

The Golem And the Jinni

Helene Wecker
NOVEL

By Tina Jordan

Helene Wecker's intoxicating fusion of fantasy and historical fiction follows two nonhuman creatures—one plucked from Jewish mythology, the other from Arab legend—who land, quite unexpectedly, on the teeming streets of 19th-century NYC. The first is the Golem, a woman made of clay created by an old man skilled in dark kabbalistic arts. And the second is the Jinni, summoned from fire in the Syrian desert by a Bedouin mystic. Wecker's storytelling skills dazzle as she describes their arrival in the city, their constant struggles



to pass as human, and the ways in which their paths parallel before finally intersecting late one night on the Bowery. The book's magic, filtered through the old-time hustle and bustle of the Lower East Side, lingers long after the final page. **A**

QUICK TAKES

In the Body of the World
Eve Ensler
MEMOIR



What Anne Lamott's *Operating Instructions* did for anxious new mothers, Ensler's memoir does for women who are fighting cancer or may fight it one day.

Her breezy, moving tale about surviving advanced uterine cancer (and yes, the creator of *The Vagina Monologues* saw the irony) shoots straight about surgery, chemo, nausea, and fear—and how the disease forced her to deal with her own childhood abuse. Most powerfully, she describes her ongoing work with women in the Congo. Ensler also drops useful advice: Gather your girlfriends close. Buy watercolors. Look at trees. Never stop helping other women. **A-** —Jill Bernstein

The Last Train to Zona Verde
Paul Theroux
NONFICTION



There is an air of deep melancholy to Paul Theroux's latest travel memoir, in which he returns to the continent he chronicled previously in *Dark Star*

Safari, making his way from the slums of Cape Town up the eastern coast of Africa into the terra incognita of the bush. Theroux is too experienced to stumble into romanticism, and he examines his own motivations just as thoroughly as the details of his surroundings. He has no illusions about the fact that he is just a passing visitor (a privileged one at that), but that doesn't make his observations, or exquisite writing, any less engaging.

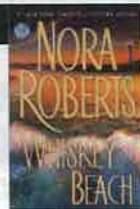
A- —Keith Staskiewicz

The Chart

HARDCOVER BEST-SELLERS

1 Whiskey Beach

Just eight weeks ago, super-prolific author Nora Roberts debuted at No. 2 with *Calculated in Death*, under her pseudonym, J.D. Robb.



FICTION TOP 10

		WEEKS ON LIST
1	WHISKEY BEACH Nora Roberts	1
2	DADDY'S GONE A HUNTING Mary Higgins Clark	2
3	TAKING EVE Irls Johansen	1
4	STARTING NOW Debble Macomber	3
5	DON'T GO Lisa Scottoline	2
6	SIX YEARS Harlan Coben	5
7	UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES Stuart Woods	2
8	GONE GIRL Gillian Flynn	46
9	LIFE AFTER LIFE Kate Atkinson	3
10	THE BURGESS BOYS Elizabeth Strout	4

NONFICTION TOP 10

		WEEKS ON LIST
1	LEAN IN Sheryl Sandberg	7
2	LEADERSHIP Orrin Woodward & Oliver DeMille	1
3	THE ONE THING Gary Keller with Jay Papasan	5
4	THE FAST METABOLISM DIET Haylie Pomroy	2
5	IT'S ALL GOOD Gwyneth Paltrow	3
6	THE DUCK COMMANDER FAMILY Willie Robertson & Korie Robertson with Mark Schlabach	19
7	THE ATHENA DOCTRINE John Gerzema & Michael D'Antonio No. 1 best-selling author Sheryl Sandberg would agree with these guys, who call for more estrogen in the workplace. Gerzema and D'Antonio use data to argue that typically "feminine" traits—like collaboration, expressiveness, and intuition—are what's needed in the modern workplace rather than a masculine, winner-take-all mentality.	1
8	LIFE CODE Dr. Phil McGraw	10
9	MAN 2.0 ENGINEERING THE ALPHA John Romaniello & Adam Bornstein	1
10	RELISH Daphne Oz The <i>Chew</i> cohost cooks up some healthy recipes that are certainly less restrictive than the ones in Gwyneth Paltrow's healthy-living guide. Needless to say, Oz's book gets a proud endorsement from her dad, Dr. Mehmet Oz.	1

SOURCE: Week ending April 21, 2013, powered by Nielsen BookScan © The Nielsen Company

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