**Selections from Talking Book Topics – Nonfiction**

**Biography**

**Memorial Days: A Memoir**

**DB127658** 4 hours 59 minutes, by Geraldine Brooks, read by Geraldine Brooks

"It was Memorial Day, 2019, when Geraldine Brooks received news that her husband, Tony Horwitz, had collapsed and died, far from home, in the middle of his own book tour. The complex tasks required in the face of such a sudden death left her no time to properly grieve for him. Three years later, still feeling broken and bereft, she booked a flight to a remote island off the coast of Tasmania. Alone on a rugged stretch of coast, she revisited a thirty-five-year marriage filled with risk, adventure, humor, and love. There, she pondered the ways other cultures deal with mourning and finally seized the time and space she needed for her own grief." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2025.

**The Deaf Girl: A Memoir of Hearing Loss, Hope, and Fighting Against the Odds**

**DB127106** 5 hours 18 minutes, by Abigail Heringer, read by Abigail Heringer

"Abigail Heringer made her television debut as an instant fan-favorite on season 25 of The Bachelor. Stepping out of the limousine, she approached her bachelor with a playful declaration: she would be staring at his lips all night for two compelling reasons—her profound deafness since birth, and because he had some nice lips! But Abigail's journey wasn't always marked by such confidence. Growing up deaf and introverted, she dreaded being the center of attention, fearing her disability would burden those around her. Among her hearing peers, she felt like an outsider, simply labeled as 'the deaf girl.' And after receiving a cochlear implant at the age of two, she subsequently struggled to find her place in the Deaf community too." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**The JFK Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill Kennedy—and Why It Failed**

**DB127257** 7 hours 22 minutes, by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch, read by Scott Brick

"Kennedy, the thirty-fifth president of the United States, is often ranked among Americans' most well-liked presidents. Yet what most Americans don't know is that JFK's historic presidency almost ended before it began—at the hands of a disgruntled sociopathic loner armed with dynamite. On December 11, 1960, shortly after Kennedy's election and before his inauguration- a simple plan—one that could've changed the course of history." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2025.

**Connecting Dots: A Blind Life**

**DB127356** 9 hours 36 minutes, by Joshua A. Miele, read by Greg D. Barnett

"When Joshua Miele was four years old, he answered his front door, and a mentally disturbed neighbor poured a cup of acid over his head, blinding him for life. It was a tragedy that could've destroyed him, but instead, Miele—naturally curious, and a born engineer—not only recovered, but flourished, finding increasingly inventive ways not only to help himself thrive in a world built for the sighted, but to help others to do the same. In 2022, Miele fulfilled a nearly lifelong dream when he won a MacArthur genius Grant. Miele has always considered his challenges to be opportunities, and that is something we can all learn from." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend**

**DB128123** 11 hours 50 minutes, by Rebecca Romney, read by Rebecca Romney

"Long before she was a rare book dealer, Rebecca Romney was a devoted reader of Jane Austen. She loved that Austen's books took the lives of women seriously, explored relationships with wit and confidence, and always, allowed for the possibility of a happy ending. She read and reread them, often wishing Austen wrote just one more. But Austen wasn't a lone genius. She wrote at a time of great experimentation for women writers—and clues about those women, and the exceptional books they wrote, are sprinkled like breadcrumbs throughout Austen's work. Romney collects the once-famed works of these forgotten writers, physically recreating Austen's bookshelf and making a convincing case for why these books should be placed back on the to-be-read pile of all book lovers today." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**US History**

**Indians in Unexpected Places**

**DB125578** 10 hours 50 minutes, by Philip J. Deloria, read by Mark Ashby

"Despite the passage of time, our vision of Native Americans remains locked up within powerful stereotypes. That's why some images of Indians can be so unexpected and disorienting: What is Geronimo doing sitting in a Cadillac? Why is an Indian woman in beaded buckskin sitting under a salon hairdryer? Such images startle and challenge our outdated visions, even as the latter continue to dominate relations between Native and non-Native Americans." — Provided by publisher. Some strong language. 2004.

**The Crazies: The Cattleman, the Wind Prospector, and a War Out West**

**DB127113** 18 hours 0 minutes, by Amy Gamerman, read by Anna Sale

"Most locals in Big Timber, Montana learn to live with the wind. Rick Jarrett sought his fortune in it. Like his pioneer ancestors who staked their claims in the Treasure State, he believed in his right to make a living off the land—and its newest precious resource, million-dollar wind. Trouble was, Jarrett's neighbors were some of the wealthiest and most influential men in America, trophy ranchers who'd come West to enjoy magnificent mountain views, not stare at 500-foot wind turbines. And so began an epic showdown that would pull in an ever-widening cast of larger-than-life characters, including a Texas oil and gas tycoon, a roguish wind prospector, a Crow activist fighting for his tribe's rights to the mountains they hold sacred, and an Olympic athlete-turned-attorney whose path to redemption would lead to Jarrett's wind farm." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Hattiesburg: An American City in Black and White**

**DB128104** 13 hours 36 minutes, by William Sturkey, read by Bill Andrew Quinn

"If you really want to understand Jim Crow—what it was and how African Americans rose up to defeat it—you should start by visiting Mobile Street in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the heart of the historic black downtown. There you can still see remnants of the shops and churches where, amid the violence and humiliation of segregation, men and women gathered to build a remarkable community. Hattiesburg takes us into the heart of this divided town and deep into the lives of families on both sides of the racial divide to show how the fabric of their existence was shaped by the changing fortunes of the Jim Crow South." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

**The Summer of 1876: Outlaws, Lawmen, and Legends in the Season That Defined the American West**

**DB127993** 8 hours 4 minutes, by Chris Wimmer, read by Chris Wimmer

"The summer of 1876 was a key time period in the development of the mythology of the Old West. Many individuals who are considered legends by modern listeners were involved in events that began their notoriety or turned out to be the most famous—or infamous—moments of their lives. Those individuals were Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Wild Bill Hickok, and Jesse James. Contextualizing these events against the backdrop of the massive 100th anniversary party thrown to celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, The Summer of 1876 is the ultimate exploration and celebration of the summer that defined the West." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2023.

**World History**

**Embers of the Hands: Hidden Histories of the Viking Age**

**DB128103** 10 hours 55 minutes, by Eleanor Barraclough, read by Eleanor Barraclough

"In imagining a Viking, a certain image springs to mind: a barbaric warrior, leaping ashore from a longboat, and ready to terrorize the hapless local population of a northern European town. Yet while such characters define our imagination of the Viking Age today, they were in the minority. Instead, in the time-stopping soils, water, and ice of the North, Eleanor Barraclough excavates a preserved lost world, one that reimagines a misunderstood society. This is a history of a Viking Age filled with real people of different ages, genders, and ethnicities, as told through the traces that they left behind." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Saints and Liars: The Story of Americans Who Saved Refugees From the Nazis**

**DB128282** 6 hours 38 minutes, by Debórah Dwork, read by Alexandra Cohler

"Long before their country officially joined the war, American aid workers were active in rescue efforts across Europe. Two such Americans were Martha and Waitstill Sharp, who were originally sent to Prague as part of a relief effort but turned immediately to helping Jews and dissidents after the 1939 invasion by Germany. They were not the only ones. Renowned historian Debórah Dwork follows the story of rescue workers in five major cities as the refugee crisis expanded to Vilna, Shanghai, Marseille, and Lisbon. Followed by Nazi agents, spiriting people across borders, they learned secrecy- and the devastating decisions they had to make." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**The Price of Valor: The Life of Audie Murphy, America's Most Decorated Hero of World War II**

**DB127905** 6 hours 4 minutes, by David Smith, read by Tom Perkins

"When he was seventeen years old, Audie Murphy falsified his birth records so he could enlist in the Army and help defeat the Nazis. When he was nineteen, he single-handedly turned back the German Army at the Battle of Colmar Pocket by climbing on top of a tank with a machine gun, a moment immortalized in the classic film To Hell and Back, starring Audie himself. In the first biography covering his entire life—including his severe PTSD and his tragic death at age 45—the unusual story of Audie Murphy, the most decorated hero of WWII, is brought to life for a new generation." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

**The Horse: A Galloping History of Humanity**

**DB127126** 19 hours 17 minutes, by Timothy C. Winegard, read by Sean Patrick Hopkins

"Timothy C. Winegard's The Horse is an epic history unlike any other. Its story begins more than 5,500 years ago on the windswept grasslands of the Eurasian Steppe; when one human tamed one horse, an unbreakable bond was forged and the future of humanity was instantly rewritten, placing the reins of destiny firmly in human hands. Since that pivotal day, the horse has carried the history of civilizations on its powerful back. For millennia it was the primary mode of transportation, an essential farming machine, a steadfast companion, and a formidable weapon of war. Horses even inspired architecture, invention, furniture, and fashion." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Religion**

**World Religions: A Beginner's Guide; Questions and Answers for Humanity's 7 Oldest and Largest Faiths**
**DB128545** 4 hours 31 minutes, by Jill Carroll, read by Leslie Howard

"Your guide to understanding seven of the world's most prominent religions. If you're interested in learning about world religions, this book is the place to start. Packed with informative fact sheets and answers to common questions, this beginner's guide fills you in on the most important aspects of each religion. By presenting facts through questions and answers, this book uses a conversational tone that makes information easier to understand and remember." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**I Want You to Be Happy: Finding Peace and Abundance in Everyday Life
DB127633** 6 hours 26 minutes, by Pope Francis, read by Jonathan Keeble

"Pope Francis shares wisdom and encouragement to help readers seek God's will and His best. The short, accessible chapters distill His message into bite-sized readings that can be read all at once or in daily segments. This collection of inspiring pieces reminds readers that God cares and wants us to live well and love well. God wants us to be happy." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible, and What He Wants to Do With You**
**DB127600** 7 hours 44 minutes, by John F. MacArthur, read by Maurice England

"They were ordinary, common, and in some cases shockingly low-caste, yet each was made extraordinary by her life-changing encounter with God. Their struggles and temptations are the same trials faced by all believers at all ages. Inside this book, bestselling author and Bible teacher John MacArthur shows that the God to whom they were so committed is the same God who continues to mold and use ordinary people today. Twelve Extraordinary Women features the stories of: Eve, Sarah, Rahab, Ruth, Hannah, Mary, Anna, The Samaritan Woman, Martha and Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Lydia." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

**The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage**
**DB128343** 6 hours 14 minutes, by Richard Rohr, read by Drew Jackson

"How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with our private disappointments and the anger we feel over an unjust world? In his most personal book yet, Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, showing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a path forward today. The Tears of Things breathes new life into ancient wisdom and paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a wholehearted way of living in a hurting world." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2025.

**A Journey Into Divine Love: A Revelation of the Song of Songs
DB125069** 4 hours 37 minutes, by Kirt A. Schneider, read by Carl Stewart

"What if the point of the cross wasn't just to be saved but to be loved? After reading this book you will see the purpose and power behind a deep and meaningful relationship with Christ. Rabbi Schneider helps readers discover how much God loves them by showing how the Song of Songs (or the Song of Solomon) is not just a poetic love story but also a prophetic message of God's love for His church. With practical guidance and insightful analysis, Rabbi Schneider illuminates the layers of meaning and symbolism in the Song of Songs, revealing the profound truths it holds for our spiritual lives today." — Provided by publisher. 2024.

**Science**

**Out of Your Mind: The Biggest Mysteries of the Human Brain
DB127023** 7 hours 11 minutes, by Jorge Cham and Dwayne Godwin, read by Dwayne Godwin
"Why do you love? Why do you lie? What makes you happy? Every single thought you have comes from one place: your brain. But what makes it tick? How much of it have we decoded, and how much of it remains an impenetrable mystery? Join best-selling author and online cartoonist Jorge Cham and neuroscientist Dwayne Godwin on a deep dive into the fascinating world of the human brain, in which they will explore questions such as: What is consciousness? Where is you in the brain? And do we have free will? " — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**The Forgotten Sense: The New Science of Smell—and the Extraordinary Power of the Nose
DB126984** 7 hours 1 minutes, by Jonas Olofsson, read by Adam Verner

"Our sense of smell guides our lives far more than our screen-heavy, sight-privileged era would suggest. It animates our experience of food and drink, helps us access memories, and strengthens our intimacy with each other. But, long considered our most 'beastly' sense, the inner workings of smell have stumped scientists for centuries. Now, cognitive scientist and leading smell researcher Jonas Olofsson uncovers the sophisticated biological processes that animate our olfactory system, with profound implications for how we perceive the world around us." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.