New York Times #1 Bestsellers Fiction

(EP 12/12)

A selection of novels that have appeared at the top spot on the New York Times bestseller list since its beginning in 1942.

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1940s

The Robe (1942)
By Lloyd C. Douglas
A Roman soldier's biblical quest. FIC DOUGLAS

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1944)
By Betty Smith
Coming of age in the early 20th century. FIC, CD SMITH

1950s

From Here to Eternity (1951)
By James Jones
World War II soldiers' lives. FIC JONES

East of Eden (1952)
By John Steinbeck
Family saga based on the story of Cain and Abel. FIC, CD STEINBECK

Love is Eternal (1954)
By Irving Stone
President and Mrs. Lincoln. FIC STONE

Andersonville (1956)
By MacKinlay Kantor
The horrors of a Civil War prison. FIC KANTOR

Lolita (1958)
By Vladimir Nabokov
Obsessive love. FIC, CD NABOKOV

Doctor Zhivago (1958)

By Boris Pasternak
Love during the Russian revolution. FIC PASTERNAK

1960s

The Agony and the Ecstasy (1961)
By Irving Stone
Artist Michelangelo's life. FIC STONE

Franny and Zooey (1961)
By J.D. Salinger
The angst of youth. FIC SALINGER

The Last of the Just (1961)

By Andre Schwarz-Bart
A chronicle of Jewish persecution. FIC SCHWARZ-BART

Ship of Fools (1962)
By Katherine Anne Porter
Culture clash among the passengers of a cruise ship. FIC PORTER

The Spy Who Came In From the Cold (1964)

By John Le Carre
Cold War espionage. FIC LE CARRE

The Eighth Day (1967)
By Thornton Wilder
Murder in a mining town. FIC WILDER

The Godfather (1969)

By Mario Puzo
The Mafia underworld. FIC, LP PUZO

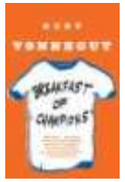
1980s

1970s

The Honorary Consul (1973)
By Graham Greene
Paraguayan revolutionaries kidnap a British diplomat. FIC GREENE

Burr: A Novel (1973)
By Gore Vidal
Aaron Burr's life. FIC VIDAL

Breakfast of Champions (1973)



By Kurt Vonnegut
A satirical look at 1970s America. FIC VONNEGUT

Watership Down (1974)
By Richard Adams
Rabbits on a quest. FIC ADAMS

Curtain (1975)
By Agatha Christie
Inspector Poirot's final case. MYS CHRISTIE

Falconer (1977)
By John Cheever
An imprisoned murderer finds redemption. FIC CHEEVER

Sophie's Choice (1979)
By William Styron
A writer becomes tangled in the lives of his neighbors. FIC STYRON

Gorky Park (1981)
By Martin Cruz Smith
Murder in Moscow. FIC SMITH

The Name of the Rose (1983)
By Umberto Eco
Medieval whodunit. FIC ECO

The Cider House Rules (1985) By John Irving
An orphaned boy learns the medical trade. FIC, LP IRVING

It (1986)
By Stephen King
Friends revisit a horror from their youth. PB KING

Wanderlust (1986)
By Danielle Steel
A 1930s traveler finds love and purpose. FIC STEEL

Presumed Innocent (1987)
By Scott Turow
A prosecutor becomes the accused. FIC TUROW

Bonfire of the Vanities (1988)
By Tom Wolfe
Class, race, politics in 1980s New York City. FIC WOLFE

The Satanic Verses (1989)
By Salman Rushdie
Plane crash survivors undergo a transformation. FIC RUSHDIE

1990s

The Kitchen God's Wife (1991) By Amy Tan
Chinese-American family relations. FIC TAN

The Bridges of Madison County (1993) By Robert James Waller
Love that endures separation. FIC WALLER

The Lost World (1995)
By Michael Crichton
Sequel to *Jurassic Park*. FIC, CD CRICHTON

Servant of the Bones (1996)
By Anne Rice
Occult fiction. FIC RICE

Cold Mountain (1997)
By Charles Frazier
A Civil War soldier deserts. FIC FRAZIER

Sole Survivor (1997)
By Dean Koontz
A photographer captures pictures of the afterlife. FIC KOONTZ

I Know This Much Is True (1998)
By Wally Lamb
A brother is shocked by the actions of his twin. FIC LAMB

Paradise (1998)
By Toni Morrison
African-American community in 1970s Oklahoma. FIC MORRISON

2000s

A Painted House (2001)
By John Grisham
Coming of age in 1950s Arkansas. FIC, LP GRISHAM

The Lovely Bones (2002)
By Alice Sebold
A murdered girl narrates from heaven. FIC, LP, CD SEBOLD

The Five People You Meet in Heaven (2003)
By Mitch Albom
An 83-year-old man learns to appreciate the value of his life. FIC, LP, CD ALBOM

Metro Girl (2004)
By Janet Evanovich
Madcap action ensues when a woman looks for her missing brother. PB EVANOVICH

Anansi Boys (2005)
By Neil Gaiman
The son of an African trickster god discovers his roots. FAN GAIMAN

The Mermaid Chair (2005)
By Sue Monk Kidd
A woman returns to the island of her youth. FIC, LP, CD KIDD

The Thirteenth Tale (2006)

Best Friends Forever (2009)
Jennifer Weiner
Former friends reunited. FIC WEINER

2010s

Freedom (2010)
By Jonathan Franzen
Middle-class American family epic. FIC, LP, CD FRANZEN

Safe Haven (2010)
By Nicholas Sparks
Romance lost and rediscovered. FIC, PB, LP SPARKS

Now You See Her (2011)
By James Patterson
A woman hides a deadly secret. FIC, LP, CD PATTERSON

Chasing Fire (2011)
By Nora Roberts
A woman firefighter finds love. FIC ROBERTS

Lone Wolf (2012)
By Jodi Picoult
A family faces a difficult medical choice. FIC, LP PICOULT

The Innocent (2012)
By David Baldacci
Adventure of a US government hit man. FIC, LP, CD BALDACCI

FIC = Fiction; LP = Large Print; PB = Paperback; CD = Book on CD