

For Your Ears Only Winter 2007

Welcome to the tenth edition of **For your ears only**. We hope that you will find plenty of titles suggested here that you may wish to read through the gloomy winter months.

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 CD, 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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Sheer Indulgence

In previous issues of **For your ears only** I have had to beg, cajole, even bully my colleagues into telling me their ten favourite books. This time I decided to list my own, but I couldn't stop at ten, hence the title. I have indulged myself and created a list of books some of you may be tempted to read.

The first three books are relatively recent titles and have a common theme running through them – immigration. For centuries waves of people have settled in Britain, and this is particularly true since the Second World War. All three books show what life is like for new arrivals to this country. The first of these is **Brick Lane**, which examines the world of the Bangladeshi community in London. It features Nazreen, an 18-year old bride, brought to Britain from a small village when she married a middle-aged man, Chanu, in the 1980s. For many years she accepted her role as a traditional wife, but as the new millennium looms she starts to question her place in society.

BRICK LANE **Monica Ali** **6481**

The second title is **Small Island**, and looks at the arrival, in Britain, of citizens from Jamaica in the early 1950s. Gilbert Joseph had served in the RAF during the war, where he was treated with dignity and equality. After the war he decided to return to the UK, bringing with him his new wife, Hortense. Like many residents of Jamaica, Gilbert and Hortense were proud to be part of the British Empire, and expected to be able to work and make a good life in the 'Mother Country'. Instead they were met with prejudice and suspicion from their new neighbours. Their experiences were shared by many of the Windrush immigrants.

SMALL ISLAND **Andrea Levy** **6824**

Next we have a very funny and moving novel, **A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian**, looking at the experiences of migrants from Europe. After the war many East Europeans who had fought with the Allies against Germany were unable, or unwilling, to return to their former lives. Marina Lewychnka was brought up in England by Ukrainian parents. Her family quietly slotted into British life in the 1950s, whilst retaining links with their own culture. Today, with the widening of the European Union we are again seeing an influx of European migrants. The author fictionalises her own family's experiences in this novel.

A SHORT HISTORY OF TRACTORS IN UKRAINIAN

Marina Lewychnka 7092

Also experiencing Britain during the austere post-war years were the characters of **Future Homemakers of America**. Five young wives meet on an American airbase in East Anglia and soon become pals. On one of their expeditions off base they meet a local woman, Kath. The differences in their lifestyles, and their expectations are huge, but a strong friendship develops between these six women that will see them through the next forty years. This book made me laugh and cry.

THE FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA

Laurie Graham 6229

An American author I enjoy very much is Fannie Flagg, whose books look at the darker side of life in small town America.

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café, was made into a wonderful film and deals with racial segregation.

Welcome to the World Baby Girl, continues this theme and the practice of passing, or pretending to be white. In the segregated Deep South people with just one non-white great-grandparent were considered black. Many, naturally, would look white, so they would 'pass', and live their lives as if they were white, a risky undertaking. In the book, set in the 1970s,

Baby Girl is now a successful television presenter in New York. She knows that there is a mystery concerned with her past and she goes back to her home to solve it. I enjoyed the simpler, homespun aspects of her home town, particularly the radio programme broadcast from a kitchen!

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, BABY GIRL Fannie Flagg 6601

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFÉ 6497

Another book I enjoyed is **The Persian Pickle Club**, again set in a small American town, where the local sewing circle has a new member, a good time girl from the city. She slowly learns the secret that binds the ladies together.

THE PERSIAN PICKLE CLUB Sandra Dallas 4643

Staying with the American theme are the novels by **Adriana Trigiani**. Whilst I enjoyed her books featuring the residents of Big Stone Gap, my favourite is **Lucia, Lucia**, which is set in New York in the 1950s. Lucia is the only daughter of an American-Italian family, and she wants to continue her career in dress design, even if this means disappointing her family, by staying single rather than becoming a good Italian wife and mother.

LUCIA, LUCIA Adriana Trigiani 6758

I couldn't create a list of favourite books without including a title by **Mary Wesley**, who led a very interesting life, and didn't have a book published until she was in her seventies. I love all her books; they are fun and ever so slightly naughty. My choice for this list is **Harnessing Peacocks**. Hebe finds herself pregnant, and her grandparents try to force her to have a termination – appalled, she runs away. She realises that her only talents are cooking and making love, both of which she uses to make a very good living for herself and her son!

HARNESSING PEACOCKS Mary Wesley 6310

I have enjoyed many of the books by **Mavis Cheek**, whose observations of modern life can be very amusing, and her female characters are very strong, especially Angela Fytton who appears in **Mrs Fytton's Country Life**. Angela was very clever and met her husband at university. She turned herself into the perfect wife, mother and business partner. When her husband dumps her for a new model, after the initial shock, she controls her anger and makes a plan. She sends her selfish teenagers to live with him, moves to the country – and waits. For she knows that eventually her husband will come back to her!

MRS FYTTON'S COUNTRY LIFE **Mavis Cheek** **5793**

I always enjoy a good detective novel, and one of my favourite writers is **Donna Leon** with her books about Commissario Brunetti set in Venice. The city is an integral part of the books, and Brunetti and his colleagues are to be found battling crime and corruption in this wonderful setting.

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES **Donna Leon** **5786**

Another detective I enjoy very much is Mme Ramotswe, who can be found in the novels by **Alexander McCall Smith**. A woman of traditional build, she is the first female private detective in Botswana. Her homespun wisdom is extremely useful when she is called upon to track down criminals and potential criminals.

THE NO.1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY
Alexander McCall Smith **6405**

After You'd Gone is the first novel by Maggie O'Farrell. The sad story of a young woman, Alice, told as she lies in a coma. Alice's husband has been killed in a terrorist bombing in London. Devastated, she decides to visit her family in Scotland, and as she visits the rest room at Waverley station she sees

something that causes her to dash back to London. Later that day she walks in front of a car on a busy street. What caused her flight back to London is slowly revealed through the book.

AFTER YOU'D GONE **Maggie O'Farrell** **6281**

Another mystery unfolds in **The Pilot's Wife**. Kathryn and Jack Lyons have been married for 16 years, he is her true love and she believes she knows all about him. One night, airline officials break the news that the plane Jack was piloting has exploded off Ireland. Kathryn's world is shattered, especially when the investigators believe that Jack may have been responsible. She has to know what happened and how Jack could have done such a thing.

THE PILOT'S WIFE **Anita Shreve** **5372**

I have always enjoyed a well-researched historical novel, and the current doyen of this field is **Philippa Gregory**. I took one of her books, **Earthly Joys**, away with me some years ago and started to read it on the flight home. I was so engrossed in the life of John Tradescant, gardener to the Cecil family and the Stewart Kings, that a thirteen-hour flight just disappeared.

EARTHLY JOYS **Philippa Gregory** **5547**

Joanne Harris is another favourite author of mine and I have enjoyed all her books, but my favourite is still the first one I read **Chocolat**. This was also made into a very successful film, and tells the story of Vianne Rocher and her daughter Anouk, who arrive in the village of Lansquenet-sous-Tannes and open a chocolate shop, to the distress of the parish priest, Father Reynaud.

CHOCOLAT **Joanne Harris** **5637**

You may be forgiven for thinking that I prefer books by female authors, so perhaps I should redress the balance a little. **The Hill Bachelors** by **William Trevor** is a collection of short stories, many of them set in Ireland. Trevor is obviously a master of the art of short story writing – with very few words he can paint a picture of the lives of ordinary people. A melancholy world, which captures the memories and desires of people who often have little control over their own lives, but a very rewarding read.

THE HILL BACHELORS **William Trevor** **5895**

Another book about Irish identity is **Grace Notes** by Bernard MacLaverty. The main protagonist, Catherine McKenna, is a Roman Catholic from Belfast. A musician and composer, she is desperate to pursue her art so leaves troubled Northern Ireland. When her father dies, she returns for the funeral, and is quickly reminded of her reasons for leaving. Not an easy, or a comfortable read, but I remember being awed that a man could write so movingly about very feminine issues, especially Catherine's slide into post-natal depression.

GRACE NOTES **Bernard MacLaverty** **4908 X**

At the time of writing there have been reports about the next book, **Atonement** by **Ian McEwan**, and just how much he relied upon the memoirs of a nurse in WWII – the jury is still out. This is a book that I cannot forget, yet didn't really enjoy. It is set in upper-middle class England of 1935, when thirteen-year-old Briony makes incorrect assumptions that will change lives, and haunt her forever. Whilst the tale is gripping, especially the wartime descriptions, the whole book hangs on Briony's actions. I find it inconceivable that in 1935 a thirteen-year-old child's word could have been allowed to wreck lives. Read it and decide for yourselves.

ATONEMENT **Ian McEwan** **6073**

The Prince of West End Avenue by **Alan Isler** is a book I read many years ago. It is set in a Jewish old people's home in New York. The residents, directed by Otto, are preparing to perform Hamlet, and their squabbles, bickering and child-like behaviour is very funny. But beyond their everyday lives they each have a story to tell, particularly Otto, who is haunted by decisions he took in Germany in the 1930s which resulted in tragedy.

THE PRINCE OF WEST END AVENUE Alan Isler 4581

Finally, **Father Frank**, by **Paul Burke** provides a little light relief. Frank Dempsey's A-level results were poor, grades D, E and O, so he couldn't go to his planned university. But amazingly, with grades spelling DEO, he got a place at Oxford to read theology. When he graduated he needed a job and thought the priesthood might be a good career choice! He becomes a model parish priest, but there is just one problem - he doesn't actually believe in God. This book is totally funny, with its wry dig at Catholicism, but it causes no offence. There is a sequel, which is almost as funny, and proves that one congregation's loss is another's gain!

FATHER FRANK Paul Burke 6030

THE MAN WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH HIS WIFE 6749

Christine Ronaldson

Good Intentions

With the start of the new year, many of us look at our health and well-being, our work, our homes and even our hobbies and resolve to do better in the future. Here are a few books that may help you with those good intentions.

3150 POSITIVE THINKING

by Vera Pfeiffer

How we can help ourselves in our daily lives by a more positive approach to others.

4893 FEEL THE FEAR AND DO IT ANYWAY

by Susan Jeffers

How to turn your fear and indecision into confidence and action.

5623 MEDITATION IS EASY

by Allica Greer

Meditation is as easy as breathing and this little book can help you gain calmness and serenity.

5828 I'M OK – YOU'RE OK

by Thomas A Harris

The use of Transactional Analysis has helped thousands of people approach their problems. This practical guide explains how to gain control of yourself, your relationships and your future!

6348 THE LITTLE BOOK OF PEACE

by Susan Jeffers

This is an inspirational little book filled with valuable insights to make you feel calmer and more in control of your life.

5610 SCENTED GARDEN

by Rosemary Very

The fragrance of flowers is one of life's pleasures and in this classic book the author shows how to create a scented garden of any size, from a window box to woodland acres.

6275 LED BY THE NOSE: A GARDEN OF SMELLS

by Jenny Joseph

A collection of prose and poetry inspired by the gardening year.

6931 A LITTLE HISTORY OF BRITISH GARDENING

by Jenny Uglow

Jenny Uglow has a love of gardens and plants, and she is curious about the evolution of gardens and gardening practices. Here she unpicks the history of British gardening from prehistoric times, in a light, pleasurable book.

7051 IN YOUR GARDEN: Spring and Summer

by Vita Sackville-West

A collection of gardening articles, first published in the Observer over fifty years ago.

7052 IN YOUR GARDEN: Autumn and Winter

by Vita Sackville-West

More practical gardening advice, along with lyrical descriptions of plants and gardens.

6209 TALKING DIRTY LAUNDRY

by Linda Cobb

Laundry no longer has to be a dreaded chore with this guide from the Queen of Clean. Stain removal, fabric softeners, line drying and so much more, whether you're washing family sized loads or taking your dirty laundry to the local launderette consult the Queen for no nonsense advice and great results.

Christine Ronaldson

Recent additions to library

X denotes - Sex, Violence or Strong Language

Time – Maximum listening time

MP3 – Also available on MP3 disc

EU – Available in the European Union

UK – Only available in the UK

Fiction

General Fiction

6819 THE MERMAID AND THE DRUNKS By Ben Richards

Phoenix 2004

Reader Derina Dinkin

Fresia Castillo and her family fled from Chile when she was a small child. Having lived since then in Britain, she returns to Chile after her father's death. There she meets Joe, with whom she will experience heartbreak and danger.

Cassettes 11

Time 10hrs 45mins EU

6944 THE SHADOW OF THE WIND By Carlos Ruiz Zafon

MP3 Isis Audio Books 2005

Reader Daniel Philpott

In 1945 ten-year-old Daniel's father introduces him to the work of a forgotten author, Julian Carax in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. He loves the book so much that, years later, he sets out to find more of Carax's work but someone is destroying every copy in existence and his book may be the last.

Cassettes 12

Time 16hrs 30mins EU

6955 THE MASTER BUTCHER'S SINGING CLUB

By Louise Erdrich

HarperCollins 2003

Reader Andrew Burt

Fidelis Waldvogel leaves Germany for America after the First World War to settle in North Dakota. There he establishes his business, raises a family and starts a singing club. But it is when he meets Delphine Watzka that the great adventure of Fidelis's life begins.

Cassettes 11

Time 16hrs 15mins EU

6956 X CASA ROSSA

Cape 2002

By Francesca Marciano

Reader Valerie Dodd

Casa Rossa, home of the Strada family is being sold, so Alina, a daughter of the family is packing up the house. As she does this she pieces together the family's past, and finds family secrets that collide with history.

Cassettes 11

Time 16hrs 15mins UK

6957 ANGELS CREST

Vintage 2005

By Leslie Schwartz

Reader Patricia Knight-Webb

On a crisp winter morning, Ethan takes his young son, Nate, on a trip to explore the woods. When parking, Ethan sees a huge deer, and as Nate is asleep, he takes a closer look alone. A few moments later he returns, but Nate has vanished. Ethan and his neighbours mount a frantic search for the three year old.

Cassettes 9

Time 13hrs 15mins EU

6958 X ADULTERY FOR BEGINNERS

Coronet 2004

By Sarah Duncan

Reader Rosemary Cross

Conflicting loyalties come to the fore when Isabel finds herself attracted to her new boss. As lust turns to love, and love to obsession the question is - can an adulterous wife be a good mother?

Cassettes 9

Time 13hrs 30mins EU

6960 SECOND SIGHT

Flamingo 2004

By Meg Henderson

Reader Maureen Marshall

Fifty years after Nancy's pilot son is shot down during World War II she is still unable to accept his death. Meanwhile in Glasgow, a young girl is puzzled by sightings of a pilot.

Cassettes 9

Time 13hrs 30mins EU

- 6964 RED DUST** **By Gillian Slovo**
 Virago Press 2004 **Reader Pauline Beale**
 In this gripping legal thriller, set in post-apartheid South Africa, the characters are forced to look at their past actions during a Truth Commission hearing.
 Cassettes 7 Time 10hrs 15mins EU
- 6970 KATIE COLMAN CROSSES THE WATER** **By Elizabeth Shorten**
 Coronet 1998 **Reader Margaret Threadgold**
 The lives of sisters Katie and Jemima couldn't be more different. Katie is settled with a reliable husband, lovely family and uneventful career, whilst Jemima backpacks around the world. After a tragedy, Katie inherits a guesthouse in Florida, while Jemima understands the charm of Katie's reliable husband.
 Cassettes 11 Time 15hrs 30mins UK
- 6972 A STUDENT OF WEATHER** **By Elizabeth Hay**
 Robinson 2004 **Reader Pat Steadman**
 Norma Joyce and Lucinda live on a farm in the dustbowl of Saskatchewan. Maurice, a young student, arrives to study the strange weather patterns of this area. Both girls fall in love, an obsession even for Norma, and this rivalry sets the stage for all that follows in the sisters' lives.
 Cassettes 10 Time 14hrs 15mins EU
- 6973 ANGRY HOUSEWIVES EATING BON BONS** **By Lorna Landvik**
 Bantam 2004 **Reader Grace Dives**
 In the 1960s the women of Freesia Court set up a book group called AHEB - Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons. Now, over forty years later, AHEB is still a lifeline to its five members, Faith, Audrey, Merit, Kari and Slip.
 Cassettes 11 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

6975 MRS MURPHY HIRES A CLEANER By Kath Kincaid
Hodder 2000 Reader Brenda Usherwood

Emily Murphy rattles around her large empty house in Liverpool, reflecting on the changes in her husband, her absent children and the loss of her looks. Mae McNulty her cleaner is very different, yet the two women form a strong friendship, and set in motion an hilarious train of events.

Cassettes 7 Time 10hrs 15mins EU

6980 THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB

By Karen Joy Fowler

MP3 BBC Audio 2005 Reader Bonnie Hurrant

The lives and loves of the six members of a book club which meets to discuss the novels of Jane Austen.

Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

6981 NEVER LET ME GO By Kazuo Ishiguro

MP3 BBC Audio 2005 Reader Emilia Fox

Kathy, Tommy and Ruth are all products of Hailsham House, a school where they are sheltered from the outside world and subjected to frequent medical checks. As the children grow and mature into adults the sinister purpose of Hailsham becomes apparent.

Cassettes 7 Time 9hrs 0mins EU

6984 THE CONSTANT GARDENER By John le Carre

MP3 BBC Audio 2001 Reader Michael Jayston

Tessa Quayle, the young and beautiful wife of a career diplomat has been murdered on the shores of Lake Turkana and her African friend and co-worker has disappeared. Her husband is determined to find out why Tessa was killed and who the murderers are.

Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

6991 THE FALL **By Simon Mawer**
MP3 BBC Audio 2003 **Reader Robert Glenister**
Rob and Jamie, both top climbers, grew up together but became estranged as they got older. When Jamie dies on a seemingly easy climb in Wales, Rob is grief-stricken, but discovers that their past hides clues to the tragedy.
Cassettes 9 Time 12hrs 0mins EU

6997 ABSOLUTE FRIENDS **By John le Carre**
MP3 BBC Audio 2004 **Reader Michael Jayston**
Ted Mundy, the son of a British soldier, first met Sasha, the refugee son of an East German pastor, when they were students in Berlin. Their paths crossed as espionage operatives in the Cold War era, and they finally meet again in today's world of terrorism.
Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

7035 STORM IN THE VILLAGE **By Miss Read**
BBC Audio 2001 **Reader June Barrie**
Miss Read learns of a proposed new housing development and the residents of Fairacre are soon up in arms.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7036 A ROPE IN CASE **By Lillian Beckwith**
BBC Audio 1998 **Reader Hannah Gordon**
When Lillian Beckwith first moved to Bruach she was advised by locals to carry a rope - in case! Here she continues her account of life in the Hebrides.
Cassettes 6 Time 5hrs 0mins EU

7039 THE GRAIN OF TRUTH **By Nina Bawden**
BBC Audio 2000 **Reader Phyllida Law**
When a senile old man falls down stairs and dies, did he fall or was he pushed by his daughter-in-law, Emma? Here Emma, her husband and her friend Holly give their version of events.
Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7041 THE SMALL PARTY By Lillian Beckwith
BBC Audio 2000 Reader Hannah Gordon

Ruth and her three small children eagerly await the return of her husband, who has taken his fishing boat for a refit in the north of Scotland.

Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7046 THE HOWARDS OF CAXLEY By Miss Read
BBC Audio 2003 Reader June Barrie

Starting in 1939, this is the story of two families as they live through the Second World War, hoping for happier times ahead.

Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7048 SOME TAME GAZELLE By Barbara Pym
BBC Audio 1995 Reader Julia McKenzie

The Misses Bede are actively involved in the affairs of a country parish. Things start to change with two new arrivals, Nathaniel Mold, a famous librarian, and a Bishop from Africa.

Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7049 CHILDREN OF CHANCE By Elizabeth Pewsey
BBC Audio 1998 Reader Maureen O'Brien

Fresh from her convent school, Prue Pagan takes a summer job at Mountjoy Castle. With her friend, Cleo Byng, she samples the pleasures - and dangers - of her new position.

Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7080 EMPRESS ORCHID By Anchee Min
Clipper Audio 2005 Reader Alexandra O'Karma

Seventeen year old Orchid is chosen to be a low-ranking concubine to the Chinese Emperor. She survives the jealousies and cruelties of the Forbidden City, but never imagines that one day the system will collapse and that she will be the last empress.

Cassettes 13 Time 18hrs 0mins EU

7122 LOVE AND DEVOTION **By Erica James**
Clipper Audio 2004 **Reader Jilly Bond**

Harriet Swift has the perfect life - she is thirty-two with a satisfying career, her own flat and a new boyfriend. When her sister is killed, Harriet gives up her ordered life to help look after her niece and nephew. Moving back isn't easy, but she starts to discover things about the family she never believed possible.

Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

7135 IN A GOOD LIGHT **By Clare Chambers**
Clipper Audio 2005 **Reader Jilly Bond**

Without noticing, Esther Fairchild has become a prisoner of routine. Living with her brother she illustrates children's books in the day and works as a waitress at night. Every week she visits her father, and every fortnight she meets her married lover. Then one day she encounters a face in a crowd...

Cassettes 12 Time 11hrs 0mins EU

7137 THE FOOD OF LOVE **By Anthony Capella**
Clipper Audio 2005 **Reader Rocco Sisto**

Laura Patterson, an American student, decides that the only way to find a sensual man in Rome is to date a chef. Then she meets Tomasso, young, handsome and a chef - perfect. Except Tomasso is actually a waiter and his friend, Bruno, is the chef!

Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7167 X THE SOCIETY OF OTHERS **By William Nicholson**
Clipper Audio 2005 **Reader Glen McCready**

An alienated young man decides to go hitchhiking around Europe, just to get his family off his back. His journey soon turns into an orgy of violence.

Cassettes 7 Time 6hrs 0mins EU

Adventure Stories

7079 **MAN OVERBOARD** **By Tim Binding**
Clipper Audio 2006 **Reader Steven Crossley**

Lionel 'Buster' Crabb was renowned for his feats of underwater daring in the Second World War. In 1956, during a visit to Britain by the Russian leader Krushchev, Crabb disappeared, and to this day no-one knows how or why. From this true story we have a fictional explanation and Cold War drama.

Cassettes 7 Time 9hrs 0mins EU

Contemporary Fiction

6977 X **NORWEGIAN WOOD** **By Haruki Murakami**
Vintage 2001 **Reader Andrew Burt**

Hearing a Beatles song Toru Watanabe is transported back to his student days in Tokyo. To a time of uneasy friendships, casual sex, passion and an impetuous young woman, Midori, who forced him to choose between the past and the future.

Cassettes 9 Time 13hrs 0mins EU

6979 **THE ZIGZAG WAY,** **By Anita Desai**
Chatto 2004 **Reader Andrew Burt**

Eric, an awkward young man, accompanies his confident girlfriend to Mexico, where he finds himself on a quest for his own family. Past and present are brought together on the Dia de los Muertos, a feast day to celebrate the dead.

Cassettes 6 Time 5hrs 30mins EU

6982 X **SATURDAY** **By Ian McEwan**
MP3 BBC Audio 2005 **Reader James Wilbey**

The novel follows the course of a single day in the life of Henry Perowne - February 15th 2003, when the protests against the Iraq war were held. The day begins with him witnessing a plane crash and ends in violence; as it progresses Henry considers his life, his family and his beliefs.

Cassettes 7 Time 9hrs 0mins EU

7133 THE SEA **By John Banville**
Clipper Audio 2006 **Reader Frank Grimes**
In this Man Booker Prize winning novel, Max, an elderly art historian who has lost his wife to cancer, revisits the seaside resort where he spent a memorable childhood holiday.
Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 0mins EU

Detective & Mystery Stories

6963 HE WHO FEARS THE WOLF **By Karin Fossum**
Vintage 2004 **Reader Cecilia Laughton**
Inspector Sejer's investigation into a brutal murder at an isolated house in the woods develops into a manhunt when the main suspect is taken hostage during a bank robbery.
Cassettes 7 Time 10hrs 15mins EU

6968 THE WATER CLOCK **By Jim Kelly**
Penguin 2003 **Reader Jim Swingler**
When two Fenland murders are linked to an awful event in 1966, local reporter Philip Dryden senses a great story. But as the disturbing truths are revealed they lead him back to a personal tragedy of two years earlier.
Cassettes 7 Time 10hrs 0mins EU

6983 THE FASHION IN SHROUDS **By Margery Allingham**
MP3 BBC Audio 2004 **Reader Francis Matthews**
Albert Campion encounters adultery, blackmail and espionage in the glamorous world of entertainment and fashion designers. His sister, Valetine, becomes involved, as the beautiful actress at the heart of the story is her best friend.
Cassettes 9 Time 12hrs 0mins EU

6987 PUBLISH AND BE MURDERED

By Ruth Dudley Edwards

MP3 BBC Audio 1998

Reader Bill Wallis

Robert at last feels settled in his personal life as he contemplates marriage to Rachel, but he is not entirely happy with his lot at work. Ideological battles and rampant eccentricity are poisoning the atmosphere at the paper!

Cassettes 5 Time 6hrs 0mins EU

6988 DEAD ROMANTIC

By Simon Brett

MP3 BBC Audio 2004

Reader Simon Brett

Madaleine Severn has always looked much younger than her years and had her pupils falling in love with her. Paul Grigson is the latest student to fall for Madeleine but his feelings for her are becoming obsessive.

Cassettes 6 Time 5hrs 0mins EU

6989 PASSING STRANGE

By Catherine Aird

MP3 BBC Audio 1995

Reader Bruce Montague

Things are not going well at the Almstone Flower Show, especially when the fortune teller disappears. Events become decidedly macabre when the fortune teller is found murdered.

Cassettes 5 Time 6hrs 0mins EU

6992 BLACK PLUMES

By Margery Allingham

MP3 BBC Audio 1995

Reader Francis Matthews

Robert is mismanaging the gallery owned by the Ivory family, and trying to get Frances Ivory to marry his associate. When Robert is found dead in a cupboard a file of family secrets and hatreds comes to light.

Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7136 **GOOD MORNING, MIDNIGHT** **By Reginald Hill**
Clipper Audio 2004 **Reader Shaun Dooley**
When Pal Maciver commits suicide in a locked room, exactly as his father had ten years earlier, accusing fingers point to his step-mother, Kay Kafka. Unexpectedly Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel comes to her aid.
Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

Family Stories

6951 **SALT OF THE EARTH** **By Michael Taylor**
Hodder 2005 **Reader Brenda Usherwood**
To her friends and family Arthur Goodrich is a solid reliable man, the ideal match for Lucy Piddock. Lucy herself dreams of excitement, especially in the form of Dickie Dempster. Only when tragedy strikes does Lucy understand her true feelings.
Cassettes 9 Time 13hrs 0mins EU

6962 **PATSY OF PARADISE PLACE** **By Rosie Harris**
Arrow 2003 **Reader Brenda Usherwood**
Patsy dreams of having a proper family again when her seafaring father returns to set up as a carrier at the Liverpool docks. But her happiness is short lived when her father is killed in an accident and her mother seduces her boyfriend Bruno.
Cassettes 6 Time 8hrs 30mins EU

7040 **THE SHILLING DOCTOR** **By Diane Cosgrove**
BBC Audio 2005 **Reader Jilly Bond**
Jeannie, a newly qualified doctor, returns to her home town, determined to help the women who live in the city's slums. She soon realises that good intentions are no match for experience.
Cassettes 8 Time 7hrs 0mins EU

7134 THE VIRGIN'S LOVER By **Philippa Gregory**
Clipper Audio 2004 Reader **Davinia Porter**
A portrait of the early years of Elizabeth I's reign when she faces the threat of the French invading Scotland, a possible challenge by Mary Queen of Scots for the English throne and her passion for the convicted traitor Robert Dudley.
Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

Love Stories

7038 THE FAITHFUL HEART By **Claire Lorrimer**
BBC Audio 2004 Reader **Ruth Sillers**
Harriet is totally disillusioned by her marriage to Tony, but determined to stay loyal to her vows. Until, that is, Paul comes back into her life, just as she needs a friend.
Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7042 I'LL BE SEEING YOU By **Margaret Mayhew**
BBC Audio 2005 Reader **Kim Hicks**
Juliet's mother dies leaving letters and photographs showing that Juliet's real father was an American bomber pilot. Now, forty years later, she sets out to trace him.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7043 THE PATHFINDER By **Margaret Mayhew**
BBC Audio 2002 Reader **Clive Mantle**
During the Berlin Air Lift an RAF officer from the British Sector meets, and falls in love with, a German woman who lives in the Russian sector, and is struggling to keep her family alive.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7044 THE SIGHT OF THE STARS By **Belva Plain**
BBC Audio 2004 Reader **Peter Marinker**
This book chronicles four generations of the remarkable Anning family. Their losses, sacrifices and betrayals through the twentieth century.
Cassettes 8 Time 10hrs 30mins EU

7055 LETTER FROM PEKING **By Pearl Buck**
BBC Audio 1991 **Reader Bonnie Hurren**

Elizabeth MacLeod was forced to take her son and flee from China, leaving behind her beloved half-Chinese husband, when the Communists entered Peking. She was desperate to be reunited with her husband, when a letter arrived that changed her whole existence.

Cassettes 4 Time 4hrs 30mins EU

7056 THE VET'S DAUGHTER **By Barbara Comyns**
BBC Audio 2000 **Reader Susannah Harker**

Alice is treated almost as a slave by her bullying father, but when he wants to remarry he sends her to the country. Her stay there is all too brief, and when she returns her father's behaviour is more devilish than ever.

Cassettes 4 Time 4hrs 30mins EU

Thrillers

6961 TELL NO ONE **By Harlan Coben**
Orion 2002 **Reader Richard Ratcliffe**

Eight years after David Beck's wife was kidnapped and murdered he receives an anonymous email that leads him to access a webcam on which she appears to be alive. As Beck seeks to find the truth of what happened the FBI is trying to pin the murder on him.

Cassettes 7 Time 9hrs 30mins EU

6967 SHOT **By Jenny Siler**
Orion 2002 **Reader Beryl Horth**

Journalist Kevin Burns is surprised to get a call from an old school friend. They arrange to meet, but Carl never arrives - he has been killed. What has Carl uncovered that people are prepared to kill for?

Cassettes 9 Time 8hrs 15mins EU

6976 RIVER'S END **By Nora Roberts**
Piatkus 2000 **Reader Christine Fewings**

Olivia's parents were Hollywood's golden couple, but a monster took them away from her. Now, with the help of a young writer, Noah Brady, she has the chance to recall that horrifying time and discover the true story. But first she must preserve her own future, as the monster walks gain!

Cassettes 11 Time 16hrs 15mins EU

6990 POMPEII **By Robert Harris**
MP3 BBC Audio 2004 **Reader Steven Pacey**

Engineer Marcus Attilius is placed in charge of the aqueduct that serves the area around the Bay of Naples, and must undertake repairs near Pompeii. Although Marcus has several problems in his life he will soon face an event that makes all other concerns seem trivial!

Cassettes 7 Time 9hrs 0mins EU

6993 DARK WINTER **By Andy McNab**
MP3 BBC Audio 2004 **Reader Clive Mantle**

Nick Stone is sent to south-east Asia to assassinate one of Al-Qaeda's most dangerous biochemists. When Nick is given a female partner the mission takes unexpected turns. Back in the US he discovers a nest of terrorists and his involvement becomes very personal.

Cassettes 10 Time 13hrs 30mins EU

7138 DECEPTION POINT **By Dan Brown**
Clipper Audio 2004 **Reader Richard Poe**

A new NASA satellite detects a rare object buried deep in the Arctic ice. This appears to show evidence of life from outer space, and comes at a time when NASA needs a victory. Rachel Sexton is sent to verify the claim and comes upon evidence of scientific trickery!

Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

7165 THE TWELFTH CARD By Jeffery Deaver
Clipper Audio 2005 Reader George Guidall

Geneva Settle is working on a High School project about her ancestor, former slave Charles Singleton. A ruthless killer is determined to stop her, but why? Lincoln Rhyme is frantically trying to anticipate the killer's next move, and stop him.

Cassettes 11 Time 15hrs 0mins EU

7166 LABYRINTH By Kate Mosse
Clipper Audio 2006 Reader Maggie Mash

In 1209, as the Cathars are besieged in Carcassonne, a young woman is given a book by her father, which, he says, contains the story of the Grail. In 2005, Alice Turner is excavating in the area when she finds a tomb with two bodies, and sets in motion a terrifying sequence of events.

Cassettes 17 Time 24hrs 0mins EU

20th Century Classics

6952 THE SLAVES OF SOLITUDE By Patrick Hamilton
OUP 1982 Reader Andrew Burt

Set in an oppressive boarding house, which is as grey and lonely as its residents. The arrival of a charismatic American lieutenant brings changes to the house and its residents, especially Miss Roach.

Cassettes 7 Time 9hrs 45mins EU

6986 ON THE ROAD By Jack Kerouac
MP3 BBC Audio 2004 Reader Matt Dillon

This is a thinly fictionalised autobiography, narrated by Sal Paradise, one of Kerouac's alter egos. It is filled with the author's real life friends and lovers, and is regarded as one of the important works of the Beat movement.

Cassettes 7 Time 9hrs 0mins EU

Non-fiction

Biography & Autobiography - General

6860 A PIRATE OF EXQUISITE MIND

By Diana and Michael Preston

Doubleday 2004

Reader Michael St. John

In 1676 William Dampier was a poor buccaneer, preying on ships. Instead of continuing in piracy he circumnavigated the world mapping winds and currents. His writings inspired Defoe and Swift, but he has been curiously forgotten. Here is the story of an English hero.

Cassettes 13 Time 19hrs 15mins EU

7004 PHILIP AND ELIZABETH

By Gyles Brandreth

MP3 BBC Audio 2005

Reader Gyles Brandreth

The author, having spent time with the royal couple, explores the marriage between Queen Elizabeth II and Philip.

Cassettes 14 Time 19hrs 30mins EU

7037 TRAMPLED LILIES

By Lady Fortescue

BBC Audio 1998

Reader June Barrie

Having watched weary French soldiers pass her home, Lady Fortescue set up rest stops all over Provence for them. When the German occupation began she made a mad dash to Brittany to escape on one of the last boats.

Cassettes 6 Time 7hrs 30mins EU

7077 WHEREAS I WAS BLIND

By Ian Fraser

Hodder 1942

Reader Michael St. John

The autobiography of Ian Fraser (Baron Fraser of Lonsdale) who was blinded in the Battle of the Somme. He went on to become a Governor of the BBC and a Member of Parliament.

Cassettes 10 Time 9hrs 45mins EU

7132 THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE By Karen Armstrong
Clipper Audio 2004 Reader Virginia Leishman
Sequel to 'Through the Narrow Gate' (5713). In this book the author, a former nun, describes her 'flight from institutional religion and a groping towards a form of faith that has not yet been fully articulated...'
Cassettes 9 Time 12hrs 0mins EU

Biography & Autobiography - Art Music & Literature

6974 A CHANCE MEETING: Intertwined lives of American writers, 1854-1967 By Rachel Cohen
Cape 2004 Reader Shirley Hall
This book contains thirty-six essays which celebrate American literary and cultural society from the mid-19th century to the 1960s. It features the intertwined lives of, amongst others, Henry James, Gertrude Stein, Mark Twain, Willa Cather and Norman Mailer.
Cassettes 10 Time 14hrs 45mins EU

Biography & Autobiography - Entertainment

6994 LIFE ON AIR By David Attenborough
MP3 BBC Audio 2003 Reader David Attenborough
David Attenborough's career as a naturalist and broadcaster has spanned five decades, and he has become a leading natural history film maker. Here he describes the people, places and animals that have been part of his life.
Cassettes 12 Time 16hrs 30mins EU

7050 MY KIND OF MAGIC By Joyce Grenfell
BBC Audio 2005 Reader Ian Wallace
An anthology of articles, poems and even recipes from the celebrated writer and entertainer, Joyce Grenfell.
Cassettes 2 Time 1hrs 30mins EU

Biography & Autobiography - Humour

6978 THE DAY JOB : Adventures Of A Jobbing Gardener

By Mark Wallington

Hutchinson 2005

Reader Tony Lister

In order to finance his dream of changing the face of British comedy, the author spends a year working as a jobbing gardener for the residents of Hampstead.

Cassettes 9 Time 8hrs 45mins EU

Biography & Autobiography - Sport

6985 MY SIDE

By David Beckham

MP3 BBC Audio 2005

Reader Tom Watt

David Beckham is celebrated throughout the world and has fans far beyond the world of football. This is his own account of his life and career to date.

Cassettes 9 Time 13hrs 0mins EU

Health & Well-being

6966 WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

By Deborah Hutton

Short Books 2005

Reader Jill Hetherington

Containing contributions from a wide range of people including Cherie Blair, Elton John and the Rabbi Julia Neuberger, here are seventy five practical ideas for the friends and families of people affected by cancer.

Cassettes 6 Time 8hrs 45mins EU

History - General Social history

7058 ON THE HOMEFRONT

By Colin Burbidge (editor)

MP3 CB Sound 1989

Readers Various

Memories of wartime life somewhere in England. Originally compiled and produced as a radio broadcast by Colin Burbidge.

Cassettes 1 Time 1hrs 0mins EU

- 7059 KEEPING THE MUSIC ALIVE**
By Colin Burbidge (editor)
MP3 CB Sound 1991 Readers Various
 Wartime adventures of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Originally compiled and produced as a radio broadcast by Colin Burbidge.
 Cassettes 1 Time 1hrs 0mins EU
- 7060 GOODNIGHT BIG FRIEND**
By Colin Burbidge (editor)
MP3 CB Sound 1986 Readers Various
 The story of Glenn Miller's visit to Britain in 1944. Originally compiled and produced as a radio broadcast by Colin Burbidge.
 Cassettes 1 Time 1hrs 0mins EU
- 7061 THE SILENT GEESE** **By Colin Burbidge (editor)**
MP3 CB Sound 1988 Readers Various
 The story of the Enigma codes told by those who really knew. Originally compiled and produced as a radio broadcast by Colin Burbidge.
 Cassettes 1 Time 1hrs 0mins EU
- 7062 IMPERIAL DREAM** **By Colin Burbidge (editor)**
MP3 CB Sound 1990 Readers Various
 The story of the ill-fated airship R101. A story of trial and error, ruthlessness, pride, determination and of one man's vanity and obsession. Originally compiled and produced as a radio broadcast by Colin Burbidge.
 Cassettes 1 Time 1hrs 0mins EU

History- British Isles

6969 **1066: The Hidden History Of The Bayeux Tapestry**
By Andrew Bridgeford

Fourth Estate 2004 **Reader Michael St. John**

In this close look at the narrative contained within the Bayeux Tapestry, an extraordinary secret tale of the final years of Anglo-Saxon England is revealed; a tale of a rival to Duke William's claim to the English throne, warrior bishops, court dwarfs and ruthless knights.

Cassettes 11 Time 15hrs 30mins

Home & Garden

7051 **IN YOUR GARDEN: Spring and Summer**
By V Sackville-West

BBC Audio 1996 **Reader Janet McTeer**

A collection of gardening articles, first published in the Observer over fifty years ago.

Cassettes 2 Time 1hrs 30mins EU

7052 **IN YOUR GARDEN: Autumn and Winter**
By V Sackville-West

BBC Audio 1996 **Reader Janet McTeer**

More practical gardening advice, along with lyrical descriptions of plants and gardens.

Cassettes 2 Time 1hrs 30mins EU

War - WW1

7068 **NO FINER COURAGE** **By Michael Senior**
Sutton 2004 **Reader Colin Burbidge**

The story of the effect of the First World War on The Lee, a Buckinghamshire village, based on the village magazine. The Lee Magazine was introduced by the lord of the manor, Sir Arthur Liberty, the founder of the Regent Street store.

Cassettes 6 Time 5hrs 35mins EU

War – WW2

6959

DAD'S WAR

By Howard Reid

Bantam 2004

Reader Colin Burbidge

In Autumn 1943, Ian Reid, an officer in the Black Watch, escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Italy, and began a dangerous journey. Sixty years later his son set out to follow in his father's footsteps across Italy.

Cassettes 6

Time 8hrs 45mins EU