



the explosion of the first atomic bomb at Los Alamos in July 1945 to the incineration of Hiroshima, Japan, three weeks later, difficult and dramatic material that he has turned into that rare thing: an important page-turner. Walker focuses on the people whose lives the bomb touched most profoundly, moving deftly from an incisive portrait of U.S. secretary of war Henry Stimson, a tortured soul desperate to end the war without resorting to the bomb, to the hotshot American pilots who eventually dropped it, to a Hiroshima doctor who treated its unspeakably mutilated victims. Never polemical, Walker forces you to draw your own moral conclusions, and he doesn't make it easy. **A-** —*JR*

THE PROPHET OF ZONGO STREET

Mohammed Naseehu Ali
Stories (Amistad, \$22.95)



Ravaged by both revolution and poverty, the fictional residents of Zongo Street in Kumasi, Ghana, have their hands full: Crazy Kumi holds his book of esoteric wisdom and teaches his neighbors about the white man's evil schemes; 12-year-old Yaro bears the curse of "detecting death in people's eyes"; and Mr. Raffique literally clutches his, um, manhood as he prepares—while the whole neighborhood waits and a specially appointed little old lady bears witness at his bedside—to disprove his new wife's charge that he is



Ali writes like a butterfly

an impotent "pansy." Ali skillfully crafts characters whose warmth and familiarity entice the reader. But too often, his stories' endings fall flat, leaving wisps of dissatisfaction lingering in the West African air. **B** —*Channing Joseph*

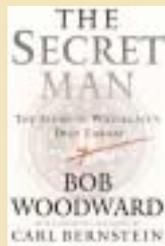
DOUBLE TAP

Steve Martini
Legal Thriller (Putnam, \$26.95)



Martini's eighth novel featuring savvy defense attorney Paul Madriani touches a timely nerve in the paranoid Patriot Act era. Madriani is called in to defend a former Army sharpshooter charged with the murder of a software tycoon for whom he once provided security (and affection). However, the company's cozy relationship with the Department of Defense—and whispers of the government running illegal spyware on its citizens—has Madriani smelling cover-up. Like a marble inching toward the edge of a table, *Double Tap* rolls along slowly before it suddenly speeds to a breathless climax. **B+** —*Bob Cannon*

Best-Sellers



TOP 'SECRET'

Five weeks after a *Vanity Fair* article revealed Mark Felt as Watergate's Deep Throat, *Washington Post* reporter Bob Woodward's book *The Secret Man* debuts on the nonfiction chart at No. 6, with 750,000 copies in print. In fiction, Elizabeth Lowell's suspense novel *Always Time to Die* bows at No. 9.

FICTION

| | | WEEKS ON LIST |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1 | THE HISTORIAN Elizabeth Kostova, <i>Little, Brown</i> , \$25.95 | 4 |
| 2 | ELEVEN ON TOP Janet Evanovich, <i>St. Martin's</i> , \$26.95 | 3 |
| 3 | THE DA VINCI CODE Dan Brown, <i>Doubleday</i> , \$24.95 | 119 |
| 4 | THE MERMAID CHAIR Sue Monk Kidd, <i>Viking</i> , \$24.95 | 14 |
| 5 | MIRACLE Danielle Steel, <i>Delacorte</i> , \$20 | 2 |
| 6 | A LONG WAY DOWN Nick Hornby, <i>Riverhead</i> , \$24.95 | 5 |
| 7 | 4TH OF JULY James Patterson and Maxine Paetro, <i>Little, Brown</i> , \$27.95 | 10 |
| 8 | TRUE BELIEVER Nicholas Sparks, <i>Warner</i> , \$24.95 | 13 |
| 9 | ALWAYS TIME TO DIE Elizabeth Lowell, <i>Morrow</i> , \$24.95 | 1 |
| 10 | CROSS BONES Kathy Reichs, <i>Scribner</i> , \$25.95 | 2 |

NONFICTION

| | | WEEKS ON LIST |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1 | 1776 David McCullough, <i>Simon & Schuster</i> , \$32 | 7 |
| 2 | NATURAL CURES "THEY" DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT Kevin Trudeau, <i>Alliance Publishing</i> , \$29.95 | 4 |
| 3 | FREAKONOMICS Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, <i>Morrow</i> , \$25.95 | 13 |
| 4 | YOU: THE OWNER'S MANUAL Michael F. Roizen and Mehmet C. Oz, <i>HarperResource</i> , \$24.95 | 10 |
| 5 | THE WORLD IS FLAT Thomas L. Friedman, <i>FSG</i> , \$27.50 | 14 |
| 6 | THE SECRET MAN Bob Woodward, <i>Simon & Schuster</i> , \$23 | 1 |
| 7 | 100 PEOPLE WHO ARE SCREWING UP AMERICA Bernard Goldberg, <i>HarperCollins</i> , \$25.95 | 1 |
| 8 | THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE Rick Warren, <i>Zondervan</i> , \$19.99 | 126 |
| 9 | BLINK Malcolm Gladwell, <i>Little, Brown</i> , \$25.95 | 26 |
| 10 | YOUR BEST LIFE NOW Joel Osteen, <i>Warner Faith</i> , \$19.99 | 38 |

SOURCE: PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, WEEK OF JULY 4-10, 2005

OPENING ACTS

"The night's closing fog wrapped everything in quiet, impenetrable menace.... 'A night like this,' Chandler Hemmings muttered, 'a man could get himself knifed and not even notice.' 'Oh,' Rolfe said dryly, 'I expect he'd notice.' Not that it would do him much good, by then..." —*From the first chapter of Marie Jakober's Civil War-era spy thriller, SONS OF LIBERTY (Forge, \$25.95)*

"In order to have the best chance of surviving sudden immersion you should make sure you are in a calm and temperate sea—preferably the Mediterranean in mid-summer. You should also be male, and fit, but probably have a reasonable amount of fat as well. If female, then you may have a worse chance of surviving the initial shock of shipwreck but a better long-term prospect of survival..." —*From the first chapter of Bella Bathurst's account of shipwrecks, THE WRECKERS (Houghton Mifflin, \$25)*

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