

BESTSELLERS

ASIA BOOKS TOP 10

- FICTION**
- 1 *Never Go Back* by Lee Child
2 *Be Careful What You Wish For* by Jeffrey Archer
3 *A Game Of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin
4 *Wedding Night* by Sophie Kinsella
5 *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
6 *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out Of The Window And Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson
7 *Mistress* by James Patterson
8 *Fifty Shades Of Grey* by E.L. James
9 *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith
10 *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy* by Helen Fielding

- NON-FICTION**
- 1 *Alex Ferguson: My Autobiography*
2 *The World According To Bob* by James Bowen
3 *Thinking, Fast And Slow* by Daniel Kahneman
4 *The Art Of Thinking Clearly* by Rolf Dobelli
5 *A Street Cat Named Bob* by James Bowen
6 *Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea And The End Of A Stable Pacific* by Robert D. Kaplan
7 *The Wolf Of Wall Street: How Money Destroyed A Wall Street Superman* by Jordan Belfort
8 *12 Years A Slave* by Solomon Northup
9 *Towards Truth And Wisdom: Question From The Chaos Of The City, Answers From The Tranquility Of The Forest* by Ajahn Sumarno Bhikkhu
10 *The Power Of Habit: Why We Do What We Do, And How To Change* by Charles Duhigg

NEW YORK TIMES

(PRINT AND E-BOOKS COMBINED)

- FICTION**
- 1 *Missing You* by Harlan Coben. (Dutton)
● Kat Donovan, an NYPD detective, searches for the ex-fiancé who left her years before, her father's murderer and the reason the users of an online dating site are disappearing.
THIS WEEK: 1
LAST WEEK: -
WEEKS ON LIST: 1
2 *The Fixed Trilogy* by Laurelin Paige. (Laurelin Paige)
● Collects *Fixed On You*, *Found In You* and *Forever With You*, the story of Alayna Wither and Hudson Pierce.
THIS WEEK: 2
LAST WEEK: -
WEEKS ON LIST: 1
3 *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. (Little, Brown)
● A painting smuggled out of the Metropolitan Museum of Art after a bombing becomes a boy's prize, guilt and burden.
THIS WEEK: 3
LAST WEEK: 6
WEEKS ON LIST: 22
4 *Maybe Someday* by Colleen Hoover. (Atria)
● Sydney, a college student, is fascinated by her mysterious next-door neighbour, Ridge.
THIS WEEK: 4
LAST WEEK: -
WEEKS ON LIST: 1
5 *The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty. (Amy Einhorn/Putnam)
● A woman's life is upended when she discovers a letter from her husband she was not meant to read.
THIS WEEK: 5
LAST WEEK: 8
WEEKS ON LIST: 31
6 *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter. (Harper Perennial)
● Ruins both emotional and architectural, in Italy, Hollywood and elsewhere, figure in this sweeping novel.
THIS WEEK: 6
LAST WEEK: -
WEEKS ON LIST: 1
7 *The Invention Of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. (Viking)
● The relationship between a wealthy Charleston girl, Sarah Grimké, who will grow up to become a prominent abolitionist, and the slave she is given for her 11th birthday.
THIS WEEK: 7
LAST WEEK: 7
WEEKS ON LIST: 11
8 *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. (Morrow/HarperCollins)
● A historical novel about orphans swept off the streets of New York and sent to the Midwest in the 1920s.
THIS WEEK: 8
LAST WEEK: 9
WEEKS ON LIST: 9
9 *Power Play* by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte)
● Two CEOs — one a man, the other a woman — face very different challenges.
THIS WEEK: 9
LAST WEEK: 3
WEEKS ON LIST: 2
10 *Raising Steam* by Terry Pratchett. (Doubleday)
● In this Discworld fantasy set in Ankh-Morpork, Moist van Lipwig is put in charge of a powerful new machine.
THIS WEEK: 10
LAST WEEK: -
WEEKS ON LIST: 1

- NON-FICTION**
- 1 *12 Years A Slave* by Solomon Northup. (Various publishers)
● The narrative, first published in 1853, of a free man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery, and spent 12 years in bondage before escaping; the basis of the movie.
THIS WEEK: 1
LAST WEEK: 1
WEEKS ON LIST: 15
2 *10% Happier* by Dan Harris. (It Books)
● A co-anchor of *Nightline* reports on the science and spiritual dimensions of meditation and how it has improved his life.
THIS WEEK: 2
LAST WEEK: 2
WEEKS ON LIST: 2
3 *Uganda Be Kidding Me* by Chelsea Handler. (Grand Central)
● Humorous travel stories.
THIS WEEK: 3
LAST WEEK: 3
WEEKS ON LIST: 3
4 *Lone Survivor* by Marcus Luttrell and Patrick Robinson. (Little, Brown)
● The only survivor of a Navy SEALs operation in northern Afghanistan describes the battle and his escape. First published in 2007; the basis for the movie.
THIS WEEK: 4
LAST WEEK: 4
WEEKS ON LIST: 18
5 *The Monuments Men* by Robert M. Edsel with Bret Witter. (Center Street)
● The attempt to preserve, and later to locate, art works stolen by the Nazis during World War II; the basis for the movie.
THIS WEEK: 5
LAST WEEK: 6
WEEKS ON LIST: 11
6 *Heaven Is For Real* by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent. (Thomas Nelson)
● A father recounts his three-year-old son's encounter with Jesus during an appendectomy.
THIS WEEK: 6
LAST WEEK: 5
WEEKS ON LIST: 108
7 *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. (Random House)
● An Olympic runner's story of survival as a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II after his plane went down over the Pacific.
THIS WEEK: 7
LAST WEEK: 8
WEEKS ON LIST: 145
8 *Killing Jesus* by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. (Holt)
● The host of *The O'Reilly Factor* recounts the events leading up to Jesus' execution.
THIS WEEK: 8
LAST WEEK: 7
WEEKS ON LIST: 26
9 *Not Cool* by Greg Gutfeld. (Crown Forum)
● The Fox News Channel host, author of *The Joy Of Hate*, denounces the hipster elite and their pop cultural dominance.
THIS WEEK: 9
LAST WEEK: -
WEEKS ON LIST: 1
10 *The Nazi Officer's Wife* by Edith H. Beer. (HarperCollins)
● The story of a Jewish woman who hid her identity and married a Nazi Party member, thus saving her life.
THIS WEEK: 10
LAST WEEK: -
WEEKS ON LIST: 1



Cleon and His Majesty the King taught the royal children to play ice hockey.



The royal couple in Lausanne.

The CONFIDANT of KINGS



Lysandre Seraidaris.

PHOTO: PORNPRON SATABHANA

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By the beginning of 1939, the royal family returned to Lausanne and restarted their daily life with Cleon. King Rama VIII was interested in legal studies while Prince Bhumibol chose science, which he always preferred. That period was during World War II, however, the studies set by Cleon at Vadhana Villa continued uninterrupted. Sports, excursions and cabinet-making were added. The prince excelled in making small pieces of furniture and particularly superb model planes and Thai warships. In December 1945, King Rama VIII, who had turned 20 in September, returned to Siam for his coronation. In his letter dated February 11, 1946, King Rama VIII wrote to Cleon that he would have to stay longer in Siam until the opening of parliament and the revision of the constitution. He mentioned the situation in Siam during the war and an underground movement.

"There are huge domestic problems: high inflation, prices have increased ten times, then a hundred times. There are large numbers of thieves and gangsters ... Clothes are lacking ... This is what the country lacks most because food is abundant ... Damage caused by bombing is rather small compared to that on Germany ... Disorder prevails in the palace ..."

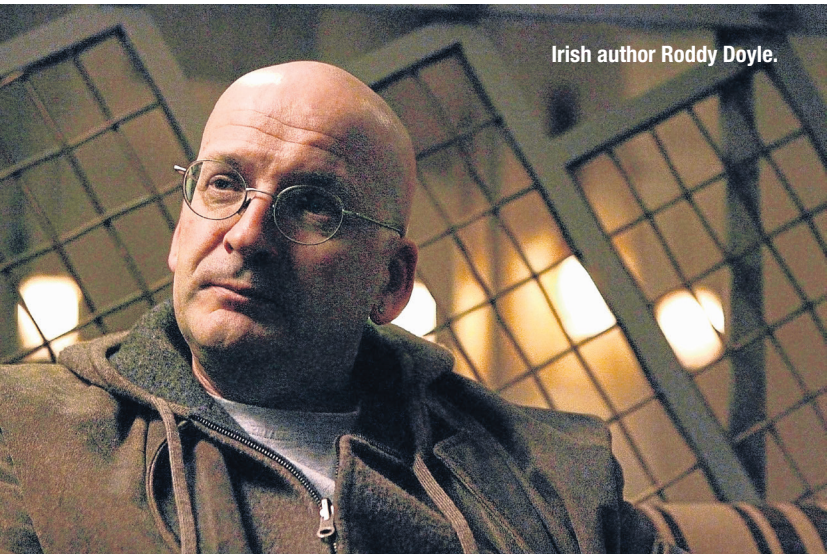
In May, a newspaper in Lausanne reported that the King of Siam would return to Switzerland to complete his studies. However, a tragedy happened on June 9, 1946 when King Ananda Mahidol was found dead before dawn. "Princess Mahidol fainted when she discovered the body of her son ... It was therefore by telephone that Princess Galyani told the terrible news to Cleon who, in shock, felt overwhelmed by grief," read the book. On June 29, 1946, King Bhumibol, who had just acceded to the throne, wrote to Cleon, expressing his gratitude for his encouraging letter. On August 19, 1946, the royal family returned to Switzerland. As soon as he arrived in Lausanne, the King set aside science to study law.

Doyle on music and language in *The Guts*

PATRICIA REANEY
REUTERS

Award-winning Irish author Roddy Doyle brings a few of his earliest characters back in his latest book, *The Guts*, an achingly funny novel about some of life's more serious issues. Doyle is on his familiar Dublin turf in the book about Jimmy Rabbitt, the former manager of an Irish soul band who appeared in his first book *The Commitments* in 1987. His first novel was the start of The Barretstown Trilogy, which included *The Snapper* and *The Van*, all of which were made into films. *The Commitments* has also been adapted for the stage and opened in London in October. In *The Guts* Rabbitt is a middle-aged, married father of four diagnosed with bowel cancer. He grapples with his illness, reunites with two old band members and deals with his teenage children, his struggling music business and his own mortality. Like his other books, most of *The Guts* is told through salty dialogue, with Doyle perfectly capturing the accent. "The language of Dublin is ripe with profanity," he said. The former secondary-school teacher who won the Booker Prize in 1993 for *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, spoke to Reuters about writing novels, middle age and returning to old friends.

What made you decide to write books?
It is not uncommon for teachers to be writers as well. When I finished college and started teaching in 1979/80, in the back of my mind I was thinking I had done a little



Irish author Roddy Doyle.

PHOTO: REUTERS

bit of writing in college, but I had never written fiction. I thought, 'I read a lot of fiction and I would love to have a bash and see if I can do it'. **Jimmy Rabbitt first appeared in *The Commitments*. Why did you bring him back in *The Guts*?** I have 10 novels finished now and only one of them stands alone, the one that won the Booker Prize, *Paddy Clarke Ha, Ha, Ha*. It's the only character I've never gone back to ... I was writing about these things (people dying, children growing up) and I hadn't really thought of a novel, but then I thought with the combination of things (I was experiencing), I should go back to a character I already know, rather than to invent a new one, and to see how he is really.

When you decided to use Jimmy Rabbitt did you also plan to bring back other characters from *The Commitments*? I knew I wouldn't bring them all back. It was never going to be *The Commitments* reformed. That's an atrocious idea. Running side-by-side with this was a project, a musical that opened last September in London based on *The Commitments*. **There is very little description in the book. Most of the story is told through dialogue. It's a distinctive style. How did you develop it?** Something clicked quite early on, and I started concentrating on the dialogue and making sure that the strength of the characters was in what they said, or didn't say.

The initial nudge in that direction probably came from my teaching experience. For me the challenge became building up the characters by their accents, or trying to achieve their accents. **Jimmy is a music fanatic and always has been. Is there a lot of you written into the character?** Not a lot. I love music, but I am not involved in the industry at all. When I say 'I love music,' I played a bit when I was shaving this morning. I know my stuff and I do listen a lot and I read a lot about music, but I am not as fanatic or as driven as Jimmy would be. The one thing that I did use (in the book) from my own life was that I started doing trumpet lessons. **You deal with serious subjects such as cancer, the economic recession, and the Irish economy and the impact they have on the characters' lives but in a very humorous way.** I think essentially I see the world as comic in a way. I see it as confronting the world more than anything else. And I would like to think that if I ever did have cancer I would obviously take it very seriously. But one of the ways I would do that, particularly in terms of my relations with other people, is to make light of it. **Why are so many of your books about working-class Dubliners?** In terms of the words and the language, it's home. I feel at home. The stories are in a way universal, I suppose, but when I have a character open up his or her mouth I feel like I know what they are saying, what they are wanting to say.