



The Reading Light

*The quarterly newsletter
of Mississippi Talking
Book Services*

Summer 2023 Issue

Staff Spotlight



Because I was born with eye problems, I became a patron of the Talking Book Services when I was seven years old. I always loved the books and insisted that my mother take me by the library in Jackson every time we came to town, just so I could say hi.

My first experience with working in a library was in junior high school. The public school I attended offered a junior assistant program for students who expressed an interest. I spent a lot of time reading books, so I thought I might give it a try.

My turn was the first period of the day, and it quickly became my next favorite class after English Literature.

They put me in charge of keeping up with the morning papers and displaying and filing the magazines and other periodicals. This was much more stimulating for me than just sitting in a class, and memorizing answers, and soon I signed up to work on the school paper.

All through high school and junior college, I divided my extra time between helping in the library and working on the school paper and the yearbook. I gave some thought to a journalism major instead of my chosen English field, but I kept looking back at the library.

My first day as a librarian here was April 4, 2006. I couldn't believe my luck that I was the applicant who had been selected to fill this position. After nearly seventeen years of serving as a Patron Services Librarian, the duties of my job still feel like a fresh challenge. I hope to be a part of many more new changes in Mississippi Talking Book Services.

Margaret's Book Recommendation: DB35808 *Mars* by Ben Bova

After years of planning and rigorous training, a crew of astronauts from eleven countries heads for Mars. Once the ship lands, unexpected events happen: many of the crew members contract a mysterious illness, meteorites penetrate the surface shelter, the land rover falls into a dust bowl, and the astronauts discover a cliff village exactly like those in Arizona. Maybe there is life on Mars!

Locally Recorded Magazines Available

Here at the MS Talking Book Services, we record both the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks publication of *Mississippi Outdoors* and the state-focused *Mississippi Magazine*. These magazines detail wonderful things that Mississippi has to offer.



Are you interested in receiving the audio version of *Mississippi Outdoors* or *Mississippi Magazine*? Call us at (601) 432-4151 or email at talkingbooks@mlc.lib.ms.us to subscribe.



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Go to bit.ly/bardms to sign up for BARD. Once approved, you'll receive a confirmation email and a temporary password to then finish your sign-up process.



Helpful Hints & Reminders

- Please do not write on the containers, cartridges, or the machines. All of our items are recycled and sent to other patrons after each use. Please help us conserve funds by not damaging our items with writings.
- In order to maintain an active status as a TBS patron, you must check out or download at least one item each calendar year. Maintaining an active status ensures that you receive this newsletter as well as other updates.
- When calling the Mississippi Library Commission, please identify yourself as a Talking Book Services Patron. This will assist in expediting your calls to the appropriate department.
- Please retain the box the digital player arrives in. This box can be used to send the item back should you need a replacement or decide to discontinue service. Do not use tape on the box. The player can be mailed back to the library via the "Free Matter for the Blind and Physically Handicapped" mail program. The free shipping label is marked on the box.
- You do not need to send back the "New Patron Packet" or used headphones. They are both yours to keep.



Book Recommendations

DB103631 *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* by Deesha Philyaw. Recommended by Zach.



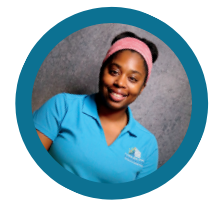
In this collection of short stories, the author follows four generations of Black women and girls grappling with identity, double standards, their own needs and desires, and a reprieve from being good.

DB056946 *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas. Recommended by Evan.



Young sailor Edmond Dantès, unjustly accused of helping the exiled Napoleon in 1815, escapes from jail after fourteen years to take revenge on the four men who caused his imprisonment. Now wealthy after recovering a buried treasure, Dantès assumes a new identity and plots the ruin of his accusers.

DB103799 *Dead Dead Girls: A Harlem Renaissance Mystery* (Book 2) by Nekesa Afia. Recommended by Akeyla.



Harlem, 1926. When young women start disappearing around her, Louise Lloyd goes on alert. Having survived a kidnapping as a teen, she's determined to have a normal life. But when she discovers a dead body and is arrested, she must work to find the killer.



DB060566 *The Heart of Redness* by Zakes Mda.

Recommended by Riley.

Seeking a beautiful woman he glimpsed after returning to Johannesburg from America, Camagu goes to Qolorha, a village afflicted by a hundred-year-old tribal feud threatening to derail its casino development plans. He is drawn into the aged cultural dispute--and into a bizarre love triangle.



DB096620 *The Last Wish: Introducing the Witcher* by Andrzej Sapkowski and Danusia Stok. Recommended by JD.

Geralt is a witcher, with magic powers that have made him a brilliant fighter and merciless assassin. His targets are monsters that ravage the land and attack the innocent. But not everything monstrous-looking is evil, and not everything fair is good.



DB106551 *The Paris Bookseller* by Kerry Maher.

Recommended by Mary Rodgers.

When bookish young American Sylvia Beach opens Shakespeare and Company on a quiet street in Paris in 1919, she has no idea that she and her new bookstore will change the course of literature itself. She forges friendships with many of the most important writers of the era.





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FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND & PHYSICALLY
HANDICAPPED

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Library Service Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm ~ Monday - Friday

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