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## Best-Selling Recent Fiction 1999

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# Best-Selling Recent Fiction 1999

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**A**pproval vendors categorize. That's our role, and all that happens downstream flows from this first step, a bibliographer's categorization of books by subject, format, and readership level.

Some decisions are straightforward; some are not. Categorizing works of fiction into our readership level categories of "Popular" and "General—Academic" is one of the most difficult decisions we make each day. It's an act of instant literary criticism that we perform in a matter of minutes, separating novels that seem to show literary ambition from those which aim to fit squarely into a genre.

That's not to say "wheat from chaff," since these days academic libraries show some interest in genre novels, reflecting the attention that mysteries, science fiction, and other popular works now receive from scholars in their research and teaching.

Here are two lists of novels, our best-selling titles over the past six months in YBP's "General—Academic" and "Popular" categories, each arranged in descending order by number of copies sold. The former still outsells the latter—with **Ralph Ellison's** *Juneteenth*, with 114 copies sold to date, outselling our top popular novel, **Thomas Harris's** *Hannibal*, by a margin of a bit more than two to one. Likewise, in moving down the pair of lists, **Ernest Hemingway**, **Salman Rushdie**, **Willa Cather**, **Joyce Carol Oates**, and **Julian Barnes** all trounce **Anne Rice**, **Stephen King**, and **Mary Higgins Clark** when it comes to sales per title. While this surely reverses the pattern you've seen at your local **Borders** or **Barnes & Noble**, the library sales we see today for popular novels are sometimes considerable, if not approaching the level of interest we see for their weightier cousins. We hope that our lists will help to spark a debate on the literary canon within your library.

## "General-Academic" Level Fiction

- Ellison, Ralph. *Juneteenth: A Novel*; ed. by John F. Callahan. Modern Library 1999 \$24.50 Cloth 0394464575
- Collins, Wilkie. *Iolani; Or, Tahiti as It Was: A Romance*; ed. by Ira B. Nadel. Princeton Univ 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 069103446x
- Silko, Leslie Marmon. *Gardens in the Dunes: A Novel*. Simon & Schuster 1999 \$24.50 Cloth 0684811545
- Rushdie, Salman. *Ground Beneath her Feet: A Novel*. Henry Holt 1999 \$27.50 Cloth 0805053085
- Guterson, David. *East of the Mountains*. Harcourt Brace 1999 \$25.00 Cloth 0151002290
- Hemingway, Ernest. *True at First Light*; ed. by Patrick Hemingway. Scribner 1999 \$25.50 Cloth 0684849216
- Matthiessen, Peter. *Bone by Bone: A Novel*. Random House 1999 \$26.45 Cloth 0375501029
- Just, Ward. *Dangerous Friend*. Houghton Mifflin 1999 \$23.00 Cloth 0395856981
- Siegel, Lee. *Love in a Dead Language*. Univ of Chicago 1999 \$25.00 Cloth 0226756971
- Le Carre, John. *Single & Single: A Novel*. Scribner 1999 \$25.50 Cloth 0684859262
- See, Carolyn. *Handyman: A Novel*. Random House 1999 \$22.45 Cloth 037550155x
- Cather, Willa. *Death Comes for the Archbishop*; ed. by John J. Murphy. Univ of Nebraska 1999 \$60.00 Cloth 0803214294

*continued on page 60*

## Innovations from page 56

**Giovanni Battista Braccelli**: *Bizzarie di Varie Figure* (Various bizarre figures), **Lewis Carroll**: *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland*; *Through the Looking Glass*, **Alexander Jackson Davis**: *Rural Residences, Etc. consisting of Designs, Original and Selected, for Cottages, Farmhouses, Villas, and Village Churches*, **Domenico Fontana**: *Della Trasportatione dell' Obelisco Vaticano* (The transportation of the Vatican obelisk), *Horae Beatae Mariae ad usum Romanum* (The hours of the Blessed Virgin Mary according to the Roman use), **Gerardus Mercator**: *Atlas sive Cosmographicae Meditationes de Fabrica Mundi et Fabricati, Figura* (Atlas, or cosmographical meditations on the frame of the world and its form), **Andrea Palladio**: *I Quattro Libri dell' Architettura* (Four books on architecture), **Agostino Ramelli**: *Le Diverse et Artificiose Machine* (Various and ingenious machines), **Pierre Joseph Redoute**: *Les Roses*, **Louis Renard**: *Poissons, Ecrevisses et Crabes, de Diverse Couleurs et Figures Extraordinaires*.. (Fishes, crayfishes, and crabs of diverse coloration and extraordinary form...), **Francis Sandford**: *The His-*

*tory of the Coronation of ... James II*, **Walt Whitman**: *Leaves of Grass*.


Prices for each title range from US\$20 to \$75, comparable to a hard-cover book or a trade paperback and considerably less than printed facsimile editions. This now makes it affordable for the retail consumer or a researcher to own a facsimile of rare first editions of landmark publications of Western civilization. (Last year, a copy of **Galileo Galilei's** *Sidereus Nuncius* with a folio missing sold at auction for \$250,000.)

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**Best Selling Recent Fiction**  
from page 58

Eakins, Patricia. *Marvelous Adventures of Pierre Baptiste: Father and Mother, First and Last*. New York Univ Press 1999 \$19.95 Cloth 0814722091

Hill, Kathleen. *Still Waters in Niger*. Northwestern Univ 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 0810150891

Leffland, Ella. *Breath and Shadows*. William Morrow 1999 \$23.50 Cloth 0688142710

Smith, Martin Cruz. *Havana Bay: A Novel*. Random House 1999 \$24.45 Cloth 0679426620

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Broke Heart Blues: A Novel*. Dutton 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 0525944516

Alberts, Laurie. *Lost Daughters*. Univ Pr/ New England 1999 \$22.95 Cloth 0874518989

Owens, Louis. *Dark River: A Novel*. Univ of Oklahoma 1999 \$23.95 Cloth 0806131152

O'nan, Stewart. *Prayer for the Dying: A Novel*. Henry Holt 1999 \$22.00 Cloth 0805061479

Dixon, Stephen. *30: Pieces of a Novel*. Henry Holt 1999 \$30.00 Cloth 0805059237

Harris, E. Lynn. *Abide with Me: A Novel*. Doubleday 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 038548657x

Auster, Paul. *Timbuktu: A Novel*. Henry Holt 1999 \$22.00 Cloth 0805054073

Barnes, Julian. *England, England*. Alfred A. Knopf 1999 \$22.50 Cloth 0375405828

Buckley, Christopher. *Little Green Men*. Random House 1999 \$24.45 Cloth 0679452931

**"Popular" Level Fiction**

Harris, Thomas. *Hannibal*. Delacorte 1999 \$27.95 Cloth 038529929x

Smith, Rosamond. *Starr Bright Will be with you Soon*. Dutton 1999 \$23.95 Cloth 0525944524

Perry, Anne. *Bedford Square*. Ballantine 1999 \$24.45 Cloth 0345432983

Stephenson, Neal. *Cryptonomicon*. Avon Books 1999 \$27.50 Cloth 0380973464

Belfer, Lauren. *City of Light*. Dial 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 038533401x

Barkhordar Nahai, Gina. *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith*. Harcourt Brace 1999 \$24.00 Cloth 0151003882

Rice, Anne. *Vittorio, The Vampire: New Tales of the Vampires*. Alfred A. Knopf 1999 \$19.95 Cloth 0375401601

Wolitzer, Meg. *Surrender, Dorothy: A Novel*. Scribner 1999 \$21.50 Cloth 0684848449

Cornwell, Patricia Daniels. *Black Notice*. G.P. Putnam's 1999 \$25.95 Cloth 0399145087

Lafarge, Paul. *Artist of the Missing*. Farrar, Straus 1999 \$13.00 Paper 0374525803

Durant, Isadore, 1945-. *Death Among the Fossils*. Univ of New Mexico 1999 \$21.95 Cloth 0826319505

Draper, Robert. *Hadrian's Walls*. Alfred A. Knopf 1999 \$22.50 Cloth 0375403698

King, Stephen. *Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*. Simon & Schuster 1999 \$16.45 Cloth 0684867621

Airth, Rennie. *River of Darkness*. Viking 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 0670885959

Hickam, Homer H. *Back to the Moon: A Novel*. Delacorte 1999 \$23.95 Cloth 0385334222

Clark, Mary Higgins. *We'll Meet Again*. Simon & Schuster 1999 \$24.50 Cloth 0684835975

Mount, Ferdinand. *Jem (And Sam): A*

*Novel*. Carroll & Graf 1999 \$25.69 Cloth 078670649x

Gaus, Paul L. *Blood of the Prodigal: An Ohio Amish Mystery*. Ohio Univ Press 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 0821412760

Darnton, John. *Experiment*. Dutton 1999 \$24.95 Cloth 0525945172

Evanovich, Janet. *High Five*. St. Martin's/ Trade 1999 \$23.95 Cloth 0312203039

Chace, Rebecca. *Capture the Flag: A Novel*. Simon & Schuster 1999 \$22.50 Cloth 0684857588

Mason, Richard. *Drowning People*. Warner 1999 \$23.50 Cloth 0446525243

Aubert, Rosemary. *Feast of Stephen: An Ellis Portal Mystery*. Bridge Works 1999 \$22.95 Cloth 1882593278

Hambly, Barbara. *Graveyard Dust*. Bantam 1999 \$23.95 Cloth 0553102591

Massey, Sujata. *Flower Master*. HarperCollins 1999 \$24.00 Cloth 0060192283



Oregon Trails —  
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by Tom Leonhardt (Director of the  
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It was late June 1973 when I began work at Stanford as the Gifts and Exchange Librarian, part of the Acquisitions Department. Stanford was already automating (BALLOTS) its order and receiving processes and its main book vendor, among many, was Richard Abel and Company. As it turned out, having an automated ordering system was a godsend when most of the book orders had to be re-directed a couple of years later. Around that same time, I needed a special service from any book jobber who would help me out.

Once upon a time, universities, including those in the United States, published much of their own research and made those publications available to their libraries for international exchange in the interests of scholarly communication and dissemination of information. By the time I got involved in the international exchange of scholarly information, it was already declining but propped up by cold war politics, Communism, and the Soviet

Union. In exchange for what we received, we sent exchange lists of duplicates and unwanted gifts. Stanford had few free publications and only a few sources that offered us heavily discounted prices—the Stanford Press, the Hoover Institution Press, and Annual Reviews (Stanford professors started that publishing house). All of this together was not enough to satisfy the Soviet libraries. They wanted new U.S. imprints and lots of them. I did not have the staff and time to acquire and ship large numbers of books to the Soviet Union so I approached Stanford's major book suppliers (Richard Abel was already in the history books by then) but none of them would place our orders; drop ship the books to the Soviet Union (various libraries throughout the USSR), and bill the Stanford University Libraries Gift & Exchange Division.

Don Coombs of Coutts and Fred Gullette of Academic Book Center were two of the many vendor reps who called

continued on page 64