

This week's column is from Chelsea Roy, Adult Services Librarian at the Kirkland Town Library.

I love listening to audio books. Not only do they help me relax and unwind after a long day, they make the mundane but necessary daily tasks like folding laundry a lot more enjoyable.

Being able to simultaneously clean or hike or play silly phone games while also enjoying a good book is awesome. Not to mention how the creation of spoken books has allowed those who cannot read print, for any number of reasons, to still get to enjoy a good book. They also make long car rides more fun and it is pretty nice to be able to listen with others.

And there are so many ways to listen to an audiobook nowadays. If you still have a way to play CDs, borrowing a good audiobook from your library is super easy. The KTL has tons of books on CD. Some of our newest include:

In Fiction: *A Private Cathedral* by James Lee Burke and *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride.

In nonfiction: *You're Not Listening: What You're Missing and Why it Matters* by Kate Murphy.

Have a smart phone or a computer? The MidYork Library system provides audiobooks that you can borrow and download right to your device in seconds. If you haven't already downloaded Libby, I suggest you do! Not only can you quickly borrow audio books without visiting the library, you can also download ebooks too!

Even without a CD player or any of your own technology, we can still provide you with a way to listen to books. All you need is to supply your own headphones and borrow one of our many Playaways.

Playaways are a great option for listening to books. You don't need to own any technology or have an internet connection. They are super easy to use and we even supply the batteries. These small devices with pre-loaded books already on them have been a great addition to the KTL's collection.

The KTL has many Playaway audio books that you can borrow anytime. We have titles to interest everyone! From Kids to Adults and in fiction, mystery and nonfiction. We also have great Yong Adult titles too.

Some of our most popular children's Playaways include:

*The land of Stories* by Chris Colfer. *The Friendship War* by Andrew Clements. And *Fuzzy* by Tom Angelberger.

Adults seem to favor James Patterson's *13 Minute Murder* which includes three different thrillers in one!

My personal favorite is *The Bride Test* by Helen Hoang. It is a very sweet romance novel and I really enjoyed listening to it. If you have certain books you would like to enjoy in Playaway format that we might not have, please feel free to recommend!

Playaways are great for traveling. They can easily be connected to most cars for road trip listening and are great for taking on a walk as they are small and easy to carry by hand or in a pocket. Stop by the KTL to check out a new audiobook or give our Playaways a try!

