

For Your Ears Only Summer 2009

Here comes summer! And with it the Summer edition of For Your Ears Only containing lots of new titles for you to choose from.

Linda Downey, Calibre's Deputy Director, retired at the end of June. She is looking forward to her new leisure time, and has created a list of books she really wants to read. This she shares with us on page 6.

Enclosed is an order form you can use to add any of the books mentioned in this edition to your reading list. You can also telephone or e-mail us with the numbers of the books you would like.

Happy Reading from the Editorial Team

Christine Ronaldson & Denise James

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Genre Switching

Genre switching is a phrase often used in book publishing to describe the phenomenon where 'literary' authors who, having made their name writing in one genre, try their hand at something completely different – often, but not always, with some degree of success.

Take Kate Atkinson for example, she burst onto the literary scene with her Whitbread Prize-winning novel **BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM 4598 X Cassette only**. Three books later after switching to the field of crime fiction she was again shortlisted for the very same prize, this time for **CASE HISTORIES 6702**, featuring ex-cop Jackson Brodie. The other two books in the series **ONE GOOD TURN 7446** and **WHEN WILL THERE BE GOOD NEWS?** (coming soon) have also won awards. As you might have guessed these are more than your run of the mill police procedurals.

Another prize winning author who has dabbled in detective fiction is John Banville. Publishing under the pseudonym Benjamin Black, he tested the water with **CHRISTINE FALLS 8045** and was nominated for two crime writing awards for his efforts. And acclaimed author, Robert Edric, who wrote the Booker nominated **GATHERING THE WATER 7437**, has produced a trilogy of psychological crime fiction set in his home territory of Hull, including **SWAN SONG 7558**.

But the queen of genre switching has to be Susan Hill. Ever since she had her first book published in 1961 whilst she was still at school, Susan has been a prolific writer of novels and short stories. She has won a number of prestigious literary prizes but still manages to spin a good yarn. Her recent foray into crime fiction has also brought success. The series features DCI Simon Serrailer and the action takes place in a fictional cathedral town.

Writing in the crime genre has, according to the author, allowed her to examine contemporary themes and look into the psychology and human issues that interest her. There are three of the series available in the library: **THE VARIOUS HAUNTS OF MEN 6703**, **THE PURE IN HEART 7084** and **THE RISK OF DARKNESS 7680**.

Hill's versatility and range can be seen from the last three of her books that were added to the library: **THE BATTLE FOR GULLYWITH 16790**, a children's book; **THE MAN IN THE PICTURE 8205**, a ghost story; and **THE BEACON 8194**, a literary novella.

Of course, authors switching genres is nothing new. The academic C S Lewis began writing fiction with his science fiction Space trilogy, **OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET 1944**, **PERELANDRA 1975**, **THAT HIDEAOUS STRENGTH 2100**, later turning to The Chronicles of Narnia for children.

Others have started their writing careers with children's books moving later to adult fiction. Penelope Lively is one who has excelled in both spheres. One of her most famous children's books is **THE GHOST OF THOMAS KEMP 15400**, which won the Carnegie Medal in 1973. In the adult library we have **MAKING IT UP 7142** a fascinating work of fiction in which the author looks at stages in her own life and imagines the consequences of the different actions that she might have taken.

Adele Geras is another who, after years as a successful author of books for young adults and children, turned to adult fiction when she wrote **FACING THE LIGHT 6595**.

Not everyone is aware that Anne Fine, the renowned multi-award winning children's author, and past Children's Laureate, also writes for adults. She has been described, by the Independent, as an author who can '*make you laugh and cry and is too much of a treasure to be reserved for children alone*'. Her book **MADAME DOUBTFIRE 3931** was made into a highly successful family film, starring Robin Williams as the divorced father who turns up disguised as a housekeeper to his own children. Other books in the adult library by the same author include:

ALL BONES AND LIES 5985

RAKING THE ASHES 7576

THE ROAD OF BONES 7599

TELLING LIDDY 5132

Eva Ibbotson is best known on the continent for her romantic novels for adults, but here she is mainly known for her prize winning children's books including **JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA 16273**, a Smarties Gold Medal winner. Her romantic novels include **MADENSKY SQUARE 5304** and **A SONG FOR SUMMER 7457**.

Author Mark Haddon, took a stepwise move from children's to adult fiction with the publication of his hugely successful **THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME 6490**; the first novel to be published simultaneously in two imprints, one for young adults and the other for adults. Since then he has written a hilarious black comedy, **A SPOT OF BOTHER 7738** (cassette only) that is definitely for adults only!

Helen Dunmore is renowned for her poetry, novels and as a children's author. Her fictional account of the siege of Leningrad, in **THE SIEGE 6023**, was shortlisted for the Whitbread and the Orange prize. The horrendous suffering of the inhabitants of the city is seen through the experiences of the Levin family, and their friends and neighbours. Her interest in Russia came partly from a period spent living in neighbouring Finland. And in **HOUSE OF ORPHANS 7433**, set in Finland at the turn of the century, she deals with the country's struggle for independence from Russian rule.

Action thriller writer and ex-SAS soldier Andy McNab started his writing career with two autobiographical accounts. The first covers his experiences as commander of an SAS patrol behind enemy lines in Iraq, in **BRAVO TWO ZERO 3993**, Cassette Only. The second book tells the story from the day he was abandoned as a baby on the steps of St Thomas's hospital to the day he joined the army at the age of seventeen in **IMMEDIATE ACTION 4526**. Since then McNab has written a string of popular thrillers, including **REMOTE CONTROL 7499**, **DARK WINTER 6993** and **DEEP BLACK 7003**, switching to his series for young adults with the publication of **BOY SOLDIER 16553**.

Why not see for yourself whether the featured authors write as well in all the genres they have tackled by adding them to your reading list?

Denise James

Books to read when I retire!

Deputy Director Linda Downey is retiring after nearly 29 years involvement with Calibre. She started as a volunteer in September 1980, and became a member of staff in 1985, when she was **told** that she would be the new Recording Editor. Obviously when you are choosing books for the library you have to be a book lover, so how could we let Linda go without asking her to share with us what she is planning to read in the near future!

“ My life long passion has been reading. I was introduced to the magic world of books from a very early age when I was read to as a small child by my parents and my grandmother and very soon discovered the pleasure of reading for myself. Over the years I have endeavoured to keep up the habit of reading for pleasure but it often meant finding free time between studying for exams, work and bringing up a family. NOW as I reach retirement I can look forward to the guilt-free pleasure of enjoying the books I really want to read. My interests are history, travel and biography and well written fiction. Here is my top ten list”

Non-fiction

7817 CHILDREN OF THE RAJ

By Vyvyen Brendon

Many British children were born under, and affected by the Raj in India. They often endured dangerous voyages and lengthy family separations when they were sent to chilly British boarding schools. The author has carefully researched their lives and recounts many poignant stories.

7669 THE GOOD OLD DAYS**By Gilda O'Neill**

For most, 19th century life in London was one of grinding poverty, binge drinking, prostitution and gun crime. Gilda O'Neill explores the streets, rat-infested slums, common lodging houses, boozers, penny gaffs and brothels in the heart of the greatest empire the world has ever seen.

6235 INDIA IN SLOW MOTION**By Mark Tully**

Mark Tully and his colleague, Gillian Wright, embark on a journey through India. They cover a wide range of topics from Hindu myticism to child labour, agricultural crisis to political corruption. Throughout they bring India and its people dramatically alive.

8038 KATHERINE SWYNFORD**By Alison Weir**

Katherine Swynford's story provides unique insights into the life of a medieval woman. An important person in her own right, she made her own choices, flouted convention and took control of her own destiny.

7310 LETTER FROM AMERICA 1946-2004**By Alistair Cooke**

For over sixty years Cooke's letters from America interpreted changing US life for the rest of the world. This book contains a defining collection of letters from the assassination of Kennedy to September 11th 2001.

6368 TED HUGHES: the life of a poet**By Elaine Feinstein**

Ted Hughes was one of the greatest English poets of the twentieth century. His life was dogged with tragedy and controversy, especially his relationship with Sylvia Plath who committed suicide in 1963. This biography tells the story of the exceptional poet and magnetic personality that was Ted Hughes.

Fiction

8179 CHEATING AT CANASTA By William Trevor

Twelve new stories from one of the best short story authors. The theme of this collection is missed opportunities!

6778 GOODBYE TO BERLIN By Christopher Isherwood

Christopher Isherwood lived in Berlin between 1929 and 1933. In this book, which fuses fiction and fact, he paints a picture of a time which will never be forgotten. The language and the content give a real sense of place.

8186 THE OTHER QUEEN By Philippa Gregory

When Mary, Queen of Scots fled to England in 1568 she expected her cousin, Elizabeth 1st, to help her regain Scotland. Instead she was given into the custody of George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury and his new wife, Bess of Hardwick. This is the story of Mary's nineteen-year imprisonment told by Mary, George and Bess.

7636 SUITE FRANCAISE By Irene Nemirovsky

The author, a Russian Jew had lived in France since 1918. In 1941 she decided to write a series of stories about the reaction of French people to war and occupation. She completed the first two parts before being arrested by the Nazis. This volume contains those two parts, 'Storm in June' and 'Dolce', plus an appendix of her notes and letters.

Linda Downey

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

X denotes - Sex, Violence or Strong Language

Time - Maximum listening time

EU – Available in the European Union

UK – Only available in the UK

Books will be available on MP3 disk and Cassette unless we state 'Cassette Only'.

Fiction

20th Century Classics

7358 THE AGE OF INNOCENCE By Edith Wharton
BBC Audio 2001 Reader David Horovitch

Newland Archer, son of a wealthy old New York family, has become engaged to pretty, naive May. But as he tries to get their wedding date moved up, he becomes acquainted with May's exotic cousin, Countess Olenska, who has returned home after dumping her cheating husband. At first, the two are friends, but then they become something more.

Time 10hrs 30mins EU Only

7375 HEAVY WEATHER By P G Wodehouse
BBC Audio 1993 Reader Jeremy Sinden

The Hon. Galahad Threpwood's sudden refusal to have his scurrilous memoirs published will be a grave financial loss to Lord Tilbury, who hopes to persuade him otherwise.

Time 10hrs 30mins EU Only

7376 THE HOUSE OF MIRTH By Edith Wharton
BBC Audio 2001 Reader Eleanor Bron

The struggles of a young and beautiful, but penniless, lady to survive in 19th-century New York society.

Time 10hrs 30mins EU Only

8196 WOMEN IN LOVE**By D H Lawrence**

Penguin 1960

Reader Terrence Hardiman

Ursula Brangwen is attracted to Rupert Birkin, her sister Gudrun is drawn to Gerald Crich. As the two women earn their living and consider the issue of marriage, the men deal with issues of sexuality and power, and whether the love of a woman is enough.

Time 22hrs 30mins

EU Only

Adventure Stories**8257 BUCCANEER****By Tim Severin**

Oakhill 2009

Reader John Cormack

Sequel to 'Corsair' (8007). Hector Lynch falls into the hands of buccaneer, John Coxon, who mistakes him for the nephew of the Governor of Jamaica. Coxon delivers Lynch to the Governor's bitter enemy, but is publicly humiliated when he realises his mistake. Lynch is forced to flee as Coxon seeks revenge.

Time 12hrs 2mins

EU Only

8105 X A DARK ENCHANTMENT**By Roland Vernon**

Oakhill 2008

Reader Jonathan Oliver

Recently arrived in Athens in 1869, photographer Godwin Tudor is fascinated by landowner Edgar Brooke, his beautiful estate, and his capricious daughter. Finding himself drawn into a dangerous political conspiracy, Godwin tries to play the diplomat, but the events prove far more devastating than he can imagine.

Time 17hrs 39mins

EU Only

8191 RAMAGE

House of Stratus 2000

By Dudley Pope**Reader Dennis Butcher**

The first novel about Nicolas Ramage, a lowly lieutenant in the navy commanded by Nelson. The book charts the adventures on the high seas as Nelson and the English navy battle with Napoleon's fleet.

Time 12hrs 40mins

EU Only

8227 SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

Oakhill 2008

By Edward Marston**Reader Christopher Oxford**

Captain Daniel Rawson is a soldier, spy, linguist and ladies' man - a man on whom the Duke of Marlborough can always rely. In this first Daniel Rawson adventure the Confederate army treks across Europe to meet the French and their allies at the battle of Blenheim.

Time 9hrs 16mins

EU Only

Classic Fiction**7363 CAN YOU FORGIVE HER?**

BBC Audio 2002

By Anthony Trollope**Reader Timothy West**

First book of the Palliser novels. Alice Vavasor is reluctant to marry the man she truly loves because his style of life doesn't fit with her idea that people should make something useful of their lives. She becomes engaged to her cousin but can't forget the man she truly loves.

Time 28hrs 30mins

EU Only

7364 CRANFORD

BBC Audio 2001

By Elizabeth Gaskell**Reader Prunella Scales**

A gentle, charming story of life in a Victorian village.

Time 6hrs 0mins

EU Only

7365 DAVID COPPERFIELD

BBC Audio 2001

By Charles Dickens**Reader Martin Jarvis**

After suffering at the hands of a tyrannical step-father, bullying at boarding school and menial employment in London, life changes for David when he runs away to Dover and is taken in by his eccentric aunt, Betsy Trotwood.

Time 37hrs 30mins

EU Only

7366 DOCTOR THORNE

BBC Audio 2001

By Anthony Trollope**Reader Timothy West**

Third book in 'The Chronicles of Barsetshire'. Sequel to 'Barchester Towers' (7360). Doctor Thorne adopts his niece Mary, keeping secret her illegitimate birth as he introduces her to the best local social circles. She meets and falls in love with Frank Gresham - heir to a vastly mortgaged estate and looking for a wealthy wife.

Time 19hrs 30mins

EU Only

7367 DOMBEY AND SON

BBC Audio 2001

By Charles Dickens**Reader Alex Jennings**

Dombey, a widower, is a rich ship-owner with a son, a strange sickly lad, and a daughter he ignores. The boy dies at school, and Dombey is distraught. He gradually loses his fortune and his health, and only his daughter can rescue him from desolation.

Time 27hrs 0mins

EU Only

7371 FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

BBC Audio 2003

By Thomas Hardy**Reader Stephen Thorne**

Bathsheba Everdene moved to Weatherbury to take up her position as a farmer on the largest estate in the area. Pursued by three very different suitors, her life is made complicated and unsettled by each in different ways. But when tragedy ensues the stability of the community is threatened.

Time 13hrs 30mins

EU Only

7372 FRAMLEY PARSONAGE **By Anthony Trollope**
BBC Audio 2001 **Reader Timothy West**

Fourth book in 'The Chronicles of Barchester'. Sequel to 'Doctor Thorne' (7366). An ambitious young clergyman in the small country parish of Framley, foolishly guarantees a loan for the local MP, a notorious debtor.

Time 19hrs 30mins

EU Only

7373 GREAT EXPECTATIONS **By Charles Dickens**
BBC Audio 2001 **Reader Martin Jarvis**

Pip is brought up by his sister and her husband Joe Gargery, the village blacksmith. At the house of the strange Miss Havisham he falls in love with Estella, and aspires to become a gentleman. When money comes to him from a mysterious source he assumes his benefactor is Miss Havisham.

Time 16hrs 30mins

EU Only

7374 HARD TIMES **By Charles Dickens**
BBC Audio 2001 **Reader Stephen Thorne**

Thomas Gradgrind sees himself as an exponent of Utilitarianism, and uses the philosophies of facts and statistics to bring up his two children, resulting in unhappy consequences.

Time 12hrs 0mins

EU Only

7382 THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE **By Thomas Hardy**
BBC Audio 2001 **Reader John Rowe**

Michael Henchard sells his wife and child at a fair when drunk. He later renounces alcohol, becomes prosperous and eventually Mayor of Casterbridge. But past events return to haunt him.

Time 10hrs 30mins

EU Only

7936 A TALE OF TWO CITIES**By Charles Dickens**

BBC Audio 2000

Reader Richard Pasco

When the book opens Dr Manette has recently been released from the Bastille after 18 years as a political prisoner. Brought to England he begins to recover his sanity. Charles Darnay also arrives, and falls in love with Manette's daughter, Lucie. In the Terror he returns to Paris to rescue a servant, but is caught.

Time 14hrs 5mins

EU Only

7937 TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES**By Thomas Hardy**

BBC Audio 2002

Reader Stephen Thorne

Driven by poverty to claim kinship with the wealthy D'Urbervilles, Tess is cruelly seduced by her cousin Alec. Later she finds true love with Angel Clare, but when she confesses her past he, hypocritically, abandons her leaving her yet again as the unwilling prey of Alec.

Time 14hrs 30mins

EU Only

7941 VANITY FAIR**By William Makepeace Thackeray**

BBC Audio 1997

Reader John Castle

Set in the time of the Napoleonic wars, the book follows the fortunes of Becky Sharp, the penniless orphaned daughter of an artist. She takes up a position of governess, and secretly marries her employer's younger son. When the marriage is discovered they are forced to live on Becky's wits.

Time 20hrs 0mins

EU Only

7943 THE WAY WE LIVE NOW**By Anthony Trollope**

BBC Audio 1999

Reader Timothy West

Augustus Melmotte has the reputation of being a great financier, but when it is revealed that his prize speculation is a huge confidence trick he is socially disgraced - and commits suicide. The sordidness of his affairs affects his daughter's chances in marriage.

Time 24hrs 0mins

EU Only

Contemporary Fiction

8194 THE BEACON

Chatto & Windus 2008

By Susan Hill

Reader Gill Wilsher

A story full of suspense switching between past and present, it is about the emotional damage sustained by three siblings living with tainted memories of their childhood.

Time 3hrs 45mins

EU Only

8251 THE BEHAVIOUR OF MOTHS

Virago Press 2008

By Poppy Adams

Reader Jill Johnson

Vivien left her childhood home forty-seven years ago and has never been back. Ginny, a reclusive moth expert, never left - she just gradually retreated into a small part of the house and the precise routines that define her day. Now she is waiting for Vivien's return, and wonders what this will mean!

Time 9hrs 40mins

EU Only

8224 THE FINAL SOLUTION

BBC Audio 2006

By Michael Chabon

Reader Michael York

In 1944 a talking parrot belonging to a young Jewish refugee is stolen. The boy is bereft and a retired detective starts to search for the bird, but why has it been stolen, and what do the German numbers it keeps repeating mean? After numerous clues and dead ends an elegant solution is finally found.

Time 3hrs 21mins

EU Only

8183 HEAVEN FORBID

Picador 2004

By Christopher Hope

Reader Richard Worland

In 1948 six-year-old Martin Donally is king of a small and perfect world in the suburbs of Johannesburg. But when the political situation changes, heralding the start of apartheid, the shock waves even hit Martin's safe, cosy world.

Time 7hrs 20mins

EU Only

8256 THE SECRET SCRIPTURE

Oakhill 2008

By Sebastian Barry**Reader Stephen Hogan**

The Roscommon Regional mental hospital is preparing for closure, and Dr Grene has to reassess all his patients. He is particularly drawn to Roseanne McNulty, nearing her 100th birthday, who has spent most of her life incarcerated. Through their journals Roseanne's story gradually emerges.

Time 10hrs 20mins

EU Only

8211 X THE WOMAN WHO WAITED

Sceptre 2007

By Andrei Makine**Reader Bob Rollett**

A young, disillusioned, writer flees from Leningrad to a remote village in the northern Soviet Union in the 1970s. There he becomes obsessed with Vera, one of the many women who were widowed or abandoned in the Second World War.

Time 4hrs 35mins

EU Only

Detective & Mystery Stories**8250 THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF HORACE RUMPOLE**

Penguin 2008

By John Mortimer**Reader Tony Lister**

Is there something fishy about giving a 12-year-old an ASBO for playing football in the street? A young bachelor, prime suspect in the murder of a prostitute, protests his innocence. Rumpole cannot ignore him. Also his colleagues are protesting about the cigars and wine he occasionally enjoys in Chambers!

Time 4hrs 0mins

EU Only

8167 X DEAD GUILTY

Oakhill 2008

By Beverly Connor

Reader Alanis Peart

When three bodies are found hanging in an isolated wood near Diane Fallon's forensic lab, media interest is aroused and the local people are unnerved. Then a deadly game starts when the killer sends taunting e-mails and chilling phone calls to Diane!

Time 9hrs 49mins

EU Only

8171 X FATAL LEGACY

Oakhill 2008

By Elizabeth Corley

Reader Jonathan Oliver

On his death everyone is surprised to discover that the MD of Wainwright Enterprises is wealthier than expected. One of his beneficiaries discovers financial irregularities in the firm's accounts, but doesn't involve the police until the company accountant is murdered!

Time 16hrs 26mins

EU Only

8247 FRIEND OF THE DEVIL

Hodder 2007

By Peter Robinson

Reader Terrence Hardiman

In Eastvale a 19-year-old girl has been found raped and murdered in the dark cobbled alleys known as The Maze. There are plenty of suspects, but DCI Banks finds that he misses the sharp instincts of DI Annie Cabbot, who is on another case. Unexpectedly the cases are interlinked and Banks is again working with Cabbot.

Time 12hrs 20mins

EU Only

8166 X GOD'S SPY

Oakhill 2008

By Juan Gomez-Jurado**Reader Gareth Armstrong**

After the death of Pope John Paul II it is possible that a serial killer is on the loose in the Vatican. A cardinal is found dead and mutilated, and this is not the first death. Profiler Paola Dicanti is called in, and she is assisted by Anthony Fowler, an American priest, with links to the CIA.

Time 9hrs 11mins

EU Only

8258 HANGMAN BLIND

Oakhill 2009

By Cassandra Clark**Reader Julia Barrie**

In 1382 as Hildegard, a nun, rides out for York and the Abbey of Meaux, the country is in a state of volatile peace after Wat Tyler's Peasants Revolt. Along the way she encounters a gibbet with five corpses, and a little further on the body of a youth, brutally murdered. Who is he, and what is his connection to the hanged men?

Time 13hrs 2mins

EU Only

8144 HOW TO SEDUCE A GHOST

Oakhill 2008

By Hope McIntyre**Reader Norma West**

Much as she loves her boyfriend, ghost-writer Lee values her privacy and feel she needs to live alone in her crumbling house. When a neighbour is killed in a fire, arson is suspected. A second fire, and death, even closer to home, draw Lee into a murder investigation, but is she in danger herself?

Time 12hrs 16mins

EU Only

8246 LAST SEEN WEARING

Pan 1977

By Colin Dexter**Reader Richard Simpson**

Valerie Taylor had completely vanished on her way from home to school, and the trail was completely cold. Now, over two years later someone decides to supply new evidence for the case, and Morse believes that further investigation will just be sober and tedious routine!

Time 12hrs 0mins EU Only

8189 MISSING LINK

Allison & Busby 2007

By Joyce Holms**Reader Janet Alexander**

When Mrs Sullivan is shown into her office Fizz Fitzpatrick sees a genteel elderly lady. She is therefore stunned when Mrs Sullivan asks Fizz and her partner, Tam Buchanan, to prove that she murdered Amanda Montrose, Lady of the Manor - but why?

Time 10hrs 40mins EU Only

8213 THE ROAR OF THE BUTTERFLIES

HarperCollins 2008

By Reginald Hill**Reader Richard Ratcliffe**

A sweltering summer is bad news for a private investigator as the villains take a break, so when Joe Sixsmith is asked to look into allegations against Chris Porphyry, leading light of the Royal Hoo Golf Course, he is more than willing to help. He is soon on the trail of a conspiracy that starts with missing balls and ends with murder...

Time 7hrs 15mins EU Only

8102 X SECOND VIOLIN

Oakhill 2008

By John Lawton**Reader Lewis Hancock**

In 1938 journalist Rod Troy is in Vienna for the English press. After Kristallnacht the Jews start to leave, but in 1940 those in England are rounded up as 'enemy aliens', along with Rod Troy. Rod's brother has been seconded from CID to Special Branch, but when a lunatic starts killing rabbis in the East End he returns to his original territory – murder!

Time 15hrs 13mins

EU Only

8162 X STEEL WITCHES

Oakhill 2008

By Patrick Lennon**Reader James Price**

Working as a private investigator, ex-police officer Tom Fletcher is dragged into his troubled family history by an enigmatic message from his missing father. At the same time an American company seems to be officially suppressing information about a WWII US airbase, and an old mystery.

Time 10hrs 5mins

EU Only

8165 THE TREE OF DEATH

Oakhill 2008

By Brian Eastman**Reader Maggie Ollerenshaw**

Whilst visiting Baffington, Laura Thyme witnesses a sudden death. A year later Laura and Rosemary return to help refurbish the churchyard where they discover a body, pierced through the heart with an arrow. Many villagers have motive, means and opportunity, so Rosemary and Laura must weed through the suspects to find the murderer!

Time 9hrs 7mins

EU Only

8181 X ZUGZWANG

Bloomsbury 2007

By Ronan Bennett

Reader Bob Rollett

On a blustery March day in 1914 O.V. Gulko, respected newspaper editor, is murdered in front of a shocked St Petersburg crowd. Five days later psychoanalyst Dr Spethmann is worryingly implicated in another murder. With speculation rife in the city he contemplates the forces controlling his life.

Time 8hrs 50mins

EU Only

Family Stories

8248 THE BECKONING HILLS

Walker 1989

By Ruth Elwin Harris

Reader Shirley Hall

Book 2 of the Quantocks Quartet: Sequel to 'The Silent Shore' (8193). This is the story of Frances Purcell and sees her through art school and her passionate relationship with Gabriel Mackenzie.

Time 10hrs 50mins

EU Only

8193 THE SILENT SHORE

Walker 1989

By Ruth Elwin Harris

Reader Beryl Horth

Book 1 of the Quantocks Quartet. Beginning in 1910 this is a gripping saga about the four Purcell sisters, Frances, Julia, Gwen and Sarah. Sarah lives in a world of rural bliss, and romance which turns to tragedy with the start of the Great War.

Time 8hrs 55mins

EU Only

Fantasy Stories

8148 BLADE OF FIRE

By Stuart Hill

Chicken House 2006

Reader Terrence Hardiman

Second book of the Icemark Chronicles. Sequel to 'The Cry of the Icemark' (7594). Twenty years on and the fate of Icemark rests with Queen Thirrin and Oskan Witchfather and their five offspring.

Time 21hrs 35mins

EU Only

8264 STRAVAGANZA: CITY OF FLOWERS **By Mary Hoffman**

Bloomsbury 2006

Reader Tony Lister

Book 3 of the Stravaganza series. Sequel to Stravaganza: City of Stars (8263). Sky is transported to the Talian equivalent of Florence, Italy, into the midst of a bloody feud between the rival di Chimici and Nucci families.

Time 13hrs 30mins

EU Only

8262 STRAVAGANZA: CITY OF MASKS

By Mary Hoffman

Bloomsbury 2002

Reader Judy Franklin

Lucien, who is ill in bed, is transported to a parallel world where sixteenth century Italy is Talia and Venice is Bellezza. In this vividly described, magical and dangerous world he witnesses political intrigue and assassination attempts.

Time 10hrs 15mins

EU Only

8175 STRAVAGANZA: CITY OF SECRETS **By Mary Hoffman**

Bloomsbury 2008

Reader Tony Lister

Fourth book in the Stravaganza series. Sequel to 'Stravaganza city of flowers' (8264). Matt is transported to the ancient Scriptorium of Padavia. There, with Luciano and Arianna, and the help of other Stravaganti, he must fight the dangerous di Chimici family.

Time 10hrs 55mins

EU Only

8263 STRAVAGANZA: CITY OF STARS By **Mary Hoffman**
Bloomsbury 2003 Reader **Tony Lister**

Book 2 of the Stravaganza series. Sequel to 'Stravaganza City of Masks' (8262). This time it is horse-lover Georgia who is transported to Talia and the city of Remora (Siena) through her model of a winged horse.

Time 12hrs 45mins EU Only

8145 UN LUN DUN By **China Mieville**
Macmillan 2008 Reader **Pauline Beale**

Zanna and Deeba find themselves in UnLondon where all the lost and broken things of London end up, including some of its people too. But the city is under siege and is awaiting its hero. A gripping fantasy for adults and children.

Time 13hrs 55mins EU Only

General Fiction

8172 AMENABLE WOMEN By **Mavis Cheek**
Faber 2008 Reader **Pat Steadman**

Flora Chapman is in her fifties when her husband dies in a bizarre accident. She decides to finish his history of Hurcott Ducis, but a reference to Anne of Cleves leads her to do her own research. Meanwhile, in the Louvre, Holbein's portrait of Anne begins to tell the story of how she survived the Tudor marriage.

Time 17hrs 20mins EU Only

8212 CAFÉ TROPICANA

Published By Arrow 2006

By Belinda Jones**Reader Nicola Down**

Ava Langston knows what she wants, her very own café in Bath. Then her father phones and insists she fly to Costa Rica to meet his new wife, and to run a beachfront café. The lure of frothing cappuccinos proves irresistible, and she finds even more in Costa Rica than coffee - namely Santiago and Ryan!

Time 11hrs 50mins

EU Only

8210 THE CHOICE

Sphere 2008

By Nicholas Sparks**Reader Pauline Beale**

Trevis Parker has everything a man could want. Although he enjoys the good life he believes that a relationship with a woman would cramp his style. That is until Gabby Holland moves in next door.

Time 9hrs 0mins

EU Only

8099 THE FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB

Oakhill 2008

By Kate Jacobs**Reader Regina Reagan**

It started almost by accident, when the customers at Georgia Walker's yarn shop stayed for advice, coffee and a chat - soon Friday night was knitting night. Of different ages, different backgrounds and facing different problems, the members are drawn together by threads of affection that prove as durable as any of the sweaters they knit.

Time 12hrs 8mins

EU Only

8240 X THE GOOD PLAIN COOK **By Bethan Roberts**
Serpent's Tail 2008 **Reader May Ballingall**

In 1936 the rest of the world might be on the cusp of change, but there was no sign of this in rural Sussex when Kitty Allen answered an advertisement for 'A good plain cook'. Her employer is Mrs Steinberg, a champagne socialist, who lives with her young daughter and George Crane, her lover. As the summer advances the temperature rises and so do emotions in the house.

Time 10hrs 0mins

EU Only

8255 THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY
Oakhill 2009 **By Mary Ann Shaffer**
 Reader Charlie Norfolk

In 1946 writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a man in Guernsey who has found her name in a book. They start to exchange letters and she is intrigued by his stories of the eccentric literary society to which he belongs. Captivated she visits Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.

Time 6hrs 42mins

EU Only

8121 THE HISTORY OF LOVE **By Nicole Krauss**
Penguin 2006 **Reader Bob Rollett**

Not many people know Leo, not even his own son. He does strange things just so someone might remember him when he dies. Sixty years ago he fled Nazi-occupied Poland to look for a childhood sweetheart in America but thinking he had died, she married someone else.

Time 9hrs 20mins

EU Only

8182 THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER By **Kim Edwards**
Penguin 2007 Reader **Gill Wilsher**

In 1964 Norah goes into labour in the midst of a blizzard and she and her husband, Dr David Henry, only make it as far as David's surgery. David delivers a perfect son but soon realises that there is another baby. As soon as his daughter is born he recognises that she has Downs Syndrome. How will he deal with this unexpected event?

Time 16hrs 55mins EU Only

8106 SARAH'S KEY By **Tatiana de Rosnay**
Oakhill 2008 Reader **Laurence Bouvard**

During her research into the roundup of Jews by the French police in Paris 1942 a journalist stumbles across family secrets that connect her to the shameful event in France's past.

Time 10hrs 0mins EU Only

8209 SPECIALS By **Scott Westerfeld**
Simon & Schuster 2006 Reader **Katherine Shaw**

Sequel to 'Pretties' (8068). When she was a rebellious Ugly, the Specials - beautiful, strong and fast - frightened Tally, and now she was one herself. When she is sent to stamp out rebels she is forced to make a choice: carry out the mission or listen to her faint conscience telling her something is wrong...

Time 8hrs 45mins EU Only

8225 VILLAGE CHRISTMAS By **Miss Read**
BBC Audio 2007 Reader **June Barrie**

Two stories from Miss Read demonstrating her wry wit and light touch. From the rural festivities of a village Christmas, to the poignant tale of a white robin.

Time 3hrs 26mins EU Only

8244 WEDDING SEASON

Century 2008

By Katie Fforde**Reader Pat Steadman**

Sarah Stratford is a wedding planner and she has a problem. Her sister's budget wedding is just two months away, and now a big celebrity wedding is on the cards, on the same day! Luckily Sarah has two devoted and dependable friends, Elsa and Bron, to help her.

Time 17hrs 15mins

EU Only

8188 WIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Pocket Books 2006

By Karen Quinn**Reader Grace Dives**

Christy Hayes thought she had it all: money, fame, a powerful husband. But when she has to juggle unexpected motherhood nothing can prepare her for the ruthless competition of the Yummy Mummy Mafia at 11-year-old Renata's school!

Time 11hrs 10mins

EU Only

Ghost Stories**8204 THE EVIL SEED**

Black Swan 2008

By Joanne Harris**Reader Grace Dives**

When Alice visits the local churchyard she reads the strange inscription on one of the gravestones which, for some reason, disturbs her. Her ex-boyfriend returns with his new girlfriend and Alice is certain that this beautiful girl is evil.

Time 10hrs 5mins

EU Only

8205 THE MAN IN THE PICTURE

Profile 2008

By Susan Hill**Reader Terrence Hardiman**

The painting hangs on the wall in the ageing Don's room. It is a beautiful painting of a Venetian scene of partying and masks in the street. This is no ordinary painting however; it will not only imitate your life but take it forever.

Time 4hrs 55mins

EU Only

Historical Fiction

8140 X AS MEAT LOVES SALT

Flamingo 2001

By Maria McCann

Reader Dennis Butcher

This is the story of Jacob Cullen, first son of a gentleman in Civil War England. After his family becomes destitute he becomes the servant of another well to do family. Later he becomes a soldier in the service of the New Model Army and finally has a progressive decline into madness.

Time 25hrs 5mins

EU Only

8254 DAUGHTERS OF THE DOGE

Oakhill 2009

By Edward Charles

Reader Gareth Armstrong

Richard Stocker, an English protestant, fled persecution in England after the execution of his friend, Lady Jane Grey. In 1556 he arrives in Venice where he becomes involved with three remarkable women, Faustina Contarini, Yasmeen Ahmed and Veronica Franco. Each has her own story and secrets, but they are all daughters of the Doge...

Time 12hrs 12mins

EU Only

8226 FIGURES IN SILK

Oakhill 2008

By Vanora Bennett

Reader Lucy Scott

The Wars of the Roses may be drawing to an end but England and the Court are still in turmoil. Isobel, a silkweaver and mistress to Richard of York, manages to cut through the turmoil with her clever ways. Her sister is mistress to Edward IV - do these two women hold the keys to power?

Time 13hrs 49mins

EU Only

8164 X GODIVA

Oakhill 2008

By Nerys Jones**Reader Rachel Atkins**

In 1045 the Normans were trying to wrest the English throne from the Anglo-Saxon barons - everything centres on who will succeed King Edward the Confessor. Earl Lovric of Mercia and his wife Godiva are pulled into the intrigue when Edward uses their son as a pawn in his power play. Thus the stage is set for one of the most powerful stories in English history.

Time 11hrs 0mins

EU Only

8190 MEASURING THE WORLD

Quercus 2007

By Daniel Kehlmann**Reader Tony Lister**

At the end of the eighteenth-century two brilliant young German scientists set out to measure the world. Alexander von Humboldt swashbuckles his way around the globe, whilst Carl Friedrich Gauss uses his mind and scientific instruments to realise that space is curved. The two only meet in old age at the German Scientific Congress in Berlin.

Time 9hrs 10mins

EU Only

8208 MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY: A NOVEL

Doubleday 2008

By John Boyne**Reader Bob Rollett**

In 1787 14-year-old John Jacob Turnstile is destined for prison in Portsmouth when he receives an offer - to be the captain's personal valet on a ship soon to sail for Tahiti. The ship is the Bounty and the captain is William Bligh.

Time 17hrs 35mins

EU Only

8186 THE OTHER QUEEN

Harper Collins 2008

By Philippa Gregory**Reader Patricia Knight-Webb**

When Mary, Queen of Scots fled to England in 1568 she expected her cousin, Elizabeth 1st, to help her regain Scotland. Instead she was given into the custody of George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury and his new wife, Bess of Hardwick. This is the story of Mary's 19-year imprisonment told by Mary, George and Bess.

Time 17hrs 30mins

EU Only

8207 PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Fourth Estate 2008

By Geraldine Brooks**Reader Grace Dives**

The famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a priceless, early Jewish illuminated book, was saved from Serb shelling in the Bosnian War. In 1996 rare-book expert, Hanna Heath, is asked to analyse and conserve the volume. As she works she starts to unlock the mysteries of the book and its history.

Time 13hrs 5mins

EU Only

8176 TESTIMONY OF AN IRISH SLAVE GIRL

Brandon 2005

By Kate McCafferty**Reader Kay Morrison**

At ten years of age Col Daley was snatched from her home in Galway and sold as a slave in Barbados. Between 1558 1660 Irish men, women and children were cheaper than African slaves, they were treated appallingly and rarely freed. This is the story of Col's life.

Time 9hrs 45mins

EU Only

Love Stories

8156 A GREAT AND TERRIBLE BEAUTY By Libba Bray

Simon & Schuster 2006

Reader Judy Franklin

In 1895, Gemma is shipped back from India to a proper boarding school in England. There she finds herself being followed by a young man who has been sent to warn her about the visions of the future that she has been experiencing.

Time 11hrs 35mins

EU Only

8180 A SEA-GRAPE TREE

By Rosamond Lehmann

Virago Press 2006

Reader Shirley Hall

It is 1933 and Rebecca arrives alone on a small Caribbean island. Here she encounters voices from the past and the spirit of Sibyl Jardine. The voices remind her of the girls she once was and the woman she could become.

Time 7hrs 50mins

EU Only

Short Stories & Anthologies

8179 CHEATING AT CANASTA

By William Trevor

Penguin 2008

Reader Nancy Gower

Twelve new stories from one of the best short story authors. The theme of this collection is missed opportunities!

Time 5hrs 5 mins

EU Only

7938 GARDEN PARTY AND OTHER STORIES

By Katherine Mansfield

BBC Audio 1997

Reader Peggy Ashcroft

Katherine Mansfield was recognised as an original and experimental writer, and this is the final collection of short stories published in her lifetime.

Cassettes 2

Time 2hrs 0mins

EU Only

8241 THIS YEAR IT WILL BE DIFFERENT By Maeve Binchy
Orion 2007 Reader Rosemary Graham

Whilst the festive season may be magical for many people, it can also be a time of family difficulties and disappointment. In this collection of short stories, set over the Christmas period, the feelings of wives, husbands, children, friends and lovers cannot be easily hidden.

Time 7hrs 0mins EU Only

Spy Stories

8103 X PAVEL & I By Dan Vyleta
Oakhill 2008 Reader Richard Burnip

When an American friend dumps a dead Russian spy in his apartment, Pavel Richter finds himself in a race with a rogue British colonel and a Soviet general to discover the dead spy's secret. But another question arises - who exactly is Pavel Richter?

Time 12hrs 5mins EU Only

Thrillers

8168 X THE HUNT FOR ATLANTIS By Andy McDermott
Oakhill 2008 Reader Laurence Bouvard

Archaeologist Nina Wilde believes she knows how to find the lost civilization of Atlantis, but as she travels round the world in search of clues she is pursued by members of a mysterious and murderous sect. Atlantis has held a secret for 11,000 years that, if it fell into the wrong hands, could destroy civilization.

Time 16hrs 48mins EU Only

8203 THE LORDS' DAY

Headline Review 2008

By Michael Dobbs

Reader Edward Peel

During the State Opening of Parliament the House of Lords is taken over by terrorists. The Queen, Prince Charles, and other dignitaries are held as hostages. Will this be the greatest siege of all time?

Time 12hrs 35mins

EU Only

War Stories

8178 THE RETURN

Headline Review 2008

By Victoria Hislop

Reader Patricia Knight-Webb

Sonia Cameron first visited Granada to dance and to learn Flamenco. She knows nothing of the city's shocking past, but in a quiet café she is gradually drawn into the story of Spain's devastating civil war.

Time 17hrs 35mins

EU Only

Non-Fiction Animals

8157 JAMES HERRIOT'S DOG STORIES **By James Herriot**
Pan 1992 **Reader Jim Swingler**

This book is a compilation of some of the best dog stories from James Herriot's other books. Read about the dogs that have a special place in his heart, and others who only their owners could love. If you like James Herriot's books you will love this one.

Time 18hrs 50mins EU Only

Biography & Autobiography - Art Music & Literature

8243 BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME **By Ian Clayton**
Route 2008 **Reader Bob Rollett**

Ian Clayton, writer, storyteller and broadcaster, is passionate about popular music, it has formed the soundtrack to his life. He is an avid record collector and a recognised expert on Billie Holiday. In this autobiography he writes about family, music and work - the things that really matter – in a deeply touching way.

Time 9hrs 22mins EU Only

8154 THE HACIENDA **By Lisa St Aubin de Teran**
Virago Press 1998 **Reader Hazel Douglas**

This is the story of a young woman surviving by her wits and fantasies. Married at sixteen to a man twenty years older, she was taken to his ancestral home where she lived in extremely primitive conditions, isolated and alone.

Time 13hrs 15mins EU Only

8159 MRS WOOLF AND THE SERVANTS By Alison Light
Fig Tree 2007 Reader May Ballingall

Like many of her generation Virginia Woolf's relationship with her servants was central to her life. They freed her from the burden of domesticity and allowed her to be a writer. Unlike her contemporaries, she was tormented by her reliance on servants. But what of the servants themselves - how did they relate to an employer who hated giving orders?

Time 14hrs 55mins EU Only

Biography & Autobiography - Entertainment

8206 DORIS DAY By Eric Braun
Orion 1994 Reader Bob Wildgust

By the time she was sixteen Doris Day was working as a singer, and by 1950 she was America's favourite. With her wholesome image, she stayed at the top for over thirty years, made nearly forty films, and is still hugely popular around the world.

Time 9hrs 40mins EU Only

8187 SHATTERED LOVE By Richard Chamberlain
Regan Books 2003 Reader Richard Ratcliffe

The memoirs of Richard Chamberlain. The book tells of his childhood problems, struggles through adolescence and then his coming to terms with his sexuality.

Time 8hrs 10mins EU Only

Biography & Autobiography - General

8185 ALL OUR YESTERDAYS By Gervase Phinn (Editor)
Dalesman 2008 Reader Bob Rollett

A collection of childhood memories from the 1930s to the present day. It includes contributions from many famous names: Judi Dench, Richard Burton and Frank Muir to name but a few.

Time 3hrs 45mins EU Only

8177 JUST ANOTHER KID

Element 2006

By Torey Hayden**Reader Christine Heffer**

Torey Hayden is a special needs teacher who refused to give up on six emotionally troubled children who no other teacher could handle. However her most daunting challenge turned out to be the mother of one of the children.

Time 15hrs 25mins

EU Only

8015 A PRISON DIARY VOL 2: Purgatory **By Jeffrey Archer**

Pan 2004

Reader Bob Wildgust

Sequel to A Prison Diary Volume 1: Hell (7267). On 19th July 2001, Jeffrey Archer was sentenced to four years imprisonment for perjury. He spent the first twenty-two days in HMP Belmarsh, a high security prison which houses some of Britain's most violent criminals.

Time 9hrs 17mins

EU Only

8151 SALVATION CREEK

Rider 2006

By Susan Duncan**Reader Brenda Usherwood**

This is the author's own story of tragedy and love, pain and sadness, joy and humour. Her life falls apart when she loses both her husband and brother within three days. Eighteen months later she quits her job and falls for a man who breaks her heart. Through all of this she finds new meaning to her life.

Time 12hrs 25mins

EU Only

Biography & Autobiography

8155 LUCIA IN THE AGE OF NAPOLEON

By Andrea di Robilant

Faber 2007

Reader Grace Dives

In 1787 16-year-old Lucia, daughter of a Venetian statesman was married to Alvise Mocenigo, member of a wealthy Venetian family. Life changed suddenly for Venice's golden couple when the young Napoleon Bonaparte led his army into northern Italy and the Venetian republic fell apart!

Time 12hrs 50mins

EU Only

Biography & Autobiography - Political

8174 ONLY IN AMERICA

By Matt Frei

Fourth Estate 2008

Reader Bob Rollett

In 2002 BBC journalist Matt Frei and his family reluctantly moved to Washington - now he calls America home. With his unique perspective on how the American mind works, he affectionately examines the contradictions that have made the most powerful nation on earth!

Time 11hrs 25mins

EU Only

Crime & Law

8228 DEATH AT THE PRIORY

By James Ruddick

Oakhill 2008

Reader Alistair Petrie

In 1876 it took three tortuous days for Charles Bravo to die of poisoning. At the inquest many people were revealed to have a grudge against the young barrister, but no-one was convicted of his murder. Over a century later the author draws on new evidence to solve a famous case in criminal history.

Time 6hrs 18mins

EU Only

Humour

8242 NOW THEN LAD...

Constable & Robinson 2008

By Mike Pannett

Reader Tony Lister

When he worked in the Met, Mike Pannett was used to dealing with riots, drug gangs and even staring down the wrong end of a sawn-off shotgun. Now, as a bobby in rural North Yorkshire he finds himself chasing bullocks and solving country crimes. Here he amusingly describes his first year on his new patch.

Time 8hrs 20mins

EU Only

Religion & Philosophy

8249 MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING

Rider Books 2004

By Viktor E Frankl

Reader Andrew Burt

Victor Frankl was a Jew from Vienna, who, like millions of others was sent to Nazi death camps. He was the only member of his family who survived. Here he describes his experiences, but he also uses his professional skills as a psychotherapist to analyse how humans can survive such horrors. This is a classic tribute to hope.

Time 4hrs 45mins

EU Only

Sport

8132 X BAGHDAD FC: IRAQ'S FOOTBALL **By Simon Freeman**

John Murray 2005

Reader Bob Rollett

This is an account of how the game of football turned ugly in Saddam's Iraq. A tale of human strengths, failings and resilience. Saddam's crazed and evil eldest son emerges as a villain of demonic proportions. If he could treat national heroes this grotesquely what hope was there for ordinary Iraqis?

Time 10hrs 20mins

EU Only

Travel - British Isles

8158 X PIES AND PREJUDICE: IN SEARCH OF THE NORTH

By Stuart Maconie

Ebury Press 2007

Reader Bob Rollett

Cloth caps, pies, mushy peas - is this what the North means to you? Stuart Maconie decided to investigate - to find out exactly where 'The North' is and what it means to be a true Northerner. Here are his hilarious conclusions.

Time 13hrs 42mins

EU Only

War - WW2

8195 BEYOND THESE WALLS: ESCAPING THE WARSAW

GHETTO

By Janina Bauman

Virago Press 2006

Reader Derina Dinkin

After forty years Janina Bauman is ready to tell the story of her life and experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto during the holocaust.

Time 11hrs 30mins

EU Only

8215 CHILDREN OF WAR

By Susan Goodman

John Murray 2005

Reader Derina Dinkin

When Susan Goodman, herself a child in WWII, appealed for wartime stories from her peers the response was overwhelming. Nostalgic, funny, everyday or tragic - the responses produced a rich tapestry of life in WWII through the eyes of children.

Time 13hrs 50mins

EU Only

8147 SPY PRINCESS: THE LIFE OF NOOR INAYAT KHAN

By Shrabani Basu

Sutton 2006

Reader Derina Dinkin

Noor Inayat Khan was the S.O.E.'s only Asian secret agent, and the first female radio operator to be flown into France. When France fell to the Germans she disobeyed orders and stayed on as the last radio operator in Paris. Arrested in 1943, she was executed in September 1944 and was later awarded the George Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

Time 9hrs 43mins

EU Only

8192 THE WOMAN WHO CENSORED CHURCHILL By Ruth Ive

History Press 2008

Reader Dennis Butcher

Ruth Ive had the job of censoring the one remaining transatlantic hotline between Churchill and Franklin D Roosevelt. She spent over three years listening to their conversations, ready to cut the line if anything was said that might pose a security risk.

Time 5hrs 5mins

EU Only