BESTSELLERS

FICTION

THIS WEEK / LAST WEEK / WEEKS ON LIST / **TITLE** / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER / PRICE

1	-	1	**A Dance With Dragons**, by George R.R. Martin (Bantam, $38).
2	2	71	**Secret Daughter**, by Shilpi Somaya Gowda (William Morrow, $19.99).
3	1	5	**The Devil Colony**, by James Rollins (William Morrow, $19.99).
4	-	1	**Then Came You**, by Jennifer Weiner (Atria, $29.99).
5	5	12	**State Of Wonder**, by Ann Patchett (Harper, $19.99).
6	3	3	**Now You See Her**, by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge (Little, Brown, $29.99).
7	10	2	**Before I Go To Sleep**, by S.J. Watson (HarperCollins, $21.99).
8	4	5	**Smokin' Seventeen**, by Janet Evanovich (Bantam, $29.95).
9	9	60	**The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest**, by Stieg Larsson (Viking Canada, $32).
10	8	6	**Against All Enemies**, by Tom Clancy (Penguin, $33.50).

IN PAPER

1	1	16	**The Help**, by Kathryn Stockett (Berkley, $18.50).
2	2	3	**Family Ties**, by Danielle Steel (Dell, $9.99).
3	4	13	**A Game Of Thrones: A Song Of Ice And Fire**, by George R.R. Martin (Random House, $9.99).
4	3	3	**Hell's Corner**, by David Baldacci (Vision, $10.99).
5	6	2	**Room**, by Emma Donoghue (HarperPerennial, $19.99).
6	-	1	**The Postcard Killers**, by James Patterson and Liza Marklund (Grand Central, $16.50).
7	5	5	**Tough Customer**, by Sandra Brown (Simon & Schuster, $12.99).
8	-	1	**The Distant Hours**, by Kate Morton (Washington Square, $17).
9	7	9	**A Clash Of Kings**, by George R.R. Martin (Bantam, $9.99).
10	8	2	**One Day**, by David Nicholls (Vintage, $16.95).

NON-FICTION

THIS WEEK / LAST WEEK / WEEKS ON LIST / **TITLE** / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER / PRICE

1	-	1	**A Stolen Life**, by Jaycee Dugard (Simon & Schuster, $28.99).
2	1	16	**Heaven Is For Real**, by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson, $18.99).
3	2	7	**Go The ... To Sleep**, by Adam Mansbach (Akashic, $16.95).
4	3	12	**From This Moment On**, by Shania Twain (Atria, $29.99).
5	7	2	**Harry Potter Film Wizardry**, by Brian Sibley (Collins Design, $39.99).
6	6	16	**Bossypants**, by Tina Fey (Reagan Arthur, $29.99).
7	4	14	**The Book Of Even More Awesome**, by Neil Pasricha (Putnam, $26.50).
8	5	12	**Does The Noise In My Head Bother You?**, by Steven Tyler (Ecco, $29.99).
9	9	3	**A Thrilling Ride**, by Paul Chapman (GreyStone, $19.95).
10	8	7	**In The Garden of Beasts**, by Erik Larson (Crown, $30).

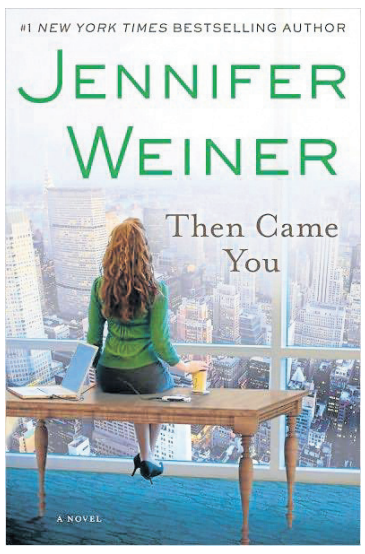
IN PAPER

1	1	20	**The Book Of Awesome**, by Neil Pasricha (Berkley, $17.50).
2	2	7	**Outliers**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Back Bay, $18.99).
3	3	11	**Life**, by Keith Richards (Back Bay, $18.99).
4	4	28	**The Happiness Project**, by Gretchen Rubin (HarperCollins, $17.99).
5	5	266	**The Glass Castle**, by Jeannette Walls (Scribner, $19).
6	6	128	**Blink**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Back Bay, $18.50).
7	7	232	**The Tipping Point**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Back Bay, $21.95).
8	8	18	**The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks**, by Rebecca Skloot (Broadway, $18).
9	10	6	**The Tiger**, by John Vaillant (Vintage Canada, $22).
10	-	21	**Inside Of A Dog**, by Alexandra Horowitz (Scribner, $18.99).

Forster's Book Garden Bolton, Ont. (905) 951-1501
BookLore Orangeville, Ont. (519) 942-3830

The bestseller list is compiled by The Globe and Mail using sales figures provided by BookNet Canada's national sales tracking service, BNC SalesData, and from bookstores across Canada, including those named above.

BOOKMARK
THEN CAME YOU, BY JENNIFER WEINER



Jennifer Weiner's ninth novel, *Then Came You*, follows four women on a journey that begins with a cluster of ova. Beautiful Princeton student Jules sells her pedigree eggs so she can send her father to rehab; frazzled stay-at-home mom Annie chooses to be a surrogate so she can get her family out of debt. India is a reinvented trophy wife who longs for a child with her older, exceptionally rich husband, and Bettina is her stepdaughter, who wants to expose her stepmother as a fraud before India can conjure up another heir to the Croft fortune. Weiner once again takes readers into the heart of women's lives.

CANADIAN

RANK / **TITLE** / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER / PRICE

FICTION

1	**Room**, by Emma Donoghue (HarperCollins, $19.99).
2	**Secret Daughter**, by Shilpi Somaya (William Morrow, $19.99).
3	**Water For Elephants**, by Sara Gruen (HarperCollins, $16.50).
4	**Sanctuary Line,** by Jane Urquhart (McClelland & Stewart, $22)
5	**Alone In The Classroom,** by Elizabeth Hay (McClelland & Stewart, $29.99).
6	**The Birth House**, by Ami McKay (Knopf Canada, $22).
7	**The Midwife Of Venice**, by Roberta Rich (Anchor Canada, $22.95).
8	**The Best Laid Plans,** by Terry Fallis (McClelland & Stewart, $19.99)
9	**The Book Of Negroes**, by Lawrence Hill (HarperCollins, $24.95).
10	**Waking The Witch**, by Kelley Armstrong (Random House Canada, $17.95).

NON-FICTION

1	**The Book Of Awesome**, by Neil Pasricha (Putnam, $28.50).
2	**Outliers**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown, $19.99).
3	**From This Moment On,** by Shania Twain (Simon & Schuster, $29.99).
4	**The Book Of Even More Awesome,** by Neil Pasricha (Putnam, $26.50).
5	**A Thrilling Ride**, by Paul Chapman (GreyStone, $19.95).
6	**Blink**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown, $18.50).
7	**The Tipping Point**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown, $19.99).
8	**The Tiger,** by John Vaillant (Random House, $22).
9	**What The Dog Saw**, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown, $19.99).
10	**Hurricane Igor,** by The Telegram (Creative, $19/95).

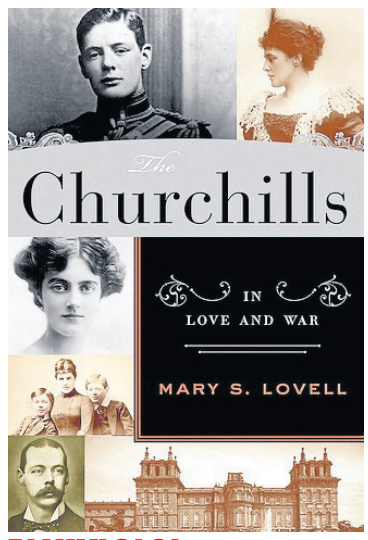
MYSTERY

RANK / **TITLE** / AUTHOR / PUBLISHER / PRICE

1	**Hell's Corner**, by David Baldacci (Grand Central, $10.99).
2	**The Postcard Killers**, by James Patterson and Liza Marklund (Grand Central, $16.50).
3	**Tough Customer**, by Sandra Brown (Simon & Schuster, $12.99).
4	**The Devil Colony**, by James Rollins, (HarperCollins, $19.99).
5	**Sizzling Sixteen**, by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's, $10.99).
6	**The Girl Who Kicked The Hornets' Nest,** by Stieg Larsson (Penguin, $32).
7	**The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo,** by Stieg Larsson (Penguin, $13.50).
8	**Carte Blanche**, by Jeffrey Deaver (Simon & Schuster, $29.99).
9	**Warlord**, by Ted Bell (HarperCollins, $19.99).
10	**The Hypnotist,** by Lars Kepler (McClelland & Stewart, $29.99).

The Canadian Fiction and Non-Fiction bestseller lists, and the Mystery list, are compiled for The Globe and Mail by BookNet Canada.

QUICK READS



FAMILY SAGA

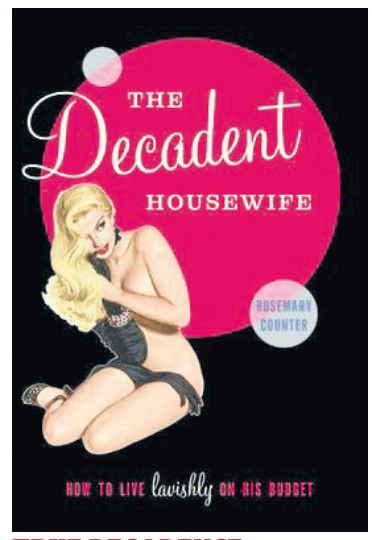
The Churchills
In Love and War
By Mary S. Lovell, Norton, 624 pages, $40.50

"Gossip," writes British biographer Mary S. Lovell, "provided [it] is presented with appropriate explanation and is properly sourced ... can have a place even in serious biography." This guiding principle informs *The Churchills*, a group portrait of a storied dynasty that began with John Churchill, a soldier and later first Duke of Marlborough, whose victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704 established the family name and seat at Blenheim Palace. The saga continues down eight generations to the famous (though non-ducal) Winston, his almost equally famous mother, Jennie, and the various siblings, cousins, nephews, nieces and offspring whose collective antics look like the pilot for a new and possibly short-lived TV series. A breezy but never disrespectful roundup of a very public family that focuses not on the public but on the domestic, and not at the expense of the historic.

SUPERSTAR

David Bowie
Starman
By Paul Trynka, Little Brown, 530 pages, $28.99

"Ch-ch-changes, just gonna have to be a different man." What could a book on David Bowie say that the man hasn't already sung himself? Plenty, as it turns out. The constantly rebranding Bowie – a major influence on shape-shifters U2, Lady Gaga and others – is analyzed exhaustively and unflinchingly by the Iggy Pop biographer Paul Trynka. From his beginnings as a melody appropriator to his artful, wild personas to his Houdini-like escape from pop stardom, the career and motivations of a complicated performer are questioned smartly. No puffy life-and-times, this: A story that ends in a question – what comes next for this famous man of serious moonlight and strange fascinations.



TRUE DECADENCE

The Decadent Housewife
How To Live Lavishly On His Budget
By Rosemary Counter, Modern Books/Madison Press, 112 pages, $14.95

A book guaranteed to enrage – or, one hopes, amuse – the stay-at-home partner of a working man. The subtitle alone might do it, let alone the dust-jacket notes, which say in part (and please excuse the irony alert): "From lazy lunches to retail therapy, *The Decadent Housewife* is your guide to filling your days with fabulousness, feigning the skills as necessary, and micromanaging your man." Writer Rosemary Counter takes readers through a day in the life, beginning with "Rise and Shine, 7:30-11:30 a.m. Channel your morning rage into a sensuous ritual of pleasurable primping," and including, "The Lost Art of Idleness, 3:00-5:30 p.m. From people-watching to napping, bathing to retail therapy, a Decadent Housewife is never bored." We won't even discuss the "magic man-managing power of your lady parts."

FIRST FICTION

Spilled blood is thicker than water

Emma Ruby-Sachs's debut novel distills a violent South African legacy

The Water Man's Daughter
By Emma Ruby-Sachs
McClelland & Stewart, 325 pages, $22.99

REVIEWED BY
JIM BARTLEY

Ruby-Sachs brings her setting and its cast vibrantly to life. JANE SAKS

'Nomsulwa plays with bullets in the alleyway."

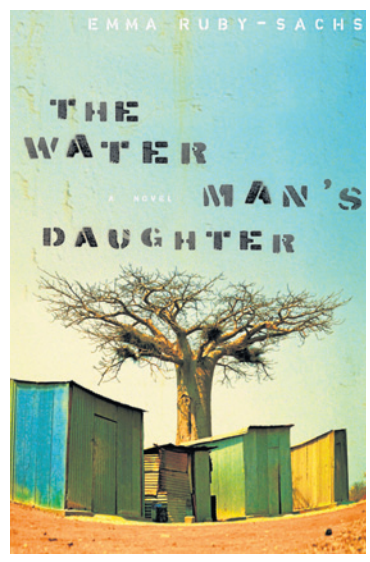
The first words of Emma Ruby-Sachs's debut novel distill a violent South African legacy spilling down through generations, renewed at every cradle. In the back streets of Soweto, a boy considered too young for gang warfare can still pack a gun. In that dusty alleyway, Nomsulwa is allowed to examine the pistol of a young friend. As pubescent gunslingers wrestle in the dirt, she picks up one of her shiny playthings, loads it into a chamber and aims at a skeletal street dog. The recoil breaks her arm.

Flash forward to adulthood. Nomsulwa is a single twenty-something in a post-apartheid, government-issued tract house in the townships around Johannesburg. Part of a Soweto community-rights group, she and her male cousin Mira are active in efforts to sabotage the recently privatized and corrupt water and power distribution systems. As a supportive local policewoman turns a blind eye, they join a group of stealthy night shovellers, who dig up and steal a section of water pipe freshly laid that day in the dirt street. The thriving black market will absorb the piping and help to fund desperate efforts to retain and restore the equitable old system.

Nomsulwa and her cohorts are battling more than local profiteers. A Canadian water-company executive is back in town, lambasting his partners for lax security at the pipeline sites. After an unproductive meeting with water reps and city councillors, he is talked into a night of drinking with them to help ease tensions. Next morning, his horribly mutilated body is found by the police.

As the investigation gets under way, we're made aware of unsavoury links between Johannesburg police brass and water officials. Nomsulwa also has a stake: The Soweto police supervisor in charge of the case, Zembe, is the one who covered for her and the pipe thieves. Nomsulwa is made to do Zembe a favour: She must act as a diversionary local host for the dead man's daughter, arriving within days from Toronto to seek answers about her father's killing.

Claire, the "water man's daughter" of the title, arrives in the expected haze of grief, compounded by her broad ignorance of South African society and the true nature of her father's connections to the local power brokers. She becomes the structural hub for Ruby-Sachs's intersecting plot lines: police procedural; a chronicle of corporate and civic corruption; and a portrait of two women, strangers, who warily bond over separate but pressing realities of loss and oppression.



With her cousin Mira and his gang contacts among the murder suspects, Nomsulwa is caught between her fractious community, her indebtedness to Zembe's covert support of the pipeline saboteurs, and her budding sympathy for Claire. When Nomsulwa reluctantly takes Claire to the site where her father's body was found, the suspended moments of tenderness between the two women read as an emotional turning point.

Ruby-Sachs brings her setting and its cast vibrantly to life: the parching heat, night-time chills, the dirt tracks and clinging Soweto dust, the families living in near-poverty yet touchingly house-proud, while their civic officials boast charmless mansions and giant plasma TVs. Nomsulwa's and Zembe's distinct personalities, and their shared burden of divided loyalties, are finely evoked.

Oddly enough for a Canadian writer coming from outside African culture, Ruby-Sachs convinces least in the rendering of her Canadian, the addled and naive Claire, who comes off consistently as a flake. Claire's role as a device, a catalyst for the fully formed Nomsulwa, emerges as her best feature.

There are occasionally other lapses. Johannesburg's police homicide squad seems strangely short on forensic rigour. It makes little sense that, just a week or so after the killing, with no firm leads and no arrests, the suburban backyard site where the ravaged body was found has no police cordon or any restriction on access. Similarly, it seems highly unlikely that Claire can walk into a hotel and, without even showing ID, be allowed compassionate access to the executive suite where her father spent his last night. Claire and Nomsulwa linger in the room unsupervised while Claire tears the bed apart and stuffs her pockets with toiletries. The bellhop who admits them to the suite simply disappears from the scene.

A fresh lead in the case leads to an incriminating blood sample, placing Nomsulwa and investigator Zembe in a painful bind. A cascade of events follows, 40 pages that gather up the story's themes and plot strands in ways completely unexpected, and exhilarating. Ruby-Sachs shifts from the tease of redemptive reconciliation to a stripped-down, tightly paced finale that doesn't shrink from the full human cost of systemic inequity and corruption.

Jim Bartley is The Globe and Mail's first-fiction reviewer.