

take change



NONFICTION: ESSAYS

Waiting for the Barbarians

by Daniel Mendelsohn
(New York Review Books)

Through sheer accumulation of example, Mendelsohn makes the point throughout this collection that there is scarcely a stick of our mental furniture that hasn't been fashioned in that lush Greek wood. Think about it: Character, drama, history, tragedy, rhetoric — Ancient Greeks not only invented them but refined them better than anyone has since. Most of Mendelsohn's essays about individual artists take a psychobiographical approach: He uncovers a central psychodrama in work and the life of an artist which seems to provide a vital clue to what's unbalanced in artist work. Jonathan Franzen's relationship with his forbidding father is translated in novels into a sadistic and unforgiving approach to his characters and a lack of real humor; the want of self-knowledge Susan Sontag exhibits in her diaries lead her to grotesquely value her storytelling abilities above her critical essays.

Mendelsohn's approach may owe something to Freud but it is as indebted to Greek idea of tragic flaw; and as we watch the stain spread inexorably from the life to the work it makes reading these essays as gripping as a Greek drama.

There is an unlikely hero of this collection, the interwar playwright and songwriter Noël Coward. Coward, who was a devoted and a good friend, a loyal subject, a true professional, and a tireless worker, embodies for Mendelsohn the Delphic injunction to know thyself. Facile and witty but not a genius, Coward had a realistic sense of his own worth as an artist, what he described in one of his most memorable songs as "just/ a talent to amuse." Mendelsohn finds in Coward's letters "a quietly tender sturdiness, a trait that in fact is so much of his theater from being the

Local Best Sellers

The Denver area's best-selling books, according to information from the Tattered Cover Book Stores, Barnes & Noble in Greenwood Village and the Boulder Book Store.

FICTION

1. *The Casual Vacancy*, by J.K. Rowling, \$35
2. *Gone Girl*, by Gillian Flynn, \$25
3. *Winter of the World*, by Ken Follett, \$36
4. *Sutton*, by J.R. Moehringer, \$27.99
5. *Telegraph Avenue*, by Michael Chabon, \$27.99
6. *Buffalo Bill's Dead Now*, by Margaret Coel, \$25.95
7. *The Yellow Birds*, by Kevin Powers, \$24.99
8. *This Is How You Lose Her*, by Junot Diaz, \$26.95
9. *A Thousand Mornings*, by Mary Oliver, \$24.95
10. *The Twelve*, by Justin Cronin, \$28

NONFICTION

1. *Apocalyptic Planet: Field Guide to the Everending Earth*, by Craig Childs, \$27.95
2. *Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot*, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard, \$28
3. *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*, by Anna Quindlen, \$26
4. *God Loves You: He Always Has — He Always Will*, by David Jeremiah, \$23.99
5. *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*, by Charlotte S. Waisman and Jill S. Tietjen, \$29.95
6. *Who I Am: A Memoir*, by Pete Townshend, \$32.50
7. *I Could Pee on This: And Other Poems by Cats*, by Francesco Marciuliano, \$12.95

8. *Who Stole the American Dream?*, by Hedrick Smith, \$30
9. *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*, by Cheryl Strayed, \$25.95
10. *No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission That Killed Osama Bin Laden*, by Mark Owen with Kevin Maurer, \$26.95

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. *The Tiger's Wife*, by Tea Obreht, \$15
2. *Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E.L. James, \$19.99
3. *The Night Circus*, by Erin Morgenstern, \$15
4. *Cloud Atlas*, by David Mitchell, \$15
5. *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding, \$9.99

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. *Beekeeping for Dummies*, by Howland Blackiston, \$19.99
2. *Perfect Health: The Complete Mind/Body Guide, Revised and Updated Edition*, by Deepak Chopra, M.D., \$16.99
3. *Crucial Conversations Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High, Second Edition*, by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Switzler, \$16.95
4. *The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun*, by Gretchen Rubin, \$14.99
5. *Enrique's Journey*, by Sonia Nazario, \$16

National Best Sellers

The New York Times listings are based on sales at 3,985 bookstores and wholesalers with 50,000 retail outlets for the week that ended Oct. 14.

FICTION

1. *The Casual Vacancy*, by J.K. Rowling, \$35
2. *Mad River*, by John Sandford, \$27.95
3. *Winter of the World*, by Ken Follett, \$36
4. *Gone Girl*, by Gillian Flynn, \$25
5. *The Time Keeper*, by Mitch Albom, \$24.99
6. *A Wanted Man*, by Lee Child, \$28
7. *Dark Storm*, by Christine Feehan, \$26.95
8. *Live By Night*, by Dennis Lehane, \$27.99
9. *Phantom*, by Jo Nesbo, \$25.95
10. *This Is How You Lose Her*, by Junot Diaz, \$26.95

NONFICTION

1. *Killing Kennedy*, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard, \$28
2. *No Easy Day*, by Mark Owen with Kevin Maurer, \$26.95
3. *America Again*, by Stephen Colbert, \$28.99
4. *Total Recall*, by Arnold Schwarzenegger with Peter Petre, \$35
5. *Waging Heavy Peace*, by Neil Young, \$30
6. *Killing Lincoln*, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard, \$28
7. *How Children Succeed*, by Paul Tough, \$27
8. *Mugged*, by Ann Coulter, \$26.95
9. *The Price of Politics*, by Bob Woodward, \$30
10. *Into the Fire*, by Dakota Meyer and Bing West, \$27

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. *Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E.L. James, \$15.95
2. *Fifty Shades Darker*, by E.L. James, \$15.95
3. *Fifty Shades Freed*, by E.L. James, \$15.95
4. *Cloud Atlas*, by David Mitchell, \$15
5. *Bared to You*, by Sylvia Day, \$15

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. *Half the Sky*, by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, \$15.95
2. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot, \$16
3. *In the Garden of Beasts*, by Erik Larson, \$16
4. *Heaven is for Real*, by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent, \$16.99
5. *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell, \$16.99

THIS WEEK AT THE TATTERED COVER

Tesoro Historic Lecture: My Heart Has Now Become Changed to Softer Feelings
Sun., Oct. 21, 11:00 am, Historic LoDo



Jeffrey Siger

Mon., Oct. 22, 7:30 pm, Colfax Avenue
Jeffrey Siger, a bestselling American author living on the Greek Aegean island of Mykonos, will read from and sign his new *Chief Inspector Kaldis* mystery *Target: Tinos* (\$24.95 Poisoned Pen Press).



Brené Brown

Thurs., Oct. 25, 7:30 pm, Colfax Avenue
Researcher and thought leader Dr. Brené Brown will discuss and sign her new book *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* (\$26.00 Penguin).

Matthew Inman