

Chapter 1

Getting to Know Your NOOK Color

In This Chapter

- ▶ Meeting the NOOK Color for the first time
 - ▶ Getting charged up and ready to read
 - ▶ Registering for an online library card
 - ▶ Choosing and using your personal options
 - ▶ Navigating from place to place on the NOOK Color
-

The NOOK Color can download and store thousands of full-length books, magazines, newspapers, and other publications. This very same NOOK Color can then display the material a page at a time, on a sharp screen roughly the size of a paperback book, using a very bright and colorful LCD touchscreen. In this chapter you shall explore the faces of the NOOK Color plus see a description of some of its hidden innards. Not to worry: Neither screwdriver nor hammer are required.



This first chapter introduces you to the NOOK Color, the basic LCD screen eReader model; in the second chapter you meet the NOOK Simple Touch, an E Ink reading device. Although the two electronic readers are cousins, they aren't identical in appearance, the way they work, and how you — the reader — interact with them. Later in the book I get back to their common features: storage of books and other reading material, connection to the Internet, and other features.

Getting Your Hands on the NOOK Color


In addition to your NOOK Color (see Figure 1-1), you'll see two things in the lower part of the box. See this chapter's section called "Charging up for Reading" (and Chapter 5) for the hows and whys to using these accessories:

- ✓ An AC adapter
- ✓ A specially designed USB cable





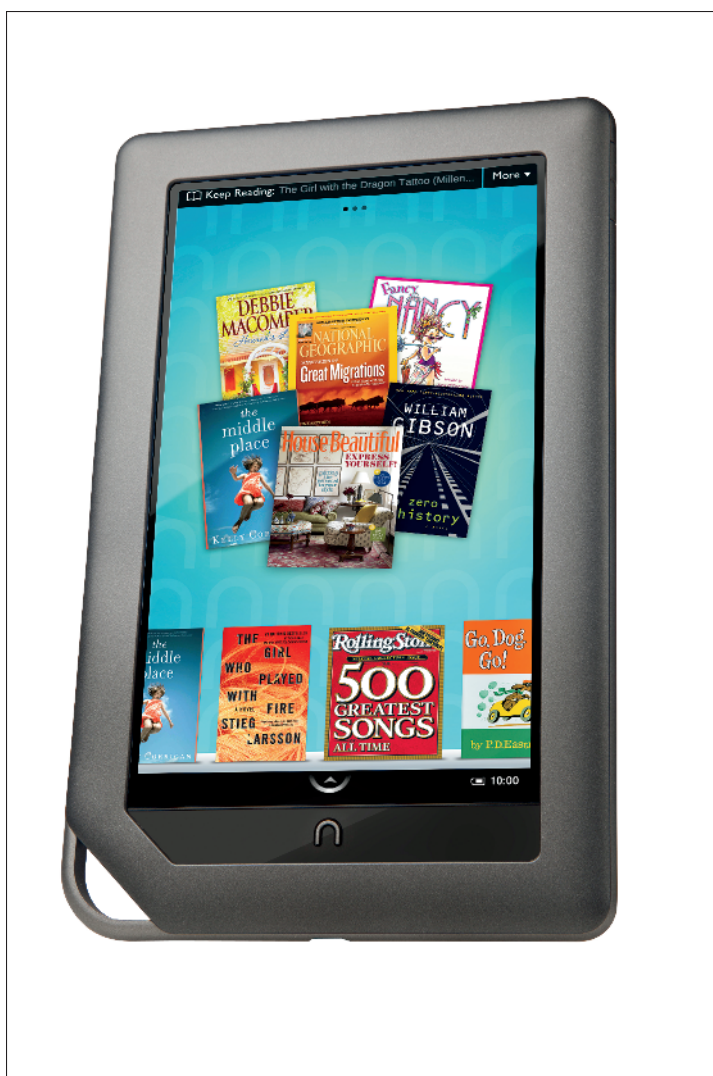
You may want to hold on to the box in case you ever decide to re-gift sell your NOOK Color. Plus, you can pack the eReader nicely if you have to send it in for repair.

All of the following descriptions are based on looking at the NOOK Color lying on its back with its top facing away from you and the bottom closest to you: very much how you look at a page from a book.


- ✓ I will call the side that has the screen the **front**. Here, of course, is the reason we are gathered together for this special occasion. See Figure 1-2. You can see on the front a button marked with the curvilinear NOOK symbol: . If your NOOK Color is *sleeping* — its screen is off — the screen is also *locked* so that accidental touches don't perform actions. Press the green circle and drag it to the right to return to the last screen you were viewing.

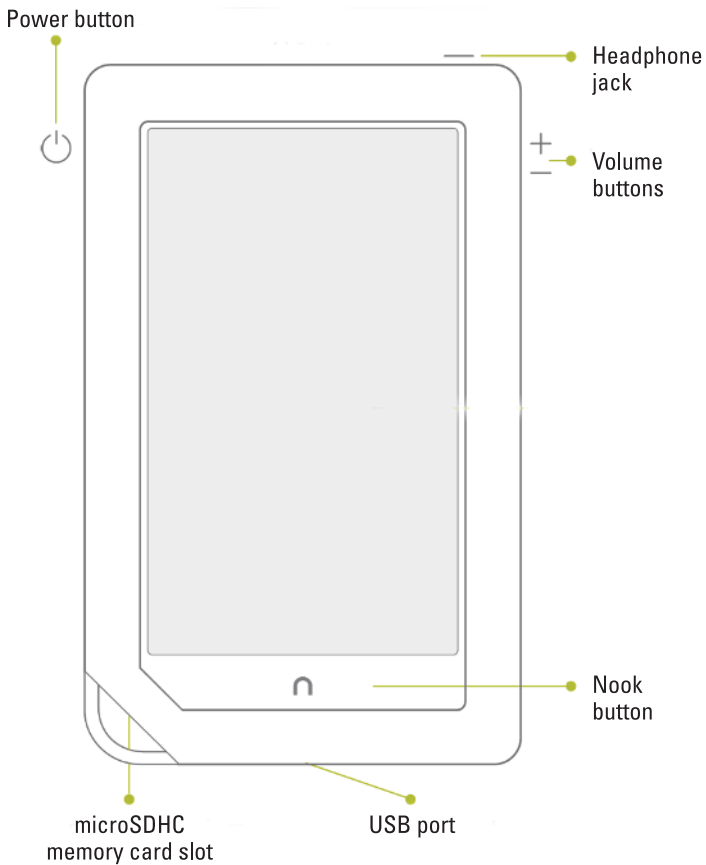


Touch the  button to wake up the device and turn on the screen. If the screen is already showing, touching the  button will take you to the home screen.



Courtesy of Barnes & Noble

Figure 1-1: The handsome NOOK Color, with its open hook at bottom left and the  button just below the screen.



Courtesy of Barnes & Noble

Figure 1-2: Here are the parts of the NOOK Color, front and side.

- The side that is opposite the screen is the **back**. The NOOK Color's soft-touch back makes it easier to hold and provides a bit of a non-slip surface. See Figure 1-3. The speaker and microSD memory card slot are back here, too. Chapter 5 explains more about the memory card and its slot.
- The narrow thin side at the top I will call the **top end**. All by its lonesome, here is a headphone jack that can deliver stereo sound to a earphones or other audio devices. It is a 3.5mm jack, a standard size for modern miniature headphones or earbuds.

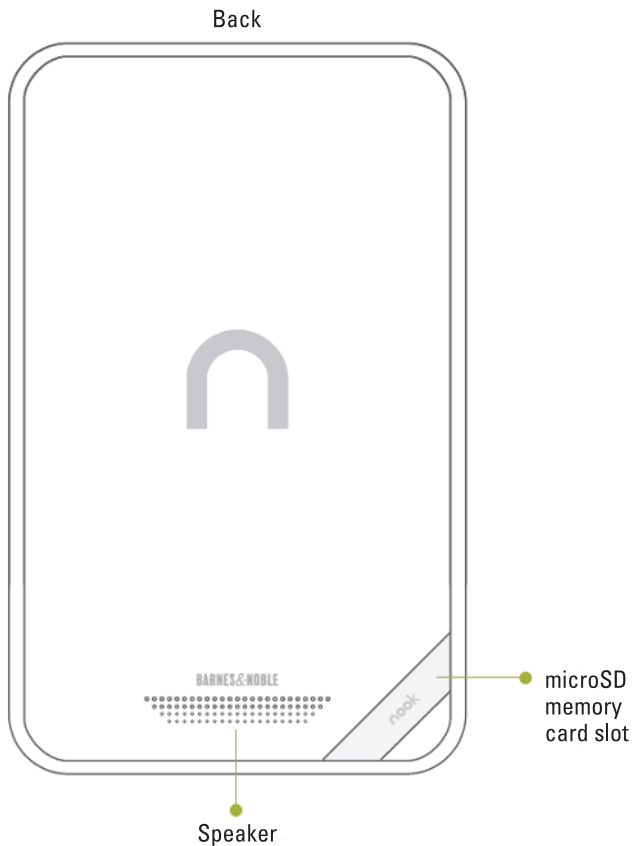


Figure 1-3: The back of the NOOK Color is home to a tiny but better-than-tinny speaker, plus a flap over the slot for a microSDHC memory card.

- ✓ The narrow thin side at the bottom, below and around the corner from the Home Button, shall be dubbed the **bottom end**. Here you will find a *USB port* (a computer term for a connection point). Later in this chapter, “Charging Up for Reading” explains one way to use the port. Chapters 3 and 5 explain other ways to use it.
- ✓ The longer thin side at the left side of the front is hereby called the **left side**. The power button is here.
 - To **turn it off**, press and hold the little rectangular button for about three seconds. Then tap the Power Off button. Why would you completely turn off



the NOOK Color? Some places demand it: airplanes during takeoff and landing and hospitals, for example.

- To **turn it on**, press and hold the silver button for three seconds (one Mississippi. . .) and release it. If you set it up to require a passcode, you'll have to type that.
- To **go into sleep mode**, press the power button and immediately release it. The eReader will stop using power, and it jumps right back to where you were the last time you were there.

✓ You will have guessed that the longer thin side at the right side of the front shall be referred to here, and just once more, as the **right side**. Here's where you find the + and – volume buttons.



Buy a small carrying case or sleeve for your tablet. It helps prevent scratches and provides some level of protection against spills or rain or falls.

Most books you buy and some you get for free come with an image of the cover along with all of the text. But some older books are just text.

Charging Up to Read

Unlike a printed book, an eReader needs batteries. The good news: The NOOK Color battery is rechargeable. The slightly less-than-good news: It doesn't have much charge when you first get it.



After you take your NOOK Color out of its box, plug your into the AC adapter and the adapter into the wall. Put some juice in the battery. See Figure 1-4.

Although you *can* connect your eReader to a USB port on a desktop or laptop computer, that may not fully charge the NOOK Color and is definitely very slow.

You want whimsy?

The design of the NOOK Color includes a cute little open notch in the lower left corner. It looks for all the world like a place to hang a hook — perhaps a mountaineer’s carabiner. But please don’t. The designers who worked with Barnes & Noble wanted to make their reader immediately recognizable from across the room and this was the

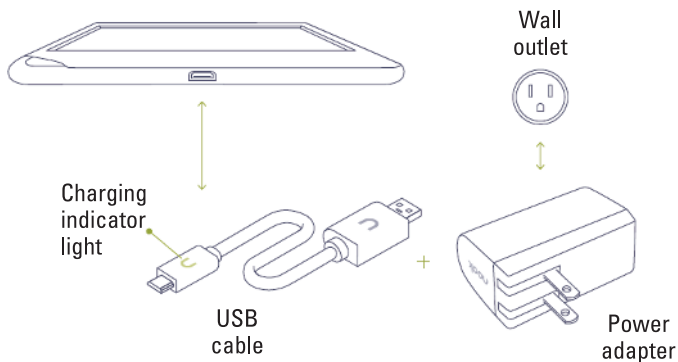
artistic element they came up with. However, it is not intended to be used to hook the NOOK to your belt buckle or to do anything else. Although I’m sure some users will think it cute to attach some little charms or perhaps a rabbit’s foot to the notch, I’d join with B&N in recommending against it: you just might end up damaging the screen.



To charge your NOOK Color, you’re supposed to only use the AC adapter provided by Barnes & Noble in the package. To get the most life out of the battery, don’t let it run all the way down to zero power.



You can see how much power you have by looking at the status bar at the bottom of the screen. The battery icon is fully white it’s fully charged. See Figure 1-5.





Courtesy of Barnes & Noble

Figure 1-4: The NOOK Color battery requires an AC adapter and the supplied USB cable.

Follow these steps to charge your battery:

1. **Insert the large end of the USB cable into the power adapter.**
2. **Plug the small end of the USB cable into your NOOK Color.**
3. **Plug the power adapter into a compatible electrical outlet.**

The charging light on the USB cable shows an orange  symbol where it connects to the eReader. When it's charged, the  symbol on the cable turns green. It can take up to four hours to charge.

Don't turn the NOOK Color off while it's charging.

4. **Unplug the power adapter from the electrical outlet.**
5. **Unplug the USB cable from your NOOK Color.**

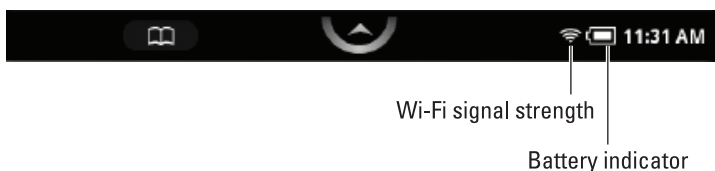


Figure 1-5: The status bar at the bottom of the screen shows the remaining charge in the battery.



At www.BN.com you can buy an adapter that lets you charge your NOOK Color from your car. Here is also where you can buy replacement or additional AC chargers and USB cables.

Registering Your NOOK Color or NOOK Simple Touch

The first time you turn on your NOOK Color or NOOK Simple Touch, devote all of ten minutes to registering it with Barnes and Noble. As you might have guessed, the process is nearly identical on the two types of NOOK devices, except that the NOOK Color does its thing in color and with video, while the NOOK Simple Touch simply uses text and icons.

If you don't, you can't use access its store (for both paid and free reading material), lend or borrow books, or get updates for your device.



Fully charge your NOOK Color or NOOK Simple Touch before using it for the first time. Resist the urge to turn on your new eReader until you've charged it for three or four hours.

You need a working Wi-Fi system connected to the Internet to register your NOOK eReader. One quick and easy solution is to register your eReader at a Barnes & Noble store, where Wi-Fi is always available to customers who have a NOOK.

Here are the basics of getting started and registered with a NOOK Color or a NOOK Simple Touch:

1. Turn on your fully charged NOOK.

On the NOOK Color only, watch a video that introduces features. The video is a good way to test the screen, processor, and audio system.

2. Read and accept the terms of service.

3. Set the time zone for the current location of your eReader.

4. Follow the onscreen instructions to connect your NOOK to a Wi-Fi network.

If you have to enter a username or password, get the information from the store owner or person behind the counter.

5. Register your NOOK to an existing Barnes & Noble account or create a Barnes & Noble account.

Creating an account using a personal computer

You may find it easier to set up the account using a personal computer. Here's how:

1. Open a web browser on a computer.

2. Go to one of these addresses:

- www.nook.com/setup

- www.nookcolor.com/setup
- www.barnesandnoble.com

3. Click the Setup Account button or click Account Settings and choose a similar option.

4. Type the following:

- An e-mail address
- A credit card number and valid expiration date
- A billing address in the U.S., U.K., or another country in which the NOOK is marketed



The only way to connect to the Barnes & Noble website or elsewhere on the Internet from your NOOK Color or NOOK Simple Touch is through a Wi-Fi network.

These eReaders don't offer 3G or other forms of cellular connection. And the USB cable only transfers files; you can't connect through that computer to the Internet.

Using an existing Barnes & Noble account

If you already have a Barnes & Noble account, it makes great sense to use that on your new NOOK. Doing so lets you get eBooks and periodicals already in your account and it lets you shop for new ones.

If you have an account, do this:

- 1. Tap the Sign In button.**
- 2. Enter the e-mail address and password for your account.**
- 3. Tap Submit.**

Setting Up Your NOOK Color

You have a wide range of control over how your NOOK Color looks, feels, and acts. The Settings tool lets you customize

the wireless, screen, sounds, security, keyboard, and other features.

Do this to show the Settings menu:

1. Tap the  button on the lower frame of the front.

The quick nav(igation) bar opens, as shown in Figure 1-6.

2. In the quick nav bar, tap the Settings icon.

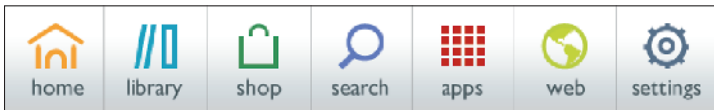


Figure 1-6: The quick nav bar on the NOOK Color is usually the fastest way to most functions.



From any customization section, you can return to the main settings screen by tapping the back arrow at the upper right of a page.

The main Settings page is divided into two parts: Device Settings and App Settings. Table 1-1 lists what you'll find in each.

Table 1-1 Settings Page Sections

<i>Device Settings</i>	<i>App Settings</i>
Device Info	Home
Wireless	Shop
Screen	Social
Sounds	Reader
Time	Search
Security	
Keyboard	

Device settings

This group of settings help you decide the personality of the hardware of your NOOK Color. See Figure 1-7. The following sections explain the Device Settings area.

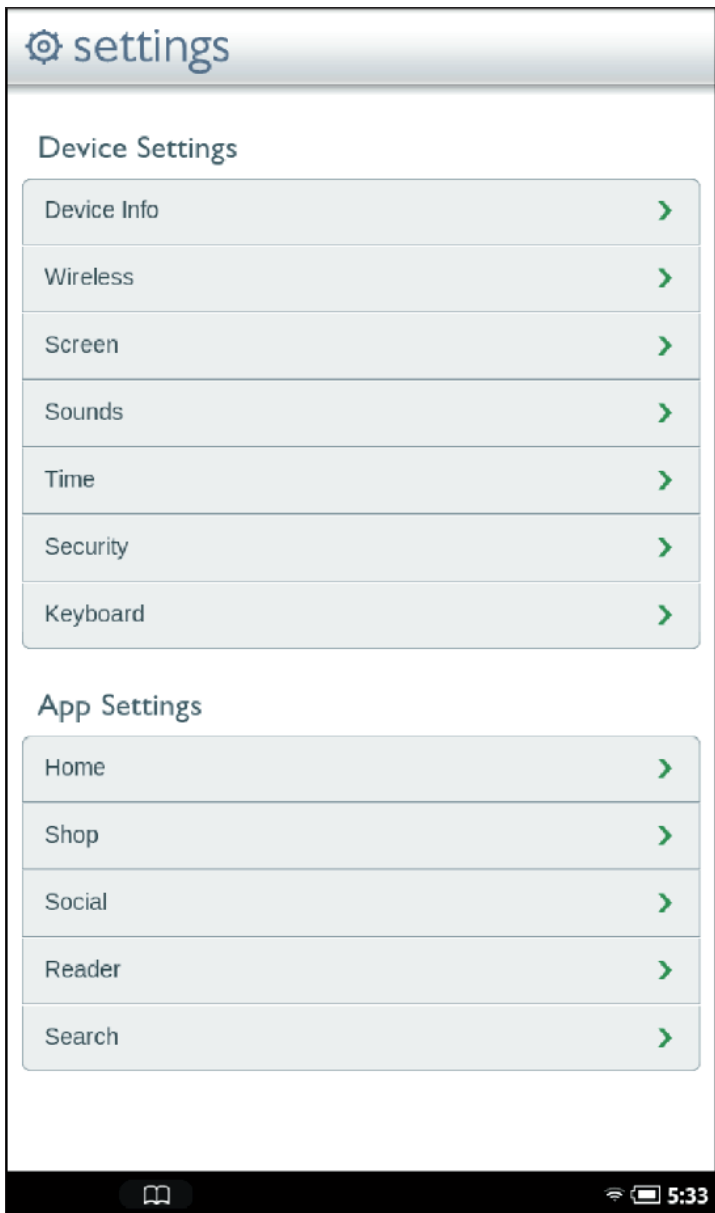



Figure 1-7: The main settings include device and app controls.

Device Info

If you tap Device Info, you'll see these options:

- ✔ **Battery.** You can see the percentage of charge in the battery. If you're charging it up, you'll see that (along with a bright orange  on the USB cable near where it connects to the NOOK Color).
- ✔ **BN Content Storage Available.** Here you will see the amount of available flash memory for books, magazines, newspapers, and apps purchased through the NOOK Store. For business reasons, Barnes & Noble has chosen to allot a bit more space in internal memory for items bought through its store.
- ✔ **Other Storage Available.** The amount of storage for items that you got from other sources (mainly files side-loaded from a desktop or personal computer).
- ✔ **SD Card.** If you've put a microSD or microSDHC card in the slot, its capacity and available storage space are listed here.
- ✔ **About Your NOOK.** Tap the arrow to see the owner and the Barnes & Noble account title, along with model number, serial number, Wi-Fi MAC address, and the operating system software version number.
- ✔ **Erase & Register Device.** Stop. Wait. *Don't tap* the big button here unless you have a real good reason to do so.
 - Personal files that you've moved to the NOOK Color will be deleted.
 - All eBooks will be deleted.
 - Details that ID your device to the Barnes & Noble website will be deleted.
- ✔ **Legal.** If you're really bored, check out the legal notices and credits.



Wireless

Tap the Wireless option to turn it on, tap again to turn it off. When the Wi-Fi switch is on, you can see these things;

- ✔ All the wireless networks the NOOK Color can find in its neighborhood.

- ✔ Strength of the signal (a stack of curved lines). You can see what it looks like back in Figure 1-5. The more dark lines, the stronger the signal, and the faster the potential communication rate.
- ✔ Potentially, a lock symbol beside a network. You have to know the password to use that system. A coffee shop, fast food restaurant, or bar may give the password to customers.

I discuss wireless communication in detail in Chapter 4.

To connect to a Wi-Fi network, do this:

1. **Tap the network's name.**
2. **Tap Connect. That may be all you need to do.**
If the network is secured, a dialog box asks for a password.
3. **Tap in the password box.**
4. **Type the password.**
5. **Tap Connect.**

Screen

Three important touchscreen controls live here. See Figure 1-8.

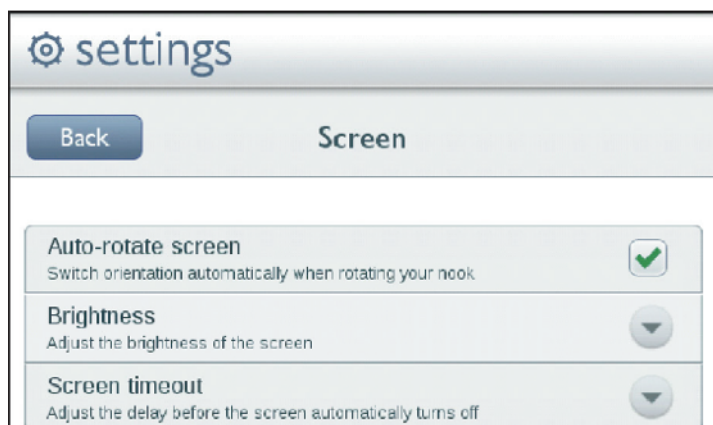


Figure 1-8: Some users don't want the NOOK Color screen to rotate.




✔ **Auto-Rotate Screen.** Sometimes pages are easier to see if you turn the eReader horizontal. You can look at your NOOK Color sideways if you tap a check mark for this option. It generally works only in the web browser, magazines, and the photo gallery. If you don't check the Auto-Rotate Screen option, the screen stays in portrait mode at all times.

✔ **Brightness.** This, of course, has nothing to do with the IQ of your NOOK Color, but rather with the intensity of its backlighting. Drag your finger to move a slider bar from dim to bright. Lower brightness levels use less battery.

A bright screen light might help in a dark room, but it might strain your eyes; a dimmer backlight may help outdoors.

✔ **Screen Timeout.** The NOOK Color turns off its screen if it doesn't get any input (taps or drags, for example). The standard setting is 2 minutes. Set the amount of time the NOOK Color should wait before turning off its screen.



The screen gets slightly dim a few seconds before it goes to sleep. When the screen shuts off, turn it back on again by pressing the  button and swiping the bar from left to right.

Sounds

If only I could have installed this control on my children as they grew up; it would have added years to my life. Under Sounds, you can mute or unmute the system notification beeps and squawks made by the NOOK Color. See Figure 1-9.

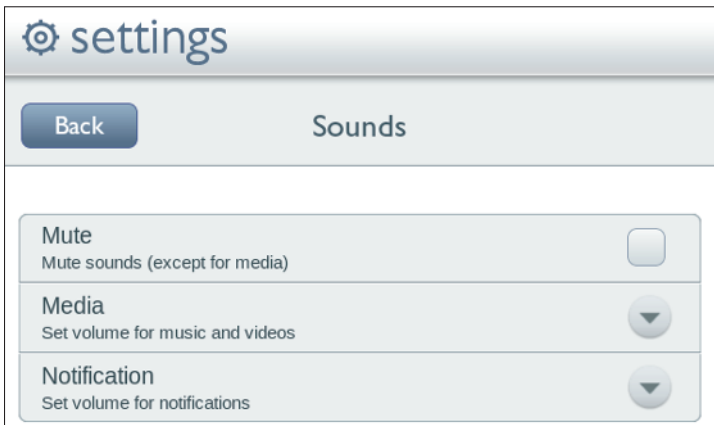


Figure 1-9: The Sounds setting panel lets you mute certain sounds and set the volume.

Earbud headphones help improve the sound if you're listening to music, books on tape, or videos. You can also connect your NOOK Color to an amplifier and a separate set of speakers or to external speakers with a built-in amplifier.

The various controls offered on the Sounds settings page follow:

- ✓ **Mute.** Turn on or off system notification sounds and keyboard clicks. When the check box is checked, these sounds are off; when the box is empty they'll play.
- ✓ **Media.** Press the slider bar to control the volume for music and videos. Tap OK to finalize the setting.
- ✓ **Notification volume.** Press the slider bar to control how loud system notifications (such as low battery) are. You'll hear a sample sound to indicate the loudness you've chosen. Tap OK to make the setting.

Time

Your NOOK Color's time is part of the process when you get new reading material from Barnes & Noble; some libraries that lend eBooks also use it.

You can set the clock format and time zone. Here are the options:

- ✓ **Use 24-Hour Format.** Tap in the box to turn on a 24-hour clock. I'll see you at 1730 for cocktails in the office lounge.
- ✓ **Select Time Zone.** To see all time zones around the world, tap the check box for Show All World Time Zones.

Security

Here you can apply an electronic lock to the NOOK Color itself, or to settings you make for the web browser and certain social features.



If you set it up so your NOOK Color requires a passcode, make sure it's a combination you will remember, but not one as obvious as the last four digits of your phone number or social security number. Instead, how about the last (or first) four digits of a phone number of a friend or a business not directly associated with you?

Available options follow:

- ✔ **Device Lock Passcode.** If you tap a check mark next to Require Passcode, you're asked to enter four numbers. In the future you'll have to enter that same code to turn on the NOOK Color or wake it from sleep. Use the passcode if you worry that someone might try to use your eReader: strangers or your children, for example. See Figure 1-10. To remove the passcode, tap in the box to remove check and enter the code.

Using a passcode *doesn't* protect what's on your microSD or microSDHC memory card in the device's slot.

- ✔ **Restrictions.** You can disable your NOOK Color's social networking features, including the NOOK Friends app, connections to Facebook and Twitter, and the ability to share recommendations and quotes from an eBook. You can completely restrict web browser access, and there are separate controls for browser security elements, which I explore in Chapter 6. See Figure 1-11.

Here's how to restrict access to the social features or the web browser:

- 1. On the Security settings screen, tap Restrictions.**

A numerical keypad comes up.

- 2. Tap a four-digit number.**

- 3. Optional: Tap the Social check box.**

- 4. Optional: Tap the Browser check box to disable the web browser.**

To change the setting, enter the passcode and tap to remove the check mark.





Figure 1-10: The code you enter is required any time you turn the NOOK Color on or wake it from sleep.

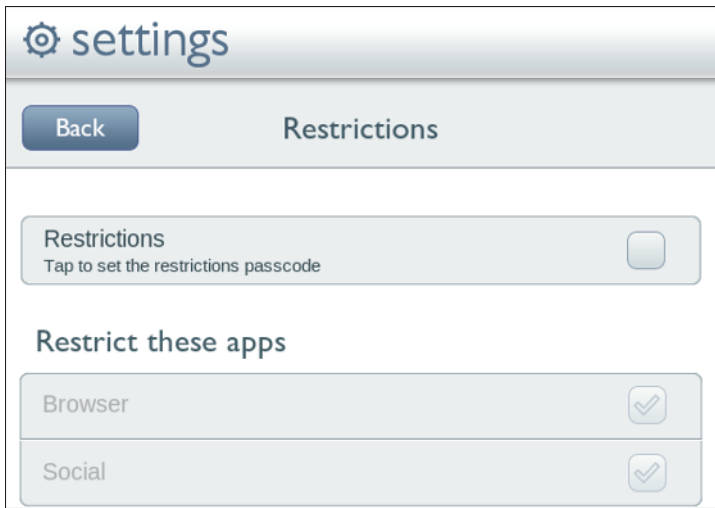


Figure 1-11: To disable the social networking features or the browser, add a restriction here.

Keyboard

The Keyboard settings page lets you customize the virtual onscreen keyboard. Tap the check box alongside any option you want to change. A check mark means that option is on; the absence of a check mark shows that the option is off.

- ✓ **Keyboard Sounds.** You can decide if you want to hear a clicking sound when you tap a key. The click is pretty quiet and confirms that you actually tapped the screen.
- ✓ **Auto-Capitalization.** You can capitalize names and initial words in recommendations and reviews.
- ✓ **Quick Fixes.** You can get help correcting some typing errors.

App settings

The app settings help you bring personality to (or take personality from) you're the NOOK Color. Get here by opening the Settings panel and tapping Home within the App Settings group. You can customize the following areas:

Home

There's no place like it.

- ✔ **Set Wallpaper.** *Wallpaper* is the background for your home screen. Your options follow:
 - **Wallpapers.** A preinstalled collection of backgrounds that come with your NOOK.
 - **Photo Gallery.** Pictures you have placed in the storage of your NOOK, including photos or drawings you have sideloaded from a desktop or laptop computer.
 - **Live Wallpapers.** Animated backgrounds you have purchased or obtained and installed in the storage of your NOOK.
- ✔ **Clear Keep Reading List.** You're asked to confirm your decision. The Keep Reading list is like the stack of books you've started reading but haven't finished; some readers flit around from title to title.
- ✔ **Clear the Daily Shelf.** The Daily Shelf is a gathering place for much of the reading material on your NOOK.
- ✔ **Configure the Contents of the Daily Shelf.** Customize the components as follows:
 - **Recommendations from Friends.** If there's no check mark here, your NOOK Color won't display suggestions from your friends on the Daily Shelf.
 - **LendMe Offers from Friends.** If there's no check mark here, lending offers won't appear in the Daily Shelf. Chapter 4 talks about lending and borrowing books.
 - **Recently Opened Library Items.** Decide whether you can see tiny covers for eBooks you've been reading lately.
 - **Recent Issues of Each Newspaper.** The standard setting shows one recent issue of each newspaper to which you subscribe; to change that, tap None, 1, 2, 3, or All.

Shop

For some, a store is home away from home. You know who you are.

✔ **Require Password for Purchases.** If you turn on this option and enter the code, you have to enter your Barnes & Noble password before buying anything from the B&N store. To get rid of the password requirement, follow these steps:

1. **Tap to remove the check mark.**
2. **Type your password.**
3. **Tap OK.**

If you don't turn on Require Password for Purchases, anyone who goes to the NOOK store with your NOOK Color can buy something without knowing your shopping password.

✔ **Manage Gift Cards.** Maybe you've been with the lucky recipient of a Barnes & Noble gift card (or eGift card). See Figure 1-12. You can associate as many as three gift or eGift cards with your B&N account. Whenever you buy something from the B&N store, the balance is drawn from those cards before charging your credit or debit card.

To check the total balance of the cards associated with your B&N account, tap the Gift Cards button. To add credit to your account, do this:

1. **On the Shop settings screen, tap Gift Cards.** A menu opens.
2. **Tap the Add Gift Card button.** A dialog box opens.
3. **In the fields, type the gift card information.**
4. **If required, type your four-digit PIN.** The PIN is on the back of your card or in the e-mail that came with an eGift card.

✔ **Clear Shop Recent Searches.** This awkwardly named control will erase the list (*aka history*) of all searches you have conducted on the B&N website.



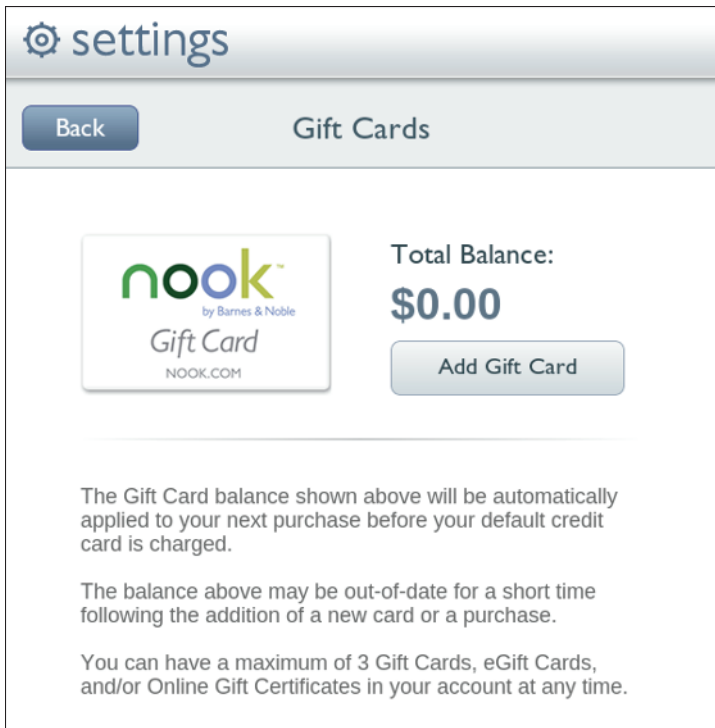


Figure 1-12: You can link B&N gift cards to your account as preparation for shopping at the B&N store.

Social

The Social setting is your portal to linking your Facebook, Twitter, or Google Mail accounts for easy message exchange (as well as making or accepting LendMe offers). I discuss LendMe in more detail in Chapter 4. See Figure 1-13.

These options are here:

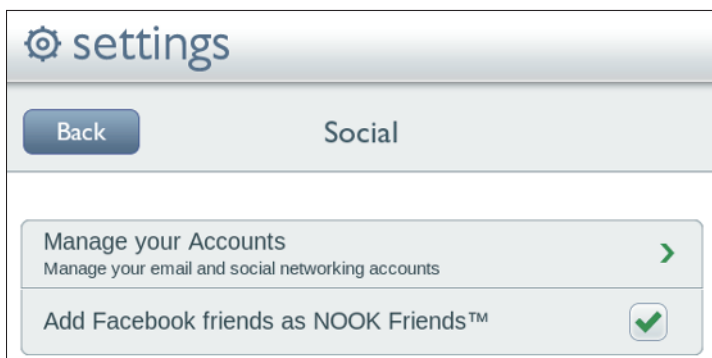
- ✓ **Manage Your Accounts.** Tap the arrow to show the menu. From there you can add usernames, passwords, and some other options. Each of the services has its own button. You can allow sharing with Facebook or Twitter, and bring in contacts from Google when you link your NOOK account.

- ✓ **Add Facebook Friends as NOOK Friends.** If a check mark is in this box, your NOOK will automatically make NOOK friends out of your Facebook friends who have a current B&N account. You can lend or borrow books from NOOK friends. You can read more about friends in Chapter 4.

Reader

In this section you can see two options:


- ✓ **Animating eBook Page Turns.** If you tap a check mark for this option, pages will slide across the screen as you “turn” them, a reminder of how it used to be with books printed on sheets of paper. If they aren’t sliding, pages jump from one to the next.
- ✓ **Enabling 2-Page Display Mode for PDFs.** If you tap a check mark for this option, you see two pages at a time of documents and books that are stored in PDF format. (I explain more about PDF files in Chapter 5.) To see two pages at a time, turn the NOOK sideways (horizontal).



Courtesy of Barnes & Noble

Figure 1-13: The means to manage your e-mail and social networking accounts is under the Social listing of settings.



If the image won't flip when you turn your NOOK sideways, tap the  button on the lower front of the NOOK frame, tap Settings in the quick nav bar, go to the Screen settings area, and turn on Auto-Rotate Screen. Some pages stay in a certain mode regardless of settings or the orientation.

Search

When you search for a file, your NOOK will always check the Library and the Shop. In the Settings panel, you can include three other locations and file types. And for the sake of privacy or excessive orderliness, you can also clear the recent history of searches. See Figure 1-14.

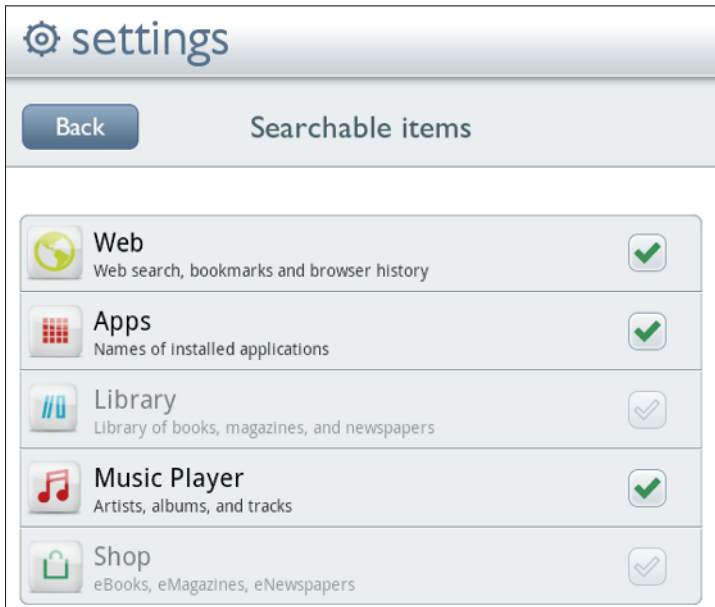


Figure 1-14: You can expand or limit the areas where searches are conducted within your NOOK Color.

Here are the places where searches are conducted:

- ✓ **Library.** Your collection of books, magazines, and newspapers. (Always searched.)
- ✓ **Shop.** Books, magazines, newspapers, and applications available from the NOOK store. (Always searched when Wi-Fi is turned on and connected to the Internet.)
- ✓ **Apps.** Applications, known as *apps*, are small programs (including games and weather checkers and note-takers). You can get them from various sources and put them on your NOOK Color.

- ✔ **Music.** Songs or other audio. The Search function will only find files stored in MP3 or AAC format. It finds names and titles if the file offers them.
- ✔ **Web.** You control bookmarks, browser history, and web searches here. Tap in the box beside Apps, Music, and Web to place or remove a check mark; only those places with a check mark will be searched.

To delete your search history, do this:

1. **On the Settings screen, tap Search.**
2. **Tap Clear Search Shortcuts.**
3. **Tap OK to confirm.**

Home screen

The NOOK Color's home screen is like the desktop on a personal computer. You can get to anywhere on your NOOK from the home screen, and you can put shortcuts and a personalized background on it. See Figure 1-15.

Looking at the home screen in portrait mode (taller than wide), here's what you'll find:

- ✔ The Keep Reading bar (across the top)
- ✔ The home screen panels
- ✔ The Daily Shelf (across the bottom)



The home screen and the Daily Shelf scroll independently of each other. You can see the Keep Reading pull-down menu on any of the three panels of the home screen. To open a book, magazine, or newspaper from the home screen or Daily Shelf, tap an item's cover. Or you can press and hold on the cover of an item to display a pop-up menu, and tap Read.

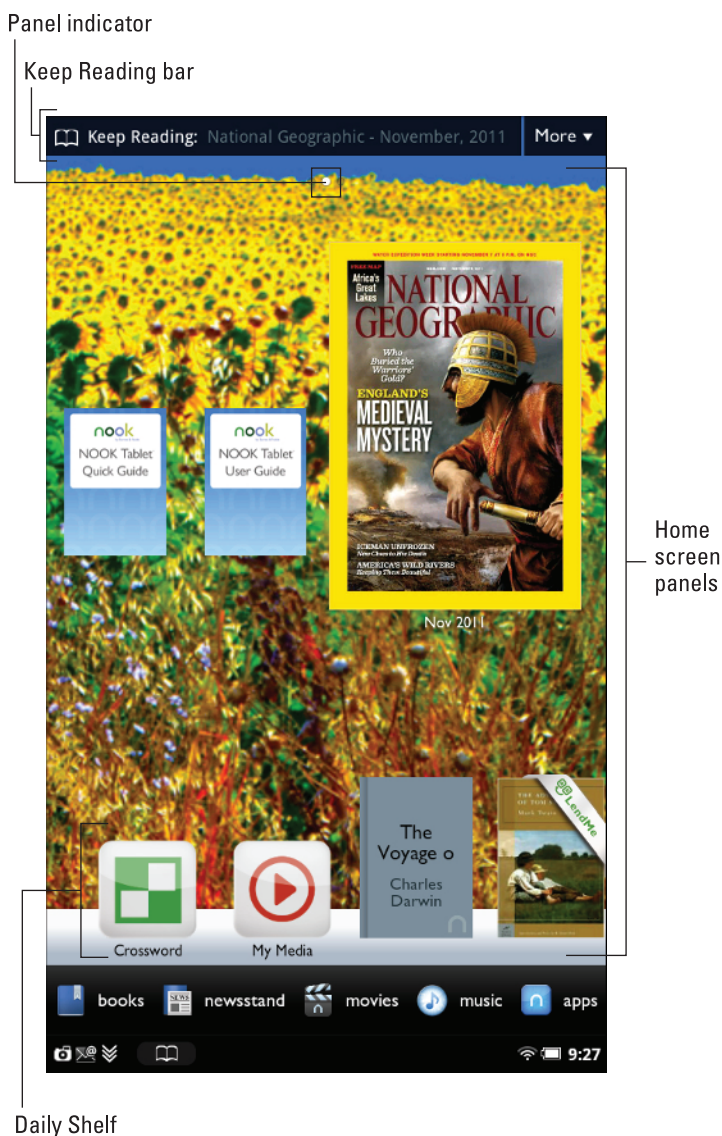


Figure 1-15: You can change the home screen to include a personal wallpaper.

Home screen panels

The home screen has three panels that can hold shortcuts and icons for books and other reading material as well as apps. You can see only one panel at a time. In the indicator

near the top of the screen, the white dot shows which of the three you're currently seeing.

- ✓ To move from one panel to another, swipe left or right across the screen.
- ✓ To make a *shortcut*, drag a book, magazine, newspaper, or document to any one of the panels. Just tap the shortcut when you want to go directly to it.

You have to turn on shortcuts. Here's how:

1. Press the **⌂** button.
2. Tap **Settings**.
3. Tap **Home Settings**.
4. On the **Home settings** page, tap next to **Show Media Shortcuts**. To change your mind, tap in the box to remove the check mark.



Get back to the home screen from anywhere by pressing the **⌂** button on the front of the device. You have to press it twice to get home if you're doing something that fills the entire screen (like playing a game or reading a kids' picture book).

The Keep Reading menu and more

The bar at the top of the home page is labeled Keep Reading. Beside the label is the name of what you were most recently reading. (It will declare None when you first start using the NOOK Color, and it may be blank if you were last viewing certain types of personal files.)



Tap any title in Keep Reading or the More menu to open the eBook.

And then there's More. Tap the More pull-down menu to see an abundance of recent reading material. To close the More menu without making a selection, tap the up arrow at the bottom of the list.

If you've read one recently, the list tells you this:

- ✓ **Books.** Titles and authors of the book most recently opened on the NOOK Color.

- ✓ **Periodicals.** Titles and publication dates of the most recent periodicals opened.
- ✓ **Files.** Titles and file types of the most recent files opened in the My Files folder.

Wallpaper

The home screen's background shows an image; borrowing from the world of computers (and old-school home decoration) this is called *wallpaper*. The NOOK Color comes with several patterns; you can also upload your own drawings or photos. The same image appears on all three of the home screen panels. I discuss how to change the wallpaper in Chapter 7.

Organizing the Daily Shelf

Give us this day our Daily Shelf, a row of books, magazines, newspapers, and apps that runs along the bottom of the home screen; items that you've recently opened, purchased, downloaded, borrowed, or otherwise received; recommendations sent by friends.

The Daily Shelf holds only one issue of a subscribed magazine or newspaper; click *The New York Times* or *Sweet Potato Monthly* to open the most recent issue.



You can move things around on the Daily Shelf:

- ✓ Rearrange covers if you want. Place your finger on a cover and drag it up about an inch; then drag it to a new position.
- ✓ Move an item from your Library to the Daily Shelf. Press and hold on an item, then drag it to the Library.
- ✓ Remove an item from the Daily Shelf. The item stays in your Library. Press and hold on the item. Tap Remove from Home.
- ✓ Move an item from the Daily Shelf to the home screen. Press and hold an item and drag it to the home screen. Or, press and hold an item on the home screen and drag it to the Daily Shelf.

Organizing the home screen

I don't let many people see the physical desktop in my office. It's a pretty scary place, with piles and piles of paper — and somewhere down there is half of a roast beef sandwich on

sourdough bread with horseradish and cocktail sauce. Don't let this happen to your home screen.

You can arrange books, magazines, and newspapers dragged from the Daily Shelf to the home screen:

- ✓ **Stacking.** You can make a pile of books up to a point: You can't completely obscure any of the covers.
- ✓ **Gridding.** If you want NOOK Color to automatically arrange all the covers in a neat grid, double-tap any open area of the home screen.

You can also clean up an individual panel of the home screen. Do this:

1. **Press and hold a part of the wallpaper in the panel that you want to clean up.**

A pop-up menu appears.

2. **Tap Clean Up This Panel.**

Frequenting Bars

Belly up to one of the bars on your NOOK Color. The special-purpose bars appear on the touchscreen as needed. The two most important bars follow:

- ✓ **Status bar.** It appears across the bottom of the screen and offers various bits of information.
- ✓ **Quick nav bar.** This bar of icons lets you quickly go to various functions of the NOOK Color.



Swipe from right to left across the status bar to return to the feature or function you were most recently using.

Status bar


The status bar's purpose is to tell you, well, the status of your NOOK Color device. The bar sits at the very bottom of the screen (just above the  button). See Figure 1-16.






Figure 1-16: This status bar shows, from left to right, a small icon of a camera (because I captured a screen). There's an open book to allow quick access to a recent read. Icons on the far right show the Wi-Fi connection, battery life, and current time.

You may see some of the icons shown in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2 Status Bar Icons

<i>Icon</i>	<i>What It Means</i>
	New software updates have been installed.
	The NOOK Friends app has new information: new contacts, new reading status, new invitations, and the like.
	Tap the icon to go to the book you were most recently reading.
	You're listening to Pandora. (Of course, unless the volume's turned off, you already know that.) Chapter 6 explains Pandora.
	Tap to open the music player, which I explain in Chapter 6.
	You have new e-mail.
	Your NOOK Color is downloading books, periodicals, or apps.
	You have this many unexamined notifications; they could be LendMe offers or requests, recommendations from by NOOK Friends, or available updates.
	Tap to go back to a previous activity.
	The more curves you see, the stronger the Wi-Fi signal. No curves? No connection.

<i>Icon</i>	<i>What It Means</i>
	A full battery means you have lots of power left. If it is half-full, that's half as good. If the battery icon is nearly empty, plug into an outlet and attach the charger. A bolt of electricity means it's charging.
	The GlowLight is on.
	You've muted the sound on your NOOK Color.

If you tap the right corner of the bar near the battery status indicator, the Quick Settings dialog box lets you change settings even more quickly. (To close the dialog box, tap anywhere outside of it.) See Figure 1-17.

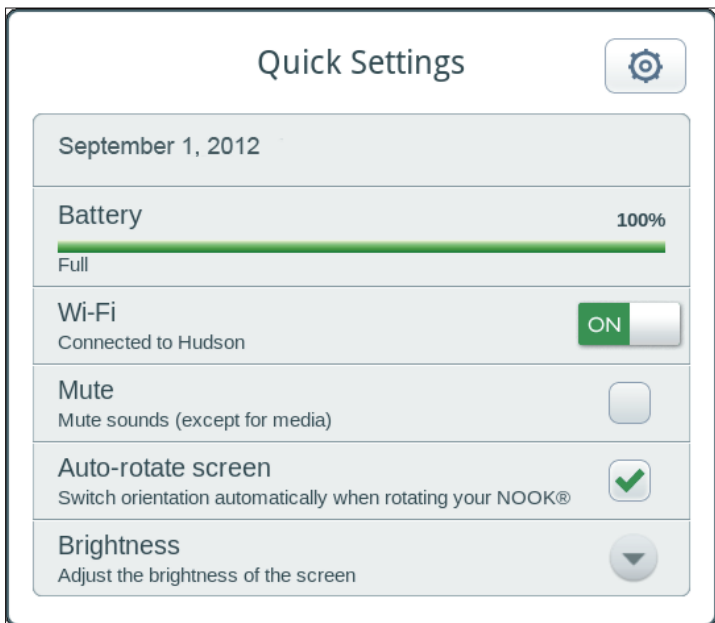


Figure 1-17: The Quick Settings dialog box offers five of the most common adjustments.

These parts of the Quick Settings dialog box are the ones you're likely to use:



- ✓ **Battery.** See how much battery you have left.
- ✓ **Wi-Fi Toggle Switch.** Swipe or Scroll on the Wi-Fi toggle to turn the Wi-Fi system on or off. When the NOOK Color is connected to a network, you will see here the name of the network in use.

Turn off the Wi-Fi when you don't need to use it. You'll save battery power that way.

- ✓ **Mute.** Tap the check box to mute or unmute all the sounds that notify you of something (when you tap a key, for example). Music, videos, and games aren't affected by this setting.

- ✓ **Orientation.** The screen will rotate if you turn it vertical or horizontal. Tap it to turn the auto-rotation feature on or off.



- ✓ **Brightness.** Tap to open a dialog box. Drag a slider to make the screen brighter or dimmer. A dimmer screen may be easier on your eyes and saves a bit of battery power, allowing you to read longer between recharges.



Quick nav bar

Tap the  button on the lower frame of the front to bring up the quick nav bar.

As you can see in Figure 1-18, the bar gives you quick access to seven essential components of the NOOK Color.

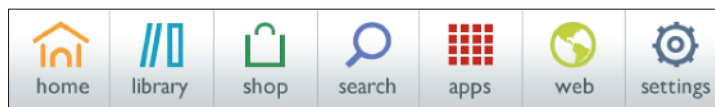


Figure 1-18: You can display the quick nav bar and tap one of its buttons to zoom to an important place on the eReader.

- ✓ **Home.** The Daily Shelf and any shortcuts you put are here.
- ✓ **Library.** All your reading materials are here.
 - **Books.**
 - **Magazines.**
 - **Newspapers.**
 - **My Shelves.** You can create shelves to help you organize your library. On my NOOK Color I have a Favess shelf and another that holds Lecture notes for presentations I carry on the device.
 - **My Files.** Anything you have side-loaded onto your NOOK Color from a laptop or personal computer. Chapter 5 explains how to side-load.
 - **LendMe.** The books that you can loan, books you've borrowed, and offers to lend or borrow. See Chapter 3 for more about LendMe.
- ✓ **Shop.** Takes you to the Barnes & Noble Store. I discuss the shopping experience in Chapter 3.
- ✓ **Search.** Takes you to the search screen so you can hunt for any file or app on your device.
- ✓ **Apps.** Here are pre-loaded games, multimedia utilities, e-mail, contacts programs, and apps you get from the NOOK Store.

On the original NOOK Color this option is called Extras instead of Apps.
- ✓ **Web.** Tapping this takes you to the Internet. If the Web button shown is pale gray (*grayed out*) and says Disabled, I expect you can guess its status. I discuss disabling the browser earlier in this chapter in the section under Security settings. You can read more in Chapter 4.
- ✓ **Settings.** Go to the Device and App Settings panels, described earlier in this chapter.



