

Indie Bestsellers

Based on sales of Fiction and Non-Fiction
in Hardcover and Paperback for the week ending March 15, 2009

HARDCOVER (FICTION)

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

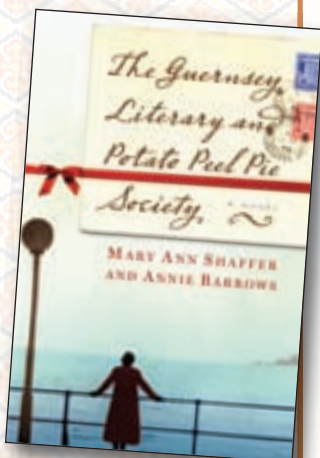
Hardcover, 288 pages, \$22

Author: Mary Ann Shaffer, Ann Barrows

Publisher: The Dial Press (Random House)

ISBN: 9780385340991

Celebrating literature, love, and the power of the human spirit, “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society” is the story of an English author living in the shadow of World War II, and embarking on a writing project that will dramatically change her life. Unfolding in a series of letters, this enchanting novel introduces readers to the indomitable Juliet Ashton. Through Juliet’s correspondence with her publisher, best friend, and an absorbing cast of characters, readers discover that despite the personal losses she suffered in the Blitz, and author tours sometimes marked by mishaps, nothing can quell her enthusiasm for the written word. One day, she begins a different sort of correspondence, responding to a man who found her name on the flyleaf of a cherished secondhand book. He tells her that his name is Dawsey Adams, a native resident of Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands recently liberated from Nazi occupation. Soon Juliet is drawn into Dawsey’s remarkable circle of friends, courageous men and women who formed the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society as a cover to protect them from the Germans. With their appetite for good books, and their determination to honor the island’s haunting recent history, this is a community that opens Juliet’s heart and mind in ways she could never have imagined.



Handle With Care

Hardcover, 496 pages, \$27.95

Author: Jodi Picoult

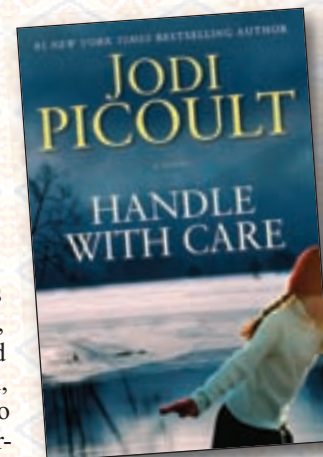
Publisher: Atria (Simon & Schuster)

ISBN: 9780743296410

Every expectant parent will say that they do not want a perfect baby, just a healthy one. Charlotte and Sean O’Keefe would have asked for a healthy baby, too, if they had been given the choice. Instead, their lives are made up of sleepless nights, mounting bills, the pitying stares of “luckier” parents, and maybe worst of all, the what-ifs. What if their child had been born healthy? But it’s all worth it because Willow is, well, funny as it seems, perfect. She’s smart as a whip, on her way to being as pretty as her mother, kind, brave, and for a five-year-old an unexpectedly deep source of wisdom. Willow is Willow, in sickness and in health.

Everything changes, though, after a series of events forces Charlotte and her husband to confront the most serious what-ifs of all. What if Charlotte should have known earlier of Willow’s illness? What if things could have been different? What if their beloved Willow had never been born? To do Willow justice, Charlotte must ask herself these questions and one more. What constitutes a valuable life?

Emotionally riveting and profoundly moving, “Handle with Care” brings us into the heart of a family bound by an incredible burden, a desperate will to keep their ties from breaking, and, ultimately, a powerful capacity for love. Written with the grace and wisdom she’s become famous for, beloved No. 1 New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult offers us an unforgettable novel about the fragility of life and the lengths we will go to protect it.



The Associate

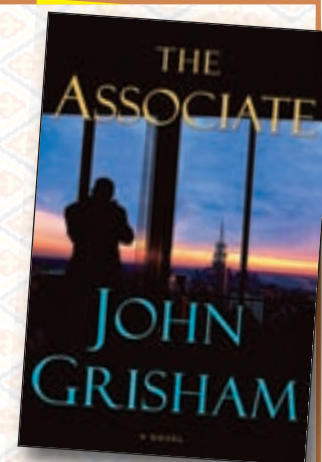
Hardcover, 384 pages, \$27.95

Author: John Grisham

Publisher: Doubleday (Random House)

ISBN: 9780385517836

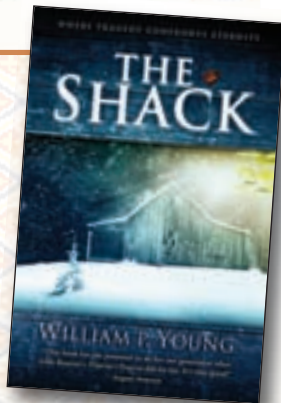
Kyle McAvoy grew up in his father’s small-town law office in York, Pa. He excelled in college, was elected editor-in-chief of “The Yale Law Journal,” and his future has limitless potential. But Kyle has a secret, a dark one, an episode from college that he has tried to forget. The secret, though, falls into the hands of the wrong people, and Kyle is forced to take a job he doesn’t want — even though it’s a job most law students can only dream about. Three months after leaving Yale, Kyle becomes an associate at the largest law firm in the world, where, in addition to practicing law, he is expected to lie, steal, and take part in a scheme that could send him to prison, if not get him killed. With an unforgettable cast of characters and villains — from Baxter Tate, a drug-addled trust fund kid and possible rapist, to Dale, a pretty but seemingly quiet former math teacher who shares Kyle’s “cubicle” at the law firm, to two of the most powerful and fiercely competitive defense contractors in the country — and featuring all the twists and turns that have made John Grisham the most popular storyteller in the world, “The Associate” is vintage Grisham.



PAPERBACK (FICTION)

The Shack

Paperback, 256 pages, \$14.99
 Author: William P. Young
 Publisher: Windblown Media
 ISBN: 9780964729230



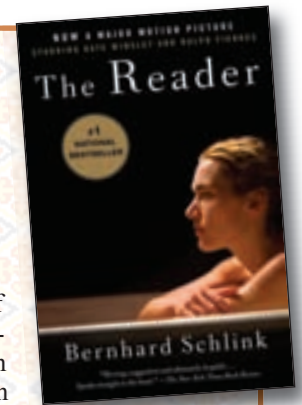
Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, ostensibly from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend.

Against his better judgment, he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever and quite possibly your own.

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant "The Shack" wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

The Reader

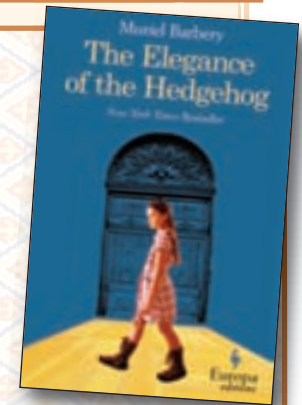
Paperback, 224 pages, \$13.95
 Author: Bernhard Schlink
 Publisher: Vintage (Random House)
 ISBN: 9780307454898



Hailed for its coiled eroticism and the moral claims it makes upon the reader, this mesmerizing novel is a story of love and secrets, horror and compassion, unfolding against the haunted landscape of postwar Germany. When he falls ill on his way home from school, 15-year-old Michael Berg is rescued by Hanna, a woman twice his age. In time she becomes his lover — then she inexplicably disappears. When Michael next sees her, he is a young law student, and she is on trial for a hideous crime. As he watches her refuse to defend her innocence, Michael gradually realizes that Hanna may be guarding a secret she considers more shameful than murder.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog

Paperback, 336 pages, \$15
 Author: Muriel Barbery
 Publisher: Europa Editions
 ISBN: 9781933372600



The Elegance of the Hedgehog is a story told by two characters. One is 54-year-old Renée Michel, a dumpy, nondescript, concierge of a small and exclusive Paris apartment building. The other is Paloma Josse, who also lives in the building. Josse is 12-year-old is acutely intelligent, introspective and philosophical, views the world as absurd and records her observations about it in her journal.

Overall, it is tender and satirical; yet it is most absorbing because of its reflections on the nature of beauty and art, the meaning of life and death.

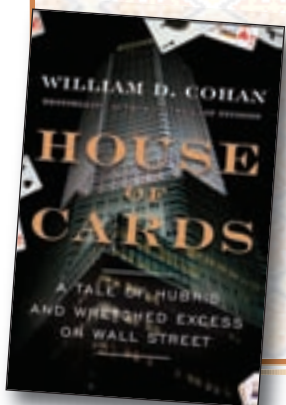
House of Cards: A Tale of Hubris and Wretched Excess on Wall Street

Hardcover, 480 pages, \$27.95
 Author: William D. Cohan
 Publisher: Doubleday (Random House)
 ISBN: 9780385528269

How the calamitous financial meltdown of 2008 began — and why — is the subject of William D. Cohan's superb and shocking narrative that chronicles the fall of Bear Stearns and the end of the Second Gilded Age on Wall Street. Bear Stearns serves as the Rosetta Stone to explain how a combination of risky bets, corporate political infighting, lax government regulations and truly bad decision-making wrought havoc on the world financial system.

William D. Cohan beautifully demonstrates why the seemingly invincible Wall Street money machine came crashing down.

Written with the novelistic verve and insider knowledge that made "The Last Tycoons" a bestseller and a prize-winner, "House of Cards" is a chilling cautionary tale about greed, arrogance, and stupidity in the financial world, and the consequences for all of us.

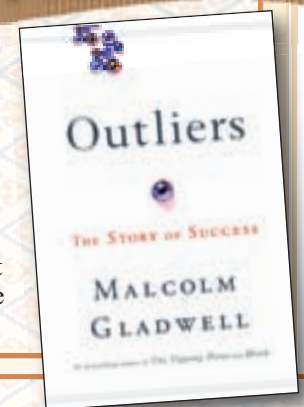


Outliers

Hardcover, 320 pages \$27.99
 Author: Malcolm Gladwell
 Publisher: Little Brown
 ISBN: 9780316017923

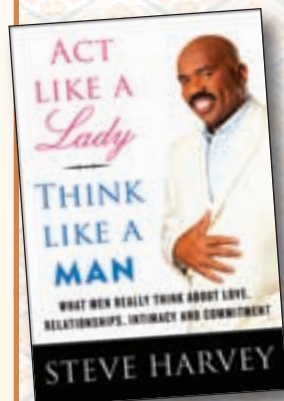
Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers" — the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: that is, their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way, he explains the secrets of software billionaires, what it takes to be a great soccer player, why Asians are good at math, and what made the Beatles the greatest rock band.

HARDCOVER (NON-FICTION)



Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man

Hardcover, 240 pages, \$23.99
 Author: Steve Harvey
 Publisher: Amistad Press (Harper Collins)
 ISBN: 9780061728976
 beth.harper@harpercollins.com



Steve Harvey, the host of the nationally syndicated "Steve Harvey Morning Show," cannot count the number of impressive women he's met over the years, whether it's through the "Strawberry Letters" segment of his program or while on tour for his comedy shows. These are women who can run a small business, keep a household with three kids in tiptop shape, and chair a church group all at the same time. Yet when it comes to relationships, they can't figure out what makes men tick. Why? According to Steve, it's because they're asking

other women for advice when no one but another man can tell them how to find and keep a man. In "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," Steve lets women inside the mindset of a man.

Sometimes funny, sometimes direct, but always truthful, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man" is a book you must read if you want to understand how men think when it comes to relationships.

PAPERBACK (NON-FICTION)

Three Cups of Tea

Paperback, 368 pages, \$15
Author: Greg Mortenson,
 David Oliver Relin
Publisher: Penguin
ISBN: 9780143038252
 (Maren 212-366-2274)

Three Cups of Tea is the astonishing, uplifting story of a real-life Indiana Jones and his humanitarian campaign to use education to combat terrorism in the Taliban's backyard.

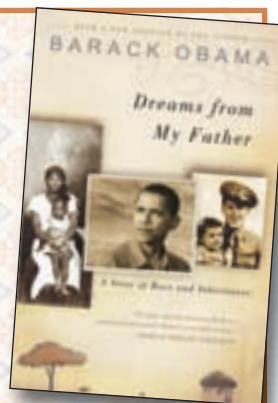
Anyone who despairs of the individual's power to change lives has to read the story of Greg Mortenson, a homeless mountaineer who, following a 1993 climb of Pakistan's treacherous K2, was inspired by a chance encounter with impoverished mountain villagers and promised to build them a school. Over the next decade he built 55 schools — especially for girls — that offer a balanced education in one of the most isolated and dangerous regions on earth. As it chronicles Mortenson's quest, which has brought him into conflict with both enraged Islamists and uncomprehending Americans, "Three Cups of Tea" combines adventure with a celebration of the humanitarian spirit.



Dreams From My Father

Paperback, 480 pages, \$14.95
Author: Barack Obama
Publisher: Three Rivers Press
ISBN: 9781400082773

In this lyrical, unsentimental and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father — a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man — has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey — first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother's family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father's life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance.

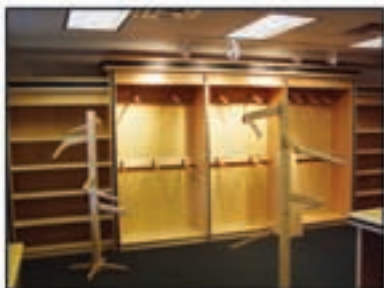


The Zookeeper's Wife

Paperback, 368 pages, \$14.95
Author: Diane Ackerman
Publisher: W.W. Norton & Company
ISBN: 9780393333060
 (Erin Levitt 212-354-5500)

“**T**he Zookeeper's Wife” is the true story of how the director of the Warsaw Zoo, Jan Zabinski, and his wife, Antonina, saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands during World War II.

Diane Ackerman focuses on Antonina, the “zookeeper's wife.” Her husband, Jan, smuggled Jews out of the Warsaw Ghetto to the zoo. Once there, it was up to Antonina to safeguard them.



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