

BESTSELLERS

NON-FICTION
Hardbacks

Last week's ratings in brackets

1 (-) Rick Stein's
Mediterranean Escapes
by Rick Stein
(BBC, £20)
Week: 4,526 (Total: 5,385)

2 (1) **The Great Big
Glorious Book for Girls**
by Rosemary Davidson and
Sarah Vine
(Viking, £18.99)
3,617 (19,596)

3 (4) **The Secret**
by Rhonda Byrne
(Simon & Schuster, £12)
3,494 (89,220)

4 (2) **The Blair Years**
by Alastair Campbell
(Hutchinson, £25)
3,433 (85,861)

5 (3) **Gordon Ramsay's
Fast Food**
by Gordon Ramsay
(Quadrille, £19.99)
3,401 (143,667)

Paperbacks

1 (1) **Marley and Me**
by John Grogan
(Hodder, £7.99)
23,330 (81,751)

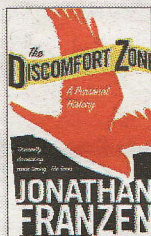
2 (2) **The Sound of
Laughter**
by Peter Kay
(Arrow, £7.99)
20,215 (154,236)

3 (-) **Damaged**
by Cathy Glass
(HarperElement, £6.99)
16,277 (18,399)

4 (3) **The Life and Times
of the Thunderbolt Kid**
by Bill Bryson
(Black Swan, £7.99)
13,565 (297,955)

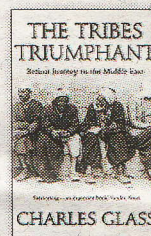
5 (4) **The God Delusion**
by Richard Dawkins
(Black Swan, £8.99)
12,832 (204,534)

PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS



**The
Discomfort
Zone**
by Jonathan
Franzen
HarperPerennial, £8.99

Jonathan Franzen grew up in middle-class, 1960s America, a loser longing to escape the suburbs. He spends the first part of this wryly amusing memoir lurching from one social embarrassment to another. Never quite the rebel he wanted to be, he is afraid to hang out with the cool kids, but doesn't want to be "social death". Franzen's cadenced prose realises perfectly his fraught relationship with his family and his account of his failed marriage is poignant and honest. Discussions of Hermann Hesse, Charlie Brown and birdwatching provide light relief.
Philip Womack



**The Tribes
Triumphant**
by Charles Glass
HarperPerennial, £8.99

Charles Glass is an American descended from Irish and Lebanese Catholics. A keen awareness of tribalism has driven his reporting from the Middle East over the past 30 years. Here he travels to Jordan, Israel, the Occupied Territories, Syria and finally Lebanon – where he escaped from Hizbollah 20 years ago. Glass meets some fascinating people: Armenians living in Jerusalem; Palestinians who educated themselves in Israeli jails; revisionist Israeli historians. The most moving moment in this fluently written account is when Glass meets an Iraqi Jewish novelist pining for Baghdad.
Sameer Rahim

**The Wages of
Destruction**
by Adam Tooze
Penguin, £12.99

Far from the invincible bulldozer of enduring myth, the Germany that confronted the world in 1939 was a shambles. Hamstrung by an unproductive farming sector and facing materials shortages, it resorted to blitzkrieg-style campaigns because it could not have coped with a long war. But why fight at all? Adam Tooze lays bare the economic imperatives that shaped Hitler's ideology, and reveals how America came to replace the USSR at the heart of Nazi demonology.



Over
by Margaret
Forster
Vintage, £7.99

Three years after the death of her daughter Miranda, Louise begins to write about how the tragedy has affected her family. An inquest ruled that there was no one to blame for the sailing accident in which Miranda died, but her father, Don, will not accept this conclusion and wants retribution. Margaret Forster's prose rings true when describing human relationships. Louise finds answers through her struggles with her writing, a process that is interesting to follow. There are, however, moments when her self-analysis becomes wearing, making this gentle novel hard work.
Jo Caird