

WASHINGTON AREA  
**BESTSELLERS**

Paperback		Hardcover	
FICTION		FICTION	
<b>1 THE ROAD</b> (Vintage, \$14.95) By Cormac McCarthy. A man and his son travel to the sea through a charred, post-apocalyptic land.	11	<b>1 A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS</b> (Riverhead, \$25.95). By Khaled Hosseini Two Afghani women cope with a brutish husband.	3
<b>2 THE KITE RUNNER</b> (Riverhead, \$14) By Khaled Hosseini. An Afghan returns to his Taliban-ruled country to atone for a past betrayal.	118	<b>2 ON CHESIL BEACH</b> (Doubleday, \$22) By Ian McEwan. Multiple tensions—sexual as well as class—batter the Mayhew's marriage.	1
<b>3 MIDDLESEX</b> (Picador USA, \$15) By Jeffrey Eugenides. A genetic anomaly causes a teen to become a hermaphrodite.	9	<b>3 HARLEQUIN</b> (Berkley, \$25.95) By Laurell K. Hamilton. Anita Blake and allies are marked by a dreaded league of vampire executors.	1
<b>4 BEACH ROAD</b> (Warner Vision, \$9.99) By James Patterson and Peter de Jonge A struggling attorney lands a lurid murder case.	2	<b>4 THE NAVIGATOR</b> (Putnam, \$26.95) By Clive Cussler with Paul Kemprecos. The NUMA team strives to retrieve a Phoenician artifact.	2
<b>5 ANGELS FALL</b> (Jove, \$7.99). By Nora Roberts Boston chef Renee Gilmore, looking for solace after surviving a shooting, finds murder instead.	2	<b>5 THE BOURNE BETRAYAL</b> (Warner, \$25.99) By Eric Van Lustbader. The war on terror overtakes Jason Bourne, Robert Ludlum's master spy.	1
<b>6 WATER FOR ELEPHANTS</b> (Algonquin, \$13.95) By Sara Gruen. An orphan discovers love when he joins a traveling circus amid the Great Depression.	6	<b>6 THE 6TH TARGET</b> (Little, Brown, \$27.99) By James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. Kids and their nannies are being kidnapped off the street.	5
<b>7 THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER</b> (Penguin, \$14). By Kim Edwards. A doctor regrets deceiving his wife about their twins' birth.	48	<b>7 THE GOOD GUY</b> (Bantam, \$27) By Dean Koontz. A bar patron, mistaken for a hit man, decides to warn the intended victim.	2
<b>8 BLACK ORDER</b> (HarperTorch, \$7.99) By James Rollins. Sigma Force confronts a sinister scheme to control the origin of life.	2	<b>8 THE OVERLOOK</b> (Little, Brown, \$21.99) By Michael Connelly. A terrorist plot hovers over Harry Bosch's newest case of murder.	3
<b>9 SUITE FRANÇAISE</b> (Vintage, \$14.95) By Irène Némirovsky. An unfinished novel exploring French collaboration with the Germans.	8	<b>9 SIMPLE GENIUS</b> (Warner, \$26.99) By David Baldacci. Agents Sean King and Michelle Maxwell return, replete with personal baggage.	7
<b>10 POLAR SHIFT</b> (Berkley, \$9.99). By Clive Cussler with Paul Kemprecos. Anti-globalization zealots acquire the means to trigger a global catastrophe.	1	<b>10 THE CHILDREN OF HÚRIN</b> (Houghton Mifflin, \$26) By J.R.R. Tolkien. Men and elves battle the minions of Morgoth in this tale of Middle Earth's First Age.	8
NONFICTION/GENERAL		NONFICTION/GENERAL	
<b>1 EAT PRAY LOVE: ONE WOMAN'S SEARCH FOR EVERYTHING ACROSS ITALY, INDIA AND INDONESIA</b> (Penguin, \$15). By Elizabeth Gilbert	19	<b>1 THE DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS</b> (Collins, \$24.95). By Conn and Hal Iggulden For boys at heart, a paean to simple pastimes.	6
<b>2 BLINK: THE POWER OF THINKING WITHOUT THINKING</b> (Back Bay, \$15.99) By Malcolm Gladwell. Behind our snap decisions.	10	<b>2 THE REAGAN DIARIES</b> (HarperCollins, \$35) By Ronald Reagan. Douglas Brinkley edits the personal reflections of our 40th president.	3
<b>3 THE GLASS CASTLE</b> (Scribner, \$14) By Jeannette Walls. A daughter's memoir of her eccentric parents and an unorthodox upbringing.	67	<b>3 THE ASSAULT ON REASON</b> (Penguin Press, \$25.95). By Al Gore. Concern over the decline of truth in the public arena.	3
<b>4 DREAMS FROM MY FATHER</b> (Three Rivers, \$14.95). By Barack Obama A memoir by the junior senator from Illinois.	78	<b>4 CULTURALLY INCORRECT: HOW CLASHING WORLDVIEWS AFFECT YOUR FUTURE</b> (Thomas Nelson, \$22.99). By Rod Parsley	2
<b>5 MAYFLOWER: A STORY OF COURAGE, COMMUNITY, AND WAR</b> (Penguin, \$16) By Nathaniel Philbrick. Plymouth Colony redux.	7	<b>5 PRESIDENTIAL COURAGE: BRAVE LEADERS AND HOW THEY CHANGED AMERICA, 1789-1989</b> (Simon & Schuster, \$28). By Michael Beschloss	5
<b>6 THE TIPPING POINT: HOW LITTLE THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE</b> (Back Bay, \$14.95) By Malcolm Gladwell. Fads and their origins.	76	<b>6 WOMAN IN CHARGE: THE LIFE OF HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON</b> (Knopf, \$27.95) By Carl Bernstein. First lady, senator, president?	1
<b>7 THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING</b> (Vintage, \$13.95). By Joan Didion. Mourning the death of her husband, John Gregory Dunne.	17	<b>7 EINSTEIN: HIS LIFE AND UNIVERSE</b> (Simon & Schuster, \$32). By Walter Isaacson An incisive look at the man behind the theorems.	9
<b>8 STUMBLING ON HAPPINESS</b> (Vintage, \$14.95) By Daniel Gilbert. A psychology professor examines why we err in anticipating the future.	12	<b>8 THE WORLD IS FLAT: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY</b> (FSG, \$30) By Thomas L. Friedman. A revised edition.	34
<b>9 THREE CUPS OF TEA: ONE MAN'S MISSION TO PROMOTE PEACE</b> (Penguin, \$15) By Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin	9	<b>9 GOD IS NOT GREAT: HOW RELIGION POISONS EVERYTHING</b> (Twelve, \$24.99) By Christopher Hitchens. Faith and its downfalls.	6
<b>10 THE MEASURE OF A MAN: A SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY</b> (HarperSanFrancisco, \$14.95) By Sidney Poitier. The esteemed actor reflects.	20	<b>10 AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM: MY YEARS AT THE CIA</b> (HarperCollins, \$30). By George Tenet Parsing Sept. 11 and the Bush administration.	6

**Letters**

GETTING IT RIGHT

In his review of Vincent Bugliosi's *Reclaiming History* (Book World, May 27), Alan Wolfe fails to acknowledge that perhaps the best reason for persisting doubts about the Warren Commission is that its skeptics have been proven right, time and again. For example, when the Warren Report came out in 1964, skeptics doubted assurances that the Commission had made all the evidence public. Later, the public learned that mountains of evidence had been suppressed; that there were unanswered questions galore about the "Marxist" Oswald's right-wing, anti-Castro associates, and about Oswald's assassin, Jack Ruby, who had mob ties the Commission overlooked — all important issues that Bugliosi inadequately addresses.

Maybe Wolfe is right that, at long last, Bugliosi has finally K.O.'d the skeptics. But things don't look very promising. In the very week Bugliosi's book appeared arguing that it's high time the public joined with the Kennedys in embracing the Warren Commission, a new book by David Talbot, *Brothers*, makes a solid case for something Wolfe and Bugliosi missed, but skeptics have long known: The Kennedys are as skeptical as most other Americans. And in that same week, another pillar of Bugliosi's case collapsed when a scientific report called the government's claim that neutron activation analysis tests proved there is no bullet evidence for a second assassin "fundamentally flawed."

**GARY L. AGUILAR**

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**Editor's Note:** See the review of David Talbot's *Brothers* on page 5 of this issue.

In his review of Michael Beschloss's *Presidential Courage* (Book World, June 3), Alan Wolfe appears to say that Harry Truman ignored the best interests of the United States and the advice of secretary of state George Marshall when he supported the creation of the state of Israel. If time has proven Marshall right, it was not so clear when Truman made his decision. But Truman was certainly aware of the guilt load created by FDR-Churchill policies that gave Hitler total immunity to run his death trains and gas furnaces during a period when at least 4,000,000 were incinerated. And he certainly knew that the pitiful few who escaped death were not welcome anywhere, including the United States.

But anyone touring our celebrated Holocaust Museum would not find the ghastly truth about American policy stated in clear, unequivocal language. When I asked for an explanation, the Museum director insisted there is enough there so visitors can infer the truth. By what standard of scholarship do serious museums rely on inference?

**STANLEY E. COHEN**

*Chevy Chase*

*We welcome letters. Send them — no more than 200 words — along with your name, address, and telephone number, to bwletters@washpost.com.*

**WASHINGTON IS ALSO READING**

SELLING WELL AT LOCAL BOOKSELLERS

**THE CANON: A WHIRLIGIG TOUR OF THE BEAUTIFUL BASICS OF SCIENCE**

By Natalie Angier (Houghton Mifflin, \$27)

Because at least a casual familiarity with scientific terminology is required to comprehend the news these days (think fuel efficiency or global warming), Angier, a Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer, aims to help tip the balance in favor of the science-challenged with this lively, eloquent primer on principles from the realms of chemistry to physics, biology and geology. (NF)