

## **Adventurers, Cowboys, and Spies**

Readers love adventure and intriguing plots about faraway places, daring escapades, and heroic action. The following books feature fascinating characters in exciting stories. To read one of these books, **please call 1-800-252-9605**. **These books are also available for download from the BARD site.**

**Zorro** by Isabel Allende. In the early 1800s, Diego de la Vega leaves California for Spain for his formal education. He joins a resistance movement and, disguised as Zorro, fights for the oppressed. Some descriptions of sex and some violence.

**March** by Geraldine Brooks. Reverend March, the husband and father from Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, joins the army as a chaplain during the Civil War. An assignment to teach freed slaves on a plantation changes March's view of humanity while hardship hurts his family. Strong language and some violence.

**The Cardinal of the Kremlin** by Tom Clancy. The superpowers are in a race to develop strategic defense systems. The two men most knowledgeable are Jack Ryan, CIA analyst, and Colonel Mikhail Filitov, of the Soviet Union. Filitov, nicknamed, "Cardinal," is the highest-ranking American agent in the Kremlin and is about to be betrayed. As Ryan tries to rescue him, both of their lives and the fate of the world hang in the balance. Strong language and descriptions of sex.

**The Pilot: A Tale of the Sea** by James Fenimore Cooper. A sea story suggested by an episode in the life of John Paul Jones, a naval hero.

**Robinson Crusoe** by Daniel Defoe. Crusoe runs away to sea, is shipwrecked, and leads a solitary existence on an uninhabited island near the Orinoco River for twenty-four years. He meets the difficulties of primitive life with ingenuity and at length finds a companion whom he saves from cannibals.

**The Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexandre Dumas. A sailor, unjustly accused of helping the exiled Napoleon in 1815, escapes from prison after 14 years to take revenge on the four men who caused his imprisonment. Now wealthy after recovering a buried treasure, he assumes a new identity and plots the ruin of his accusers.

**The Key to Rebecca** by Ken Follett. German spy Alex Wolff steals the British army's secret plans and sends them to Rommel using a code whose key lies in the pages of Daphne du Maurier's novel, Rebecca. British major William Vandam sets out to destroy Wolff. Violence, some explicit descriptions of sex, and some strong language.

**Captain Horatio Hornblower** by C. S. Forester. This is a trilogy about the shy, lovable captain in the British Navy during the Napoleonic Wars. Contents include: Beat to Quarters, Ship of the Line, and Flying Colors.

**The Afghan** by Frederick Forsyth. Retired British army colonel Mike Martin impersonates a former colleague, Taliban fighter Izmat Khan, who is locked up in Guantanamo, Cuba.

Multilingual Martin tries to unravel an Al Qaeda plot in Afghanistan before it deploys in America. Violence and strong language.

**Night Soldiers** by Alan Furst. A young Bulgarian, Khristo, is recruited by an elite unit of the Soviet espionage service and becomes an agent. Betrayed in the Spanish Civil War, he seeks oblivion in Paris but soon leads fresh sorties, this time against his Red spymasters. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

**Our Man in Havana** by Graham Greene. A spy story about an unsuccessful English vacuum cleaner salesman who accepts a job as a secret agent with no intention of actually doing the job. But when the reports he makes up begin to come true, he is suddenly involved in frightening intrigue.

**Knights of the Range** by Zane Grey. Young Holly Ripple inherits her father's New Mexico cattle empire. To protect her spread from rustlers, headstrong Holly hires the region's most notorious vigilantes, including Renn Frayne. Renn fights for the ranch and for Holly herself, but eventually his past catches up with him.

**Big Sky** by A.B. Guthrie, Jr. Young Boone Caudill from Kentucky heads west after trying to kill his abusive father. Depicting the brutality and the squalor of life in the American West between 1830 and 1843, Guthrie tells the story of the mountain men who penetrated the wilderness and developed it, spoiling the paradise in the process. Some violence and some strong language.

**Death in the Afternoon** by Ernest Hemingway. The art of bullfighting with description of bravery, cowardice, pageantry, and history are enlivened by the author's pungent comments of life and literature. Some strong language.

**The Odyssey** by Homer. After the Trojan War, Odysseus begins a ten-year voyage back to Ithaca during which he relies on his wit and wiliness to survive encounters with Poseidon, god of oceans, and other divine and natural forces.

**Kim** by Rudyard Kipling. Irish orphan Kimball O'Hara befriends a Tibetan Buddhist lama seeking spiritual redemption and joins him on a journey in colonial India. British Intelligence recruits Kim for secret-service activities. Kim attempts to reconcile the opposing cultures and obligations of the spirit and the state.

**Comstock Lode** by Louis L'Amour. Cornish coal miner Tom Trevallion uproots his small family and moves to America in 1849 to have a shot at the California gold rush. But thieves kill Tom, and shortly thereafter kill his wife. Son Val and little orphan Grita Redaway survive. Revenge-driven Val becomes a top place-miner in this tale of the world's greatest silver strike. Some violence and some strong language.

**The King's Coat** by Dewey Lambdin. Having compromised his half-sister, Alan Lewrie is shipped off to the British navy, with unacknowledged hopes he will be drowned at sea. Alan flourishes aboard ship. His adventures include skirmishes with the French and the Dutch – as well as amorous dalliances with the daughter of the Jamaican governor. Strong language and descriptions of sex.