

WASHINGTON AREA
BESTSELLERS

Paperback		Hardcover	
FICTION		FICTION	
1	WATER FOR ELEPHANTS (Algonquin, \$13.95) 12 By Sara Gruen. An orphan discovers love when he joins a traveling circus amid the Great Depression.	1	THE QUICKIE (Little, Brown, \$27.99) 3 By James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge. A scorned wife finds revenge isn't so sweet.
2	THE KITE RUNNER (Riverhead, \$14) 124 By Khaled Hosseini. An Afghan returns to his Taliban-ruled country to atone for a past betrayal.	2	A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS (Riverhead, \$25.95). By Khaled Hosseini. Two Afghani women cope with a brutish husband.
3	MIDDLESEX (Picador USA, \$15) 15 By Jeffrey Eugenides. A genetic anomaly causes a teen to become a hermaphrodite.	3	HIGH NOON (Putnam, \$26.95). By Nora Roberts. Heady emotions of past trauma surface when a top hostage negotiator finds herself a target.
4	THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER (Penguin, \$14). By Kim Edwards. A doctor regrets deceiving his wife about their twins' birth.	4	UP CLOSE AND DANGEROUS (Ballantine, \$25.95) 1 By Linda Howard. A wealthy widow, resented by her stepchildren, dodges attempts on her life.
5	THE EMPEROR'S CHILDREN (Vintage, \$14.95) 2 By Claire Messud. A social satire revolving around a vainglorious clique of young Manhattanites.	5	LEAN MEAN THIRTEEN (St. Martin's, \$27.95) 5 By Janet Evanovich. Stephanie Plum becomes a suspect in her ex-husband's presumed death.
6	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (Bantam, \$7.99) 4 By Robert Ludlum. A master assassin renews his struggle against an international terrorist.	6	THE TIN ROOF BLOWDOWN (Simon & Schuster, \$26). By James Lee Burke. Robicheaux in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
7	BEACH ROAD (Warner Vision, \$9.99) 8 By James Patterson and Peter de Jonge. A struggling attorney lands a lurid murder case.	7	THE FIRST COMMANDMENT (Atria, \$25.95) 1 By Brad Thor. A terrorist, recently discharged from Guantanamo, targets ex-Navy SEAL Scot Harvath.
8	THE MESSENGER (Signet, \$9.99). By Daniel Silva. When a terrorist attack hits the Vatican, art restorer and Mossad agent Gabriel Allon is called.	8	BUNGALOW 2 (Delacorte, \$27) 4 By Danielle Steel. A woman's life unravels when she becomes a Hollywood screenwriter.
9	THE ROAD (Vintage, \$14.95) 17 By Cormac McCarthy. A man and his son travel to the sea through a charred, post-apocalyptic land.	9	THE CHILDREN OF HÚRIN (Houghton Mifflin, \$26) 14 By J.R.R. Tolkien. Men and elves battle the minions of Morgoth in this tale of Middle Earth's First Age.
10	SUITE FRANÇAISE (Vintage, \$14.95) 11 By Irène Némirovsky. An unfinished novel exploring French collaboration with the Germans.	10	THE JUDAS STRAIN (Morrow, \$25.95) 3 By James Rollins. An ancient plague resurfaces, pitting Sigma Force against the Guild cabal.
NONFICTION/GENERAL		NONFICTION/GENERAL	
1	EAT PRAY LOVE: ONE WOMAN'S SEARCH FOR EVERYTHING ACROSS ITALY, INDIA AND INDONESIA (Penguin, \$15). By Elizabeth Gilbert 24	1	THE DANGEROUS BOOK FOR BOYS (Collins, \$24.95). By Conn and Hal Iggulden. For boys at heart, a paean to simple pastimes. 12
2	THE GLASS CASTLE (Scribner, \$14) 73 By Jeannette Walls. A daughter's memoir of her eccentric parents and an unorthodox upbringing.	2	LEGACY OF ASHES: THE HISTORY OF THE CIA (Doubleday, \$27.95). By Tim Weiner. Exposing the good, the bad and the ugly in covert ops. 3
3	BLINK: THE POWER OF THINKING WITHOUT THINKING (Back Bay, \$15.99) 16 By Malcolm Gladwell. Behind our snap decisions.	3	THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS: 50 YEARS OF REPORTING IN WASHINGTON (Crown Forum, \$29.95). By Robert D. Novak 1
4	THREE CUPS OF TEA: ONE MAN'S MISSION TO PROMOTE PEACE (Penguin, \$15) 15 By Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin	4	LONE SURVIVOR: THE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF OPERATION REDWING ... (Little, Brown, \$24.99) 6 By Marcus Luttrell. The Navy SEALs' greatest loss.
5	THE TIPPING POINT: HOW LITTLE THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE (Back Bay, \$14.95) 81 By Malcolm Gladwell. Fads and their origins.	5	THE DIANA CHRONICLES (Doubleday, \$27.50) 6 By Tina Brown. Copious interviews and research back this new profile of the late Princess of Wales.
6	90 MINUTES IN HEAVEN: A TRUE STORY OF DEATH AND LIFE (Revell, \$12.99). By Don Piper. A Baptist minister declared dead returns to life. 4	6	A LONG WAY GONE: MEMOIRS OF A BOY SOLDIER (FSG, \$22). By Ishmael Beah. Recalling the horrors of the civil war in Sierra Leone. 20
7	THE WORLD IS FLAT: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (Picador USA, \$16) 1 By Thomas L. Friedman. A further revised edition.	7	GOD IS NOT GREAT: HOW RELIGION POISONS EVERYTHING (Twelve, \$24.99) 12 By Christopher Hitchens. Faith and its downfalls.
8	NIGHT (FSG, \$9). By Elie Wiesel 59 The terrifying account of his experiences in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.	8	THE ASSAULT ON REASON (Penguin Press, \$25.95). By Al Gore. Concern over the decline of truth in the public arena. 9
9	MAYFLOWER: A STORY OF COURAGE, COMMUNITY, AND WAR (Penguin, \$16) 13 By Nathaniel Philbrick. Plymouth Colony redux.	9	QUIET STRENGTH: THE PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, & PRIORITIES OF A WINNING LIFE (Tyndale, \$26.99). By Tony Dungy with Nathan Whitaker 2
10	STUMBLING ON HAPPINESS (Vintage, \$14.95) 15 By Daniel Gilbert. A psychology professor examines why we err in anticipating the future.	10	THE REAGAN DIARIES (HarperCollins, \$35) 8 By Ronald Reagan. The personal reflections of our 40th president.

Letters

THE POWER OF IMAGES

The headline of Susan P. Williams's review of *The Most Important Fish in the Sea* is "Caught in the Net" (Book World, July 22), with a subtitle describing "The fate of the most harvested creature in Chesapeake Bay." Across the entire page is a photo of hundreds of thousands of dead menhaden on Wrightsville Beach, N.C., in 2005. Wrightsville Beach is on the Atlantic Ocean, not the Chesapeake Bay, and it seems the fish got there by some natural event such as a storm or hurricane. So why the picture? What's it got to do with the story? The book may be a powerful account of the fish's demise but does it need this additional, non-related hype?

ROBERT A. JERUSSI
Fairfax, Va.

Anne Applebaum has written a very interesting review of *The Berlin Wall*, by Frederick Taylor (Book World, July 22). From its creation in 1961 to its fall in 1989, the Wall was perhaps the central symbol of the Cold War. The book goes on my "to read" list.

Applebaum makes the good point that the Wall saved East Germany.

This may not, in itself, have been a good thing, except it also might have prevented a war in Europe, the most dangerous front of the East-West conflict and, outside of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the place where World War III was most likely to start.

The Berlin Wall also provided superb spin for the West. When it went up, our ideological opponents demonstrated for the world that they needed a wall to keep people in their socialist paradise. John Kennedy had a great background for a great speech. The East Germans had even hung a huge curtain to keep their citizens from Kennedy.

When the Wall came down, it signaled, for the West, the successful end of the Cold War. We should thank the East Germans and the Soviets for preventing a war, and for giving the West a really first rate anti-Communist icon.

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Send letters to bwletters@washpost.com

WASHINGTON IS ALSO READING
 SELLING WELL AT LOCAL BOOKSELLERS

CASANEGRA: A TENNYSON HARDWICK NOVEL
 By Blair Underwood with Tananarive Due & Steven Barnes
 (Atria, \$25)

That's right. Three authors. Does that make for a better yarn? Well, that's for you to decide, but with the caliber of talent on hand — an award-winning actor and two novelists, each boasting an impressive résumé — the odds are auspicious. Their protagonist, semi-profitable actor and recovering gigolo "Ten" Hardwick, unveils a new talent hidden beneath his hunky exterior — detective. And not a moment too soon, as he finds himself the prime suspect in the death of rap star Afrodite, who went from former client to potential sweetheart after their recent rendezvous. Hardwick's hunt for the killer takes us on a roller-coaster ride through Hollywood (with tidbits about the evolution of black films), the rap world and the sex-for-pay industry. Hold on, there's bound to be some turbulence. (F)