**Selections from Talking Book Topics – Fiction**

**Mystery and Detective**

**Sticks and Scones  
DB128578** 7 hours 47 minutes, by Ellie Alexander, read by Emily Durante

"It's late spring in Juliet's charming hamlet, Ashland, Oregon. Spotted deer are nibbling on lush green grasses in Lithia Park, the Japanese maples are blooming, and Torte is baking a bevy of spring delights—lemon curd cupcakes, mini coconut cream pies, grapefruit tartlets, and chocolate dipped almond Tuiles. Meanwhile, her friend Lance, the artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, is taking center stage with his new theater troupe—the Fair Verona Players. As the curtain rises, the real show begins when the leading actor, Jimmy Paxton, meets his final curtain call. Now, Jules is not only in the mix, but she's going to need to craft the perfect recipe for solving this theatrical whodunit." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**The Gatsby Gambit: A Novel  
DB128436** 10 hours 58 minutes, by Claire Anderson-Wheeler, read by Erin Bennett

"Freshly twenty-one and sporting a daring new bob, Greta Gatsby—younger sister to the infamous Jay—is finally free of her dull finishing school, and looking forward to an idyllic summer at the Gatsby Mansion, the jewel of West Egg. Nothing could disrupt the blissful time Greta has planned...except finding out that Jay's cadre of dubious friends—Daisy and Tom Buchanan, along with Nick Carraway and Jordan Baker—will be summering there, too. It's hard to be noticed when the luminous Daisy Buchanan is in the room, and Jordan keeps rather too close tabs on handsome Nick Carraway for Greta's liking. But soon, bad blood is the least of their problems, as a shocking event sets the Gatsby household reeling." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**An Appetite for Murder**

**DB128354** 7 hours 32 minutes, by Lucy Burdette, read by Laura Jennings

"Hayley Snow's life has always revolved around food, but when she applies to be a food critic for a Key West style magazine, she discovers that her new boss will be Kristen Faulkner—the woman Hayley caught with her boyfriend! Hayley thinks things are as bad as they can get...until the police pull her in as a suspect in Kristen's murder. Kristen was killed by a poisoned key-lime pie. Now Hayley must find out who used meringue to murder before she takes all the blame." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**Peking Duck and Cover**

**DB127851** 7 hours 20 minutes, by Vivien Chien, read by Cindy Kay

"Lana Lee and friends return for a fiery Chinese New Year celebration that rattles their quaint community. After all, an Asia Village party wouldn't be complete without an explosive finale. But during an elaborate firework show in the parking lot, a member of the lion dance performance team is found dead backstage with a single bullet hole through the heart and a red envelope in their pocket containing four one-dollar bills—an omen of death. When news of a curse on Asia Village make its way around the plaza, Lana readily agrees to find who killed the talented dancer before anyone else is marked for death." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Partners: A Rogue Lawyer Short Story**

**DB128075** 1 hours 38 minutes, by John Grisham, read by Mark Deakins

"Sebastian Rudd, rogue lawyer, defends people other lawyers won't go near. It's controversial and dangerous work, which is why Sebastian needs his bodyguard/assistant/sidekick: Partner. So if Sebastian is just about the most unpopular lawyer in town, why is Partner so loyal to him? How did they meet? And what's the real story of this man of few words who's as good with a gun as he is with the law?" — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

**Yoga Can Be Fatal: A Senior Sleuthing Club Cozy Mystery, Book 3**

**DB124409** 4 hours 11 minutes, by Jinty James, read by Gabriella Cavallero

"When assistant librarian Pru takes a tough yoga class, she doesn’t think she’ll return. But afterward, Pru and friends stumble across a dead body – someone connected to the yoga session! To make matters worse, a blast from Pru’s past arrives unexpectedly in Gold Leaf Valley – a person she hoped to never see again. Pru decides to hold her own yoga class, to try and lure some suspects out of hiding." — Provided by publisher. 2023.

**Open Season: An Alex Delaware Novel**

**DB126997** 9 hours 14 minutes, by Jonathan Kellerman, read by John Rubinstein

"People come to Los Angeles to chase their dreams. Sometimes they find themselves cast into a nightmare. And sometimes, the most ardent dreamers turn out to be the most vicious monsters. A murderous spree is baffling, with apparent lack of connection among the victims." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Romance**

**The Strawberry Patch Pancake House**

**DB128553** 9 hours 7 minutes, by Laurie Gilmore, read by Regina Reagan

"As a world-renowned chef, single dad Archer never planned on moving to a small town, let alone running a pancake restaurant. But Dream Harbor needs a new chef, and Archer needs a community to help raise his daughter, Olive. Iris has never managed to hold down a job for more than a few months. So when it's suggested that Archer is looking for a live-in nanny, she almost runs in the opposite direction. Now, Iris finds herself in a whole new world." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Deep End**

**DB127224** 13 hours 50 minutes, by Ali Hazelwood, read by Ben Holtzmuller

"Scarlett Vandermeer is swimming upstream. A junior at Stanford and a student-athlete who specializes in platform diving, Scarlett prefers to keep her head down, concentrating on getting into med school. Swim captain, world champion, all-around aquatics golden boy, Lukas Blomqvist thrives on discipline. It's how he wins gold medals and breaks records: complete focus, with every stroke. On the surface, Lukas and Scarlett have nothing in common. Until a well-guarded secret slips out, and everything changes. So they start an arrangement. And as the pressure leading to the Olympics heats up, so does their relationship." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Once Smitten, Twice Shy**

**DB127455** 10 hours 19 minutes, by Chloe Liese, read by Charlotte North

Juliet Wilmot, once a hopeless romantic, has sworn off love. But when she's presented with the chance to revisit romance—purely for practice—with the gorgeous, off-limits guy she keeps running into, it feels like a sign from the universe. Quiet, shy Will Orsino knows happily-ever-after isn't on his horizon. Problem is, for the sake of the family business, marriage is. Neither of them looking for love, Jules and Will agree they're the perfect pair to practice romance. Except that practicing to perfection leads to an irresistible attraction." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**So It Goes**

**DB127807** 9 hours 39 minutes, by Jennifer Probst, read by Joy Beharie

"The truth? Lonely advertising rep Malia Evergreen is still waiting for a soulmate, marriage, and a family. The lie? Telling every busybody she knows that she's met someone. Now Malia needs a date for a wedding. In a pinch she strikes a bargain with her former client, CEO Palmer Matterson—an arrogant, billionaire whose best quality is insincerity. The perfect fake date. Palmer has wanted Malia from the first moment he saw her. This is Palmer's chance to win her heart. If only they can convince each other what they share...a belief in a happy ever after." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

**The Best Life Book Club**

**DB127545** 10 hours 12 minutes, by Sheila Roberts, read by Ann Marie Gideon

Karissa Newcomb is ready for a new start in a new neighborhood, as far away as she can get from Seattle, where her husband cheated on her with the neighbor who was supposed to be her best friend. Soon she finds she's not the only one in need of a refresh. Her new neighbors, Alice and Margot, are dealing with their own crises. Together, the three women embark on a literary journey that just might be the kick-start they need to begin building their best lives yet." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Historical Fiction**

**Babylonia**

**DB126976** 16 hours 25 minutes, by Costanza Casati, read by Ayesha Antoine

"When kings fall, queens rise. Nothing about Semiramis's upbringing could have foretold her legacy. Born to a woman scorned by Aphrodite and raised as an orphan on the outskirts of an empire, Semiramis was never meant to hold power. But that does not mean she was not made for it. This myth-based story follows Semiramis, the only female ruler of the Assyrian empire, and the famous love triangle that made her queen—usurping both a king and the man they both loved." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Isola: A Novel**

**DB127226** 12 hours 58 minutes, by Allegra Goodman, read by Allegra Goodman

"Heir to a fortune, Marguerite is destined for a life of prosperity and gentility. Then she is orphaned, and her guardian spends her inheritance and insists she accompany him on an expedition to New France. Isolated and afraid, Marguerite befriends her guardian's servant and the two develop an intense attraction. But when their relationship is discovered, they are brutally punished and abandoned on a small island with no hope for rescue. Inspired by the real life of a sixteenth-century heroine, Isola is the timeless story of a woman fighting for survival." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Theft: A Novel**

**DB128090** 9 hours 44 minutes, by Abdulrazak Gurnah, read by Ashley Zhangazha

"In his first new novel since winning the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature, a master storyteller captures young people in Tanzania in a time of dizzying global change. At the turn of the twenty-first century, three young people come of age in Tanzania. Karim returns to his hometown after university with a sense of ambition. There he catches the eye of Fauzia, who sees in him a chance at escape from a smothering upbringing. When the two of them offer a haven to Badar, a poor boy still unsure if the future holds anything for him at all, they little imagine how deeply their fates will entwine and diverge." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**The Woman With a Purple Heart: Based on True Events**

**DB127892** 10 hours 25 minutes, by Diane Hanks, read by Libby McKnight

"Annie Fox will stop at nothing to serve her country. But what happens when her country fails her? On December 7, Annie's on her way to work when the first Japanese Zero fighter plane flies low over Hickam's parade ground. She rallies her nurses, and they work to save as many lives as they can. Under Annie's leadership, they make it through that horrific day, when one of the Japanese American nurses and Annie's friend, Kay, is arrested as a suspected subversive." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**The Life of Herod the Great: A Novel**

**DB126751** 12 hours 13 minutes, by Zora Neale Hurston and Deborah G. Plant, read by Blair Underwood

"A never before published novel from Zora Neale Hurston, revealing the historical Herod the Great—not the villain the Bible makes him out to be but a religious and philosophical man who lived a life of valor and vision. In the 1950s, Zora Neale Hurston penned a historical novel about one of the most infamous figures in the Bible, Herod the Great. In Hurston's retelling, Herod is a beloved king who enriched Jewish culture and brought prosperity and peace to Judea. Hurston's unfinished manuscript brings this complex, compelling, and misunderstood leader fully into focus." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Suspense and Thriller**

**Blood Moon**

**DB128435** 12 hours 19 minutes, by Sandra Brown, read by Kyf Brewer

"Detective John Bowie is one misstep away from being fired from the Auclair Police Department in coastal Louisiana. Bowie does all that he can to cope with the actions taken (or not taken) during the investigation of Crissy Mellin, a teenage girl who disappeared more than three years prior. But now, a true crime television series is soon to air an episode documenting the unsolved Mellin case. Bowie has been instructed by his unscrupulous boss to keep to himself his grievances of the investigation. Beth Collins, a producer on Crisis Point, knows what classifies as a great story and when there's something more to be told. At the risk of their jobs and lives, Bowie and Collins band together to identify a perpetrator, while fighting an irresistible spark between them." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**A Kiss Before Dying**

**DB128032** 8 hours 28 minutes, by Ira Levin, read by George Newbern

"Known for his looks and charm, a young man obsessed with wealth and status will stop at nothing to get what he wants. He sets his sights on a beautiful and innocent college student named Dorothy, intent on marrying her for her family's money. But when Dorothy becomes pregnant, his careful plans start to unravel, and he begins to take cold, calculating, and drastic measures to protect his future." — Provided by publisher. Originally published 1953. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

DB128032 A Kiss Before Dying

**48 Clues Into the Disappearance of My Sister**

**DB125420** 6 hours 41 minutes, by Joyce Carol Oates, read by Sarah Welborn

"Beautiful sculptor Marguerite has disappeared from her small town in upstate New York. But was foul play involved? Did she merely get away for some fun? Or did she finally make the decision to leave behind her claustrophobic life of limited opportunities? Younger sister Gigi wonders if the flimsy silk Dior dress, so casually abandoned on the floor, is a clue to Marguerite's vanishing. The police puzzle over the footprints made by her Ferragamo boots, which end abruptly close to her home. Bit by bit, revelations about both women are uncovered, as Gigi, not so pretty as her sister, reveals her true feelings about the perfect, much-loved Marguerite. The fate of the missing beauty slowly and subtly comes to light In this suspenseful story about the complex relationship between two sisters." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**Westerns**

**Fort Buzzard**

**DB127124** 8 hours 24 minutes, by William W. Johnstone and J. A. Johnstone, read by J. Rodney Turner

"Fort Buzzard—officially Gullickson's Fort—earned its nefarious nickname because of the human vultures it attracts. Namely the brutes and brawlers hired by Gullickson to protect his interests. When a nearby trading post is suddenly attacked, Preacher and McCallister smell a rat. The Crows swear they're not responsible for the attack, the abduction, or the mountain party massacre. Preacher and McCallister believe them—but proving it won't be easy. This road to justice only leads to more dead ends—and the biggest, bloodiest showdown in Rocky Mountain history.” Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Hostile Territory**

**DB127038** 9 hours 59 minutes, by William W. Johnstone and J. A. Johnstone, read by J. Rodney Turner

"Preacher and Jamie MacCallister search for a hidden fortune that might be just a legend—but the bandits, bullets, and bloodshed they find are all too real... Jamie MacCallister remembers the Alamo—especially one brave frontiersman who died fighting there. Now the fallen veteran's granddaughter needs Jamie's help. She's found a letter written by her grandfather with a map to the spot where Alamo legend Jim Bowie supposedly hid a fortune in silver and gold. Enter Preacher: easily the toughest mountain man in the West and, luckily, Jamie MacCallister's loyal friend. Together, they begin their journey at Fort Belknap, the farthest outpost of civilization." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.