

## national bestsellers

Here are the bestsellers for the week that ended Saturday, June 5, compiled from data from independent and chain bookstores, book wholesalers and independent distributors nationwide.

### HARDCOVER FICTION

1. Golden Girl. Elin Hilderbrand. Little, Brown
2. Malibu Rising. Taylor Jenkins Reid. Ballantine
3. The Last Thing He Told Me. Laura Dave. Simon & Schuster
4. Sooley. John Grisham. Doubleday
5. Legacy. Nora Roberts. St. Martin's
6. The Midnight Library. Matt Haig. Viking
7. Project Hail Mary. Andy Weir. Ballantine

8. The Other Black Girl. Zakiya Dalila Harris. Atria
9. The Four Winds. Kristin Hannah. St. Martin's
10. 21st Birthday. Patterson/Paetro. Little, Brown

### HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. Killing the Mob. O'Reilly/Dugard. St. Martin's
2. How the Word Is Passed. Clint Smith. Little, Brown
3. What Happened to You? Perry/Winfrey. Flatiron/Oprah
4. After the Fall. Ben Rhodes. Random House
5. Greenlights. Matthew McConaughey. Crown
6. The Anthropocene Reviewed (signed ed.). John Green. Dutton
7. The Premonition. Michael Lewis. Norton
8. The Hill We Climb. Amanda Gorman. Viking

9. The Bomber Mafia. Malcolm Gladwell. Little, Brown
10. Zero Fail. Carol Leonnig. Random House

### MASS MARKET

1. Daddy's Girls. Danielle Steel. Dell
2. Shadow Storm. Christine Feehan. Berkley
3. The Sentinel. Child/Child. Dell
4. Cajun Justice. Patterson/Axum. Grand Central
5. Red River Vengeance. William W. Johnstone. Pinnacle
6. Savage Sunday. William W. Johnstone. Pinnacle
7. Wicked Lies. Jackson/Bush. Zebra
8. The Unforgiven. Heather Graham. Mira
9. Someday Soon. Debbie Macomber. Avon

10. Fearless. Fern Michaels. Zebra

### TRADE PAPERBACK

1. Freed. E.L. James. Bloom
2. One Last Stop. Casey McQuiston. Griffin
3. Chainsaw Man, Vol. 5. Tatsuki Fujimoto. Viz
4. My Hero Academia, Vol. 28. Kohei Horikoshi. Viz
5. Jujutsu Kaisen, Vol. 10. Gege Akutami. Viz
6. Where the Crawdads Sing. Delia Owens. Putnam
7. Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba, Vol. 22. Koyoharu Gotouge. Viz
8. People We Meet on Vacation. Emily Henry. Berkley
9. The Silent Patient. Alex Michaelides. Celadon
10. The Book of Lost Names. Kristin Harmel. Gallery

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first met her, had a bit of a lisp. She called my wife 'Miss Kim,' and me 'Mr. Wick.' So Mr. Wick made it into the book."

When asked if he often gets up and writes in the middle of the night, he laughed and said, "I am a bit of a strange character."

As if to back that claim, Potvin, who's Canadian, brought up his atypical career path, in which he began as a traffic engineer in Saudi Arabia — where two of his three kids, Becky, Doug and Michaela were born.

Upon his return to Canada, however, he

found it difficult to continue as an engineer, as all his professional contacts were overseas.

"In engineering, your history matters. I had five years of experience in Saudi Arabia, but nobody cares about that in Canada because it's 'Who do you know?'" Potvin said.

So he decided a new career was in order, perhaps one involving medicine, like so many other family members.

"My twin brother was an M.D., my little brother was a pharmacist, my wife was a nurse, and I said, 'OK, what medicine needs

the most math?' They said, 'Oh, probably optometry,'" he said, laughing.

Rather than go into practice seeing patients, he ended up in research at Bausch and Lomb, and later at Alcon, doing medical affairs, work that involves translating science so that doctors and patients find it comprehensible.

"That's not your typical career path," he said. "I tend to be a little bit varied in my work."

The types of books he writes are varied also. Along with "Empty," Potvin has also written and self-published two collections of cryptic crossword puzzles after he broke his neck in a horrific bike accident.

"I just flipped over the front of a bike at low speed," he said. "An animal ran in front of my wife's bike, and I hit both brakes. The front one caught first."

He's fully mobile now, but at the time of his accident, he was stuck in a neck halo for 90 days.

"I was doing those puzzles, but they don't take long if you're good at them, so my wife said, 'Why don't you just make some?'"

He ended up writing two books of them, "Cryptic Crosswords 4U" and "Cryptic Crosswords 4U 2." They, like "Empty," are available at Amazon.com.

Along with penning crossword books, Potvin's time bedridden also led him to the conclusion that he preferred data to meetings, after which he decided to become a research consultant.

Today, his past professions and interests are wedded together via the consulting business Science in Vision, which provides scientific support for the eye care community. Potvin explained the "strange niche" of his work via a hypothetical scenario in which an eye surgeon might use a company's lenses in cataract surgeries.

"I can work with a surgeon and prepare a proposal to a company and say, 'We're going to put 30 of these lenses in people's eyes, measure them and write a paper about how they did,'" Potvin said. "So I can do the math, I can do the writing, and I can understand the ophthalmology part."



Submitted photo

Page 8 of the children's book "Empty," in which a young girl comes to terms with her neighbor's death, by Bend author Richard Potvin.

Potvin is at work on another book, about Alzheimer's, and has an envelope of old science fiction stories, and rejection letters, that he plans to dig into after he downsizes to part-time consulting work later this summer.

Interestingly, writing "Empty" that night in 2018 was triggered neither by a dream nor a specific person he was grieving.

At least that's what Potvin believed at the time. After his initial interview with this reporter, Potvin sent a follow-up email with the subject line, "New twist."

"You made me think a bit harder about my motivations regarding the story," Potvin wrote. "I wrote it in the first week of August, 2018. The first week of August is always a time where I am more in tune with our mortality."

"My twin brother passed away in an accident on August 6, 2003, two days after our 45th birthday. So, August 2018 would have been the 15th anniversary of that event."

"It is quite possible that this is what woke me up that night."

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