

WINTER 2017

Illinois State Library
TBBS
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796



Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

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TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on NFB-NEWSLINE, via email by contacting the State Library or on the TBBS website at www.ilbph.org (click TBBS NewsLink).

Advisory committee

Four seats need to be filled on the Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee for the term beginning July 1, 2017. The committee assists the State Library by improving services offered through TBBS. The meetings are held quarterly by conference call. Members of the committee serve three-year terms and represent TBBS users in all regions of the state. Applications will be accepted until April 15. If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to speak to a committee member regarding TBBS issues, please contact Margaret Varney at 309-451-1017.

Series books

Series novels can be found in all genres of fiction, including mysteries, romance, fantasy, science fiction, historical and westerns. A series is two or more books that are linked by character(s), settings or other common traits. Some series can be read in any order, but most have their characters progress and reference past events. The author hopes you will get hooked on the series and want to read them all – whether you are starting with the first book or catching up on any you might have missed.

Contact your Reader Advisor to sign up for a series or to ask for recommendations from your favorite genres. You can choose to skip any titles that you have already read or to

restart a series from the beginning. Each time you return a book, the next book in the series is automatically sent to you as it is available.

Check out these first in series mystery/suspense titles:

“The Cold Dish: A Walt Longmire Mystery” by Craig Johnson – DB 69906

Absaroka County, Wyoming. Sheriff Walter Longmire investigates the shooting death of Cody Pritchard, who was convicted of raping a young Native American girl two years ago. As tensions rise in the community, Walt begins to fear his friend Henry Standing Bear may be involved. The book includes strong language and some violence. 2005.

“Dog on It: A Chet and Bernie Mystery” by Spencer Quinn – DB 68453

After flunking out of police school, canine Chet becomes partners and roommates with private investigator Bernie Little. Though easily distracted, Chet is a good sleuth. He describes Bernie's latest case – the disappearance of fifteen-year-old Madison Chambliss – and his own frustration when trying to communicate clues. The book includes strong language and some violence. 2009.

“A Killing in the Hills” by Julia Keller – DB 77620

Divorced single mom Bell Elkins is the prosecutor for Raythune County, West Virginia, her childhood home. When three elderly men are shot at the local diner, Bell and the sheriff jump on the case. But they don't know that Bell's teenage daughter Carla recognized the shooter. This book includes violence and strong language. 2012.

“Murder on Astor Place;” “Murder on St. Mark's Place;” “Murder on Gramercy Park” by Victoria Thompson – DB 80853

The first three books feature a young widow Sarah Brandt, who works as a midwife in turn-of-the-twentieth-century New York City. She assists Sergeant Frank Malloy when a young acquaintance is murdered in a boarding house. They continue their unofficial teamwork in solving other murders. 2001.

“Strong Enough to Die” by Jon Land – DB 70794

In Texas, ex-Ranger Caitlin Strong applies for a therapist position at a torture-victims' treatment center, where she encounters her missing husband, a government contractor presumed killed in Iraq. An ensuing plot involving national security forces Caitlin to team up with a dangerous former foe. This book includes strong language and some violence. 2009.

Cooking app for Apple mobile devices

Conversant Labs has released a free voice-controlled app called “Yes Chef” for

iPhone, iPad and iPod touch devices using iOS 8.0 or later. Designed for users with visual impairments, “Yes Chef” can be used by anyone who does not want to get ingredients from their hands onto their Apple device. Using your voice, the app helps you find and navigate over 350,000 recipes that are searchable by popularity, keyword and filterable by cuisine. “Yes Chef” leads you through the recipe at your own pace, ingredient by ingredient, and allows you to ask follow up questions such as if you’re supposed to add baking soda or baking powder. This free app is available at the Apple iTunes Store.

Receive TBBS newsletters by email

Sign up for the TBBS email distribution list to have the newsletter and other items of interest sent directly to your email address. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to sign up. Call 800-665-5576, ext. 1 or email isltbbs@ilsos.net and request to be added to the list.

Book orders from Talking Book Topics

Patrons often have a long list of new books they want to read after receiving the latest issue of Talking Book Topics (TBT). TBBS recommends that you mail the TBT order form or email the book numbers to your service center. If you prefer to phone in your order, please limit your request to 10 books per call, so reader advisors have time to assist as many patrons as possible during business hours.

Free Matter for the Blind

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is paid annually by the U.S. government to provide the “Free Matter for the Blind and Other Physically Handicapped Persons” mailing program. This program allows for the postage free exchange of special format materials between TBBS and its patrons.

Books, machines and equipment loaned to you will come with a reversible mailing card. [Simply turn the card over, reinsert securely in the slot and the item is ready to be returned to TBBS postage free.] Call if you need a replacement card or address the item to the library and write “Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped” in the upper right-hand corner where postage would normally go. Book order forms and typed large-print correspondence (not handwritten) may also be sent as “Free Matter for the Blind.” You must leave envelopes unsealed with the flap tucked in to comply with postal regulations. Make sure to mail your items at a U.S. Postal Service Office; FedEx and UPS do not participate in the “Free Matter for the Blind” program. And remember, USPS Priority Mail Boxes cannot be used to mail items “Free Matter” – you will be charged postage if you attempt to do so.

Although every U.S. Post Office participates in this program, some individual postal employees might not know all the regulations. If you experience problems when trying to return materials to TBBS, stay calm and explain that you are sending back

library materials for the blind and print disabled and that you are a member of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The next step is to ask to speak to the postmaster and have her/him explain specifically why they will not accept the material as free matter. If necessary, please contact TBBS and we will speak with our postal liaison on your behalf. You will need to provide us with details of the encounter including the specific post office (some cities have more than one), date and names of employees with whom you spoke.

Toll-free numbers

- Illinois State Library TBBS.....**800-665-5576, ext. 1**
800-757-4654 (Chicago Residents)
- Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center.....**800-426-0709**

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE SERVICE



JESSE WHITE • ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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