

## BOOKS

## BEST ON THE SHELF

Bestseller lists compiled weekly from 230 independent Canadian booksellers

This Week (Last Week)	Number of weeks on list	Title, author, price in Canadian dollars, publisher
<b>HARDCOVER FICTION</b>		
1 (1)	4wks	<b>The Host</b> by Stephenie Meyer \$28.99 (LittleBrown&Co)
2 (2)	4wks	<b>Careless in Red</b> by Elizabeth George \$29.95 (HarperMorrow)
3 (3)	7wks	<b>The Miracle at Speedy Motors</b> by Alexander McCall Smith \$29.95 (KnopfCanada) No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency #7
4 (-)	1wk	<b>Blood Noir</b> by Laurel K. Hamilton \$28.50 (Berkley)
5 (4)	3wks	<b>Love the One You're With</b> by Emily Griffin \$27.95 (St.Martin's)
6 (8)	35wks	<b>World Without End</b> by Ken Follett \$42 (Dutton)
7 (-)	1wk	<b>Devil May Care: The New James Bond Novel</b> by Sebastian Faulks writing as Ian Fleming \$29.95 (DoubledayCanada)
8 (5)	55wks	<b>A Thousand Splendid Suns</b> by Khaled Hosseini \$34 (Penguin)
9 (6)	2wks	<b>Snuff</b> by Chuck Palahniuk \$29.95 (DoubledayCanada)
10 (7)	2wks	<b>Odd Hours</b> by Dean Koontz \$32 (Bantam)
11 (9)	14wks	<b>Remember Me?</b> by Sophie Kinsella \$30 (Dell)
12 (10)	2wks	<b>Invincible: Star Wars — Legacy of the Force</b> by Troy Denning \$32 (RandomHouse)
13 (11)	6wks	<b>Dead Heat</b> by Joel C. Rosenberg \$27.99 (Tyndale)
14 (12)	7wks	<b>The Cellist of Sarajevo</b> by Steven Galloway \$29.95 (KnopfCanada)
15 (-)	1wk	<b>Bright Shiny Morning</b> by James Frey \$28.95 (HarperMorrow)

## PAPERBACK FICTION

1 (2)	9wks	<b>Late Nights on Air</b> by Elizabeth Hay \$22 (M&S)
2 (1)	4wks	<b>The Hollow: Book Two of the Sign of Seven Trilogy</b> by Nora Roberts \$8.99 (Berkley)
3 (3)	52wks	<b>Water for Elephants</b> by Sara Gruen \$16.50 (HarperCollins)
4 (-)	1wk	<b>High Noon</b> by Nora Roberts \$8.99 (Berkley)
5 (4)	6wks	<b>Divisadero</b> by Michael Ondaatje \$21 (Knopf)
6 (11)	13wks	<b>The Book of Negroes</b> by Lawrence Hill \$24.95 (HarperCollins)
7 (6)	4wks	<b>Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Betrayal</b> by Eric Van Lustbader \$11.99 (GrandCentral)
8 (5)	4wks	<b>The Good Guy</b> by Dean Koontz \$10.99 (Bantam)
9 (-)	1wk	<b>Mister Pip</b> by Lloyd Jones \$21 (KnopfCanada)
10 (7)	32wks	<b>The Kite Runner</b> by Khaled Hosseini \$11.99 (Doubleday) (Movie-Tie-In)
11 (-)	52wks	<b>The Birth House</b> by Ami McKay \$22 (Vintage)
12 (8)	5wks	<b>Invisible Prey</b> by John Sandford \$10.99 (Berkley)
13 (9)	3wks	<b>Gossip Girl: The Carlyles</b> by Cecily von Ziegesar \$11.99 (LittleBrown&Co)
14 (10)	30wks	<b>The Gathering</b> by Anne Enright \$14.95 (Grove)
15 (13)	2wks	<b>Hide</b> by Lisa Gardner \$10.99 (Bantam)

## HARDCOVER NON-FICTION

1 (1)	4wks	<b>Audition: A Memoir</b> by Barbara Walters \$34 (Knopf)
2 (12)	2wks	<b>The Man Who Loved China</b> by Simon Winchester \$29.95 (HarperCollins) The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom
3 (2)	78wks	<b>The Secret</b> by Rhonda Byrne \$26.99 (S&S)
4 (3)	22wks	<b>In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto</b> by Michael Pollan \$26.50 (Penguin)
5 (4)	6wks	<b>An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarian Action in the Twenty-First Century</b> by James Orbinski \$35 (Doubleday)
6 (5)	4wks	<b>The Mom's Book: For the Mom Who's Best at Everything</b> by Alison Maloney \$10.99 (Scholastic)
7 (6)	5wks	<b>The Truth About Canada: Some Important, Some Astonishing and Some Truly by Mel Hurtig \$34.99 (M&amp;S) Appalling Things All Canadians Should Know About Our Country</b>
8 (7)	6wks	<b>Home: A Memoir of My Early Years</b> by Julie Andrews \$28.95 (Hyperion)
9 (-)	1wk	<b>Stolen Innocence: My Story of Growing Up in a Polygamous Sect, Becoming a Teenage Bride, and Breaking Free of Warren Jeffs</b> by Elissa Wall \$27.95 (HarperCollins)
10 (8)	7wks	<b>The Uses and Abuses of History</b> by Margaret MacMillan \$30 (PenguinCanada)
11 (9)	4wks	<b>Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Great-Granddaughter</b> by Sidney Poitier \$27.95 (HarperMorrow)
12 (-)	1wk	<b>Flight of the Hummingbird: A Parable for the Environment</b> by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas \$16 (Greystone)
13 (10)	9wks	<b>Who Owns Canada Now: Old Money, New Money and the Future of Canadian Business</b> by Diane Francis \$34.95 (HarperCollins)
14 (11)	9wks	<b>The Secret Lives of Saints</b> by Daphne Bramham \$32.95 (RandomHouse) Child Brides and Lost Boys in Canada's Polygamous Mormon Sect
15 (-)	1wk	<b>My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey</b> by Jill Bolte Taylor \$27.50 (Viking)

## CHILDREN'S FICTION

1 (1)	90wks	<b>Twilight</b> by Stephenie Meyer \$11.99 (LittleBrown&Co)
2 (4)	44wks	<b>Eclipse</b> by Stephenie Meyer \$21.99 (LittleBrown&Co.)
3 (3)	65wks	<b>New Moon</b> by Stephanie Meyer \$20.99 (LittleBrown&Co)
4 (2)	4wks	<b>The Battle of the Labyrinth</b> by Rick Riordan \$19.99 (Hyperion) Percy Jackson & The Olympians - Book Four
5 (5)	2wks	<b>Raven Rise: Pendragon - Book Nine</b> by D.J. MacHale \$19.99 (Simon&Schuster)
6 (6)	8wks	<b>Queste: Septimus Heap - Book Four</b> by Angie Sage \$19.50 (HarperCollins)
7 (-)	1wk	<b>Eclipse: Special Edition</b> by Stephenie Meyer \$21.99 (LittleBrown&Co.)
8 (7)	6wks	<b>Outcast</b> by Erin Hunter \$18.50 (HarperCollins) Warriors: Power of Three
9 (8)	4wks	<b>The Clique Summer Collection: Dylan</b> by Lisi Harrison \$7.99 (LittleBrown&Co)
10 (-)	1wk	<b>Geronimo Stilton Secret Agent</b> by Geronimo Stilton \$7.99 (Scholastic)
11 (9)	18wks	<b>Before Green Gables</b> by Budge Wilson \$25 (Penguin)
12 (10)	3wks	<b>The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson &amp; the Olympians, Book One</b> by Rick Riordan \$8.99 (Hyperion)
13 (-)	1wk	<b>Seekers: The Quest Begins</b> by Erin Hunter \$18.50 (HarperCollins)
14 (12)	8wks	<b>Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood</b> by Ann Brashares \$12.99 (RandomHouse)
15 (11)	8wks	<b>The Titan's Curse</b> by Rick Riordan \$8.99 (Hyperion) Percy Jackson & The Olympians - Book Three

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## 'POSTCARDS NEVER WRITTEN'

# Doing her part to make the world a little better

By CASEY MACLEOD  
Leader-Post

Janita Van de Velde is a prairie girl with a vision for the world.

"I think it would be a pretty cool world if we could all step up a little bit more," said the 33-year-old Regina woman.

"I really think that the lineup of people to help should always be longer than the lineup of those in need."

Van de Velde is doing her part in creating a cool world, and then some. The native of Mariapolis, Man., sponsors two children through World Vision and is now donating 25 per cent of the proceeds from her first novel *Postcards Never Written* to the group as well.

"I thought it would be cool if people were more aware. It doesn't have to be in a sombre way, it can be in a fun way," explained Van de Velde.

"I wanted to increase awareness of the differences out there for people that don't travel, and while doing that they'd find a way to give back through this book."

The book is a humorous, fictionalized account of one woman's cross-continent journey with her boyfriend, and is based on the real-life adventures Van de Velde had while travelling the world with her husband Roddy.

"*Postcards Never Written* is about what really happens versus the sanitized version of what you tell your parents," she laughed.

"I really got a kick out of, no matter who we met, whether they were 18 or 65, they always said 'If my parents ever knew I was doing this they would kill me.'"

The couple returned in August of 2001, this time settling in Regina where Van de Velde was offered a job with her former employer, Farm Credit Canada.

A couple years later, she was handed a folder by one of her close friends. In it was all the e-mails she had written while on her worldwide adventure.

"My friend, she was like, 'You know Janita, you should really write a book cause I get such a kick out of reading about your adventures. And if I'm ever having a crappy day I pull them out and pee my pants laughing,'" remembered Van de Velde.

"I don't think I ever would have considered myself as a potential novelist unless it had been at the urgings of my friends to give it a shot."

The book's first sentence was penned in 2003 and Van de Velde said she did most of her writing at nights, while she was working full-time during the day.

"I spent a lot of nights from eight o'clock until midnight forcing myself to at least do a thousand words a day," she explained.

It wasn't until she was "heavily pregnant" and on maternity leave in 2006 that she forced herself to really buckle down.

"I thought, 'if I don't finish this before I become a mom when am I going to have the time to do it?'"

Her son Jack won the race but Van de Velde wasn't deterred. She had to go back to work in November 2007 and was determined the book would be done before then. She gave up TV, going to movies and anything else she had to in order to ensure that she reached her goal.

At the same time Van de Velde was writing her book she began looking for a publisher.

"I had sent the first three chapters to two publishers before I was done, and it was rejected by those two publishers," she said.

She picked up a copy of *Getting Your Book Published for Dummies* and learned that finding a publisher could take longer than writing the book.

"I thought, 'To hell with that,'" Van de Velde said candidly.

"However, it said if you're comfortable investing your own money go ahead and self-publish. Thankfully I have a really supportive husband who said 'Hey, it's your dream let's invest in it.'"

Van de Velde found herself an editor and then enlisted the aid of Art Bookbindery in Winnipeg, which also helped with the final



Author Janita Van de Velde is donating a portion of the proceeds from her book to World Vision.

layout and cover design.

The seven-month trip with her husband also motivated Van de Velde to become involved in World Vision.

According to Van de Velde there were "two places in particular that really gave us pause in our travels."

The first was Cape Town, South Africa, the lingering effects of the apartheid there made the couple's "jaws hit the ground."

"There's only so much of that pain you can feel from reading a text book," Van de Velde pointed out.

"I think it's only when you see the effects and the lasting impact ... even though it's been abolished for almost two decades these people have no means to go back to what it was."

The second was the South American country of Bolivia.

"Just seeing how little people had and how happy they were ... it was really difficult for me to reconcile their level of happiness with how little they had," Van de Velde said.

"Those were places where you stop in your tracks and you are embarrassed about what

you had been complaining about a few months before. It kind of just brings a whole new level of awareness in terms of, we have way more than we're ever going to need," she added.

Throughout the entire process, from quitting her job and selling her car so she could travel, to trying to get her book published, Van de Velde said she learned a very valuable life lesson.

"Never bet your life on somebody else's opinion. That was something I learned right from people that thought we were crazy to give up our jobs and go travelling, to the first few publishers that said 'No thanks, I don't think it's good,'" she said passionately.

"Follow your own voice ... I think it's the first time ever that it didn't seem like a cliché, that it seemed very real."

*Postcards Never Written* is available at the Book and Brier Patch in Regina as well as the Oak and Rose Book Shoppe in Moose Jaw, or online at [www.janita.ca](http://www.janita.ca).

A book signing with Janita is scheduled for June 21 at 2 p.m. at the Book and Brier.

## NON-FICTION

## First-hand account of Web dating pitfalls

By BELINDA GOLDSMITH  
Reuters

SYDNEY (Reuters) — When Jane Coloccia set out to find her soul mate online she had no idea that eight years and 200 dates later she would end up an expert on the topic, writing a book and setting up a course to teach the pitfalls of Web love.

Coloccia, now 45, was living in Manhattan and struggling to meet single, straight men when one of her friends met a man online and married him. She decided to give it a go.

Over the next few years, she was swamped with e-mails and instant messages from attentive men, some who told her she was beautiful, others who lied about their age, weight, hair, and marital status, and one who became her therapist.

Learning along the way how to spot the liars, Coloccia has written a book, *Confessions of an Online Dating Addict: A True Account of Dating and Relating in the Internet Age*, tracking the highs, lows — and addiction — of online dating. She is also developing an online course on Web dating.

"I would go on three or four dates a week. One Sunday I had three dates — brunch, lunch and dinner," said Coloccia, who has her own public relations and marketing com-

munications agency.

"It does get very seductive as it is nice to open up an e-mail and someone to say you are beautiful and they want to meet you."

The growth in the online dating industry has been massive and is expected to continue.

Coloccia said at first, she was nervous about going to meet the men she was talking to online. "My impression before I did this was that the people online were weirdos but that is just not the case," she said.

But among the good people there were those who were dishonest about themselves and their reason for being online — as there are always creeps in any bar.

Coloccia said married men, for example, tended not to post a photograph of themselves, would not give a cellphone number and tended to instant message late at night.

Some men were just after one-night stands. Others would post old photographs when they were slimmer and had more hair.

"When I met one man for a date he was bald and fat and his photo must have been from 20 years ago. I told him he looked different and he explained it by saying he was wearing glasses and just had a haircut but that was the end of that," she said.

She was once pawed on a first date, stood up on another, but over the years Coloccia

said she honed her technique to ensure she did not waste time on men that were not suitable.

First dates were usually over coffee, with dinner only booked once the man proved to be likeable. She set geographical limits which knocked out the men in Russia, Malaysia or the west coast of the United States.

She advises would-be daters to really question people before they meet and read their profiles well. She says steer clear of free dating sites where married men and ones after sex reside.

Coloccia has been with her current boyfriend Victor — whom she met online — for 18 months.

She said there is no stigma attached to online dating anymore but it can be addictive. Her therapist even wrote a section in her book about how the ability to build a fantasy life online can be hard to leave.

"Find out why people are there. People date online for a lot of reasons — some are lonely, some just want to IM (instant message) and never meet, some want friendship, marriage or just sex," she said.

"But it is not a real experience unless you are prepared to get out from behind your computer screen and go live it."