



## NYT > Books

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## **Books of The Times: Vile Heroes and High-Seas Swagger**

“Pirate Latitudes” has unremarkable ambitions, standard genre flourishes and the stiff, uncomfortable tone of early work.

## **Son Objects to Moving Camus's Remains**

President Nicolas Sarkozy wants to transfer the remains of the writer Albert Camus to one of the most hallowed burial places in France, but the plan has run into opposition from the Nobel laureate's son.

## **Enthusiasm for Palin, and Echoes of 2008 Divide**

On her book tour, Sarah Palin has skipped the big cities authors usually visit in favor of smaller places where she and Senator John McCain performed well in 2008.

## **Arts, Briefly: Oxfam and Booksellers Agree to Plan**

According to The Guardian, representatives from Oxfam, the Provincial Booksellers Fairs Association and the Antiquarian Booksellers Association met to create a plan to help redirect business back to local secondhand booksellers.

## **Books of The Times: 'You Know That Chicken Is Chicken, Right?'**

Jonathan Safran Foer uses his literary gifts to give the reader some very visceral, very gruesome descriptions of factory farming and the slaughterhouse.

## **Colum McCann Wins National Book Award**

Colum McCann won for his novel "Let the Great World Spin," while T.J. Stiles won in the nonfiction category.

## **Library Leader in Era of Change to Step Down**

Paul LeClerc announced that he would step down as president of the New York Public Library in 2011.

## **Books of The Times: The Queasy Side of Theodore Roosevelt's Diplomatic Voyage**

This incendiary new book angrily and persuasively connects Theodore Roosevelt's noxious racial views to his foreign policy miscalculations in Asia.

## **Newly Released Books**

Fiction by Penelope Lively, Ha Jin, Lauren Grodstein, Charles Cumming, Paul Auster and Jim Kokoris.

## **Books of The Times: Gratitude's Grace Can Be Itself a Gift**

A scholarly, many-angled examination of what gratitude is and how it functions in our lives.

## **Cellphone Apps Challenge the Rise of E-Readers**

Some readers prefer the convenience of small-screen smartphones to e-readers.

## **Raymond Carver's Life and Stories**

Carol Sklenicka's biography and a long-overdue "Collected Stories" spotlight Carver's growth as a writer and illuminate his poisonous relationship with the editor Gordon Lish.

## **Andre Agassi's Hate of the Game**

Bracingly devoid of triumphalist homily, Andre Agassi's is one of the most passionately anti-sports books ever written by a superstar athlete.

## **My True Story**

A history of memoir, from St. Augustine to James Frey.

## **Haleh Esfandiari: Prisoner of Tehran**

A love of Iran underlies a scholar's memoir of surreal interrogation and solitary confinement in Tehran.

## **Double Agency**

In this novel, British and American spies clash in the buildup to the Beijing Olympics.

## **Disturbing the Comfortable**

Stories rooted in horror, fable and fairy tale, by the Russian writer Ludmilla Petrushevskaya.

## **Taking No Prisoners**

A historical novel about the ferocious Confederate general Nathan Bedford Forrest and the slaves who followed him.

## **Return to Progress**

Collected columns denouncing the Bush wars and tax cuts and recounting the fits of nerves that President Obama coolly overcomes.

## **Into the West**

A thorough, well-wrought political history of James K. Polk's presidency and the triumph of Manifest Destiny.

## **A Soldier's Story**

A writer revisits the 1918 battle that left its mark on his grandfather.

## **Word Made Flesh**

Questions for, quibbles with and tributes to the sometimes inscrutable protagonist of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

## **The Pain That Binds**

In this novel, a girl's disappearance sets off ripples of grief in a small South Dakota town.

## **A Jaundiced View**

The lives — as well as the livers — of the characters in Will Self's beguiling linked stories are in very bad shape indeed.

## **Hardcover Fiction**

### **Top 5 at a Glance**

1. UNDER THE DOME, by Stephen King
2. THE LOST SYMBOL, by Dan Brown
3. FORD COUNTY, by John Grisham
4. THE HELP, by Kathryn Stockett
5. THE LACUNA, by Barbara Kingsolver

## **Hardcover Nonfiction**

### **Top 5 at a Glance**

1. OPEN, by Andre Agassi
2. HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, by Mitch Albom
3. A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS, by Mike Huckabee
4. SUPERFREAKONOMICS, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
5. WHAT THE DOG SAW, by Malcolm Gladwell

## **Paperback Trade Fiction**

### **Top 5 at a Glance**

1. PUSH, by Sapphire
2. BED OF ROSES, by Nora Roberts
3. SAY YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, by Uwem Akpan
4. THE SHACK, by William P. Young
5. THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, by Stieg Larsson

## **Paperback Mass-Market Fiction**

### **Top 5 at a Glance**

1. THE ASSOCIATE, by John Grisham
2. CROSS COUNTRY, by James Patterson
3. BORN OF FIRE, by Sherrilyn Kenyon
4. YOUR HEART BELONGS TO ME, by Dean Koontz
5. TOM CLANCY'S SPLINTER CELL: CONVICTION, by David Michaels

## **Paperback Nonfiction**

### **Top 5 at a Glance**

1. THE BLIND SIDE, by Michael Lewis
2. THREE CUPS OF TEA, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
3. OUR CHOICE, by Al Gore
4. FREAKONOMICS, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
5. THE GLASS CASTLE, by Jeannette Walls

## **Plotting Thrillers in the Fog of China**

So much of what is known of China's beating Communist heart is guesswork. But not for the spy novelist.

## **Crossroads: How Can We Help the World's Poor?**

Humanitarians are fiercely divided about what helps poor people. It's clear that doing good is harder than it looks.

## **Fiction Chronicle**

Books by Janet Skeslien Charles, Robert Hicks, Anita Diamant, N. M. Kelby and Rebecca Stott.

## **TBR: Inside the List**

I'm a sucker for tales of extreme weather, so my curiosity was piqued by Linda Howard's "Ice," new at No. 8 on the hardcover fiction list.

## **Editors' Choice**

Recently reviewed books of particular interest.

## **Paperback Row**

Paperback books of particular interest.

## **The 10 Best Books of 2008**

The Book Review picks the best works from the last year.

## **Holiday Books: 100 Notable Books of 2008**

The Book Review picks outstanding works from the last year.

## **Talk to the Newsroom: Book Review Editor Sam Tanenhaus**

Sam Tanenhaus has been editor of the Book Review since April 2004.



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