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TBR

Inside the List

By [DWIGHT GARNER](#)

THE FALL OF 2001: Islam was not much on America's mind on Sunday, Sept. 9, 2001 — two days before 9/11. The No. 1 book on The Times's nonfiction list that week was [Stephen E. Ambrose's](#) "Wild Blue: The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s Over Germany," followed at No. 2 by [David McCullough's](#) "John Adams." (The book at the top of the fiction list was "Valhalla Rising," by Clive Cussler.) Within a few weeks, though, the picture began to shift. Among the books that received special attention and began to appear on the hardcover nonfiction list that fall — all of them written before 9/11 — were: "Islam," by Karen Armstrong, first published in 2000; "Germs," a book about biological weapons by the New York Times reporters Judith Miller, Stephen Engelberg and William Broad; "Twin Towers: The Life of New York City's World Trade Center," by Angus Kress Gillespie; "The Lost Son: A Life in Pursuit of Justice," a memoir by Bernard Kerik; and "Final Days," a critical book about the Clinton White House by [Barbara Olson](#), who died aboard a hijacked jetliner on Sept. 11. After these books, the deluge.

OUT WITH THE OLD: At the beginning of last year — Jan. 7, 2007 — the No. 1 novel was "For One More Day," by [Mitch Albom](#), followed by James Patterson's "Cross." Many months later, Albom's book remains on the hardcover list; this week it's at No. 5. The top nonfiction books at this time last year were [Barack Obama's](#) "Audacity of Hope" and [John Grisham's](#) "Innocent Man."

THE FICTION LIST: Two thousand and seven was not a bad year, it turns out, for literary fiction — whatever that phrase means — on the best-seller lists. Here are a few of the titles that made the hardcover list, in order of the number of weeks they appeared here: "The Yiddish Policemen's Union," by [Michael Chabon](#) (six weeks); "On Chesil Beach," by [Ian McEwan](#) (five weeks); "Run," by [Ann Patchett](#) (five weeks); "Bridge of Sighs," by Richard Russo (five weeks); "Away," by Amy Bloom (four weeks); "The Reluctant Fundamentalist," by Mohsin Hamid (four weeks); "Pontoon," by [Garrison Keillor](#) (four weeks); "Spook Country," by William Gibson (three weeks); "The Castle in the Forest," by [Norman Mailer](#) (three weeks); "Ten Days in the Hills," by [Jane Smiley](#) (three weeks); "Falling Man," by [Don DeLillo](#) (two weeks); "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," by Junot Díaz (two weeks); and "The Abstinence Teacher," by [Tom Perrotta](#) (two weeks). Among the books that appeared on the hardcover list for one week: "Exit Ghost," by [Philip Roth](#); "Songs Without Words," by Ann Packer; "New England White," by [Stephen L. Carter](#); "What Is the What," by [Dave Eggers](#); "Heyday," by Kurt Andersen; "The Maytrees," by Annie Dillard; and "Tree of Smoke," by [Denis Johnson](#).

GIFT BOOKS: The used-book Web site [abebooks.com](#) posted a list of some of the most expensive books it sold in the run-up to Christmas. Among them: a privately printed leather-bound book called "Two Stories,"

by Salman Rushdie, that sold for \$7,031, and a 1926 first edition of “Winnie the Pooh.” It sold for \$5,500.

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