**Selections from Talking Book Topics**

**Sept-Oct 2025**

**Nonfiction**

**Selections from Talking Book Topics – Nonfiction**

**Biography**

**Children of Radium: A Buried Inheritance**

**DB129412** 5 hours 43 minutes, by Joe Dunthorne, read by Joe Dunthorne

"When Joe Dunthorne began researching his family history, he expected to write the account of their harrowing escape from Nazi Germany in 1935. What he found in his great-grandfather Siegfried's voluminous, unpublished, partially translated memoir was a much darker, more complicated story. Dunthorne confronts the uncomfortable questions that lie at the heart of every family: Can we ever understand our origins? Is every family story a work of fiction? And if the truth can be found, will we be able to live with it?" — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**The Tell: a Memoir**

**DB128382** 7 hours 44 minutes, by Amy Griffin, read by Amy Griffin

Oprah's Book Club. "For decades, Amy ran. Through the dirt roads of Amarillo, Texas, where she grew up; to the campus of the University of Virginia, as a student athlete; on the streets of New York, where she built her adult life; through marriage, motherhood, and a thriving career. But Amy was running from a secret she was keeping from herself. So began Amy's quest to solve a mystery trapped in the deep recesses of her own memory—a journey into the burgeoning field of psychedelic therapy, to the limits of the judicial system, and to where her story began." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2025.

**I, Spastic: The Autobiography of Neil Marcus**

**DB126839** 10 hours 30 minutes, by Neil Marcus and S. H. Chambers, read by Crystian Wiltshire

"While society called his disability an obstacle and limitation, Neil argued that his 'flourishing dystonia' allowed him to think, explore, and create art in a way most people cannot. True to his words, Neil embraced every opportunity to experience life to its fullest, from navigating the Alaskan wilderness in a wheelchair to commanding the spotlight on stage. In this deeply personal account, Neil invites readers into his world as he remembers adventures and escapades, triumphs and disappointments." — Provided by publisher. Some strong language. 2024.

**The Stable Boy of Auschwitz: A Heartbreaking True Story of Courage and Survival**

**DB126111** 6 hours 31 minutes, by Henry H. Oster and Dexter, read by Stephen Van Doren

"Henry Oster was just five years old when Adolf Hitler took power in 1933. He was the last survivor of the more than two thousand Jews who were rounded up by the Gestapo and deported from Cologne. Assigned to back-breaking labor in the Auschwitz horse-breeding stables, Henry clung to the belief that if he made himself hard to replace, he might stay alive. Through it all, Henry was one of only twenty-three to emerge alive from the concentration camp after the war." — Provided by publisher. Violence and some strong language. 2014.

**I Am Maria: My Reflections and Poems on Heartbreak, Healing, and Finding Your Way Home**

**DB129517** 5 hours 19 minutes, by Maria Shriver, read by Maria Shriver

"A book like no other, I Am Maria weaves Shriver's hard-earned wisdom with her own deeply personal poetry. I Am Maria reminds readers there is strength and love on the other side of all of our hardest days." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2025.

**US History**

**This Fierce People: The Untold Story of America's Revolutionary War in the South**

**DB129222** 12 hours 21 minutes, by Alan Pell Crawford, read by Cary Hite

"A groundbreaking, important recovery of history; the overlooked story—fully explored—of the critical aspect of America's Revolutionary War that was fought in the South, showing that the British surrender at Yorktown was the direct result of the southern campaign, and that the battles that emerged south of the Mason-Dixon line between loyalists to the Crown and patriots who fought for independence were, in fact, America's first civil war. Crawford reveals the misperceptions and contradictions of our accepted understanding of how our nation came to be, as well as the national narrative that America's victory over the British lay solely with General George Washington and his troops." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**The Ride: Paul Revere and the Night That Saved America**

**DB129115** 5 hours 18 minutes, by Kostya Kennedy, read by Johnny Heller

"Timed for the 250th anniversary of one of America's most famous founding events: Paul Revere's legendary ride, newly told with fresh research into little-known aspects of the myth that every American learns in school. On April 18, 1775, a Boston-based silversmith, engraver, and anti-British political operative named Paul Revere set out on a borrowed horse to fulfill a dangerous but crucial mission: to alert American colonists of advancing British troops, which would seek to crush their nascent revolt. Kennedy reveals Revere's ride to be more complex than it is usually portrayed—a coordinated series of rides by numerous men, near-disaster, capture by British forces, and finally success." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Medicine River: A Story of Survival and the Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools**

**DB129679** 9 hours 51 minutes, by Mary Annette Pember, read by Erin Tripp

"From the mid-19th century to the late 1930s, tens of thousands of Native children were pulled from their families to attend boarding schools that claimed to help create opportunity for these children to pursue professions and otherwise 'assimilate' into American life. In reality, these boarding schools were an attempt to break the traditions of generations of Native people. Through searing interviews and assiduous historical reporting, Pember traces the evolution and continued rebirth of a culture whose country has been seemingly intent upon destroying it." — Provided by publisher, Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Taking Manhattan: The Extraordinary Events That Created New York and Shaped America**

**DB128917** 11 hours 36 minutes, by Russell Shorto, read by Russell Shorto

"Bristling with vibrant characters, Taking Manhattan reveals the founding of New York to be an invention, the result of creative negotiations that would blend the multiethnic, capitalistic society of New Amsterdam with the power of the rising English empire. The book draws from newly translated materials and illuminates neglected histories—of religious refugees, Indigenous tribes, and free and enslaved Africans. The book tells the riveting story of the birth of New York City as a center of capitalism and pluralism, a foundation from which America would rise." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**World History**

**Munich, 1938: Appeasement and World War II**

**DB128370** 19 hours 9 minutes, by David Faber, read by Arthur Morey

"Drawing on a wealth of archival material, acclaimed historian David Faber delivers a sweeping reassessment of the extraordinary events of 1938, tracing the key incidents leading up to the Munich Conference and its immediate aftermath: Lord Halifax's ill-fated meeting with Hitler; Chamberlain's secret discussions with Mussolini; and the Berlin scandal that rocked Hitler's regime." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

**Paris Undercover: A Wartime Story of Courage, Friendship, and Betrayal**

**DB128688** 14 hours 33 minutes, by Matthew Goodman, read by Kristi Burns

"Two women in Nazi-occupied Paris created a daring escape line that rescued dozens of Allied servicemen. With one in a German prison camp, the other wrote a book about it—a memoir that was built on lies. Now the bestselling author of Eighty Days shares their incredible, never-before-told full story." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**The Mesopotamian Riddle: An Archaeologist, a Soldier, a Clergyman and the Race to Decipher the World's Oldest Writing**

**DB129256** 10 hours 48 minutes, by Joshua Hammer, read by Matthew Lloyd Davies

"It was one of history's great vanishing acts. As early as 3500 BCE, scribes in the mud-walled city-state of Sumer used a reed stylus to press tiny wedge-shaped symbols into clay. For three thousand years, the script chronicled the military conquests, scientific discoveries, and epic literature of the grand kingdoms of Mesopotamia, along with precious minutia about everyday life so long ago. But as the palaces of these once great kingdoms sank beneath the desert sands, the meaning of these characters was lost. In the Victorian era's obsession with the triumph of human progress, the mysterious kingdoms of ancient Mesopotamia—the very cradle of civilization—had captured the public imagination. Yet Europe's best philologists struggled to decipher the strange characters. A rollicking adventure through the golden age of archaeology, The Writing on the Wall tracks the decades-long race to decipher the oldest script in the world. It's the story of a swashbuckling young archeologist, a suave British military officer, and a curmudgeonly Irish rector, all vying for glory in a quest to unearth the relics of lost civilizations and unlock the secrets of humanity's past." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Henry V: The Astonishing Triumph of England's Greatest Warrior King**

**DB129221** 14 hours 46 minutes, by Dan Jones, read by Dan Jones

"In 1413, when Henry V ascended to the English throne, his kingdom was hopelessly torn apart by political factions and partisanship. Public finances and law and order were in a state of crisis. Pirates tormented the coast; plots, conspiracies, and heresy threatened society. The lingering effects of the worst pandemic in human history continued to menace daily life. And then, in less than ten years, Henry turns it all around. By common consensus in his day, and for hundreds of years afterward, Henry was the greatest medieval king that ever lived. Drawing on the latest scholarship and writing with his characteristic wit and style, Dan Jones examines the king's legendary life—and he puts Henry's claim to greatness very vigorously to the test." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**How the World Made the West: A 4,000 Year History**

**DB128045** 15 hours 52 minutes, by Josephine Crawley Quinn, read by Alix Dunmore

"In How the World Made the West, Oxford historian and classicist Josephine Quinn poses perhaps the most significant challenge ever to the 'civilizational' thinking regarding the origins of Western culture and thought—that is, the idea that civilizations arose separately and distinctly from one another. Upending two centuries of conventional historiography and troubling the waters of our Western origin story, she locates the roots of the West in everything from literature from Sumeria, the law codes of Babylon, metallurgy from the Hittites, to sculpture from Egypt, irrigation from Assyria, and the art of navigation and the alphabet from Phoenicia, to name just a few examples. Quinn demonstrates that cultures come to life by borrowing heavily from others, near and far." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Religion**

**An Introduction to Prayer**

**DB129403** 2 hours 48 minutes, by Robert Barron, read by Robert Barron

"Prayer fascinates us. Studies show that even atheists and agnostics sometimes pray. But what precisely is prayer? How does it 'work'? And what are some of the time-tested ways to practice it? Perfect for beginners but filled with profound insights for those looking to further their spiritual life, An Introduction to Prayer will inspire you to seek out more frequent conversation—and a deeper communion—with God." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Defend Us in Battle: The Promises of St. Michael and the Heavenly Angels**

**DB126870** 4 hours 1 minutes, by Marge Fenelon, read by Gabriella Cavallero

“Award-winning author Marge Steinhage Fenelon has written an excellent introduction to devotion to St. Michael, especially by praying the Chaplet of St. Michael. The Chaplet includes nine salutations (like decades of the Rosary), each addressed to one of the choirs, and each asking for a particular grace. Discover the peace and security that lies in praying the Chaplet of St. Michael. Stand strong against sin, temptation, and the influence of evil and grow in holiness and wisdom." — Provided by publisher. 2024.

**The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught**

**DB129000** 4 hours 55 minutes, by Adam Hamilton, read by George W. Sarris

"Most Christians know the Lord's Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it? Pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

**The Next Step: 50 Devotions to Find Your Way Forward**

**DB129135** 4 hours 18 minutes, by Sadie Robertson Huff and Debbie Wickwire, read by Sadie Robertson Huff

"Do you need direction for your next step? Does the future seem uncertain? Do you wonder how you can make a difference today? Life can sometimes feel like a series of starts, stops, bumps, and ruts. The Next Step, by New York Times bestselling author, speaker, and podcast host Sadie Robertson Huff shares insights, practices, and inspiration for living intentionally, discerning the plans God has for you, and walking in the wisdom of His Word." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2024.

**Mornings with God: 365 Devotions to Start Your Day Right**

**DB126002** 12 hours 58 minutes, by Joyce Meyer, read by Gabriella Cavallero

"With each new day, the Lord offers a new invitation to fellowship and closeness with Him. He never tires of hearing our voice. We can come before Him with our anxieties, our flaws, our hopes, and our joys, because He cares for us. When we pray our way through the day, the Spirit comforts and helps us, and we are able to encourage others and face our days with new strength. There is no better way to start your day than by spending time with the God who longs to know you more and fill your life with the riches of His grace." — Provided by publisher. 2024.

**Science**

**The Heart of the Wild: Essays on Nature, Conservation, and the Human Future**

**DB126886** 12 hours 17 minutes, edited by Ben A. Minteer and Jonathan B., read by Joe Avellar

"How do we keep a love of nature and the wild alive in our increasingly human-dominated world? According to the scientists and writers in this book, doing so is of paramount significance; however, the answer is not necessarily blanket preservation of wild places, which is increasingly unrealistic. Rather, the answer to "how to care for nature" is more nuanced and often entails acceptance of a broader definition of wild as well and what it means to experience nature." — Provided by publisher. 2024.

**Dimming the Sun: The Urgent Case for Geoengineering**

**DB129035** 5 hours 39 minutes, by Thomas Ramge, read by Rob Greenbaum

"Earth stands at a tipping point. As we fail to curtail emissions fast enough, our planet stares down a cascade of imminent, catastrophic, and irreversible disaster triggered by climate change. Yet a potent technology already exists to buy us more time: solar geoengineering. Award-winning science writer Thomas Ramge's Dimming the Sun is his provocative, informative, urgent, and necessary exploration of this intriguing stopgap solution." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Target Earth: Meteorites, Asteroids, Comets, and Other Cosmic Intruders That Threaten Our Planet**

**DB129170** 2 hours 6 minutes, by Govert Schilling, read by Mike Cooper

"The impact of an asteroid led to the extinction of the dinosaurs. Could another giant cosmic missile soon be heading our way? In Target Earth, acclaimed Dutch astronomy writer Govert Schilling provides a full account of what we know, and need to know, about all the extraterrestrial matter constantly bombarding our planet—from microscopic dust particles and space debris to massive meteorites, comets, and asteroids." — Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2025.

**Selections From Talking Book Topics**

**Sept–Oct 2025**

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**FL1C**

**Talking Books Library**   
Miami-Dade Public Library System

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Telephone: (305) 751-8687  
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General Email: talkingbooks@mdpls.org

**FL1D**

**Orange County Library System**

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Telephone: (407) 835-7464

Staff Email: talkingbooks@ocls.info

**FL1G**

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West Palm Beach, FL 33409-9808   
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General Email: talkingbooks@pbclibrary.org

**FL1H**

**Broward County Talking Book Library**

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General Email: talkingbooks@broward.org

**FL1J**

**Lee County Talking Books Library**

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Fort Myers, FL 33901-2916   
Telephone: (239) 533-4780

or (239) 995-2665  
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General Email: talkingbooks@leegov.com

**FL1K**

**Brevard County Talking Books Library**

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Telephone: (321) 633-1810

General Email: talkingbooks@mylibraryworld.com

**FL1L**

**West Florida Public Library, Talking Books Library**

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