

Apple Seeds

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January AND February 2012  
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RT Book Reviews Magazine also has drawings for books. Buy the mag as soon as it comes out and send in your name and address!

“**Showrooming**” hits our stores. A Publishers Weekly (PW) article by Jim Milliot revealed that “Amazon’s price check app gives customers up to \$15 in discounts to those who scan prices of products at different stores.”

According to Codex Group, a publishing research team, “28% of book buyers reported doing just that, with 34% of digital book buyers using the tactic...”

(We have known for some time that readers do that: check titles, find the ISBN number, leave the store and order the book or digital book online...)

No wonder it’s hard to make a buck!

Anne McCaffrey, (1926-2011), creator of Pern, passed away from a stroke in late November while at her home “Dragonhold” in Ireland.

There are a bazillion new books out, so let’s start reviewing a few:

Janet Evanovich: “*One for the Money*” is back on the paperback bestseller list, while at the same time a January 27 movie release hits the big screens. Remember the stars we all said should be in it? Well, they’re not!

Evanovich’s “*Explosive Eighteen*” is still on the Hardcover Bestseller List after 6 weeks out. And her Stephanie Plum is going strong in the Paperback Bestseller List with “*Smokin’ Seventeen*.”

“*The Shack*” by **William P. Young**, has once again been on the PW Paperback Bestseller List, for three months!

Besides **Steig Larsson** and his “*The Girl(s) With (or Who)*”, you will find a thrilling variety of new paperbacks to stack in your To-Be-Read piles:

George R. R. Martin has “*A Game of Thrones*” and “*A Feast for Crows*” and “*A Clash of Kings*” and “*A Storm of Swords*” sitting comfortably at 40, 29, 35, and 36 weeks, respectively, as of January 2nd. Oh, and he also has “*A Dance with Dragons*” in Hardcover that’s on the Bestseller List. Sheesh.

Nora Roberts has two paperbacks on the bestseller list: “*Gabriella & Alexander*” a re-release of 2006 works, and “*The Next Always*” a new novel in the Trade Paperback List.

Ann Rule: It’s been a long time, but her “*Don’t Look Behind You*” hit the charts right away, as usual for this true crime maven.

Jodi Picoult: “*Sing You Home*” Oh, my goodness. What can I say? Please, if you have the internet, go to her website: jodipicoult.com, and listen to her audios. They are so very personal—and tell about what happened during the writing of this novel. I won’t tell you any more, because then it would take away your reading of the novel. Don’t have the internet? Well, we could be nice and drop a hint or two.



Amanda Hocking, a 27-year-old Minnesota self-publishing young adult paranormal romance author via the digital world, has now been signed by St. Martin's Griffin in a \$2 million deal. You'd be surprised at the amount of voices we've heard saying, "I could do that. I'm going home right now and write a bestselling novel." Um, don't you have to have some talent first? And some computer knowledge? (Hocking is to appear on "Anderson Cooper" this January.)

Go back in time for a minute, to December 5, 2011. (!) PW had a fantastic article on **John Lescroart** by Tim Peters, a freelance writer in San Francisco that I just found. Seems our famous thriller writer once wanted only to write literary novels... while fronting a music group called "Johnny Capo and His Real Good Band." He grew up when he turned 30.

February hardcovers for father and son, Michael and Daniel, have garnered quite a few over-the-top, positive reviews for the thriller novels from each talented Palmer.

Another hardcover out in February is **Darynda Jones'** "*Third Grave Dead Ahead*" which ventures into the very funny side of a paranormal romantic thriller. Featuring a "wickedly hilarious grim reaper and a hunky son of Satan," how can it go wrong?

"*Big Nate*" by **Lincoln Peirce** is a Bestseller in the Children's Section of PW. Well. All of a sudden we have FOUR Nates in our family; I guess I'd better check this out: Ah ha, from what I've read, *Big Nate* books are for boys 8 and up—twins love the books! (Also a dyslexic dad, according to the blogs.)

It's the times: One of several interviewed for PW, Debra Englander at Wiley explains, "...We can no longer publish generic 'invest for retirement' or 'how to manage your debt' titles. Instead, we look for authors who have many years of experience and insights into both bull and bear markets." Such as **Suze Orman**, etc?

Should have read "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" by **Robert T. Kiyosaki**. Except I'm a Scorpio, and money makes me...sad.

Okay. I just have to tell you about the book I won through RT Book Reviews Magazine. The Trade Paperback, Advance Readers' Edition is "*home front*" by **Kristin Hannah**. It is excellent! It's about a husband who does not "get it" about having an army helicopter pilot wife and wants nothing to do with supposedly "other" military families. His tween and four-year-old daughters are doing just fine without him around, too. Then, his wife is deployed.

Not such an understanding mother, I simply would have fed those kids some gruel and sent them...somewhere. The husband? Nasty thoughts there. Well, Hannah goes one better, she has them live, learn and suffer with each other. Yay. VERY REAL MILITARY NOVEL ON THE WIFE'S PART.

Borders Creditors to Get About 10 Cents on the Dollar. (That headline is scary, allowing a large "big box" all that credit.)

BUT, sure would be nice if publishers would go that extra mile for the independent bookstore owners!

Deborah Scroggins: "*Wanted Women*" is her nonfiction contribution of two "not necessarily sympathetic figures for American readers." Actually, they are two women that we, as Americans, *should* fear in this war of terror.

Switching to romance, it's time to pat **Mr. P** on the back when you see him. We're celebrating our **51st Anniversary** on January 21st. Despite the modern phraseology of "we are pregnant" I do believe I was the only one in this marriage that carried the six babies, thank you very much! And I really have to praise my **Mr. P** as he was so helpful in the care of the six—boy, is he good with newborns!

He said he's going to take me out to the supermarket, to stand in front of the meat counter and stare at the steaks for a few minutes. (Isn't that special.)

Be safe, be healthy and be oh so happy!



Gotta go...Keep Warm!