE DE MEDICI: A BIOGRAPHY

By Leonie Frieda
Weidenfeld 2004 **Reader Michael St. John**

Born to a leading Italian family, Catherine de Medici became one of the most important figures in European history. Married to Henri II of France, she also saw three of her sons wear the Crown of France. Unloved by her husband, and ever jealous of his mistress, Diane de Poitiers, this is a story of politics, passion, hatred and vengeance.

Cassettes 21 Time 31hrs 0mins EU

History - General Social History

7072 THE THREE RECTORIES By Constance Lane
Phillimore 2004 **Reader Stephanie Joy**

A remarkable account of three related rectories during the period of power and prestige of the Established Church in Victorian times. It provides authentic descriptions of the evolution of religious and secular society from the 1840s to the 1940s.

Cassettes 8 Time 7hrs 15mins EU

Poetry

6838 **NOW WE SEE THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY**

By Vie Tulloch

Ardminish Press 2003

Reader Catriona Tulloch

A collection of poetry from a writer who has lost her sight.

Boxed with 'Chaucer- Brief Lives' (6837) see *Biography – Arts, Music, Literature*

Cassettes 2

Time 1hrs 30mins

EU

Travel - World

7100 **A WRITER'S WORLD**

By Jan Morris

Faber 2003

Reader Jill Hetherington

In this collection of her travel writing, Jan Morris has produced a unique portrait of the twentieth century. It encompasses everything from the first ascent of Everest to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Cassettes 18

Time 27hrs 0mins

EU

You can order these books with the enclosed order form