

For Your Ears Only

Winter 09-10

Happy New Year and welcome to the newest edition of For Your Ears Only which, as ever, the editorial team have had an enjoyable time producing.

Some of the books we record, or buy, for the library will be as entertaining for Young Calibre members as they are for our adult Calibre users. In the past we have created copies for the main library (with a four-digit catalogue number) and copies for the Young Calibre library (with a five-digit catalogue number), but this has occasionally led to confusion, especially as there have been two entries on our website. In the future each title will only have one catalogue number, and one entry on the website. So don't be concerned if you see five-digit number beside a book in the pages of For Your Ears Only, or in the genre catalogues – this will be a title that teenagers and adults alike will enjoy.

You will notice that some of the books are marked **MP3 only**, these are commercially produced titles we have purchased in a digital format, and will not be available for cassette borrowers.

Whatever books you choose we, the Editorial Team, hope you enjoy them.

Christine Rooaldson, Denise James and Janet Connolly

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Cold War

Twenty years ago, in November 1989, the Berlin Wall was toppled. Built in August 1961 by the East German Government at a time of worsening relations between the West and the Soviet Bloc, the wall divided a city and a nation. For over twenty-seven years it was an ever present symbol of the Cold War.

After World War II, relations between America and Russia, the two new super-powers and former allies, started to deteriorate rapidly, opposed as they were to each others' political and economic ambitions. This was the start of the Cold War, and with it came an exciting new topic for writers. Fiction authors in particular created thrilling and chilling books about East-West espionage and counter-espionage.

The toppling of the Wall, the re-unification of Germany and the fall of Communism in the Soviet Bloc should have lessened our enthusiasm for this genre. Other enemies and dangers face the world, but in 2006 an ex-Russian State Security operative, Alexander Litvinenko was murdered in London, poisoned with radio-active polonium-210. The British police trail led to a theory that the crime was committed by a Russian, possibly with the backing of the Russian Government, so perhaps the old adversary is quietly alive and kicking!

Here is a selection of books from the many espionage and Cold War titles we have in the Calibre library – so, use the cold winter to experience the Cold War.

Christine Ronaldson

6997 ABSOLUTE FRIENDS by John le Carre

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.

5845 ON GREEN DOLPHIN STREET

by Sebastian Faulkes

A British couple, Mary and Charlie, have a carefree life in the diplomatic community of Washington in 1959. An American reporter dramatically enters their lives and through him Mary is forced to confront the terror of the Cold War.

7043 THE PATHFINDER

by Margaret Mayhew

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.

8103 PAVEL & I

by Dan Vyleta

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?

4762 THE PLEDGE

by Howard Fast

An American war correspondent is caught up in the anti-communist witch hunts of Senator McCarthy.

4325 SPY HOOK

by Len Deighton

First Book of the Hook, Line & Sinker Trilogy. Ignoring all warnings, Bernard Sampson pursues his own investigation into his wife's defection.

5149 SPY LINE

by Len Deighton

2nd book in 'Hook, Line & Sinker' trilogy. Sequel to: Spy Hook (4325). Whilst British Military Police are searching for Bernard Samson in Berlin, his wife, the KGB agent Fiona, must make her next move.

Not Only for Women

Anne Tyler, Carol Shields, and Alice Munro, are a trio of award-winning female writers from North America who have been keeping women readers happy with their beautifully observed tales of daily life for many years. All three are authors who deserve to be more widely read and appreciated.

Anne Tyler's stories, mainly set in her hometown of Baltimore in Maryland, chronicle the lives of quirky but ordinary characters. Her most popular book, **THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST (2993, Cassette Only, X)**, revolves around a travel writer, estranged from his wife, who starts a relationship with a woman he hires to train his badly behaved dog. In **BREATHING LESSONS** (which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1989) the intimate landscape of a couple's marriage is revealed during the course of a long drive to attend a friend's funeral. Given the domestic settings of her novels and the focus on everyday lives, Tyler has a surprisingly strong following among men; her fans include the authors Sebastian Faulks and Nick Hornby. Often her main protagonist is middle aged and at a point of crisis like Cordelia Grinstead who, in **LADDER OF YEARS (5194)**, realises every mother's fantasy (after a bad day) of unobtrusively walking along the beach and away from her family during their annual holiday. The complexities and the shifting nature of relationships, especially within a family, are central to her writing. In **DIGGING TO AMERICA (8063)** we see two very different adoptive families, one All American, the other Iranian American, as they bring up their Korean adopted daughters. Their tradition of celebrating the babies' "Arrival Day" together gives us a glimpse into the different cultures; we also witness the effect of the adults' opinions and their style of parenting on the girls (Tyler's late husband was an Iranian psychiatrist and novelist).

Carol Shields (1935-2003), an American author who lived most of her life in Canada, has been quoted as saying that the reason she started writing was because there were no novels about the kind of women she knew. She won the Pulitzer Prize with **THE STONE DIARIES (4209, Cassette Only, X)** the story of one woman's life from birth, notable for the vividly described reflections of Daisy Goodwill Flett on her impending death in old age. **THE REPUBLIC OF LOVE (6816)** is a contemporary love story which is far from romantic as the characters of the two protagonists, Fey an expert on mermaids, and Tom a late night DJ, are candidly revealed. Shields had been accused of not being 'dark enough' but the publication of one of her last books, **UNLESS (6214)**, put paid to that notion. In this deeply moving book Reta, a successful and contented middle-aged woman, experiences extreme loss and grief when one of her daughters inexplicably becomes a bag lady who sits begging on a street corner with a handmade sign saying 'Goodness' around her neck.

Alice Munro, the Canadian short story writer and three times winner of Canada's Governor General's Award for Fiction, is another with a talent for focusing on human relationships 'looked at through the lens of daily life'. Her stories, set in provincial Canadian towns, feature the commonly recurring themes of love, betrayal and secrets; she is frequently compared to Anton Chekov. The short stories often read as interwoven stories in a novel, such is the depth of writing. For example, in *The Beggar Maid* (to be found in **SELECTED STORIES 4841**), a series of linked stories chart the relationship between Flo and her stepdaughter, Rose, over a period of forty years. Munro has been described as having 'done more than any living writer to demonstrate that the short story is an art form and not the poor relation of the novel'.

The following audio books by the three featured authors are available from the Calibre Library:

ANNE TYLER

THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST 2993 (Cassette Only)

THE AMATEUR MARRIAGE 7237 (Cassette Only)

BREATHING LESSONS (Coming later on this year)

THE CLOCK WINDER 6540

DIGGING TO AMERICA 8063

IF MORNING EVER COMES 5856

LADDER OF YEARS 5194

NOAH'S COMPASS (Coming later on this year)

A SLIPPING DOWN LIFE 6084

CAROL SHIELDS

THE COLLECTED STORIES 7108

JANE AUSTEN 6107 (Non-fiction)

THE REPUBLIC OF LOVE 6816

THE STONE DIARIES 4209 (Cassette Only, X)

UNLESS 6214

ALICE MUNRO

THE LOVE OF A GOOD WOMAN 5415

OPEN SECRETS 7650 (Cassette Only)

SELECTED STORIES 4841

Denise James

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' or 'MP3 Only'

Fiction

Animal Stories

8326 WAR HORSE **By Michael Morpurgo**
BBC Audio 2002 **Reader Michael Morpurgo**
The moving adventures of Joey, a young farm horse, sold to the army and sent to the Western Front in World War I.
MP3 Only Time 3hrs 55mins EU Only

Contemporary Fiction

8221 X ONE OF US **By Melissa Benn**
BBC Audio 2008 **Reader Sophie Ward**
The story opens with a meeting between a journalist and a woman in a dingy London cafe in the immediate aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. Anna has a story to tell, one that goes right to the heart of British politics - and to the top of the Cabinet.
MP3 Only Time 10hrs 39mins EU Only

8237 X THE PROMISE OF HAPPINESS **By Justin Cartwright**
BBC Audio 2008 **Reader Nigel Anthony**
The Judds, formerly of London N1, now scattered, are about to be thrown together again by the eldest child Juliet's release from prison in New York. The family is devastated by Juliet's conviction for art theft. The nature of the theft, and the reasons for it, plague all the protagonists.
MP3 Only Time 10hrs 48mins EU Only

8220 X RESISTANCE **By Owen Sheers**
BBC Audio 2008 **Reader Richard Coyle**
It is 1944 and Britain is under Nazi occupation. In a remote Welsh valley the farmers' wives wake to find their husbands gone. As the harsh winter weather arrives the women are forced to co-operate with a German patrol but the delicate peace is soon shattered.
MP3 Only Time 11hrs 0mins EU Only

Detective & Mystery Stories

8335 ABOUT FACE **By Donna Leon**
Heinemann 2009 **Reader Tony Lister**
An investigator from the Carabinieri, looking into the illegal hauling of garbage, asks for a favour. But the investigator is not the only one with a special request. His father-in-law needs help and a mysterious woman comes into the picture. Commissario Brunetti soon finds himself embroiled in a dangerous investigation into murder and corruption.
Time 9hrs 0mins EU Only

8200 THE AFFAIR OF THE MUTILATED MINK **By James Anderson**
BBC Audio 2008 **Reader Cornelius Garrett**
The Earl of Burford throws a party. Guests include a fading Hollywood actor, his producer, an Italian actress, a writer, a painter and an Olympic athlete. A murder takes place in the night, and Inspector Wilkins is called in to investigate.
MP3 Only Time 9hrs 42mins EU Only

8311 COLD IN HAND

Arrow 2009

By John Harvey**Reader Bob Rollett**

Recently promoted to Detective Inspector in the Major Crime Unit, Lynn Kellogg's rescue of a badly beaten 15-year-old from Eastern Europe links her to an international investigation into people trafficking and gun smuggling. DI Charlie Resnick, her colleague and lover, is hauled back from retirement to help deal with the fallout.

Time 12hrs 0mins

EU Only

8338 DEATH ON A BRANCH LINE

Faber 2008

By Andrew Martin**Reader Jim Swingler**

In the sweltering summer of 1911, railway detective Jim Stringer has 48 hours to solve a murder that hasn't been committed yet. His investigation reveals a conspiracy of international dimensions.

Time 9hrs 40mins

EU Only

8314 X THE DEVIL'S STAR

Vintage 2006

By Jo Nesbo**Reader Terrence Hardiman**

A young woman is found murdered in her flat in Oslo. One finger has been cut off, and beneath her eyelid is a tiny red diamond in the shape of a five pointed star. Detective Harry Hole is assigned to the case with Tom Waaler - a colleague he suspects of running an arms smuggling gang and of murdering his partner.

Time 14hrs 25mins

EU Only

8230 KILLINGS AT BADGER'S DRIFT

BBC Audio 1987

By Caroline Graham**Reader Hugh Ross**

Badger's Drift is a tranquil English village, home to Miss Emily Simpson, a kindly, well-liked spinster. When she is murdered, Detective Chief Inspector Barnaby is called in to investigate, and soon uncovers a dark side to Badger's Drift.

MP3 Only

Time 8hrs 40mins

EU Only

8386 THE MESSENGER OF ATHENS By Anne Zouroudi
Bloomsbury 2008 Reader Judy Franklin

When the battered body of young woman is discovered on a remote Greek Island, the local police are quick to dismiss her death as an accident.

Time 10hrs 30mins EU Only

8231 NO SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES By The Mulgray Twins
BBC Audio 2008 Reader Jane McFarlane

It can be tough being an undercover officer for HM Revenue & Customs, but DJ Smith has a little help from her trained sniffer cat Gorgonzola, a Persian cat with gourmet tastes. This time they are out to foil a heroin smuggling ring operating in and around Edinburgh.

MP3 Only Time 10hrs 9mins EU Only

8199 WHEN WILL THERE BE GOOD NEWS? By Kate Atkinson
BBC Audio 2008 Reader Steven Crossley

As a six-year-old Joanna Mason witnessed a gruesome crime, now she's an Edinburgh GP who has gone missing and only her young nanny seems to be worried. Meanwhile ex-detective Brodie Jackson is on his way back to the same city on a journey that will end in carnage.

MP3 Only Time 11hrs 50mins EU Only

Family Stories

8222 X MAGDA'S DAUGHTER By Catrin Collier
BBC Audio 2009 Reader Kate Jarman

Destitute after World War 2, Magda Janek hoped to build a new life for herself and her baby daughter, Helena. Now, 20 years later, Helena is beautiful, confident and has a good education - she couldn't be happier. Until a tragedy strikes that uncovers the bitter secret Magda carried to her grave.

MP3 Only Time 12hrs 25mins EU Only

General Fiction

8235 ASYLUM

BBC Audio 2004

By Patrick McGrath

Reader Ian McKellen

In the summer of 1959, Max Raphael becomes deputy superintendent of a remote hospital for the criminally insane. His wife Stella, beautiful, yet isolated, befriends a patient, Edgar Stark, and the affair between them develops into an obsessive, destructive love.

MP3 Only

Time 8hrs 38mins

EU Only

7969 THE BIRD WOMAN

HarperCollins 2006

By Kerry Hardie

Reader Rita Hamill

Ellen McKinnon, clairvoyant, finds her marriage, her health and her sanity threatened when she 'sees' the death of a man in a bomb attack before it has really occurred. Terrified, she leaves her home and husband, to live with a man she barely knows in Southern Ireland.

Time 14hrs 15mins

EU Only

8201 THE CAMEL BOOKMOBILE

BBC Audio 2008

By Masha Hamilton

Reader Adjoa Andoh

Thirty-six-year-old Fi Sweeney is a librarian in Brooklyn. She feels the need to do something worthwhile which will also give her a change of scenery. With this in mind she applies for a project taking literacy to the African Bush - with the Camel Bookmobile.

MP3 Only

Time 8hrs 18mins

EU Only

8236 GILEAD

BBC Audio 2006

By Marilynne Robinson

Reader Tim Jerome

The dying Reverend John Ames, whose father and grandfather were also ministers, writes a letter to his young son telling the story of his forbears, one an abolitionist who fought for the Unionists in the American Civil War, the other a committed pacifist.

MP3 Only

Time 8hrs 57mins

EU Only

8273 X THE GRAVEDIGGER'S DAUGHTER

By Joyce Carol Oates

Harper Collins 2007

Reader Nicola Down

This is the tale of Rebecca Schwart and her German immigrant family who, after escaping Nazi Germany, settle in a small, bleak town in upstate New York. Soon the town's prejudice and the family's own emotional frailty results in unspeakable tragedy.

Time 22hrs 20mins

EU Only

8219 THE INFINITE WISDOM OF HARRIET ROSE

By Diane Janney

BBC Audio 2008

Reader Ruth Sillers

Harriet Rose has been writing down her philosophical reflections on life for some time now. For her 14th birthday, her mother and grandmother publish her writings - and Harriet is plunged into the lifestyle of a successful writer.

MP3 Only

Time 8hrs 33mins

EU Only

8232 THE LOLLIPOP SHOES

By Joanne Harris

By BBC Audio 2008

Reader Juliet Stevenson

Seeking refuge in the cobbled streets of Montmartre, Yanne and her daughters live peacefully above their little chocolate shop. Nothing unusual marks them out. Then into their lives blows Zozie de l'Alba, the lady with the lollipop shoes.

MP3 Only

Time 15hrs 51mins

EU Only

8223 THE PEOPLE ON PRIVILEGE HILL

By Jane Gardam

BBC Audio 2008

Reader Jane Gardam

A collection of short stories from Jane Gardam. She is a writer well-known for her caustic wit, free-wheeling imagination, love of humanity and wicked powers of observation - and for the hint of the bizarre and the surreal that she brings to her fiction.

MP3 Only

Time 5hrs 5mins

EU Only

8337 SEVENTH HEAVEN

Virago 2000

By Alice Hoffman**Reader Judy Le Besque**

In the summer of 1959 Nora moves into a quiet suburb on Long Island with her two young sons, a collection of Elvis records and a marked absence of husband. Her glamour and cheerfully chaotic ways immediately arouse the suspicions of the neighbourhood.

Time 8hrs 0mins

EU Only

8313 THE SHACK

Hodder & Stoughton 2008

By William Young**Reader Bob Rollett**

Mack, a grieving father, receives a note from God inviting him back to the shack from which his daughter, believed to have been brutally murdered, went missing four years previously. Mack has lost his faith, but what he finds there changes his life forever.

Time 10hrs 15mins

EU Only

8353 A TOWN LIKE ALICE

BBC Audio 1988

By Nevil Shute**Reader Robin Bailey**

When Jean Paget comes into an inheritance she is able to return to Malaya. This visit changes her life when she discovers that the soldier she thought had died is still alive.

MP3 Only

Time 10hrs 15mins

EU Only

Historical Fiction**8327 MERIDON**

HarperCollins 2002

By Philippa Gregory**Reader Judy Le Besque**

Third book in the Wideacre trilogy. Sequel to 'The Favoured Child' (8040). Meridon, a Romany girl, is determined to escape the hardship of her childhood. Riding bareback in a show, while her sister risks her life on the trapeze, she dedicates herself to freeing them from danger and poverty.

Time 20hrs 40mins

EU Only

8385 THE PORTRAIT **By Iain Pears**
HarperCollins 2006 **Reader Terrence Hardiman**
Henry McAlpine, a successful early 20th century artist from a poverty-stricken background, begins to paint the portrait of his harshest critic who has come to the remote island off Brittany where the artist lives. The extent of the critic's heartlessness and depravity is revealed in this menacing and suspenseful tale. EU Only
Time 6hrs

8317 THE TEA ROSE **By Jennifer Donnelly**
HarperCollins 2003 **Reader Jeanne Partridge**
Set in Whitechapel in 1888, The Tea Rose is the tale of Fiona Finnegan the spirited daughter of an Irish dock worker. When her life falls apart Fiona flees to New York and achieves eventual success as the head of a thriving business. But Fiona has unfinished business in London and is seeking revenge. EU Only
Time 28hrs

8366 TOUCHING DISTANCE **By Rebecca Abrams**
Macmillan 2008 **Reader Janet Alexander**
It is the late 18th century and discoveries are being made in medical areas such as vaccination and the spread of infection. Alec Gordon returns to Scotland to take the post of physician to the Aberdeen Dispensary. He has plans to modernise the medical practices when a mysterious disease hits the town, attacking and killing every newly delivered mother. EU Only
Time 11hrs 30mins

Humorous Fiction

8404 DEAR TEACHER **By Jack Sheffield**
Bantam 2009 **Reader Jim Swingler**
It's 1979 and Dallas is on TV, Mrs Thatcher has just become prime minister, Abba is top of the pops, and in the small Yorkshire village of Ragley-on-the-Forest, Jack Sheffield returns for his third year as headmaster of the village school. EU Only
Time 10hrs 5mins

Ghost Stories

8362 THE TELLING

Portobello 2008

By Jo Baker

Reader Pauline Beale

When Rachel moves into her mother's isolated country house she struggles to put her mother's affairs in order. She is sure the house holds a secret message for her. Are the ghosts from the past finding their way into the present or is Rachel losing her mind?

Time 11hrs 55mins

EU Only

Love Stories

8336 BEFORE THE STORM

Review 2008

By Judith Lennox

Reader Grace Dives

Set in London and Cornwall between the first and second World Wars, this is a multi-generation family saga in which the secrets of the past come back to haunt with emotional repercussions.

Time 17hrs 40mins

EU Only

8333 SONGS OF BLUE AND GOLD

Arrow 2008

By Deborah Lawrenson

Reader Pat Steadman

Melissa is curious about her mother's past on the island of Corfu, particularly her relationship with writer Julian Adie. What did her mother have to do with the death of Adie's ex-lover? Based on the life of poet and writer Lawrence Durrell.

Time 14hrs 25mins

EU Only

8339 VILLA SERENA

Headline 2007

By Domenica de Rosa

Reader Jane McDowell

This is the story of Emily, a British woman struggling to bring up two teenage daughters and a toddler in Tuscany while still caught up in her own unresolved romantic dreams.

Time 11hrs 20mins

EU Only

Science Fiction

8352 THE MIDWICH CUCKOOS By John Wyndham
BBC Audio 2007 Reader Nathaniel Parker

The village of Midwich is cut off from the outside world for 14 hours for no reason at all. Months later some of the women give birth to children who look very much alike. The children all have unusual gifts and are becoming a danger to everyone.

MP3 Only Time 6hrs 39mins EU Only

Spy Stories

8234 FOR YOUR EYES ONLY By Ian Fleming
BBC Audio 2008 Reader David Rintoul

The destruction of a Russian hideout at SHAPE headquarters near Paris; the planned assassination of a Cuban thug in America; the tracking of a heroin ring from Rome to Venice and beyond. For Bond it is just routine. For anyone else - certain death!

MP3 Only Time 5hrs 58mins EU Only

8238 SPIES By Michael Frayn
BBC Audio 2006 Reader Martin Jarvis

There is very little evidence of the second world war in the quiet cul-de-sac where Keith and Stephen live. But the friends suspect the inhabitants of the Close aren't what they seem. As Keith informs his trusting friend, the district is riddled with secret passages and underground labs.

MP3 Only Time 7hrs 28mins EU Only

8354 TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY By John Le Carre
BBC Audio 1997 Reader Michael Jayston

This book follows the exploits of George Smiley, one of the Cold War's heroes, as he undertakes the task of finding a Soviet mole imbedded within MI6.

MP3 Only Time 12hrs 54mins EU Only

Thrillers

8198 THE BARRED WINDOW

BBC Audio 2008

By Andrew Taylor

Reader Simon Shepherd

One evening in 1967, Thomas Penmarsh lost everything he valued. Now, 25 years on, he sleeps in a room with a barred window, looked after by Cousin Esmond. This psychological drama hints at madness, fear and sudden death without spilling a drop of blood.

MP3 Only

Time 11hrs 30mins

EU Only

8328 THE FAITHFUL SPY

Arrow 2007

By Alex Berenson

Reader Bob Rollett

The only American ever to penetrate al Qaeda, John Wells has been undercover so long that the CIA is no longer sure he's loyal - or even alive. Now, on the orders of Omar Khadri - the mastermind spearheading al Qaeda's attacks on America - Wells is coming home. And no-one knows what to expect!

Time 13hrs 45mins

EU Only

8197 KINGDOM COME

BBC Audio 2007

By J G Ballard

Reader David Rintoul

Richard Pearson, jobless advertising executive, is driving out to Brooklands, a motorway town on the M25. A few weeks earlier his father was fatally wounded at a vast shopping mall there, when a deranged mental patient opened fire on a crowd of shoppers.

MP3 Only

Time 9hrs 16mins

EU Only

8216 THE NINTH STONE

BBC Audio 2008

By Kylie Fitzpatrick

Reader Phyllida Nash

A jewel thief is on the loose in Victorian London and is murdering his victims. Sarah O'Reilly, who works as a typesetter in a newspaper office, becomes embroiled in the mystery that will eventually lead to India and a jewel with terrifying occult powers.

MP3 Only

Time 12hrs 20mins

EU Only

8217 X NO TIME FOR GOODBYE By Linwood Barclay
BBC Audio 2007 Reader William Hope

Cynthia takes part in a TV documentary about the time as a teenager she woke one morning to find that her parents and brother had disappeared. The publicity produces a response, mainly from cranks, but one letter that makes no sense chills her to the core.

MP3 Only Time 12hrs 36mins EU Only

8111 X NOWHERE TO RUN By Maggie Hudson
HarperCollins 2002 Reader Pat Steadman

Word is that it isn't safe for women to get close to Johnny Martini. His girlfriends have always been unlucky, meeting with accidents, ending up hurt - or dead. When Johnny's wife is murdered, her younger sister is determined to learn the truth.

Time 14hrs 35mins EU Only

8387 ZOO STATION By David Downing
Old Street 2008 Reader Terrence Hardiman

When an old acquaintance turns up at John Russell's hotel his life begins to change. He is persuaded by threats and financial needs to become a spy - first for the Soviet Union and then, simultaneously, for the British.

Time 13hrs 30mins EU Only

Twentieth Century Classics

8303 LARK RISE TO CANDLEFORD By Flora Thompson
Isis 2000 Reader Mollie Harris

Flora Thompson shares her reminiscences of English rural life in the last thirty years of the 1800s.

Time 21hrs EU Only

Non-Fiction

Biography & Autobiography – Art, Music & Literature

8323 SOMEWHERE TOWARDS THE END By Diana Athill
Granta 2008 Reader Shirley Hall

The 89-year-old publishing veteran Diana Athill reflects on the disadvantages and occasional benefits of old-age, and the prospect of impending death.

Time 9hrs 40mins EU Only

Biography & Autobiography - Entertainment

8364 JAMES ROBERTSON JUSTICE: WHAT'S THE BLEEDING TIME? A BIOGRAPHY

By James Hogg with Robert Sellers & Howard Watson
Tomhawk 2008 Reader Richard Simpson

This is the biography of an eccentric and highly enigmatic man whose acting career was only a small part of a hugely complex multi-talented human being.

Time 7hrs 55mins EU Only

8218 ON THE EDGE: MY STORY By Richard Hammond
BBC Audio 2007 Reader Glen McReady & Zoe Phillips

Richard Hammond describes his childhood and adolescence and the emergence of the adrenalin junkie. He tells of his first ridiculous stunts on his tricycle, and an increasing and near obsessive attraction to speed and the smell of petrol.

MP3 Only Time 11hrs 20mins EU Only

8316 X THAT'S ANOTHER STORY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

By Julie Walters
Weidenfeld & Nicolson 2008 Reader Nicola Down

Julie Walters has been described as the nation's most popular actress and comedienne. She has been delighting us on stage and screen for over 25 years and we have taken her to our hearts. Now she tells us her own story, in her own words.

Time 9hrs 40mins EU Only

Biography & Autobiography - General

8332 COCKEYED: A MEMOIR OF BLINDNESS

Atlantic 2006

By Ryan Knighton
Reader John Grayson

At 18 years old Ryan Knighton was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa. In this book he explains his condition and how it affected his life and his relationships. He tells his story with humour and dignity; how he tried to carry on as if nothing was happening to him and how this almost killed him in the process.

Time 8hrs 30mins

EU Only

7749 FOUR FATHERS

Route 2006

By Ray French, et al
Reader Dennis Butcher

Four sons reveal the bonds that exist between themselves and their fathers.

MP3 Only

Time 2hrs 45mins

EU Only

8365 MAD, BAD AND DANGEROUS TO KNOW

Hodder & Stoughton 2008

By Ranulph Fiennes
Reader Bob Rollett

This is the autobiography of the first man to reach both poles by surface travel. He was also the first to cross the Atlantic Continent without any support at all.

Time 15hrs 35mins

EU only

8320 NOTES FROM WALNUT TREE FARM **By Roger Deakin**

Hamish Hamilton 2008

Reader Bob Rollett

For the last six years of his life, Roger Deakin kept notebooks in which he wrote his daily thoughts, impressions, feelings and observations. This collection of the very best of these writings captures his restless curiosity about the natural and human worlds, and his love of literature and music.

Time 8hrs 50mins

EU Only

8233 SWEET MANDARIN **By Helen Tse**
BBC Audio 2008 **Reader Liz Sutherland**

This story follows the lives of three generations of Chinese women from the same family, all of whom have struggled to pull themselves out of the most horrific situations, and have succeeded in turning their fortunes around.

MP3 Only Time 6hrs 40mins **EU Only**

8322 SWIMMING WITH MY FATHER: A MEMOIR **By Tim Jeal**
Faber 2004 **Reader Tony Lister**

Tim Jeal's tender portrait of childhood, growing up, and of a father who was a uniquely English eccentric. From his own embarrassing schoolboy meeting with T.S. Eliot to his father's struggle with Parkinson's, it is a lovingly composed, honest exploration of the past.

Time 6hrs 40mins **EU Only**

8302 WILD SWANS **By Jung Chang**
BBC Audio 1991 **Reader Rowena Cooper**

This multi award winning novel follows the journey of three generations of women from the same family through the tragic history of twentieth century China.

MP3 Only Time 21hrs 45mins **EU Only**

Biography & Autobiography - Historical

8405 FEMME FATALE: LOVE, LIES AND THE UNKNOWN LIFE OF MATA HARI **By Pat Shipman**
Phoenix 2008 **Reader Nancy Gower**

The biography of the most famous woman of the early 20th century, Margaretha Zelle, Dutch courtesan and alleged spy - better known as Mata Hari.

Time 13hrs 55mins **EU only**

8315 SOPHIE SCHOLL AND THE WHITE ROSE

By Annette Dumbach & Jud Newborn

Oneworld 2007

Reader Derina Dinkin

In the summer of 1942 five German students and one professor at the University of Munich crossed the threshold of toleration to enter the realms of resistance, danger and death. This account of German resistance to the Third Reich is a window into human resilience in the face of dictatorship.

Time 11hrs 0mins

EU Only

Biography & Autobiography – Humour

8406 THE EGG AND I

By Betty Macdonald

George Mann 1999

Reader Patricia Mumford

Raised within a well to do family, Betty MacDonald suddenly finds herself newly wed and set to take on turning an abandoned farm site into a thriving chicken farm.

Time 10hrs

EU Only

Crime and Law

8363 MCLEVY: THE EDINBURGH DETECTIVE

By James McLevy

Birlinn 2008

Reader Bob Rollett

These are the memoirs of James McLevy, an Edinburgh detective, giving a glimpse into the times and crimes through which he lived and into the character of the man himself.

Time 8hrs 5mins

EU Only

History – General Social History

8321 THE CUSTOM OF THE SEA

By Neil Hanson

Doubleday 1999

Reader Bob Wildgust

Set in Victorian England, this is a gruesome story of shipwreck and murder.

Time 14hrs 50mins

EU Only

8390 THE HOUSE BY THE THAMES: AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED THERE By Gillian Tindall
Pimlico 2007 Reader Derina Dinkin

This is the story of a house in London, by St Paul's Cathedral. The house is around 450 years old and this book tells of the history that has been seen through its windows and of many different types of inhabitants. The house still stands today.

Time 11hrs 30mins EU Only

Poetry

8325 BLUER THAN THIS By John Harvey
Smith/Doorstop Books 1998 Reader Bob Rollett

A collection of poetry powerfully influenced by jazz and painting, and the landscapes of North America and England. There are poems about Chet Baker and Pierre Bonnard, Edward Hopper and Thelonious Monk, exploring the ambivalences of family relationships and love lost and found.

Time 1hrs 10mins EU Only

8324 TIP OF MY TONGUE By Grace Dives
Reader Grace Dives

This is a small book of poems written by one of Calibre's favourite readers - Grace Dives.

Time 1hr EU Only

Psychology & Sociology

8291 MUSICOPHILIA: TALES OF MUSIC By Oliver Sacks
Picador 2007 Reader Tony Lister

This book explores the ability of music to arouse, inspire and comfort us. Sacks explores this phenomenon through various unusual case studies, including that of a man struck by lightning who subsequently became obsessed with Chopin.

Time 12hrs 25mins EU Only

8202 A PLUM IN YOUR MOUTH

By Rory Bremner & Andrew Taylor

BBC Audio 2007

Reader Stephen Thorne

Did you know that the court of Richard II spoke in broad Yorkshire? Why is one perceived to be richer, taller, and more attractive if one speaks the Queen's English? Andrew Taylor leads you through the history of British accents and how they developed.

MP3 Only

Time 7hrs 39mins

EU Only

Religion and Philosophy

8329 THE VICAR OF BAGHDAD

By Andrew White

Monarch 2009

Reader Bob Rollett

This is a fascinating insight into life in the Middle East through the eyes of a mediator. It is written by a man struggling against illness and, at the same time, trying to maintain the trust of opposing factions. The situation was volatile and danger was always close by.

Time 5hrs 25mins

EU Only

Travel - Continental Europe

8331 A DOG ABROAD

By Bruce Fogle

Ebury Press 2008

Reader Tony Lister

Macy, an endearing and vivacious golden retriever and her master, the bestselling vet Bruce Fogle, journey into Lithuania in the very heart of Europe in search of the Fogle ancestors.

Time 12hrs 0mins

EU Only

War – WW1

8340 THE LAST FIGHTING TOMMY

By Harry Patch & Richard van Emden

BBC Audio 2008

Reader Bill Wallace

This is the life story of Harry Patch 'The last fighting Tommy', from his childhood in rural Somerset, his work, his enlistment in the army and the horror of the Western Front.

Time 7hrs 56mins

EU Only

War - WW2

8330 WORLD WAR II STORIES: THE MYSTERY OF ROMMEL'S GOLD

By Peter Haining

Conway 2007

Reader Bob Wildgust

What happened to a stolen hoard of treasure known as 'Rommel's Gold' is one of the most elusive and enduring mysteries of World War II. This work examines the theories of its whereabouts, tracking down the route taken by the missing treasure and reviewing the searches that have taken place.

Time 8hrs 30mins

EU Only

These books are now available on MP3

6653	THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS	Kate Adie
6553	TWILIGHT'S CHILD	Virginia Andrews
6777	ABSOLUTE POWER	David Baldacci
6559	THE VILLA VIOLETTA	June Barraclough
6697	AGATHA RAISIN & THE POTTED GARDENER	M.C. Beaton
6663	DEATH OF A CELEBRITY	
16377	NOUGHTS & CROSSES	Malorie Blackman
16460	KNIFE EDGE	
6556	REACH FOR TOMORROW	Rita Bradshaw
6561	THE URCHIN'S SONG	
6684	THE CAT WHO TAILED A THIEF	Lilian Jackson Braun
6661	BLACKTHORN WINTER	Sarah Challis
6779	BEGGARS AND CHOOSERS	Calvin Collier
2477	BILL BAILEY	Catherine Cookson
2876	BILL BAILEY'S DAUGHTER	
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4747	THE BONDAGE OF LOVE	
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1912	A DINNER OF HERBS	
2490	THE DWELLING PLACE	
2719	FEATHERS IN THE FIRE	
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3286	THE GILLYVORS	

309	THE GIRL
4194	THE GOLDEN STRAW
1789	GOOBYE HAMILTON
6000	A GRAND MAN
1481	HAMILTON
344	HANNAH MASSEY
3220	THE HARROGATE SECRET
3521	THE HOUSE OF WOMEN
5551	KATE HANNIGAN'S GIRL
1690	KATIE MULHOLLAND
6262	LIFE AND MARY ANN
1888	THE LORD AND MARY ANN
1309	MAGGIE ROWAN
880	THE MALLEEN GIRL
913	THE MALLEEN STREAK
6263	MARRIAGE AND MARY ANN
6265	MARY ANN AND BILL
6264	MARY ANN'S ANGELS
2132	THE MOTH
3377	MY BELOVED SON
675	THE NICE BLOKE
4468	THE OBSESSION
5789	OUR KATE
2382	THE PARSON'S DAUGHTER
3383	THE RAG NYMPH
4263	A RUTHLESS NEED
1999	SLINKY JANE
5277	THE THURSDAY FRIEND
790	TILLY TROTTER
1270	TILLY TROTTER WIDOWED
4159	THE TINKERS' GIRL
5542	THE UNBAITED TRAP
4579	THE UPSTART
1429	THE WHIP
3339	THE WINGLESS BIRD
3798	THE YEAR OF THE VIRGINS

3898	SHARPE'S COMPANY	Bernard Cornwell
2135	SHARPE'S EAGLE	
2712	SHARPE'S GOLD	
1240	THE BUILDING OF JALNA	Mazo de la Roche
4456	MARY WAKEFELD	
6551	THE RIVER FOLK	Margaret Dickinson
6545	THE WILLOW GIRLS	Pamela Evans
6636	THE SMALL BOAT OF GREAT SORROWS	
		Dan Fesperman
6515	THE SNOW GEESE	William Fiennes
1423	BACK TO THE FOREST	Winifred Foley
97	A CHILD IN THE FOREST	
1865	IN & OUT OF THE FOREST	
2440	HAPPY RETURN	C.S. Forester
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2433	HORNBLOWER & THE ATROPOS	
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2326	MR MIDSHIPMAN HORNBLOWER	
2458	A SHIP OF THE LINE	
6371	KINVARA	Christine Marion Fraser
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5811	KINVARA SUMMER	
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6185	THE TWISTED SWORD	

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6337	A SENSE OF DUTY	Sheelagh Kelly
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6698	THE TIME TRAVELLER'S WIFE	Audrey Niffenegger
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2655	THE KINDLY ONES	
6809	MILITARY PHILOSOPHERS	
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3361	THE VALLEY OF BONES	

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2209	UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER	
6656	LITTLE ALTERS EVERY WHERE	Rebecca Wells
6704	THE COURTYARD	Marcia Willett
6659	THE DIPPER	