

Best Sellers Fiction

This Week FICTION

This Week		Last Week	Weeks On List
1	SCARPETTA , by Patricia Cornwell. (Putnam, \$27.95.) The forensic pathologist Kay Scarpetta takes an assignment in New York City.	1	2
2	THE CHRISTMAS SWEATER , by Glenn Beck with Kevin Balfe and Jason Wright. (Threshold Editions, \$19.99.) A boy learns from his disappointment with his mother's gift.	2	5
3	CROSS COUNTRY , by James Patterson. (Little, Brown, \$27.99.) Alex Cross chases the leader of a lethal teenage gang.	3	4
4	THE STORY OF EDGAR SAWTELLE , by David Wroblewski. (Ecco, \$25.95.) A mute takes refuge with three dogs in the Wisconsin woods after his father's death.	4	27
5	THE HOST , by Stephenie Meyer. (Little, Brown, \$25.99.) One woman won't surrender to the aliens who have taken control.	8	31
6	JUST AFTER SUNSET , by Stephen King. (Scribner, \$28.) Short stories blending fantasy and psychological realism.	6	5
7	ARCTIC DRIFT , by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler. (Putnam, \$27.95.) In his 20th adventure, Dirk Pitt searches for a crucial element that will help reverse global warming.	5	3
8	THE LUCKY ONE , by Nicholas Sparks. (Grand Central, \$24.99.) A marine returning home sets out to track down the woman whose photo he found in Iraq.	12	11
9	THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED , by Wally Lamb. (Harper, \$29.95.) A man reconstructs five generations of family history.	7	5
10	A MERCY , by Toni Morrison. (Knopf, \$23.95.) In 17th-century America, a slave mother urges a Northern farmer to buy her daughter so that she can have a better life.	13	5
11	DIVINE JUSTICE , by David Baldacci. (Grand Central, \$27.) Members of Washington's Camel Club rally to save their leader, who is hiding out in the town of Divine, Va.	11	6
12	THE CHARLEMAGNE PURSUIT , by Steve Berry. (Ballantine, \$26.) The former Justice Department operative Cotton Malone searches for the truth about his father's death on a secret submarine mission to the Antarctic.	9	2
13	YOUR HEART BELONGS TO ME , by Dean Koontz. (Bantam, \$27.) A man is stalked by a woman who resembles the donor of the heart he received in a transplant operation.	10	3
14	THE GATE HOUSE , by Nelson DeMille. (Grand Central, \$27.99.) In a sequel to "The Gold Coast" (1990) a tax attorney and his ex-wife explore a reconciliation.	15	7
15	THE PRIVATE PATIENT , by P. D. James. (Knopf, \$25.95.) Cmdr. Adam Dalgliesh investigates the murder of a journalist who had been a patient at a private clinic.	14	4
16*	THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY , by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. (Dial, \$22.) A journalist meets the island's old Nazi resisters.		15

This Week HARDCOVER FICTION EXTENDED

17	EXTREME MEASURES , by Vince Flynn. (Atria)
18	DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW , by Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark. (Simon & Schuster)
19	THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO , by Stieg Larsson. (Knopf)
20	KNIT TWO , by Kate Jacobs. (Putnam)
21	THE BRASS VERDICT , by Michael Connelly. (Little, Brown)
22	A LION AMONG MEN , by Gregory Maguire. (Morrow)
23	A GOOD WOMAN , by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte)
24	ENDER IN EXILE , by Orson Scott Card. (Tor/Tom Doherty)
25	THE GIVEN DAY , by Dennis Lehane. (Morrow)
26	2666 , by Roberto Bolaño. Translated by Natasha Wimmer. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
27	FROM DEAD TO WORSE , by Charlaine Harris. (Ace)
28	THE TREASURE , by Iris Johansen. (Bantam)
29	A DOG NAMED CHRISTMAS , by Greg Kincaid. (Doubleday)
30	GRACE , by Richard Paul Evans. (Simon & Schuster)
31	THE OTHER QUEEN , by Philippa Gregory. (Touchstone)
32	CRUEL INTENT , by J. A. Jance. (Touchstone)
33	THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN , by Garth Stein. (Harper)
34	UNACCUSTOMED EARTH , by Jhumpa Lahiri. (Knopf)
35	MIDNIGHT , by Sister Souljah. (Atria)

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Best Sellers NonFiction

This Week	NONFICTION	Last Week	Weeks On List
1	OUTLIERS , by Malcolm Gladwell. (Little, Brown, \$27.99.) Why some people succeed — it has to do with luck and opportunity — from the author of “Blink” and “The Tipping Point.”	1	4
2	DEWEY , by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter. (Grand Central, \$19.99.) The kitten left freezing in the returned-book slot of an Iowa public library and his rise to fame.	2	13
3	AMERICAN LION , by Jon Meacham. (Random House, \$30.) Andrew Jackson, the seventh president, in the White House, by the editor of Newsweek.	3	5
4	A BOLD FRESH PIECE OF HUMANITY , by Bill O’Reilly. (Broadway, \$26.) The Fox News commentator on his upbringing and career.	5	12
5	MULTIPLE BLESSINGS , by Jon Gosselin, Kate Gosselin and Beth Carson. (Zondervan, \$19.) A couple has sextuplets.	4	8
6	TOO FAT TO FISH , by Artie Lange with Anthony Bozza. (Spiegel & Grau, \$24.95.) Humorous memories from the comedian, a member of the cast of “The Howard Stern Show.”	6	5
7	WHY WE SUCK , by Denis Leary. (Viking, \$26.95.) Sardonic essays from the actor and comedian, currently the co-creator and star of the TV series “Rescue Me.”	7	4
8	HOT, FLAT, AND CROWDED , by Thomas L. Friedman. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27.95.) How a green revolution can renew America, by the New York Times columnist.	10	14
9	THE SNOWBALL , by Alice Schroeder. (Bantam, \$35.) The life of Warren Buffett.	8	11
10	DO THE RIGHT THING , by Mike Huckabee. (Sentinel, \$25.95.) A campaign memoir and statement of principles from the former Republican presidential aspirant.	9	4
11	NO LIMITS , by Michael Phelps with Alan Abrahamson. (Free Press, \$26.) Secrets of the swimmer’s success.		1
12	THE AMERICAN JOURNEY OF BARACK OBAMA , by the editors of Life magazine. (Little, Brown, \$24.99.) Photographs and essays, starting with Obama’s birth in Hawaii.	12	6
13	WISHFUL DRINKING , by Carrie Fisher. (Simon & Schuster, \$21.) A memoir based on Fisher’s one-woman show.		1
14	ANNIE LEIBOVITZ AT WORK , by Annie Leibovitz. (Random House, \$40.) Memorable photographs, and a text — part memoir, part commentary.	15	4
15	THE ASCENT OF MONEY , by Niall Ferguson. (Penguin Press, \$29.95.) A financial history of the world, stressing the link between politics and economics.	14	3
16*	TIME PRESIDENT OBAMA , edited by Adi Ignatius. (Time Books, \$19.95.) Obama’s path to the White House, with reporting by Time magazine’s political team and photographs by Callie Shell-Aurora.		1

This Week	HARDCOVER NONFICTION EXTENDED
17	LETTER TO MY DAUGHTER , by Maya Angelou. (Random House)
18	DECIDING THE NEXT DECIDER , by Calvin Trillin. (Random House)
19	FLEECE , by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann. (Harper)
20	CALL ME TED , by Ted Turner with Bill Burke. (Grand Central)
21	WHEN YOU ARE ENGULFED IN FLAMES , by David Sedaris. (Little, Brown)
22	THE 10 BIG LIES ABOUT AMERICA , by Michael Medved. (Crown Forum)
23	THE NEW YORK TIMES: THE COMPLETE FRONT PAGES 1851-2008 , Introduction by Bill Keller. (Black Dog & Leventhal)
24	THE RETURN OF DEPRESSION ECONOMICS AND THE CRISIS OF 2008 , by Paul Krugman. (Norton)
25	JOHN LENNON , by Philip Norman. (Ecco)
26	HOLIDAYS ON ICE , by David Sedaris. (Little, Brown)
27	AUDITION , by Barbara Walters. (Knopf)
28	THE AUDACITY OF HOPE , by Barack Obama. (Crown)
29	ALEX AND ME , by Irene Pepperberg. (Collins)
30	PANIC! , by Michael Lewis. (Norton)
31	THE GLORY GAME , by Frank Gifford with Peter Richmond. (Harper)
32	THE POST-AMERICAN WORLD , by Fareed Zakaria. (Norton)
33	ARE YOU THERE, VODKA? IT’S ME, CHELSEA , by Chelsea Handler. (Simon Spotlight Entertainment)
34	VANITY FAIR: THE PORTRAITS , by Graydon Carter and the editors of Vanity Fair. (Abrams)
35	DREAMS FROM MY FATHER , by Barack Obama. (Crown)

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Paperback Best Sellers Trade Fiction

This Week	TRADE FICTION	Weeks On List
1	THE SHACK , by William P. Young. (Windblown Media, \$14.99.) A man whose daughter was abducted is invited to an isolated shack, apparently by God.(†)	30
2	A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS , by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$16.) A friendship between two women in Afghanistan against the backdrop of 30 years of war.	3
3	THE APPEAL , by John Grisham. (Delta, \$14.) Political and legal intrigue ensue when a Mississippi court rules against a company accused of dumping toxic waste.	4
4	CHANGE OF HEART , by Jodi Picoult. (Washington Square, \$16.) A prisoner on death row begins performing miracles.	2
5	WORLD WITHOUT END , by Ken Follett. (New American Library, \$22.) Love and intrigue in Kingsbridge, the medieval English cathedral town at the center of Follett's "Pillars of the Earth."	10
6	THE BRIEF WONDROUS LIFE OF OSCAR WAO , by Junot Díaz. (Riverhead, \$14.) A nerdy Dominican-American struggles to escape a family curse.	15
7	HALO: THE COLE PROTOCOL , by Tobias S. Buckell. (Tom Doherty, \$14.95.) Navy Lt. Jacob Keyes is sent on a secret mission to a far corner of the universe.	3
8	THE ALCHEMIST , by Paulo Coelho. (HarperOne, \$13.95.) A Spanish shepherd boy travels to Egypt in search of treasure.	66
9	THE FRIDAY NIGHT KNITTING CLUB , by Kate Jacobs. (Berkley, \$14.) A group of women meet weekly at a New York City yarn shop.	43
10	WATER FOR ELEPHANTS , by Sara Gruen. (Algonquin, \$13.95.) A young man — and an elephant — save a Depression-era circus.	67
11	THE KITE RUNNER , by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$15.95 and \$14.) An Afghan-American returns to Kabul to learn how a childhood friend has fared.	66
12*	THE WHITE TIGER , by Aravind Adiga. (Free Press, \$14.) A chauffeur in India relates the story of his transformation from manservant to entrepreneur to murderer; the winner of the 2008 Man Booker Prize.	9
13	THE READER , by Bernhard Schlink. (Vintage, \$13.95.) A German high school student falls in love with a former Auschwitz employee.	2
14	LOVING FRANK , by Nancy Horan. (Ballantine, \$14.) A story of the romance between Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Borthwick Cheney.	35
15*	REMEMBER ME? , by Sophie Kinsella. (Dial, \$14.) After an auto accident, a London woman loses her memory.	6
16	REVOLUTIONARY ROAD , by Richard Yates. (Vintage, \$14.95.) Frank and April Wheeler, a beautiful young couple living in 1950s America, see their supposedly perfect life come undone.	2
17	SHADOW COUNTRY , by Peter Matthiessen. (Modern Library, \$16.) An epic reimagining of the life of Edgar J. Watson, Florida pioneer and rumored killer of Belle Starr; the winner of the 2008 National Book Award.	1
18	THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES , by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$15 and \$14.) In South Carolina in 1964, a teenage girl tries to discover the secret to her mother's past.	26
19	THE ELEGANCE OF THE HEDGEHOG , by Muriel Barbery. (Europa, \$15.) A young girl and a widowed concierge, both closet intellectuals, become friends.	2
20	IN THE WOODS , by Tana French. (Penguin, \$14.) An Irish detective investigating the murder of a 12-year-old girl returns to the scene of his own terrible ordeal.	18

This Week	TRADE FICTION EXTENDED
21	OUT STEALING HORSES , by Per Petterson. (Picador)
22	THE ROAD , by Cormac McCarthy. (Vintage)
23	THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH , by Ken Follett. (New American Library)
24	THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES 2008 , Edited by Salman Rushdie. (Houghton Mifflin)
25	THE CHOICE , by Nicholas Sparks. (Grand Central)
26	THE SAVAGE DETECTIVES , by Roberto Bolaño and Natasha Wimmer. (Picador)
27	THE CHILDREN OF HÚRIN , by J. R. R. Tolkien. Edited by Christopher Tolkien. Illustrated by Alan Lee. (Houghton Mifflin)
28	MY SISTER'S KEEPER , by Jodi Picoult. (Washington Square)
29	NIGHTS IN RODANTHE , by Nicholas Sparks. (Grand Central)
30	NINETEEN MINUTES , by Jodi Picoult. (Washington Square)
31	THE ALMOST MOON , by Alice Sebold. (Little, Brown)
32	RUN , by Ann Patchett. (Harper Perennial)
33	2666 , by Roberto Bolaño. Translated by Natasha Wimmer. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
34	SARAH'S KEY , by Tatiana de Rosnay. (St. Martin's)
35	BRIDGE OF SIGHS , by Richard Russo. (Vintage)

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Paperback Best Sellers Mass-Market Fiction

This Week	MASS-MARKET FICTION	Weeks On List
1	THE APPEAL , by John Grisham. (Dell, \$7.99.) Political and legal intrigue ensue when a Mississippi court rules against a company accused of dumping toxic waste.	4
2	THE PAGAN STONE , by Nora Roberts. (Jove, \$7.99.) Three men and three women unite to battle the demon of Hawkins Hollow; Book 3 of the Sign of Seven trilogy.	3
3	T IS FOR TRESPASS , by Sue Grafton. (Berkley, \$7.99.) Kinsey Millhone must contend with a woman who has stolen a nurse's identity in order to take advantage of Kinsey's elderly neighbor.	3
4	THE 6TH TARGET , by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. (Vision, \$7.99.) Detective Lindsay Boxer and the Women's Murder Club investigate the disappearance of several children in San Francisco.	3
5	A PRISONER OF BIRTH , by Jeffrey Archer. (St. Martin's, \$9.99.) A poor Londoner, framed for murder by four friends, escapes from prison and exacts revenge.	2
6	DEAD UNTIL DARK , by Charlaine Harris. (Ace, \$7.99.) Sookie Stackhouse, a telepathic cocktail waitress in rural Louisiana, falls in love with a bad-boy vampire.	14
7	DOUBLE CROSS , by James Patterson. (Vision, \$9.99.) Alex Cross and his new girlfriend, a police detective, confront a boastful Washington killer.	11
8	THE DARKEST EVENING OF THE YEAR , by Dean Koontz. (Bantam, \$7.99.) A woman who rescues golden retrievers is shadowed by an evil stranger.	8
9*	DUMA KEY , by Stephen King. (Pocket, \$9.99.) A Minnesota contractor moves to Florida to recover from an injury and starts creating paintings with eerie powers.	8
10	DEAD AFTER DARK , by Sherrilyn Kenyon, J. R. Ward, Susan Squires and Dianna Love. (St. Martin's, \$7.99.) Four tales of paranormal romance.	2
11	THE VENETIAN BETRAYAL , by Steve Berry. (Ballantine, \$9.99.) A former Justice Department operative turned bookseller must find the tomb of Alexander the Great before a Central Asian despot and her allies do.	4
12	THE MANNING GROOMS , by Debbie Macomber. (Mira, \$7.99.) A reissue of two novels: "Bride on the Loose" and "Same Time, Next Year."	3
13	LIVING DEAD IN DALLAS , by Charlaine Harris. (Ace, \$7.99.) A vampire asks Sookie Stackhouse to find one of his missing companions.	14
14	THE 47TH SAMURAI , by Stephen Hunter. (Pocket Star, \$9.99.) A former marine encounters Tokyo's criminal underworld.	2
15	CLUB DEAD , by Charlaine Harris. (Ace, \$7.99.) When Sookie Stackhouse's boyfriend is kidnapped, she goes to Mississippi to find him with the help of an undead Elvis.	11
16*	LOVE BY DESIGN , by Nora Roberts. (Silhouette, \$7.99.) A reissue of two novels from 1989: "Loving Jack" and "Best Laid Plans."	3
17	ZEN AND THE ART OF VAMPIRES , by Katie MacAlister. (Signet, \$7.99.) A woman craving the good suburban life goes on a singles tour through Europe to meet a man — and is beguiled by two.	2
18	DEAD TO THE WORLD , by Charlaine Harris. (Ace, \$7.99.) Sookie Stackhouse's vampire boyfriend has traveled to Peru, leaving her to deal with his amnesiac boss.	8
19*	THE CHASE , by Clive Cussler. (Berkley, \$9.99.) In the early 20th century, a detective tracks a killer all over the West.	6
20	TOM CLANCY'S GHOST RECON , by David Michaels. (Berkley, \$9.99.) An elite military team must thwart a plot by Chinese renegades to seize Taiwan.	5

This Week	MASS-MARKET FICTION EXTENDED
21	DEAD AS A DOORNAIL , by Charlaine Harris. (Ace)
22	SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS , by Debbie Macomber. (Mira)
23	THE HOLLOW , by Nora Roberts. (Jove)
24	SANTA FE DEAD , by Stuart Woods. (Signet)
25	ALL TOGETHER DEAD , by Charlaine Harris. (Ace)
26	THE OUTLAW DEMON WAILS , by Kim Harrison. (Eos)
27	THE ROAD , by Cormac McCarthy. (Vintage)
28	WHEN THE DUKE RETURNS , by Eloisa James. (Avon/HarperCollins)
29	BLOOD DREAMS , by Kay Hooper. (Bantam)
30	BOOK OF THE DEAD , by Patricia Cornwell. (Berkley)
31	THE ARCTIC EVENT , by James H. Cobb. (Vision)
32	BLUE HEAVEN , by C. J. Box. (St. Martin's Minotaur)
33	KILL ZONE , by Jack Coughlin with Donald A. Davis. (St. Martin's)
34	FOUL PLAY , by Janet Evanovich. (Harper)
35	A STONE CREEK CHRISTMAS , by Linda Lael Miller. (Silhouette)

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Paperback NonFiction Best Sellers List

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1	MARLEY & ME , by John Grogan. (Harper, \$13.95 and \$7.99.) Lessons learned from a neurotic dog.	40	21	THE NINE , by Jeffrey Toobin. (Anchor)
2	DREAMS FROM MY FATHER , by Barack Obama. (Three Rivers, \$14.95.) The president-elect on life as the son of a black African father and a white American mother.	126	22	MERLE'S DOOR , by Ted Kerasote. (Harvest)
3	THE AUDACITY OF HOPE , by Barack Obama. (Three Rivers; \$14.95, Vintage; \$7.99.) The president-elect asks Americans to move beyond political divisions.	51	23	THE SHOCK DOCTRINE , by Naomi Klein. (Picador)
4	THREE CUPS OF TEA , by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. (Penguin, \$15.) A former climber builds schools in villages in Pakistan and Afghanistan.	98	24	CHANGE YOUR BRAIN, CHANGE YOUR LIFE , by Daniel G. Amen. (Three Rivers)
5	TEAM OF RIVALS , by Doris Kearns Goodwin. (Simon & Schuster, \$21.) The political genius of Abraham Lincoln.	20	25	THE DEFINING MOMENT , by Jonathan Alter. (Simon & Schuster)
6	EAT, PRAY, LOVE , by Elizabeth Gilbert. (Penguin, \$15.) A writer's yearlong journey in search of self.	99	26	LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE , by Dave Isay. (Penguin)
7	THE TIPPING POINT , by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay/Little, Brown, \$14.95.) A study of social epidemics, otherwise known as fads.	219	27	THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE , by Diane Ackerman. (Norton)
8	I HOPE THEY SERVE BEER IN HELL , by Tucker Max. (Citadel/Kensington, \$12.95.) Life as a self-absorbed, drunken womanizer.	63	28	MY HORIZONTAL LIFE , by Chelsea Handler. (Bloomsbury)
9	BLINK , by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay/Little, Brown, \$15.99.) The importance of instinct to the workings of the mind.	61	29	THE YEAR OF LIVING BIBLICALLY , by A. J. Jacobs. (Simon & Schuster)
10	90 MINUTES IN HEAVEN , by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey. (Revell, \$12.99.) A minister on the otherworldly experience he had after an accident.	112	30	HARRY, A HISTORY , by Melissa Anelli. (Pocket)
11	MORTAL DANGER , by Ann Rule. (Pocket, \$7.99.) True-crime cases of sociopathic killers.	3	31	QUIET STRENGTH , by Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker. (Tyndale)
12*	A WHOLE NEW MIND , by Daniel H. Pink. (Riverhead, \$15.) Why right-brainers — conceptual, creative types — will rule the future.	24	32	I LIKE YOU , by Amy Sedaris. (Grand Central)
13	MUSICOPHILIA , by Oliver Sacks. (Vintage, \$14.95.) Examining the interaction between music and the brain.	11	33	THE BIBLE , by Karen Armstrong. (Grove)
14	THE OMNIVORE'S DILEMMA , by Michael Pollan. (Penguin, \$16.) Tracking food from soil to plate.	65	34	LONE SURVIVOR , by Marcus Luttrell with Patrick Robinson. (Back Bay/Little, Brown)
15*	STUFF WHITE PEOPLE LIKE , by Christian Lander. (Random House, \$14.) A list of 150 things.	11	35	PLATO AND A PLATYPUS WALK INTO A BAR , by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein. (Penguin)
16	A LONG WAY GONE , by Ishmael Beah. (Sarah Crichton/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$12.) A former child soldier from Sierra Leone describes his ordeal.	18		
17	SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME , by Ron Hall and Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent. (Nelson, \$14.99.) The unlikely friendship between a homeless drifter and a successful art dealer who meet at a shelter in Texas.	9		
18	CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN , with a foreword by Barack Obama. (Three Rivers, \$13.95.) Speeches and policy proposals from Obama's presidential campaign.	9		
19	ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MIRACLE , by Barbara Kingsolver with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver. (Harper Perennial, \$14.95.) The novelist and her family spend a year eating home-grown or local food.	32		
20	THE FORGOTTEN MAN , by Amity Shlaes. (Harper Perennial, \$15.95.) A reinterpretation of the New Deal and the Great Depression.	10		

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Advice, How-To and Miscellaneous

This Week	HARDCOVER	Weeks On List	This Week	PAPERBACK	Weeks On List
1	THE LAST LECTURE , by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow. (Hyperion, \$21.95.) Thoughts on "seizing every moment" from Pausch, a Carnegie Mellon professor who died of pancreatic cancer at age 47.	36	1	TWILIGHT , by Mark Cotta Vaz. (Little, Brown, \$16.99.) A behind-the-scenes look at the film based on the vampire romance for young adults by Stephenie Meyer.	9
2	THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS , by Rick Warren. (Howard Books, \$17.99.) Reclaiming the holiday as a time for celebration, salvation and reconciliation.	6	2	RACHAEL RAY'S BIG ORANGE BOOK , by Rachael Ray. (Clarkson Potter, \$24.95.) New 30-minute meals, including vegetarian dinners, kosher dishes, holiday menus and recipes for one.	6
3	BAREFOOT CONTESSA BACK TO BASICS , by Ina Garten. (Clarkson Potter, \$35.) Cooking techniques and nearly 100 new recipes for elegant meals.	7	3	DINERS, DRIVE-INS AND DIVES , by Guy Fieri with Ann Volkwein. (Morrow, \$19.95.) A road trip with recipes from the Food Network star: burgers from the Squeeze Inn in Sacramento, peanut pie from the Virginia Diner and more.	4
4	GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2009 , edited by Craig Glenday. (Guinness, \$28.95.) Tallest, fastest, youngest, most.	13	4	I CAN HAS CHEEZBURGER? , by Professor Happycat and icanhascheezburger.com. (Gotham, \$10.) More than 200 "LOL-cats" — pictures of cats with funny captions — from the popular Web site.	10
5	THE AMERICAN PATRIOT'S ALMANAC , by William J. Bennett and John T. E. Cribb. (Thomas Nelson, \$32.99.) Three hundred sixty-five readings on history and heroes.	2	5	THE LOVE DARE , by Stephen and Alex Kendrick with Lawrence Kimbrough. (B&H, \$14.99.) A 40-day challenge for spouses to practice unconditional love.(†)	12
6	THE SECRET , by Rhonda Byrne. (Atria/Beyond Words, \$23.95.) The law of attraction as a key to getting what you want.	101	6	THE TWILIGHT COMPANION , by Lois H. Gresh. (St. Martin's Griffin, \$12.95.) An "unauthorized guide" to the vampire series.	1
7	GIADA'S KITCHEN , by Giada De Laurentiis. (Clarkson Potter, \$32.50.) A collection of 100 Italian recipes with a California twist.	11	7	SKINNY BITCH , by Rory Freedman and Kim Barnouin. (Running Press, \$13.95.) Vegan diet advice from the world of modeling.	75
8	YOU: BEING BEAUTIFUL , by Michael F. Roizen, Mehmet C. Oz et al. (Free Press, \$26.99.) How foods and vitamins, creams and gels, mood swings and the management of pain affect inner and outer beauty.	5	8	A NEW EARTH , by Eckhart Tolle. (Plume, \$14.) A spiritual teacher prescribes letting go of the ego to help end conflict and suffering.	46
9	TOP CHEF: THE COOKBOOK , with an introduction by Tom Colicchio. (Chronicle, \$29.95.) An in-depth look at the popular Bravo television show, with 100 recipes.	1	9	HELLO, CUPCAKE! , by Alan Richardson and Karen Tack. (Houghton Mifflin, \$15.95.) Funny, scary, playful and sophisticated creations made with treats you can find in any grocery aisle.	15
10	RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!: PREPARE TO BE SHOCKED! , by Ripley Entertainment. (Ripley, \$28.95.) Weird people, strange places, medical marvels and other amazing oddities.	3	10	WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING , by Heidi Murkoff and Sharon Mazel. (Workman, \$14.95.) Advice for parents-to-be.(†)	391
HARDCOVER EXTENDED			PAPERBACK EXTENDED		
11	THE TOTAL MONEY MAKEOVER , by Dave Ramsey. (Nelson)		11	OUR DUMB WORLD , by The Onion. (Little, Brown)	
12	THE DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS , by Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden. (Collins)		12	THE BRO CODE , by Barney Stinson with Matt Kuhn. (Fireside)	
13	THE DARING BOOK FOR GIRLS , by Andrea J. Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz. (Collins)		13	THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES , by Gary Chapman. (Northfield)	
14	MAGNIFICENT MIND AT ANY AGE , by Daniel G. Amen. (Harmony)		14	1,000 RECORDINGS TO HEAR BEFORE YOU DIE , by Tom Moon. (Workman)	
15	GOODNIGHT BUSH , by Erich Origen and Gan Golan. (Little, Brown)		15	LEONARD MALTIN'S MOVIE GUIDE , by Leonard Maltin. (Plume, Signet)	

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Children's Best Sellers

<i>This Week</i>	PICTURE BOOKS	<i>Weeks On List</i>
1	A VERY MARLEY CHRISTMAS , by John Grogan. Illustrated by Richard Cowdrey. (HarperCollins, \$17.99.) Marley the pup "helps" at holidaytime. (Ages 3 to 8)	4
2	THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS , by Clement C. Moore. Various illustrators. (Various publishers.) Not a creature was stirring; various editions. (All ages)	18
3	GINGERBREAD FRIENDS , written and illustrated by Jan Brett. (Putnam, \$17.99.) The Gingerbread Baby just wants somebody to play with; an adaptation of the classic tale. (Ages 4 to 8)	9
4	GALLOPI! , written and illustrated by Rufus Butler Seder. (Workman, \$12.95.) Animals seem to move when you flip the page. (Ages 4 to 8)	57
5	BIG WORDS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE , by Jamie Lee Curtis. Illustrated by Laura Cornell. (Joanna Cotler/HarperCollins, \$16.99.) A boisterous family improves its vocabulary, and thus improves its relationships. (Ages 4 to 8)	14
6	SWING! , written and illustrated by Rufus Butler Seder. (Workman, \$12.95.) Athletic children seem to move when you flip the page. (Ages 4 to 8)	9
7	ABC3D , by Marion Bataille. (Neal Porter/Roaring Brook, \$19.95.) The alphabet, in pop-ups. (Ages 9 to 12)	9
8	TEN LITTLE FINGERS AND TEN LITTLE TOES , by Mem Fox. Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. (Harcourt, \$16.) A celebration of fingers, toes and love. (Ages 4 to 8)	8
9	BRAVA, STREGA NONA! , written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola. (Putnam, \$29.99.) An Italian grandmother shares six secrets of life in a pop-up book. (Ages 3 and up)	6
10	PETER PAN , adapted and illustrated by Robert Sabuda. (Little Simon, \$29.99.) A pop-up book of the J. M. Barrie story. (Ages 4 to 8)	2

<i>This Week</i>	CHAPTER BOOKS	<i>Weeks On List</i>
1	ONE FALSE NOTE , by Gordon Korman. (Scholastic, \$12.99.) A brother and sister seek the source of their family's power. (Ages 8 to 12)	2
2	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID , written and illustrated by Jeff Kinney. (Amulet/Abrams, \$12.95.) The travails of adolescence, in cartoons. (Ages 9 to 12)	87
3	BURNING UP , by Joe, Kevin and Nick Jonas. (Hyperion, \$21.99.) The Jonas Brothers band on tour, in words and pictures. (Ages 9 to 12)	4
4	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: RODRICK RULES , by Jeff Kinney. (Amulet/Abrams, \$12.95.) How Greg embarrassed himself on his vacation; a sequel to "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." (Ages 9 to 12)	48
5	THE MAZE OF BONES , by Rick Riordan. (Scholastic, \$12.99.) Book One of the series "The 39 Clues." (Ages 8 to 12)	14
6	HOW TO TALK TO GIRLS , by Alec Greven. Illustrated by Kei Acedera. (HarperCollins, \$9.99.) "A crush is like a love disease," and other wise tidbits. (Ages 9 to 12)	2
7	THE GRAVEYARD BOOK , by Neil Gaiman. Illustrated by Dave McKean. (HarperCollins, \$17.99.) To avoid a killer, a boy lives in a cemetery. (Ages 10 and up)	11
8	PAULA DEEN'S MY FIRST COOKBOOK , by Paula Deen with Martha Nesbit. Illustrated by Susan Mitchell. (Simon & Schuster, \$21.99.) Recipes for the very young. (Ages 4 to 8)	10
9	THE HUNGER GAMES , by Suzanne Collins. (Scholastic, \$17.99.) In a dystopian future, a girl fights for survival on live TV. (Ages 12 and up)	14
10	THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET , written and illustrated by Brian Selznick. (Scholastic, \$22.99.) An orphan deciphers his father's last message. (Ages 9 to 12)	87

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Children's Best Sellers

<i>This Week</i>	PAPERBACK BOOKS	<i>Weeks On List</i>	<i>This Week</i>	SERIES	<i>Weeks On List</i>
1	THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX , by Kate DiCamillo. Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering. (Candlewick, \$7.99.) A mouse, a rat and a girl on a magic trip. (Ages 10 and up)	46	1	THE TWILIGHT SAGA , by Stephenie Meyer. (Megan Tingley/Little, Brown, hardcover and paper) Vampires and werewolves in high school. (Ages 12 and up)	71
2	THE BOOK THIEF , by Markus Zusak. (Knopf, \$11.99.) A girl saves books from Nazi burning and shares them with a Jewish man in hiding. (Ages 14 and up)	66	2	HARRY POTTER , by J. K. Rowling. (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, hardcover and paper) A young wizard hones his skills while fighting evil. (Ages 10 and up)	202
3	THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY , by Trenton Lee Stewart. Illustrated by Carson Ellis. (Megan Tingley/Little, Brown, \$6.99.) Gifted kids on a mission. (Ages 9 to 12)	19	3	INHERITANCE , by Christopher Paolini. (Knopf, hardcover and paper) A teenager and his dragon learn the secrets of a fantasy world. (Ages 12 and up)	13
4	THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS , by John Boyne. (Random House, \$8.99.) A boy's innocence is eroded in evil times. (Ages 12 and up)	6	4	INKHEART , by Cornelia Funke. (Scholastic, hardcover and paper) The characters of a book come to life and ensnare its readers. (Ages 10 and up)	12
5	PLUM FANTASTIC , by Whoopi Goldberg with Deborah Underwood. Illustrated by Maryn Roos. (Jump at the Sun-Disney, \$4.99.) The trials of a young ballet student. (Ages 6 to 10)	4	5	IF YOU GIVE . . . , by Laura Numeroff. Illustrated by Felicia Bond. (Geringer/HarperCollins, hardcover and paper) Fun with cause and effect — and cookies. (Ages 4 to 8)	29
6	SLAM , by Nick Hornby. (Riverhead, \$14.) A skateboarder gets his girlfriend pregnant. (Ages 12 and up)	10	6	FANCY NANCY , by Jane O'Connor. Illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser. (HarperCollins, hardcover and paper) The divine life of a glamour girl. (Ages 4 to 8)	34
7	MARLEY: A DOG LIKE NO OTHER , by John Grogan. (HarperFestival, \$16.99.) A movie tie-in edition. (Ages 9 to 12)	1	7	HOUSE OF NIGHT , by P. C. Cast and Kristin Cast. (St. Martin's, paper only) Vampires in school. (Ages 14 and up)	16
8	THE PENDERWICKS , by Jeanne Birdsall. (Yearling, \$6.50.) On vacation, four sisters befriend a local boy, to his mother's dismay. (Ages 9 to 12)	12	8	OLIVIA , written and illustrated by Ian Falconer. (Atheneum, hardcover only) The antic adventures of a precocious pig. (Ages 3 to 7)	19
9	BARACK OBAMA , by Roberta Edwards. Illustrated by Ken Call. (Grosset & Dunlap, \$3.99.) A biography of the "skinny kid" president-elect. (Ages 7 to 9)	19	9	WARRIORS , by Erin Hunter. (HarperCollins, hardcover and paper) Four clans of cat warriors aspire to meet up with the Star-Clan. (Ages 10 to 14)	65
10	NO ORDINARY MOUSE , (Candlewick, \$3.99.) A tie-in to the movie "The Tale of Despereaux," based on the Kate DiCamillo book. (Ages 4 to 8)	1	10	PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS , by Rick Riordan. (Disney-Hyperion, hardcover and paper) Battling mythological monsters. (Ages 9 to 12)	81

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Editor's Choice

IN SPITE OF MYSELF: *A Memoir*, by Christopher Plummer. (Knopf, \$29.95.) Plummer, it turns out, can write almost as well as he acts, and his finely observed memoir is a dishy treat for anyone who loves the theater — or the vanished New York of the 1950s and '60s.

SONGS FOR THE MISSING, by Stewart O'Nan. (Viking, \$25.95.) This novel, about an Ohio girl's disappearance and its effect on her community, acknowledges the depth of loss and the limits of healing.

AS A FRIEND, by Forrest Gander. (New Directions, paper, \$13.95.) Gander has written seven collections of poetry; in his beautiful and unsettling first novel, passion and betrayal lead to a poet's untimely end.

NEW LIVES: *The Youth of Enrico Türrmer in Letters and Prose*, by Ingo Schulze. Translated by John E. Woods. (Knopf, \$28.95.) After the wall falls, Schulze's protagonist, an East German man of the theater, throws over art and obsesses on personal gain.

SETTLEMENT, by Christoph Hein. Translated by Philip Boehm. (Metropolitan/Holt, \$27.) In Hein's novel, a shrewd, surly German boy survives the war's aftermath to become one of the country's richest men.

AMERICAN THERAPY: *The Rise of Psychotherapy in the United States*, by Jonathan Engel. (Gotham, \$27.50.) Engel mines both medical journals and the popular press for his richly textured history.

THE MAGICIAN'S BOOK: *A Skeptic's Adventures in Narnia*, by Laura Miller. (Little, Brown, \$25.99.) Part reader's log, part C. S. Lewis biography, part literary criticism — and an argument for returning to Narnia.

PERIPHERAL VISION, by Patricia Ferguson. (Other, \$24.95.) Ferguson's medical background informs her novel of parental, romantic and sexual love.

THREE BALCONIES, by Bruce Jay Friedman. (Biblioasis, \$24.95.) Many of Friedman's dark, funny stories involve characters looking back at old rivals and allies.

The full reviews of these and other recent books are on the Web: nytimes.com/books.

Paperback Row

THE WHISPERERS: Private Life in Stalin's Russia, by Orlando Figes. (Picador, \$20.) Much of what we know about life under Stalinism comes from the memoirs of intellectual dissidents, but they do not reflect the experience of millions of ordinary Russians who wound up in labor camps. Figes, a professor at Birkbeck College, University of London, used teams of researchers to interview gulag survivors and their families. The result is this "extraordinary book," as our reviewer, Joshua Rubenstein, called it, which documents the "desperate stories of individuals and families who did what they could to survive" Stalin's campaigns of intimidation.

ABC, by David Plante. (Anchor, \$14.95.) This "quiet, cerebral" novel about the "globalization of grief," as Siddhartha Deb wrote in the Book Review, concerns a family whose son died in a freak accident. The father's obsession with a piece of paper found at the scene, written in what he learns is Sanskrit, propels him into a journey to discover the language's origins, during which he meets other grieving parents.

CHASING THE FLAME: One Man's Fight to Save the World, by Samantha Power. (Penguin, \$17.) Sergio Vieira de Mello, a Brazilian-born United Nations official who was killed in the bombing of the organization's Iraq mission in 2003, is the subject of this comprehensive biography, one of the Book Review's Notable Books of 2008. Power argues that Vieira de Mello's personal evolution paralleled that of the United Nations and that he embodied both its idealism and its limitations.

THE ROUND AND OTHER COLD HARD FACTS, by J. M. G. Le Clézio. Translated by C. Dickson. (University of Nebraska, \$19.95.) Born in France, the son of a French mother and a British father and raised

partly in Africa, educated in Britain and France, the author of a dissertation about ancient Mexico — Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio is "a traveler, a citizen of the world, a nomad," as the secretary of the Swedish Academy said in its announcement of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2008. Several English translations of Le Clézio's fiction are now available in paperback. The protagonists of the 11 stories in "The Round" are underprivileged residents of the very privileged French Riviera, including illegal immigrants, bikers and runaway teenagers. **THE PROSPECTOR**, translated by Carol Marks (Godine, \$16.95), begins in the former French colony of Mauritius, where Le Clézio's family had ties. Its protagonist searches for buried treasure with a beautiful island girl in an effort both to restore his family's fortunes and to reclaim his idyllic childhood; this second idyll is interrupted by World War I. **ONITSHA**, translated by Alison Anderson (University of Nebraska, \$15), is a semiautobiographical novel about an Italian boy's journey to Africa, where his British father works. At first delighted by the local culture and beautiful surroundings, he comes to understand the cruelty and racism of the colonial society. In **WANDERING STAR**, translated by C. Dickson (Curbstone, \$15), a French Jewish girl who survives World War II in the mountains north of Nice emigrates to the newborn state of Israel, where she encounters another group of refugees, this time Palestinian. Le Clézio's work "has an openness to others, to other cultures, to the South, to minorities," Antoine Compagnon, a professor of French and comparative literature at Columbia University, told The Times. "This is a very current sensibility."

HUGO! *The Hugo Chávez Story From Mud Hut to Perpetual Revolution*, by Bart Jones. (Steerforth, \$22.95.) This well-researched biography, by a reporter who spent eight years in Venezuela, views

Chávez in context, describing the social inequality that enabled him to come to power. His discussion of the importance of oil in Venezuelan politics and its relationship to Chávez's career is especially strong.

THE MONSTERS OF TEMPLETON, by Lauren Groff. (Voice, \$14.95.) A young woman who returns home to Templeton, a stand-in for Cooperstown, N.Y., searches for her father; her research in diaries, letters and faded old photographs is interrupted by chapters in which characters from the work of James Fenimore Cooper take over the narrative. But beyond the parodies and pastiches, this ambitious first novelist can also write simply and emotionally.

THE LIFE ROOM, by Jill Bialosky. (Harvest/Harcourt, \$14.) In Bialosky's second novel, a scholar who studies "Anna Karenina," approaching 40 and feeling unfulfilled, has a passionate encounter with an elusive childhood friend that threatens her stable marriage and comfortable life.

NATURAL SELECTION: Gary Giddins on Comedy, Film, Music, and Books, by Gary Giddins. (Oxford University, \$19.95.) These essays by Giddins, a prominent jazz critic, are dense with information — he analyzes soundtracks and print quality, and notes the number of bars allotted each soloist in a performance. But it is his large, sometimes brilliant observations that send readers back to the originals; "just try to read all of 'Natural Selection' without buying at least a few CDs and DVDs," our reviewer, Ada Calhoun, said.

ELSA DIXLER