

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
TEXAS TALKING BOOK PROGRAM**

Title: AFTERBURN

Author: ZANE

Original Date: 2005

Yardley Brown is entranced by bank clerk Rayne Waters, but figures she must be attached. He searches for romance but only finds disappointment after disappointment. Finally, he asks Rayne out—and he may have found the woman of his dreams. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2005.

DB 80808

Title: BLANCHE CLEANS UP

Author: NEELY, BARBARA

Original Date: 1998

When Blanche White reluctantly agrees to fill in as housekeeper for a vacationing friend, she encounters a family in chaos. Mr. Brindle's campaign for governor is disrupted by a murder and a suicide in his household. Some of his African American supporters are particularly scornful and suspicious of Blanche. Strong language, violence, and descriptions of sex. 1998.

BR 11910 DB 47262

Title: CITY WE BECAME

Author: JEMISIN, N.K.

Original Date: 2020

Every great city has a soul. New York City? She's got six, all newly awakened to their power. But every city also has a dark side. An ancient evil stirs, threatening to destroy New York and her six newborn avatars unless they can come together to stop it. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

DB 98901

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Title: COLDEST WINTER EVER

Author: SOULJAH, SISTER

Original Date: 1999

Gritty portrayal of the coming-of-age of Winter Santiago, born in 1977 to a fourteen-year-old mother and a drug-dealing father in Brooklyn's projects. The family's lavish lifestyle falls apart when Winter's mother is shot and her father is imprisoned, sending Winter to the streets. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1999. Followed by Midnight: A Gangster Love Story (DB 68016); Midnight and the Meaning Of Love (DB 73978); and Deeper Love Inside: The Porsche Santiago Story (DB 76278).

DB 57412

Title: CUTTING SEASON

Author: LOCKE, ATTICA

Original Date: 2012

Single mom Caren has returned home to manage Belle Vie, the Louisiana plantation where her ancestors toiled as slaves. When a migrant worker is found dead on the property, the investigation uncovers a link to the long-ago disappearance of a slave. Some strong language. 2012.

DB 75690

Title: DESTINY'S EMBRACE

Author: JENKINS, BEVERLY

Original Date: 2013

1885. African American seamstress Mariah Cooper leaves her abusive home in Philadelphia for a housekeeping job at a California cattle ranch. In Sacramento, she meets black rancher Logan Yates and the two attempt to deny their mutual attraction. Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2013.

DB 76763

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Title: DON'T TELL A SOUL

Author: WARREN, TIFFANY L.

Original Date: 2013

Three friends find strength and solace in their Sister-to-Sister Christian ministry. Pam's husband wasted their fortune, and she suspects he is having an affair; Taylor's ex is released from prison; and Yvonne discovers the true meaning of friendship.

Descriptions of sex. 2013.

DB 78684

Title: EXPOSED, DECEPTION, BETRAYAL

Author: CHASE, NAOMI

Original Date: 2011

Urban fiction trilogy on one cartridge. In Exposed, advertising executive Tamia Luke keeps up the pretense of perfection for her privileged boyfriend Brandon. But when a client blackmails Tamia over her porn star past, she agrees to his sexual demands.

Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. 2011.

DB 78749

Title: EXTRAORDINARY UNION

Author: COLE, ALYSSA

Original Date: 2017

Freed slave Elle Burns spies for the Loyalty League in Richmond during the Civil War. Her mission is complicated when she meets fellow spy and Pinkerton detective Malcolm McCall, who is posing as a Confederate officer. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

BR 22107 DB 89362 LB 09069

Title: FAMILY AFFAIR

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Author: BILLINGSLEY, RESHONDA TATE

Original Date: 2013

Olivia Dawson dreams of studying dance at Julliard, but its tuition is beyond her mother Lorraine's reach. After tragedy strikes, Lorraine reveals that Olivia's father is still alive—and very wealthy. Olivia goes looking for answers about why he abandoned them. Some strong language. 2013.

BR 20322 DB 77627

Title: GABRIEL'S STORY

Author: DURHAM, DAVID ANTHONY

Original Date: 2001

A fifteen-year-old African American comes of age on the 1870s frontier. When his widowed mother remarries and takes him from Baltimore to Kansas, Gabriel broods over lost opportunities and resents the hard farm life. He runs off with a band of cowboys, but the journey turns desperate and dangerous. Violence and strong language.

BR 13724 DB 54372

Title: GETTING TO HAPPY

Author: MCMILLAN, TERRY

Original Date: 2010

Phoenix, Arizona. Middle-aged Savannah, Gloria, Bernadine, and Robin, from Waiting to Exhale (DB/DX 35862), cope with problems in their love lives and with their older children. The four decide it's time to shake their addictions to food, shopping, and pills and "get happy." Strong language. Bestseller. 2010.

BR 19138 DB 72448

Title: GOD DON'T LIKE UGLY

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Author: MONROE, MARY

Original Date: 2000

Annette Goode is a shy, overweight, sexually abused adolescent when beautiful, confident Rhoda Nelson befriends her in the 1960s. Annette, taken into Rhoda's eccentric family, confides to Rhoda about her abuse. Their friendship helps Annette to blossom and to overcome her attacker. Descriptions of sex, violence, and strong language. 2000.

DB 59534

Title: GOD HELP THE CHILD

Author: MORRISON, TONI

Original Date: 2015

Bride, who was rejected by her light-skinned mother when she was born for being too black, has made her life into one that many envy. She has her own company, a fortune, and a lover. Dark secrets from the past are coming home to roost, however. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2015.

DB 81605

Title: GOODNESS AND MERCY

Author: GRIGGS, VANESSA DAVIS

Original Date: 2009

Twenty-six-year-old African American Gabrielle Mercedes joins a church for the first time as an adult and assists in forming a dance ministry. But conflict arises when someone spreads rumors about her past—and she discovers that her new boyfriend might be married. Gabrielle prays for guidance. 2009.

DB 78218

Title: I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Author: BALDWIN, JAMES

Original Date: 2017

A compilation of passages from unpublished and previously published books, essays, letters, notes, and interviews used in the creation of the 2016 Oscar-nominated documentary of the same name. Explores Baldwin's unwritten book concept profiling Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2017.

BR 21879 DB 88630

Title: IF I SHOULD DIE: A MALI ANDERSON MYSTERY

Author: EDWARDS, GRACE F. (GRACE FREDERICA)

Original Date: 1997

Harlem. En route to her nephew's Uptown Children's Chorus rehearsal, African American ex-NYPD cop Mali Anderson thwarts a kidnapping but discovers the body of chorus tour director Erskin Harding. Mali tracks the killer as anonymous warnings escalate into violence. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. 1997.

DB 61853

Title: JOHN WOMAN

Author: MOSLEY, WALTER

Original Date: 2018

Cornelius Jones's African American father Herman shared with Cornelius his theory that the person who controls the narrative of history controls their own fate. Violence and loss prompt Cornelius to reinvent himself as John Woman, a professor of history. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

DB 92733

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Title: LIKE THE FIRST TIME

Author: RAY, FRANCIS

Original Date: 2004

Charleston, South Carolina. When Claire Bennett and Brooke Dunlap lose their jobs to downsizing, housewife Lorraine Averhart suggests they open a business selling bath and body products. With Lorraine's finances, Claire's creativity, and Brooke's savvy, their venture and friendship flourish. Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2004.

DB 62376

Title: LOVE AFTER WAR

Author: HODGES, CHERIS F.

Original Date: 2013

After two years, Dana Singleton returns to Los Angeles only to run into her charming ex-boyfriend, Adrian Bryant. Adrian never explained their breakup or his obsessive vendetta against his father, but seeing Dana again fires up old passions. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2013.

DB 78391

Title: LOVE IN THE LIMELIGHT, VOLUME ONE

Author:

Original Date: 2010

In Brenda Jackson's "Star of His Heart," actress Rachel Wellesley falls for her sexy co-star Ethan Chambers on TV's hit drama. In A.C. Arthur's "Sing Your Pleasure," singer Charlene Quinn lands a new contract with a hot record label and pines for music producer Akil Hutton. Explicit descriptions of sex. 2010.

DB 81663

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Title: LOVE IN THE LIMELIGHT, VOLUME TWO

Author:

Original Date: 2014

In Ann Christopher's "Seduced on the Red Carpet," supermodel Livia Blake yearns for family and finds an unlikely passion with a sexy single father. In Adrienne Byrd's "Lovers Premiere," Hollywood agency rivals find a common ground in love and heal the rift. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2014.

DB 81754

Title: MERCY

Author: MORRISON, TONI

Original Date: 2008

Colonial North America, 1680s. An Anglo-Dutch trader reluctantly accepts a young slave girl named Florens as payment for a bad debt. Her mother hopes the transaction will prove a mercy to Florens, but subsequent years in Jacob Vaark's household reveal the harsh reality of being under another's dominion. Some violence. Bestseller. 2008.

BR 18095 DB 69148

Title: MIDDLE PASSAGE

Author: JOHNSON, CHARLES RICHARD

Original Date: 1990

In 1830, Rutherford Calhoun, a witty, well-educated freed slave eking out a living as a petty thief in New Orleans, hops aboard a square-rigger to evade the prim Boston teacher who wants to marry him. But the Republic turns out to be a slave clipper bound for Africa. Calhoun hates himself for acting as henchman to the ship's captain, a dwarfish tyrant. Before the crew can mutiny, African captives stage a revolt. National Book Award. 1990.

BR 09054 DB 32593

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Title: MONEY CAN'T BUY LOVE

Author: BRISCOE, CONNIE

Original Date: 2011

Magazine photographer Lenora Stone is broke with an uncommitted boyfriend when she wins the lottery. Suddenly, everything changes: Gerald wants to marry her, and Lenora can buy a mansion and her own studio. But can money bring happiness? Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2011.

DB 74554

Title: MORGAN MAN NOVELS, BOOKS 1-3

Author: DAY, ZURI

Original Date: 2014

Books one through three, written between 2012 and 2014, featuring the romances of the three Morgan brothers. In *Love on the Run*, sports manager Michael Morgan falls for his newest client, a sprinter. Also includes *A Good Dose of Pleasure* and *Bad Boy Seduction*. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. 2014.

DB 81277

Title: NOWHERE TO RUN

Author: GUNN, GAY G.

Original Date: 1997

California, 1849. Wealthy ex-slave Exum Taylor sends his best friend Solomon Hawk back to Georgia to buy an African woman. Solomon returns with beautiful Cassie Lee, who is eager to experience freedom and love but will not settle for Exum's brutishness. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence. 1997.

DB 50067

Title: OTHER WOMAN

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Author: DICKEY, ERIC JEROME

Original Date: 2003

An unnamed African American news producer is contacted by David Lawrence, a stranger who tells her that her husband is having an affair with his wife. The producer and David meet and have a brief fling, which their cheating spouses soon discover. Explicit descriptions of sex, strong language, and some violence. Bestseller. 2003.

DB 56284

Title: PUSH

Author: SAPPHIRE

Original Date: 1996

Illiterate and overweight, sixteen-year-old Claireece Precious Jones is pregnant again by her abusive father. After being suspended from school, Precious finds hope in Ms. Rain's Pre-GED reading class, where Precious begins keeping a journal. Violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. BCALA Literary Award. 1996.

BR 18590 DB 71038

Title: QUEEN SUGAR

Author: BASZILE, NATALIE

Original Date: 2014

A Los Angeles African American woman unexpectedly inherits a sugarcane farm in

Louisiana. Charley Bordelon and her eleven-year-old daughter, Micah, arrive just in time for growing season. Charley must deal with her homesick daughter, a bitter brother, and a Louisiana that is mired in the past. 2014.

DB 80375

**AFRICAN AMERICAN FICTION
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Title: RED AT THE BONE

Author: WOODSON, JACQUELINE

Original Date: 2019

2001. Sixteen-year-old Melody enters her coming-of-age ceremony wearing the custom-made dress her mother Iris never got to wear--due to her pregnancy. As the families of Melody's parents gather for the ceremony, their individual stories are revealed. Strong language and descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2019.

BR 22878 DB 96652

Title: RUBY

Author: BOND, CYNTHIA

Original Date: 2014

Ruby Bell runs off to New York to discover what happened to her mother, but then is called back home to Texas. She realizes that the pain and bad memories she had fled remain, threatening to drag her down. A chance at love waits. Some violence and some strong language. 2014.

DB 81110

Title: SALVAGE THE BONES

Author: WARD, JESMYN

Original Date: 2011

Mississippi, August 2005. Young black teenager Esch Batiste—pregnant, hungry, and rejected—helps her widowed father and three brothers prepare for the approaching hurricane. When the storm arrives, the family seeks refuge in the attic. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. National Book Award. 2011.

BR 19453 DB 74033

Title: SANCTUARY COVE: A CAVANAUGH ISLAND NOVEL

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Author: ALERS, ROCHELLE

Original Date: 2012

Suddenly widowed bookstore owner Deborah Robinson returns with her children to Sanctuary Cove on Cavanaugh Island, South Carolina. She meets Dr. Asa Monroe and they begin to fall in love. But Asa is hiding secrets about his past. Explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2012.

DB 74558

Title: SEE NO EVIL: MARTI MACALISTER MYSTERY

Author: BLAND, ELEANOR TAYLOR

Original Date: 1998

Detective Marti MacAlister of the Lincoln Prairie, Illinois police department, investigates the murder of a young woman found alongside Lake Michigan. A homeless man is also missing from the area. While working, Marti is unaware that an intruder is entering her house regularly and stalking her family. Some strong language. 1998.

DB 48050

Title: SELLOUT

Author: BEATTY, PAUL

Original Date: 2015

In this satirical novel, a black man raised by a radical sociologist on the outskirts of Los Angeles attempts to segregate the local school and keep a slave. His efforts lead to a lawsuit heard before the Supreme Court. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2015.

DB 81300

Title: SOMEWHAT SAVED

Author: G'ORGE-WALKER, PAT

Original Date: 2008

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At a Las Vegas conference, Sister Betty of Crossing Over Sanctuary Temple runs for president of Mothers Board against incumbent Sasha Pray Onn of the disbanded Ain't Nobody Right but Us—All Others Goin' to Hell Church. The face-off gives both women a deeper understanding of themselves and their faith. 2008.

DB 67641

Title: THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

Author: HURSTON, ZORA NEALE

Original Date: 1937

This classic novel tells the story of Janie, a handsome black woman, and her three marriages: to middle-aged Logan Killicks, a prosperous farmer; to Joe Starks, a go-getter who makes Janie Mrs. Mayor Starks of Eatonville, Florida; and to Tea Cake Woods, who teaches Janie, at forty, the reality of love and happiness. 1937.

BR 16074 DB 35745

Title: UP JUMPED THE DEVIL: A DARRYL BILLUPS MYSTERY

Author: WALKER, BLAIR S.

Original Date: 1997

Inept racists plan an attack, unaware that someone has infiltrated their group. Meanwhile, Baltimore Herald cop reporter Darryl Billups has been receiving anonymous messages warning that the NAACP national headquarters is going to be bombed. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1997.

DB 75652

Title: WASHINGTON BLACK: A NOVEL

Author: EDUGYAN, ESI

Original Date: 2018

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Barbados, 1830. Young Washington Black is enslaved on the Faith Plantation when his first owner dies. When his new owner's brother, Christopher Wilde, chooses Washington to be his manservant, Washington is wary, but is soon drawn into a world of exploration. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

DB 92500

Title: WATER DANCER

Author: COATES, TA-NEHISI

Original Date: 2019

Born into bondage, Hiram Walker is robbed of all memory of his mother when she is sold. But Hiram is blessed with a mysterious power. This power saves him when he almost drowns, and he knows he must escape the only life he has ever known. Violence. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2019.

BR 22881 DB 96729

Title: WHEN DEATH COMES STEALING: A TAMARA HAYLE MYSTERY

Author: WESLEY, VALERIE WILSON

Original Date: 1994

Now a private detective, Tamara Hayle quit her job on the police force when her young son, Jamal, was harassed by cops just because he was black. Her ex-husband, DeWayne Curtis, has four other sons all by different women. When two of the sons die, DeWayne begs Tamara to find out if someone killed them.

BR 10429 DB 64426

Title: XENOGENESIS TRILOGY. BOOKS 1-3

Author: BUTLER, OCTAVIA E.

Original Date: 1989

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All three books in the trilogy, published between 1987 and 1989. In Dawn, Lilith wakes up in the hold of an alien spacecraft to discover that centuries have passed since her final moments on Earth. Also includes Adulthood Rites and Imago. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. 1989.

DB 100034

Washington Black