



## BESTSELLERS

### NON-FICTION

#### Hardbacks

Last week's ratings in brackets

**1** (1) *Nigella Express*  
By Nigella Lawson  
(Chatto & Windus, £25)

**2** (3) *My Booky Wook*  
By Russell Brand  
(Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99)

**3** (2) *Guinness World Records 2008*  
(Guinness World Records, £18)

**4** (5) *On the Edge: My Story*  
By Richard Hammond  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.99)

**5** (4) *Don't Stop Me Now*  
By Jeremy Clarkson  
(Michael Joseph, £20)

#### Paperbacks

**1** (1) *The Innocent Man*  
By John Grisham  
(Arrow, £7.99)

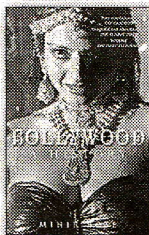
**2** (2) *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*  
By Bill Bryson  
(Black Swan, £7.99)

**3** (3) *How to Fossilise Your Hamster*  
By Mick O'Hare  
(Profile, £7.99)

**4** (6) *Marley and Me*  
By John Grogan  
(Hodder & Stoughton, £7.99)

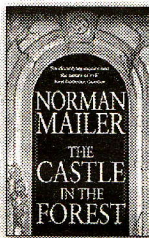
**5** (7) *The World According to Clarkson*  
By Jeremy Clarkson  
(Penguin, £7.99)

## PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS



**Bollywood**  
by Mihir Bose  
Tempus, £9.99

This history of Bollywood is, like its subject, an epic full of colour and entertainment. Mihir Bose brings pace and detail to the story: the men and women who shaped the industry (which sells a billion more tickets annually than Hollywood) form a bright tissue of human interest over the historical facts. Key developments, such as the post-colonial censors who forced film-makers to create eroticism out of songs and imagery, are dramatised through accounts of the films and their on-set politics. Indian cinema emerges as an intriguing and curious fantasy world.  
*Caroline Miller*

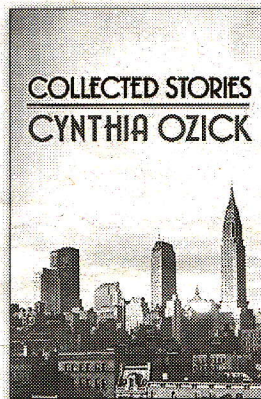


**The Castle in the Forest**  
by Norman Mailer  
Abacus, £9.99

Norman Mailer died too soon to see his final novel, about the infant Adolf Hitler, win this year's *Literary Review* Bad Sex Award – though a Diabolical Sex Award might have been more appropriate. The passage in question sees an emissary of the devil taking part in a metaphysical threesome with Hitler's parents, leading to the Führer's conception. Mailer's carefully researched portrait of young Adolf's family life is impressive, if over-stuffed with Freudian detail. But the novel's supernatural parts, which assert that analysing Hitler cannot help us understand him, are tedious.  
*Jake Kerridge*

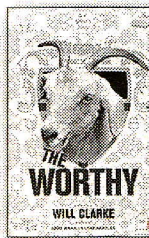
**Collected Stories**  
by Cynthia Ozick  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson,  
£10.99

In these stories desperation, loss and failure are found side by side with moments of epiphany. Cynthia Ozick's elegiac, knotty writing is at once humorous and heartbreaking. The simplest actions are invested with meaning, while her characters struggle through a world that, though out to get them, often provides them with unexpected release. Her themes are identity and inversion: in one story, a rabbi, a man of "piety and brains", is found to have slept



with dryads; in another, a famous poet is discovered to have been a plagiarist all along; in the funniest, a "painfully young" TS Eliot has a poem edited out of all recognition.

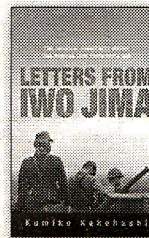
Ozick's characters find themselves drawn into the webs of other people, but then realise that "the quarry is all the time in the pursuer". Reading this astonishing collection is like standing in between two mirrors: uncomfortable, dizzying, but enthralling. It should be read by everyone.  
*Philip Womack*



**The Worthy**  
by Will Clarke  
Simon & Schuster,  
£7.99

Conrad Avery Sutton III has been killed by Ryan Hutchins, the

bullying president of his fraternity Gamma Chi – though no one believes this is the case, so clean is Ryan's reputation. Now a ghost, Conrad wants revenge, but finds that getting things done is not that easy when you're dead. The laughs in Will Clarke's novel come from the stereotypes he plays on and the absurd situations he creates, but his humour has a particularly American flavour that will not appeal to everyone. This is the literary equivalent of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and none the worse for it.  
*Jo Caird*



**Letters from Iwo Jima**  
by Kamiko Kakehashi,  
tr by Giles Murray  
Phoenix, £7.99

Iwo Jima is an island 750 miles south of Tokyo that became vital during the Second World War because it was flat enough to be used as an unsinkable battleship. In 1945, when the Japanese knew that Iwo Jima would fall to the Americans, they still sent 20,000 troops to defend it. Led by the inspired General Kuribayashi – the author of the letters that provide the kernel of this history – their task was to die in such a way as to cost the Americans dear. Paeans to the fighting spirit of the Japanese soldier ought to make one flinch, but this is elegant, persuasive and even moving.  
*Toby Clements*