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**For Immediate Release**

**Library Now Offers Audiobooks in mp3 Format**

**Rapid City, SD – December 18, 2008** – There's good news this holiday season for audiobook lovers. The Rapid City Public Library has just begun to offer downloadable audiobooks in an mp3 format compatible with iPods, Zunes and other mp3 players.

So what's a "downloadable audiobook?" It's like a book on CD – but even better. Just like a book on CD, it's a recording of a book being read aloud – sometimes by the author, sometimes by a well-known actor or other publishing professional. That recording is digitized and the file stored online in a format that can be downloaded and played on a computer or audio player.

The Rapid City Public Library makes downloadable audiobooks available through a provider called OverDrive®. To download a book, you need: 1) a valid library card; 2) access to the Internet; and 3) software for the computer and/or device to which you'll download the audiobooks. The software is available free of charge from the OverDrive® website. Once you have these three things, you're ready to download audiobooks!

OverDrive® audiobooks have been available for a couple of years through the Rapid City Public Library but, up until now, they have been offered in a "wma" (Windows® Media Audio) format that worked great for players with Windows®-based software but wasn't compatible with the Apple® iPod. Now the library is beginning to build a collection of mp3-compatible titles, with many more to come in the future.

**-- MORE --**

Go to the library's website: [www.rapidcitylibrary.org](http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org), and click on the "Downloadable Audiobooks" link for more information and to see our selection of audiobook titles. Titles can be checked out for two weeks (you don't have to "return" them, they simply expire on your device). Some offer the option to burn to a CD so you can keep them permanently if you want to.

There are many reasons to love audiobooks. They are great companions for long, tedious projects or scenery-deficient road trips. With RCPL and OverDrive® you don't have to spend money on audiobooks (expensive to purchase); you don't even have to plan ahead. Anytime you want an audiobook, just download one from the Rapid City Public Library website. Transfer it to your player and you're ready for hours of entertainment.

Find out more about library resources, services and events by visiting our website at [www.rapidcitylibrary.org](http://www.rapidcitylibrary.org).

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*The Rapid City Public Library has served the Rapid City area since 1879, and now has two locations, the downtown library at 610 Quincy Street and the north library within General Beadle Elementary School at 10 Van Buren St. Both offer print and electronic resources for adults, young adults and children as well as computers and Internet access and a variety of programs and events. In March 2008, USA Today named the Rapid City Public Library's downtown library as one of the nation's 10 greatest places to "Find a Nook and Read a Book."*

Find video footage of RCPL events at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary>  
Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>