BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Kindle & E-Readers

Kindle, Paperwhite, Colorsoft, Scribe, Kobo and Nook
Buying books, borrowing free from the library, and reading comfortably

Bigger text, gentle light, and a whole library in your hand

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For Kindle, Kobo and Nook e-readers · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your e-reader manual. Read it in any order and at your own pace — there is no test, and you can't fall behind. It covers Amazon's Kindle family first, then Kobo and Nook, then all the ways to get books, from buying to borrowing free from your library. Every feature comes with what it actually does *for you*, and slow step-by-step directions anyone can follow. If a screen on your reader looks a little different, the idea is still the same.

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PART 1

Getting to Know E-Readers

What an e-reader is, how it differs from a tablet, which Kindle is which in 2026, what Kobo and Nook offer, and how to pick the right one for your eyes and your budget. Start here.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Whoever is reading this guide — this is for **you**. Maybe a Kindle arrived as a gift and it's still in the box. Maybe you love to read but the print in paperbacks keeps getting smaller. Maybe you've heard you can borrow library books without leaving the house and you'd like to know how. Wherever you're starting, you've come to the right place.

I'm Bill. I've spent 30+ years of professional experience helping people feel at home with their technology, and I serve folks right here in Portage County. I wrote this guide the way I'd explain it sitting beside you at the kitchen table: slowly, in plain English, one small step at a time. If I use a word you don't know, I'll stop and explain it right then.

What an e-reader does, in one sentence

An **e-reader** is a slim, light, book-sized gadget that holds thousands of books and shows them on a special screen that looks like printed paper — and lets you make the letters as large as you like. That's really the whole idea. No glare, no buzzing notifications, no games. Just reading, made easier on your eyes and your hands.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this guide does for you

By the end you'll be able to set up a Kindle (or a Kobo or Nook), make the text big and comfortable, find and buy books without overspending, borrow free e-books from your public library, listen to books read aloud, share books with family, steer clear of the scams that use Amazon's name, and fix the little hiccups yourself.

The big promise: you can't break it

Here's the most important thing in this whole guide. **You cannot break an e-reader by tapping around and exploring.** The worst that happens is you land on a screen you didn't mean to. There's always a way back — a tap at the top of the page brings up the menus, and the **Home** button takes you back to the start. And your books are safely stored in your account, not just on the device, so even if something goes wrong, they're not lost.

And you're never stuck alone. If you'd like a hand, call me at **(330) 200-8042**, and we'll sort it out together with no judgment. There's no such thing as a silly question.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What an E-Reader Is (and Isn't)

People mix up e-readers and tablets all the time, and no wonder — both are flat screens you hold in your hands. But they're built for very different jobs, and knowing the difference saves you money and frustration.

The special screen: "e-ink"

An e-reader uses a screen called **e-ink** (electronic ink). Instead of shining light straight into your eyes the way a phone or TV does, it arranges tiny particles to form the words, much like ink on paper. The result looks remarkably like a printed page. It's easy to read in bright sunlight, there's no glare on the porch or at the beach, and many people find they can read far longer without tired eyes.

Modern e-readers also have a soft **front light** that glows evenly across the page, so you can read in a dim room or in bed without a lamp. The better models let you make that light warmer — more amber — for evening reading (Chapter 11).

E-reader or tablet?

Device	What it's good at
An e-reader (Kindle, Kobo, Nook)	Made for reading. Paper-like screen, weeks of battery on one charge, very light, no apps, games, email or video. Fewer distractions, easier on the eyes.
A tablet (iPad, Amazon Fire tablet)	A small computer. Bright color screen, apps, video calls, movies, email, web. Can also read books, but the battery lasts hours, not weeks, and the screen glows like a phone.

GOOD TO KNOW

"Kindle" means two things

Amazon uses the word **Kindle** both for its e-readers and for its free **Kindle app**, which you can put on a phone, tablet or computer. Amazon's **Fire** tablets also come with the Kindle app built in. This guide is mostly about the e-readers, with a chapter on the app (Chapter 21). If you have a Fire tablet, Bill's *Amazon Fire Tablet* manual covers that device in full.

What an e-reader can't do

- **No apps or games.** You won't find Facebook, Netflix or solitaire here. That's on purpose.
- **No video calls or email.** It's not a replacement for a phone or tablet.

- **Color is limited.** Most e-readers show black-and-white pages. Color models exist (the Kindle Colorsoft, Kobo's color models), but their color is soft and paper-like, not bright like a tablet.
- **The web browser is basic.** Most e-readers have one tucked away, but it's slow and plain. Think of it as an emergency tool, not a way to surf.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why simple is a gift

Because an e-reader does just one thing, it's one of the easiest gadgets to learn. There's very little to set up, almost nothing to keep updated by hand, and no flood of messages pulling you away from your book. Many people tell me the simplicity is exactly what they love about it.

CHAPTER 3

Which Kindle Is Which (2026 Lineup)

Amazon makes the most popular e-readers by far, and in the fall of 2026 it redesigned the whole family. Here's the current lineup with Amazon's own starting prices, so you know what you're looking at in the store or under the tree.

The current Kindle family

Model	In plain terms
Kindle (6-inch)	The smallest and lightest — pocket-sized. 16 GB, up to 6 weeks of battery. From **$149.99**. An aluminum-back version with 32 GB is **$189.99**.
Kindle Paperwhite	Amazon's best seller. Larger screen with sharp, high-contrast text, waterproof, adjustable warm light, up to 12 weeks of battery. From **$199.99**.
Paperwhite Signature Edition	Adds 32 GB, a light that adjusts itself to the room, double-tap page turning, an aluminum back and dock charging. **$249.99**.
Kindle Colorsoft	Soft, paper-like **color** for covers, photos, cookbooks, comics and picture books. Waterproof, warm light, 16 GB, about 8 weeks of battery. From **$289.99**; Signature Edition **$319.99**.
Kids Kindle	Kid versions of the Kindle, Paperwhite and Colorsoft, with a kid-friendly cover and 12 months of Amazon Kids+ included. From **$179.99**.
Kindle Scribe	A large 11-inch Kindle you can also **write on** with the included pen — notes, journals, crosswords in the margins. Three versions, including a color Scribe Colorsoft. From **$429.99**.

HEADS UP

"Edge-to-edge color" doesn't mean a color screen

Amazon's 2026 ads say the new lineup has "edge-to-edge color." That describes the **case**: the color you pick (purple "Ube," green, blue, graphite) now wraps around the front, with a flat screen that has no raised border. Only the **Colorsoft** models actually show color pages. The basic Kindle and the Paperwhite still show black-and-white text — which is perfectly fine for novels.

Older Kindles you might already own

Kindles last for years, so you may have an older one — a Kindle Oasis, an earlier Paperwhite, or a Kindle with a little keyboard. Most work the same way as the new ones. To see which model you have, swipe down from the top of the screen, tap **All Settings**, then

Device Options and **Device Info**. You can also sign in at **amazon.com/mydevices** on a computer to see every Kindle on your account by name.

HEADS UP

Very old Kindles lost the store in May 2026

On May 20, 2026, Amazon stopped Kindle Store access for Kindles and Kindle Fire tablets released in 2012 or earlier — for example the original Kindle, the Kindle Keyboard, the Kindle Touch and the first Paperwhite. Those devices still open books that are already downloaded, but they can't buy, borrow or download new ones. If you have one, don't factory reset it — Amazon says a reset device can't be registered again. Chapter 26 covers your options.

CHAPTER 4

Kobo and Nook: The Other Choices

Kindle isn't the only game in town. Two other companies make good e-readers, and for some people they're the better fit — especially if you borrow lots of library books or simply prefer not to do everything through Amazon.

Kobo (by Rakuten Kobo)

Kobo e-readers are sold at kobo.com and some stores. Their screens and lights are just as comfortable as a Kindle's, and they have one standout feature for library lovers: borrowing from your library is **built right into the device** (Chapter 19). Kobo's current U.S. lineup on its own store:

Model	In plain terms
Kobo Clara BW	6-inch black-and-white. Kobo's starter model. **$159.99**.
Kobo Clara (color)	6-inch color screen, waterproof. **$179.99**.
Kobo Libra (color)	7-inch color screen with physical page-turn buttons, 32 GB, works with an optional stylus. Kobo's best seller. **$259.99**.
Kobo Elipsa 2E	Large 10.3-inch reader you can write on, with a stylus. Check kobo.com for the current price.

(Kobo's store spells "color" the British way in these model names — with a "u" — so look for that spelling when you shop.)

Nook (by Barnes & Noble)

Nook is Barnes & Noble's e-reader, sold in their bookstores and at bn.com. If you love browsing a real bookstore and like the idea of help at a store counter, that's a genuine plus. Barnes & Noble currently sells:

Model	In plain terms
NOOK GlowLight 4	Compact 6-inch black-and-white reader with a front light and night mode.
NOOK GlowLight 4 Plus	Larger 7.8-inch screen, waterproof, and it can play Barnes & Noble audiobooks through headphones. Listed at **$199.99**.
NOOK 9" Lenovo tablet	A color *tablet*, not an e-ink reader — closer to an iPad or Fire tablet.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your books stay with the store you bought them from

Here's the one thing to understand before choosing. Books you buy for a Kindle live in your Amazon account and read on Kindles and the Kindle app. Books from Kobo read on Kobo; books from Barnes & Noble read on Nook. You generally **can't move purchased books** from one brand to another. So it's worth picking the family you'll stick with. Library books are different — you can borrow those on any of them.

CHAPTER 5

Choosing the Right One for You

If you're shopping — for yourself or as a gift — here's my honest, no-pressure guidance. The good news: there are no bad choices among the current models. It's about matching the reader to the person.

A simple way to decide

If you say...	Consider...
"I just want to read novels in bed."	A **Kindle Paperwhite**. Bigger screen than the basic Kindle, warm light, waterproof. The sweet spot for most readers.
"I want the smallest, lightest, cheapest."	The basic **Kindle** (6-inch). Fits a coat pocket or purse. The screen is smaller, so it's less ideal if you need very large text.
"I read cookbooks, magazines, picture books with grandkids."	A color reader: **Kindle Colorsoft** or **Kobo Clara or Libra color model**.
"I borrow almost everything from the library."	Any of them work with the library, but a **Kobo** makes it the simplest, right on the device.
"I want to write notes and journals, too."	A **Kindle Scribe** or **Kobo Elipsa**. Pricey, and heavier — only if you'll truly write on it.
"My hands are shaky or arthritic."	Consider a reader with physical page-turn buttons (Kobo Libra color model), or Amazon's **Kindle Click** Bluetooth page-turn remote ($34.99) for newer Kindles.

With ads or without?

Some Kindles are sold "with ads": a sponsored picture shows on the sleep screen and a small "Sponsored" tile appears on the home screen. The ads never appear inside your books. You can remove them later for a one-time fee that covers the price difference (Chapter 23). If the ads would bother you, it's simpler to buy the version without them in the first place — check the options on the product page before you click Buy.

Extras worth knowing about

- **A wall charger.** Kindles come with a USB-C cable but **no wall plug**. Amazon says the charger is sold separately. Most phone chargers you already own work fine.
- **A cover.** Optional, but it protects the screen in a bag and many covers wake the Kindle when you open them.

- **Storage.** Even 16 GB holds thousands of books. You don't need more unless you'll keep many audiobooks or comics on the device.

FROM BILL

Buy for the eyes, not the features

If you're choosing for a parent, the single most important thing is screen size and comfort. A slightly bigger screen means more words per page at a large text size, which means fewer page turns and less frustration. In my experience that matters far more than storage, colors or fancy extras. And if you'd like a second opinion before you buy, I'm happy to talk it through — no sales pitch, just honest advice.

PART 2

Setting It Up

From the box to your first page: charging, the one button, connecting to Wi-Fi, signing in to your Amazon account, and finding your way around the home screen. It's a one-time job.

CHAPTER 6

Unboxing, Charging & the Power Button

A Kindle comes in a small, tidy box. Inside you'll find the Kindle itself, a short **USB-C cable**, and a little paperwork. That's it. Let's get it charged and learn the one button it has.

Charging

1. Find the small, oval **USB-C** port on the bottom edge of the Kindle.
2. Plug the small end of the cable in. It fits either way up — there's no wrong side with USB-C.
3. Plug the other end into a USB wall charger (the kind that charges a phone) or a USB port on a computer.
4. A little light near the port glows while it charges. A full charge takes a few hours from empty.

HEADS UP

No wall plug in the box

Amazon's setup guide says the Kindle comes with a USB cable for charging from a computer, and that the wall charger is **sold separately**. Before you buy one, try a phone charger you already own — most USB chargers work. If you buy one, a plain, reputable-brand USB charger is all you need. Some Signature Edition models can also charge on a wireless charging pad or dock.

The power button

Your Kindle has just one physical button: the **power button**, on the bottom edge next to the charging port. Here's everything it does:

To do this	Do this
Wake it up	Press the power button once. The page you were reading comes right back.
Put it to sleep	Press the power button once. The screen shows a sleep picture. It uses almost no battery this way — you don't need to turn it fully off between reads.
Turn the screen off completely	Press and hold the power button until a power box appears (about 9 seconds on a Paperwhite), then choose **Screen Off**.
Restart a frozen Kindle	Hold the power button about 40 seconds (Chapter 24).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Weeks between charges

An e-ink screen uses power only when the page changes, so a Kindle goes weeks between charges — Amazon rates the 2026 Paperwhite at up to 12 weeks. Reading with the light turned up high, or listening to audiobooks over Bluetooth, uses it faster. A simple habit: charge it on the first of each month and you'll rarely see a low-battery warning.

CHAPTER 7

First-Time Setup: Wi-Fi & Your Amazon Account

The first time you turn on a new Kindle, it walks you through a short setup. You'll need three things handy: the Kindle, your **Wi-Fi name and password**, and your **Amazon account email (or phone number) and password**. If someone bought the Kindle for you on their account, see the tip at the end of this chapter.

The setup steps

1. Press the power button to turn the Kindle on. Choose your **language**.
2. Choose your **location** (country).
3. Choose **Set up on this Kindle**, or **Set up with your phone** if you have the Kindle app on your phone (see below).
4. Choose your **Wi-Fi network** from the list and type its password with the on-screen keyboard.
5. Follow the on-screen steps to **register** the Kindle to your Amazon account — that just means signing in with your Amazon email and password.
6. Kids models only: activate Amazon Kids+ and create a child profile with a parent PIN.

The phone shortcut

If you already use the free Kindle app on an iPhone or Android phone, choose **Set up with your phone**. Amazon calls this **Simple Setup**. Turn on Bluetooth on the phone (and Location on Android), open the Kindle app, and it recognizes your Amazon account and any saved Wi-Fi password, so you skip most of the typing.

TIP

If Wi-Fi won't connect during setup

Amazon notes that Kindles don't use the newest **6 GHz** Wi-Fi band, and Kindles made before 2021 also can't use 5 GHz Wi-Fi or the newer WPA3 security. If your network doesn't appear, or the password is refused, try moving closer to the router, double-check the password (capital letters count), and see Chapter 25. Bill's *Home Wi-Fi & Routers* manual shows where to find your Wi-Fi password.

Whose account should it be on?

A Kindle is tied to **one Amazon account**, and everything follows that account: books you buy are charged to its card, and your library lives there. If a son or daughter set up your Kindle on *their* account, you'd be reading — and buying — on their account. That's sometimes what families want, but usually it's better for you to have your own account and share books through Amazon Household (Chapter 18).

FROM BILL

Setup is a great thing to do together

First-time setup is quick when it goes smoothly, but typing a long Wi-Fi password on a small screen keyboard can be fiddly, and sorting out whose Amazon account to use is worth a moment's thought. If you'd rather not wrestle with it, I'm glad to help — **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. Call (330) 200-8042.

CHAPTER 8

Finding Your Way Around

Once you're set up, your Kindle opens to its **home screen**. There isn't much to learn here, and that's the beauty of it. Let's take a short tour.

The three places you'll use

Place	What you'll find
Home	Shows the book you're reading now, your recent books, and suggestions from the Kindle Store. Tap a cover to open it.
Library	Every book on your account, all in one list — both the ones stored on the Kindle and the ones waiting in your account (see below).
Store	The Kindle Store, for finding and buying books (Chapter 14).

These usually sit as buttons along the bottom (or top) of the home screen. Tap one to go there.

Quick Actions: the swipe-down menu

Swipe your finger **down from the very top edge** of the screen and a panel slides down. Amazon calls it **Quick Actions**. Here you'll find:

- A **brightness** slider for the front light (and warmth, on models that have it).
- **Airplane Mode** — turns off Wi-Fi. Make sure it's off if books won't download.
- **Sync** — fetches new books and remembers your page (Chapter 25).
- **Dark Mode** — white letters on a black page.
- **All Settings** — the full settings menu.

TIP

Your two escape routes

Inside a book, a tap near the **top of the page** brings up the reading toolbar, with a **Home** button and a back arrow. From anywhere else, swiping down for Quick Actions shows you where you are. If you ever feel lost, tap the top of the screen and look for Home. It always brings you back.

GOOD TO KNOW

Your books aren't all stored on the Kindle

Your Library shows everything you own, but some books may be stored in your account "in the cloud" (on Amazon's computers) rather than on the device. That's normal. Tap a cover and it downloads in a few seconds over Wi-Fi. Once downloaded, you can read it anywhere, even with no internet — on a plane, at the cabin, in a waiting room.

PART 3

Reading Comfortably

Turning pages, making the words as big as you need, setting the light just right, looking up words, and having books read aloud to you. This is where an e-reader really earns its keep.

CHAPTER 9

Opening a Book & Turning Pages

Reading on a Kindle feels natural within a few minutes. Here's the whole routine.

Opening and turning

1. From **Home** or **Library**, tap a book's cover. If it hasn't been downloaded yet, it downloads first — give it a few seconds.
2. To go to the **next page**, tap anywhere on the **right side** of the page (or swipe your finger from right to left).
3. To go **back a page**, tap near the **left edge** (or swipe from left to right).
4. To bring up the **menus**, tap near the **top** of the page. Tap the middle of the page to hide them again.

When you close a book and come back later — even days later — the Kindle opens it right where you stopped. No bookmark needed.

Getting around inside a book

Tap the top of the page to show the toolbar. Look for a **Go To** or table-of-contents button to jump to a chapter, and a progress line at the bottom of the screen that you can slide to move through the book. A **search** magnifying glass finds a word or a character's name anywhere inside the book.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> **"Locations" instead of page numbers**
>
> Because you can change the text size, an e-book doesn't have fixed pages the way a paperback does. So Kindles often show your place as a **percentage** ("42%") or a "location" number instead. Many books also show real page numbers that match the printed edition, which is handy for a book club. Either way, the Kindle keeps your place for you.

TIP

Page-turn help for unsteady hands

If tapping the screen is awkward, the 2026 Signature Edition Paperwhite and Colorsoft add a **double tap to turn pages** feature. Amazon also sells the **Kindle Click** ($34.99), a small Bluetooth button that turns pages from your lap. Amazon says it works with the new 2026 Kindles and any Kindle model from 2024 or later. Kobo's Libra color model has physical page buttons on the side.

CHAPTER 10

Bigger Text, Better Fonts & Page Settings

For many people this is the single best thing about an e-reader: **every book becomes a large-print book.** You choose the size, the style of the letters, and how much space there is between lines.

Make the words bigger

1. Open any book.
2. Tap near the **top of the page** to bring up the reading toolbar.
3. Tap the **Aa** button (Amazon calls it Display Settings).
4. Choose a **larger text size** until it's comfortable. The page changes as you go, so you can see the result right away.
5. Tap the page to close the menu and keep reading.

Shortcut: while reading, put two fingers on the page and **spread them apart** to make the text bigger, or pinch them together to make it smaller.

Other choices under Aa

Setting	What it does
Font	The style of the letters. Try a few. Amazon includes **OpenDyslexic**, which some readers find easier.
Bold	Makes the letters heavier and darker. Wonderful for tired or low-vision eyes.
Spacing & margins	More space between lines and around the edges makes a page feel less crowded.
Alignment	Left-aligned text (with a ragged right edge) can be easier to follow than fully justified text.
Themes	Save your favorite combination so every book opens the way you like it.

Bigger menus, too

The Aa menu changes the text inside books. On newer Kindles you can also enlarge the words in the **menus and home screen**: open **Settings**, then **Screen and brightness**, then **Display & text size**. Amazon says this works on Kindle e-readers from the 11th generation on, plus Kindle Scribe and Kindle Colorsoft.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Large print, for every book you'll ever read

At the library, the large-print shelf is small. On an e-reader, *every* book — new bestsellers, old classics, the church book club pick — can be large print, in a font you choose, with darker letters if you like. And the setting carries over to the next book you open. Many people who had given up on reading find their way back to it this way.

CHAPTER 11

Light, Warmth & Dark Mode

A good light makes all the difference between a page that's pleasant and one that strains your eyes. Your e-reader gives you real control here.

Adjusting the brightness

1. Swipe **down from the top edge** of the screen to open Quick Actions.
2. Slide the **brightness** bar left for dimmer, right for brighter.
3. In a sunny room, try turning the light *down* — e-ink reads best in daylight and needs little light. In a dark bedroom, a low setting is usually plenty.

Warm light for evening reading

The Paperwhite, Colorsoft and Scribe models have an adjustable **warm light**: it shifts the glow from white toward a soft amber, like an old reading lamp. Look for a second slider labeled **Warmth** next to brightness. Many readers find a warmer page more relaxing at bedtime. The Signature Editions can also adjust the light automatically to the room.

Dark Mode

Dark Mode flips the page to white letters on a black background. Some people with sensitive eyes or cataracts find it more comfortable, and it's gentle on a partner sleeping beside you. To turn it on:

1. Swipe down from the top of the screen and tap **Dark Mode** in Quick Actions.
2. Or go to **Settings**, then **Screen and brightness**, then **Appearance** (called **Color Style** on some models) and choose the mode you prefer.

> **TIP**
>
> **If a PDF looks odd in Dark Mode**
>
> Amazon notes that some PDF documents don't display well in Dark Mode or with a page color turned on. If a document looks strange, switch back to the normal mode for that one.

CHAPTER 12

Looking Things Up, Highlights & Notes

An e-reader can do a few clever things a paper book can't, and they're all optional. Here are the ones readers enjoy most.

The built-in dictionary

Come across a word you don't know? **Press and hold** your finger on it. After a moment a small window appears with the dictionary definition. You can swipe that window to see a **Wikipedia** entry or a **translation**. Tap the page to close it and keep reading.

Highlights and notes

Press and hold a word, then drag your finger to select a passage. A menu offers **Highlight** and **Note**. Highlighted passages and your notes are saved to your account — handy for a book club, a Bible study, or a recipe you want to find again. You'll find them later from your book's menu (often called **Notes** or **Annotations**).

X-Ray: who's who in the story

Lost track of a character? Many books have **X-Ray**, which lists the people, places and ideas inside the book. Tap the top of the page, tap the **three dots**, then **X-Ray**. Not every book has it.

Recaps and "Story So Far"

In the U.S., Amazon offers **Recaps** for thousands of popular English-language books: short refreshers of earlier books in a series. **Story So Far** goes further — a spoiler-free summary of your book you're reading, *up to the page you've reached*. Inside the book, tap the **three-dot menu** to find it. In your Library, press and hold a book and look for **Read recap**. These are computer-generated summaries, so treat them as a memory jog, not the last word.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Pick a book back up without starting over

Put a mystery down for a few weeks and it's easy to forget who did what. Story So Far gives you a quick, spoiler-free catch-up, so you can pick up where you left off instead of starting again from chapter one.

CHAPTER 13

Listening: Read-Aloud, Audiobooks & Bluetooth

When your eyes are tired — or your hands are busy — your Kindle can read to you. There are two different ways, and it helps to know which is which.

Kind of listening	What it is
Assistive Reader	The Kindle reads the book aloud with a computer voice and underlines each word as it goes. Free, for books that support it.
Audiobooks (Audible)	A real human narrator performing the book. You buy or borrow the audiobook separately.

First: connect headphones or a speaker

Current Kindle e-readers have **no built-in speaker and no headphone jack**. To hear anything, you connect **Bluetooth** wireless headphones, earbuds, a hearing-aid-compatible streamer, or a Bluetooth speaker. Look for **Bluetooth** in Quick Actions or in Settings, put your headphones in pairing mode, and choose them from the list. You only pair once; after that they reconnect when you turn them on.

Turning on Assistive Reader

1. Open the book you want to hear.
2. Tap the top center of the screen, then tap **Aa**.
3. Tap **More**, and turn on **Assistive Reader**.
4. Use the player controls at the bottom of the screen to play, pause, change the speed, or go back 30 seconds. Words are underlined as they're read.

GOOD TO KNOW

Which books and Kindles work

Amazon says Assistive Reader works on Kindle e-readers from the 11th generation on, Kindle Scribe and Kindle Colorsoft, in English, Spanish, French, German and Italian, and only with books that have **Enhanced Typesetting**. To check a book, look on its Kindle Store page for "Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled." Once you turn it on, it stays available until you turn it off.

Audiobooks

Newer Kindles can play **Audible** audiobooks through your Bluetooth headphones or speaker. Audiobooks you own show up in your Library alongside your e-books. Some Kindle books offer an "Add Audible audiobook" option at a discount when you buy the e-book, and Kindle+ includes companion audiobooks for thousands of its titles (Chapter 16). Library audiobooks borrowed in Libby play in the Libby app on a phone or tablet, not on the Kindle.

GOOD TO KNOW

VoiceView: the screen reader for blind and low-vision readers

For people who can't see the screen well enough to use the menus at all, Kindles have **VoiceView**, a screen reader that speaks everything on the screen through Bluetooth headphones. It uses special gestures and takes some learning. If you or someone you love needs it, it's worth setting up with a patient helper the first time.

PART 4

Getting Books: Buying, Borrowing & Free

Buying from the Kindle Store, borrowing free e-books from your public library with Libby, what Kindle+ and Prime include, free classics and your own documents, and sharing books with family.

CHAPTER 14

Buying Kindle Books

Buying a book on a Kindle takes about thirty seconds, and it's charged to the payment card on your Amazon account. Because it's *that* easy, this chapter also covers how to undo an accidental purchase.

Buying on the Kindle itself

1. Tap **Store** on the home screen.
2. Browse, or tap the **search** bar at the top and type a title or author.
3. Tap a book to see its page: the description, reviews and price.
4. Many books offer a **free sample** — the first chapter or so. It's a good way to check the writing before you pay.
5. When you're ready, tap **Buy now**. The book downloads and appears in your Library.

> HEADS UP
>
> **One tap really does buy it**
>
> On a Kindle, **Buy now** charges your card right away — there's no shopping cart and no "are you sure?" step. Look at the price before you tap. If a grandchild borrows your Kindle, consider parental controls (Chapter 23).

Buying for the Kindle app on a phone or tablet

If you read in the Kindle app on an iPhone or iPad, Amazon's own guidance is to buy the book on **Amazon.com** in your web browser: find the title, choose the **Kindle edition**, and buy it. It then appears in the Kindle app and on any Kindle registered to the same account. (Newer versions of the app may show a button that takes you to that same Amazon web page.)

Bought the wrong book? Return it within seven days

Amazon lets you cancel an accidental Kindle book order within **seven days**:

1. On a computer or phone, go to **amazon.com/mycd** (Manage Your Content and Devices) and sign in with the account you used to buy the book.
2. Under **Your Content**, find the book and click **More Actions** (or **See More**) next to it.
3. Choose **Return for Refund**, pick a reason if you like, and confirm.

GOOD TO KNOW

The fine print on returns

Amazon says refunds go back to your original payment method in three to five days. The option may not be offered if you've already started reading the book, or if you return books often. Once a book is refunded, it disappears from your Library.

CHAPTER 15

Free Library Books with Libby

This is my favorite chapter, because it saves people real money. Your public library lends **e-books and audiobooks for free**, and you can borrow them from your armchair at midnight if you like. All you need is a library card and a free app called **Libby**, made by OverDrive for libraries.

What you need

- A **library card** from your local public library. If you don't have one, many libraries let you sign up online, or stop by the front desk.
- The free **Libby** app on a phone or tablet (from the App Store, Google Play, or the Amazon Appstore on a Fire tablet) — or the website **libbyapp.com** on a computer.
- Your Kindle, if you want to read the books there.

Setting up Libby (once)

1. Install and open **Libby**.
2. Follow the prompts to **find your library** — you can search by name, city or ZIP code.
3. Sign in with your **library card** number (and PIN, if your library uses one).
4. Tap **Search** to look for a title or author, or **Library** to browse your library's collection.

Borrowing a book and sending it to your Kindle

1. Find a book and tap **Borrow**. (If someone else has it, tap **Place Hold** — Libby lets you know when it's your turn.)
2. Tap **Shelf** at the bottom, then **Loans** at the top.
3. Tap **Read With...** and choose **Kindle**.
4. Libby takes you to Amazon's website. Sign in to your Amazon account if asked.
5. Tap **Get Library Book**. The book appears on your Kindle the next time it connects to Wi-Fi.

GOOD TO KNOW

Good things to know about Libby and Kindle

Sending library books to a Kindle works for **U.S. libraries only**. Libby says you can read *most* Libby books on a Kindle — a few publishers don't offer their books in Kindle format, and those you'd read in the Libby app instead. On a **Fire tablet**, Libby recommends reading right in the Libby app. Audiobooks also play in the Libby app.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

No late fees, ever

Libby returns your books automatically on the due date, so there's nothing to remember and nothing to pay. You can also return a book early from your Shelf. Many libraries also lend digital magazines through Libby. For anyone who reads a lot, this can save hundreds of dollars a year compared with buying every book.

TIP

Waiting lists for popular books

Libraries buy a set number of copies of each e-book, so a new bestseller may have a waiting list. Place a hold and keep reading something else. Some libraries also share their collection with partner libraries, which can shorten the wait — ask your librarian.

CHAPTER 16

Kindle+ (formerly Kindle Unlimited) & Prime

Amazon offers two kinds of "all you can read" deals. They are easy to confuse, and in October 2026 one of them changed its name, so let's lay it out plainly.

Kindle+: Amazon's reading subscription

On October 22, 2026, Amazon renamed **Kindle Unlimited** to **Kindle+**. If you were a Kindle Unlimited member, you didn't have to do anything — it's the same service with a new name. Here's what Amazon says it includes:

Kindle+	The details
Price	**$11.99 a month** plus tax in the U.S. Amazon offers a free trial to eligible new members.
What you get	Millions of e-books, plus thousands of audiobooks, comics, manga and magazines.
How many at once	Up to **20 titles** borrowed at a time, with no due dates while you're a member. Return one to make room for another.
Audiobooks	Thousands of Kindle+ books include a companion audiobook, so you can switch between reading and listening.
Where	Any Kindle, or the free Kindle app on a phone, tablet or computer.
Canceling	Cancel anytime from **Manage your Kindle+ Subscription**. It stays active until your next billing date, then the borrowed titles go away. No refunds of fees already paid.

HEADS UP

Kindle+ is not the whole Kindle Store

Kindle+ has millions of books, but not every bestseller — many big-name new releases aren't in it. Look for the **Kindle+** badge or a **Read for Free** button on a book's page. Before you subscribe, browse the catalog and make sure it has the kinds of books *you* read. If most of what you want is at your library, Libby may serve you just as well for free.

What Prime members get for reading

Amazon Prime ($14.99 a month or $139 a year in the U.S., according to Amazon) is mainly about shipping and video, but it includes some reading too. Amazon describes these Prime reading benefits, long known as **Prime Reading**:

- **Amazon First Reads** — each month, choose one upcoming book from a small editors' selection, free, a month before it goes on sale. It stays in your Library; it doesn't expire.
- **Amazon Original Stories** — short stories and collections you can finish in an evening, as e-books or audiobooks.
- **A rotating selection** of popular e-books, audiobooks, comics and manga at no extra cost — a curated slice of the Kindle+ catalog.

GOOD TO KNOW

Prime does not include Kindle+

Amazon is clear that Kindle+ is a separate subscription. Prime gives you a sampler; Kindle+ gives you the full catalog. Bill's *Amazon Shopping* manual covers whether Prime itself is worth it for your household.

HEADS UP

Free trials that turn into charges

New Kindles, especially the Scribe, often come with a few free months of Kindle+ (Amazon's Scribe announcement mentioned a 3-month subscription). When the trial ends, it usually renews at the regular price. Put a note on your calendar a few days before it ends and decide then whether to keep it.

CHAPTER 17

Free Classics, Samples & Your Own Documents

Beyond buying and borrowing, there are a couple of other ways to fill your Kindle — some of them free.

Free books in the Kindle Store

Many older classics — books whose copyright has expired — are free in the Kindle Store: think Jane Austen, Mark Twain, Sherlock Holmes. Search for a title and look for a price of **$0.00**. Double-check the price on the button before you tap; a free version and a paid edition often appear side by side.

Send your own documents to your Kindle

You can send a PDF or document — a church newsletter, a family history, a long article, sheet music, a recipe collection — to your Kindle and read it there with the same comfortable screen. Amazon calls this **Send to Kindle**.

The easiest way: from a computer

1. On your computer, go to **amazon.com/sendtokindle** and sign in.
2. Drag your file onto the page (Amazon says files up to 200 MB are supported).
3. Send it. It appears in your Kindle Library the next time your Kindle connects to Wi-Fi.

By email

Every Kindle also has its own **Send to Kindle email address**, shown on the Manage Your Content and Devices page under Personal Document Settings. Attach a document to an email and send it to that address. For safety, Amazon only accepts documents from email addresses you've added to your **Approved Personal Document Email List** on that same page.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> **Send to Kindle email limits**
>
> Amazon's limits: up to 25 attachments per email, from up to 15 approved email addresses, 50 MB total per email. If the Kindle is offline, Amazon keeps trying to deliver for up to 60 days.

CHAPTER 18

Sharing Books with Family

Paper books get passed around the family. Kindle books can be shared too, through a feature called **Amazon Household**. Once it's set up, books one person buys can appear on the other person's Kindle — buy once, read twice.

Who can share

Amazon Household lets you share your Kindle books with **one other adult** and up to **four children**. It's meant for people who live together, like a husband and wife. Be aware that joining a Household with another adult also means agreeing to share the ability to make purchases on each other's payment methods — so it's for someone you fully trust.

Setting it up

1. On a computer, go to Amazon.com, click **Account & Lists**, and find **Amazon Household** (in the shopping programs section).
2. Click **Add adult** and enter the other person's email. They accept the invitation by signing in to their own Amazon account.
3. When asked what to share, make sure **e-books** is checked. Your Kindle books then appear on the other person's devices automatically.

You can also share just a few books: on Amazon.com go to **Manage content and devices**, choose **Books**, check the books you want, click **Add to Library**, and pick the family member.

TIP

Grandparents and grandkids

Because a Household shares payment methods, it's usually just for a couple under one roof. For family elsewhere, you can still send a Kindle book as a gift (Amazon handles Kindle book gift orders, and unredeemed gifts can be returned), or each family can borrow the same title free through their own library's Libby.

PART 5

Kobo, Nook & the Kindle App

If your reader isn't a Kindle, or you'd like to read on your phone or tablet too, this part is for you: the Kobo and Nook essentials, and how the free Kindle app keeps your place everywhere.

CHAPTER 19

Reading on a Kobo

A **Kobo** works much like a Kindle: tap the right side to turn the page, tap the middle for menus, adjust the text and light to suit you. The big differences are where the books come from and how easy it is to borrow from the library.

Your Kobo account

During setup, a Kobo asks you to connect to Wi-Fi and sign in to (or create) a free **Kobo account**. That's where your Kobo purchases live, the same way Kindle books live in your Amazon account. You buy books from the **Kobo store**, on the reader or at kobo.com.

Borrowing library books — right on the Kobo

This is Kobo's big advantage. Libby borrowing is **built into the device** on current Kobo models, so you can borrow without a phone or computer once it's linked. Kobo's help center describes it this way:

1. On the Kobo, tap **Discover** and choose **Libby** (labeled **OverDrive** on some software versions).
2. Follow the prompts to link your library card. The most reliable way, Kobo says, is to scan the QR code shown on the Kobo with your phone's camera and sign in on the phone. You sign in with your **library card number and PIN**.
3. Browse or search your library's collection right on the Kobo.
4. Tap the book's **More** (three dots) button and choose to borrow it. The book appears on your Kobo's Home screen after it syncs.

GOOD TO KNOW

After a big Kobo software update

Kobo notes that after updating to its newer 6.0 software, you may need to link your library card again: go to **Discover**, then **Libby** (or **More**, then **Settings**, then **Libby**) and follow the prompts. If the card won't link, Kobo suggests checking your card number, PIN and account status with your library.

Kobo Plus

Kobo has its own reading subscription, **Kobo Plus**, with plans for e-books, audiobooks, or both. It works much like Kindle+: borrow as many as you like from its catalog while you're

subscribed. Check the current plans and prices at kobo.com before signing up, and as with any subscription, note when a free trial ends.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A good fit for library lovers

If most of your reading comes from the library, a Kobo can be the simplest e-reader to live with: no app on a phone, no website hand-off, just browse your library's shelves on the reader and borrow. Kobo's color models are also lovely for picture books and cookbooks.

CHAPTER 20

Reading on a Nook

A **NOOK** is Barnes & Noble's e-reader. Reading on it feels just as natural: tap or swipe to turn pages, and use the menus to change the text size and turn on the GlowLight.

Your Barnes & Noble account

A Nook signs in to a **Barnes & Noble** account, and you buy e-books, magazines and newspapers from the Barnes & Noble store — the company says it offers over 3.6 million titles. The free **Barnes & Noble NOOK app** lets you read those same books on a phone or tablet. And if you like browsing in person, the staff at a Barnes & Noble store can be a real help.

Audiobooks on a Nook

The **NOOK GlowLight 4 Plus** can play **Barnes & Noble audiobooks**, through a headphone jack or Bluetooth headphones, according to Barnes & Noble. That's handy if you'd like one device for both reading and listening.

Library books on a Nook take a computer

Here's the honest catch. Nooks don't have Libby built in, and Libby can't send books to a Nook the way it sends them to a Kindle. Borrowing a library e-book for a Nook means using a computer:

1. Borrow the e-book in Libby or on your library's OverDrive website, and download it to your computer.
2. Open the free **Adobe Digital Editions** program on the computer (Barnes & Noble says to install it first).
3. Connect the Nook to the computer with its USB cable.
4. Drag the book onto the Nook in Adobe Digital Editions.
5. To open library e-books, the Nook must be signed in with an **Adobe ID**.

FROM BILL

If library books are your main source

The Nook is a fine reader for books bought from Barnes & Noble. But if you mostly borrow from the library, the computer step above can be frustrating, and the exact steps differ between Nook models. In that case I'd usually point you toward a Kindle or a Kobo. If you already own a Nook and want library books on it, it's a good one to set up together once — **$49 remote · $99 in your home**.

CHAPTER 21

The Kindle App on Your Phone, Tablet or Computer

You don't need a Kindle device to read Kindle books. The free **Kindle app** runs on iPhone and iPad, Android phones and tablets, Mac and Windows computers, and in a web browser — and it's built into Amazon's Fire tablets. Sign in with the same Amazon account, and all your books are there.

Your place follows you

When your devices are online, Amazon keeps track of the furthest page you've read, along with your highlights and notes. So you can read a few pages on your phone in the doctor's waiting room and pick up at the same spot on your Kindle that night. If a device doesn't jump to the right page, sync it: on a Kindle, swipe down for Quick Actions and tap **Sync** (on some models, **Sync and Check for Items** in the menu).

Handy extras in the app

- **Reading Ruler** (iPhone, Android and Fire) — a colored band that guides your eyes one line at a time.
- **Assistive Reader** — read-aloud with words highlighted, in the app as well as on newer Kindles.
- **Ask questions about your book** (U.S., iPhone and iPad app) — highlight a passage and ask a question about it, with spoiler-free answers. Amazon says it's coming to Kindle devices and Android later.
- **Library books** — Libby books you send "to Kindle" show up in the app too.

TIP

Phone for the waiting room, Kindle for the armchair

A phone screen is bright and small, so for long reading sessions most people prefer the Kindle. But having your book on your phone means you're never without it. Turn the app's text size up too — it's in the app's **Aa** menu, just like on the Kindle.

GOOD TO KNOW

Reading on an iPad or Fire tablet

On an iPad, you can read Kindle books in the Kindle app and library books in the Libby app — Bill's *iPad* manual covers installing apps. On a Fire tablet, the Kindle app is already there; Bill's *Amazon Fire Tablet* manual walks through it.

PART 6

Staying Safe & Keeping Costs in Check

The scams that borrow Amazon's and Kindle's names, how to spot them, and the simple habits that keep your e-reader from quietly costing more than it should.

CHAPTER 22

Avoiding Kindle & Amazon Scams

Your Kindle itself is a very safe device — it has no email, no apps to download, and nothing for a crook to install. The danger is the scams that use the **Amazon** and **Kindle** names to frighten you or rush you. Knowing the common ones takes most of their power away.

SCAM ALERT

The fake "Kindle subscription renewal" email or text

A message says your "Kindle Unlimited" or "Kindle+" membership is renewing for hundreds of dollars — and to **call a number** if you didn't authorize it. The real Kindle+ is $11.99 a month. The number reaches a scammer who will ask to "refund" you by getting into your computer or your bank. Don't call. Check your memberships yourself at Amazon.com.

SCAM ALERT

"Your Amazon account has been locked"

An email or text says your account is suspended or there's a problem with a Kindle order, with a link to "verify" your details. The link leads to a fake sign-in page that steals your password and card number. Never sign in from a link in a message. Type **amazon.com** yourself, or open the Amazon app, and look at **Your Orders** and your account messages there.

SCAM ALERT

Fake "Kindle Support" phone numbers

If you search the web for "Kindle help phone number," the top results may be **ads placed by scammers** posing as Amazon. They'll say your Kindle has a virus (e-readers don't get viruses that way) and ask for remote access or payment. Get help only from the Help links inside Amazon.com or the Amazon app, or call someone you already trust.

SCAM ALERT

Anyone who wants gift cards

If someone claiming to be from Amazon, a bank, or the government asks you to pay with gift cards — even Amazon gift cards — it is a scam, every time. Real companies don't collect payments or "refunds" that way. Hang up.

Buying a used Kindle safely

Used Kindles on Facebook Marketplace or at yard sales can be bargains, with two cautions. First, make sure the seller has **deregistered** it from their Amazon account (a factory reset does this — Chapter 26), or you'll be reading on a stranger's account. Second, avoid any Kindle released in 2012 or earlier: it can no longer download new books from Amazon.

Your three-second safety check

1. **Did it come to me unexpectedly?** A surprise message about money is suspect.
2. **Is it rushing me or scaring me?** "Act now" and "within 24 hours" are red flags.
3. **Does it want me to call, click, or pay in an unusual way?** Stop. Go to Amazon.com yourself, or call someone you trust.

FROM BILL

Call me before you call them

If a message about your Kindle or Amazon account worries you, call me at (330) 200-8042 before you call any number in it. I'd much rather spend two minutes telling you it's a fake than help clean up afterward. Bill's *Spotting & Avoiding Scams* manual covers these tricks in depth.

CHAPTER 23

Keeping Costs in Check: Ads, Subscriptions & Kids

A Kindle can be a very inexpensive way to read, especially with the library. But a few things can quietly add to the bill. Here's how to stay in charge.

The ads on the sleep screen

If your Kindle was sold "with ads," Amazon shows sponsored screensavers when it's asleep and a "Sponsored" item on the home screen. Amazon explains that this lets it sell those models at a lower price. If you'd rather not see them, you can pay a **one-time fee** to remove them:

1. On a computer, go to **amazon.com/mydevices** (Manage Your Devices) and sign in.
2. Choose **Devices**, then select your Kindle.
3. Under **Special Offers**, click **Remove offers**. A window shows the price.
4. If you're happy with it, choose **End Offers and Pay the Fee**. It's charged to your 1-Click payment card.

Once the ads are gone, you can have the sleep screen show the **cover of your book you're reading** instead: swipe down, tap **All Settings**, then **Screen & Brightness**, and turn on **Display Cover**.

Review your subscriptions twice a year

Kindle+, Audible, Amazon Kids+ and Prime are all monthly or yearly charges. Twice a year, sign in at Amazon.com, open **Account**, and look for **Memberships & Subscriptions**. Cancel anything you've stopped using. You can always rejoin. Bill's *Amazon Shopping* manual walks through this page.

When grandchildren use your Kindle

Because a Kindle buys books with one tap, it's worth protecting it if children use it. Kindles have **Parental Controls** in their settings, which let you set a password that's needed before anyone can use the Kindle Store or web browser. The Kids Kindle models go further, with child profiles, an Amazon Kids+ subscription and a parent PIN set up during setup. And if a child does buy something by mistake, remember the seven-day return (Chapter 14).

TIP

Write down the parental controls password

If you set a parental controls password, write it somewhere safe at home, so you're never locked out of your own Kindle Store.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Reading on a budget

With a library card and Libby, plus the free classics and Prime's monthly First Reads pick if you already have Prime, many people find they hardly need to buy books at all. Pay for a subscription only if you'll truly read enough to make it worth it.

PART 7

Fixing Common Problems

A frozen screen, a Kindle that won't connect, a book that won't show up, and what to do with an old Kindle. Each comes with a calm, simple fix you can try yourself.

CHAPTER 24

Frozen, Slow or Won't Turn On

E-readers are reliable, but like any little computer they occasionally get stuck. Before you worry, try these steps in order. They fix the great majority of problems.

Step 1: Is it just asleep or out of battery?

Press the power button once. If nothing happens, plug the Kindle into its charger and leave it for a good while — a completely empty battery can take some time before the screen responds. Look for the small charging light near the port.

Step 2: Restart it

A restart clears most freezes and slowness. It doesn't erase your books or settings. Amazon's steps:

1. Press and hold the **power button** until a power box appears on the screen *or* the screen goes blank.
2. **Keep holding** the power button for **40 seconds**, then let go.
3. After a few seconds the charging light comes back on and the Kindle starts up again. Give it a minute.

> **TIP**
> **Count it out loud**
> Forty seconds feels long when you're holding a button. Count "one-Mississippi, two-Mississippi" all the way to forty, or watch the second hand on a clock. Letting go too early is the most common reason a restart doesn't work.

Step 3: Still stuck?

- **Try a different charger and cable.** Cables wear out, especially at the ends.
- **A page that won't change, or a faint "ghost" of the last page,** is normal now and then on e-ink. Turning a few pages usually clears it.
- **If the screen is cracked** or shows lines that never go away, the screen is damaged. Check your warranty with Amazon before paying for anything.

CHAPTER 25

Wi-Fi Trouble & Books That Won't Show Up

Most "my book isn't there" problems come down to the Kindle not being connected to the internet at the moment, or the book going to a different place than you expected.

When the Kindle won't connect to Wi-Fi

Amazon's own checklist, in plain words:

1. Swipe down for Quick Actions and make sure **Airplane Mode is off**.
2. Check that you picked the right network and typed the password correctly.
3. See whether other devices in the house are online. If nothing works, the problem is your internet.
4. Move the Kindle closer to the router, and away from microwaves and baby monitors.
5. Restart the Kindle (Chapter 24), then restart your modem and router. Wait two minutes and try again.
6. Make sure the Kindle's software is up to date.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some Wi-Fi a Kindle can't use

Amazon says Kindles don't support **6 GHz** Wi-Fi, and Kindles released before 2021 don't support **5 GHz** or **WPA3** security. If your new router uses only those, the Kindle won't see it. Your router can usually also offer an ordinary 2.4 GHz network; if you use mesh or an extender, Amazon recommends giving all of them the same network name and password. Bill's *Home Wi-Fi & Routers* and *Mesh Wi-Fi* manuals can help.

When a book you bought or borrowed doesn't appear

1. Make sure the Kindle is on Wi-Fi, then **Sync**: swipe down for Quick Actions and tap **Sync** (on some models, the menu option **Sync and Check for Items**).
2. In your **Library**, make sure you're viewing all your books, not only the downloaded ones. The book may be waiting in your account — tap it to download.
3. For a library book: in Libby, did you finish the last step, **Get Library Book**, on Amazon's page? Borrowing alone doesn't send it.
4. Check the **Amazon account**. Was the book bought or sent on a different account than the one the Kindle is signed in to? It happens more than you'd think in families.

TIP

Library book sent to the wrong device?

On Amazon's "Get Library Book" page there's a choice of which device to deliver to. If you have more than one Kindle or the Kindle app on several devices, make sure the right one is chosen. Library books also show up in the Kindle app on your phone.

CHAPTER 26

Old Kindles, Gifting & Selling

Sooner or later you'll upgrade, pass a Kindle to a grandchild, or wonder what to do with a very old one. Here's how to do it without losing your books or giving away your account.

Before you give away or sell a Kindle: factory reset

A **factory reset** wipes the Kindle back to how it came from the factory and **deregisters** it from your Amazon account, so the next owner can't buy books on your card. Your purchased books stay safe in your Amazon account. Notes or downloads that haven't synced will be lost, so sync first (Chapter 25). Amazon's steps:

1. From the home screen, swipe down to open Quick Actions (or tap Menu).
2. Tap **Settings** or **All Settings**.
3. Go to **Device Options**.
4. Tap **Factory Reset** (on older devices, **Reset Device**).
5. When asked, tap **Yes** to confirm.

HEADS UP

Don't reset a pre-2013 Kindle

Kindles released in 2012 or earlier lost access to the Kindle Store on May 20, 2026. They still open books that are already on them, but a reset or deregistered device can't be registered again. If you have one with books you love on it, leave it as it is and simply keep reading.

Moving to a new Kindle

There's nothing to copy across. Sign the new Kindle in to the **same Amazon account**, and every book you've bought appears in its Library, ready to download. Your place in each book comes across too, once both devices have synced.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Your library outlives the device

Because your books belong to your Amazon account, not the Kindle, a lost, broken or outgrown Kindle doesn't mean a lost library. That's real peace of mind for anyone who has collected hundreds of books over the years.

PART 8

Getting Help & Your Cheat-Sheet

An honest word about when a hand is worth it, and a one-page summary to keep by your reading chair.

CHAPTER 27

When to Call Bill

I've written this guide so you can handle almost everything on your own. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time, money or frustration. Here's my straight advice.

Times it's well worth a call

- **Choosing an e-reader** for yourself or a parent — I'll give you an honest recommendation with no sales pitch.
- **First-time setup**, especially sorting out whose Amazon account it should be on.
- **Getting Libby going** with your library card and sending that first book to your Kindle.
- **Library books on a Nook**, which take a computer and Adobe Digital Editions.
- **Text size, light and read-aloud** set up just right for your eyes and ears.
- **A suspicious email or call** about your Amazon or Kindle account — call before you act.
- **You'd simply rather have a patient person show you.** That's always a good enough reason.

How to reach me

Bill's help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**, here in Portage County. These guides are free; the help itself is a paid service, and I'll always tell you the cost up front.

FROM BILL

Call, or book online

Call **(330) 200-8042**, or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. If I'm with another customer, my AI receptionist **Sophie** can answer the phone and take a booking for you. No question is too small — if it's keeping you from enjoying a good book, it's worth a call.

Free help from the companies

- **Amazon** — the Help pages inside Amazon.com or the Amazon app (choose **Customer Service**). Use only these, never a number from a web search ad.
- **Libby** — help.libbyapp.com has short, clear articles and videos.
- **Kobo** — help.kobo.com.
- **Barnes & Noble** — help.barnesandnoble.com, or ask at a Barnes & Noble store.

- **Your public library** — librarians are wonderful at Libby and library cards.

Thank you for letting me help you rediscover the pleasure of reading. Take your time, tap around without fear, and remember I'm only a phone call away.

— Bill

CHAPTER 28

Your E-Reader Cheat-Sheet

Print this page and keep it by your reading chair. The whole guide, boiled down.

The moves that matter (Kindle)

To do this	Do this
Next page / previous page	Tap the **right side** / tap the **left edge**.
Show the menus	Tap the **top** of the page.
Bigger text	Top of page > **Aa** > pick a size. Or spread two fingers apart.
Brightness, Dark Mode, Sync	Swipe **down** from the top edge (Quick Actions).
Look up a word	**Press and hold** the word.
Read aloud	Top of page > **Aa** > **More** > **Assistive Reader** (Bluetooth headphones needed).
Frozen	Hold the power button **40 seconds**.

Getting books

Way	How
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