

Quiet as a Spouse Daniel Silva begins a phone interview with an apology for taking a few hours to respond to a request for a phone interview.

"I was getting to work on my new manuscript and, per my usual work habits, I switched off my internet and stuck my phone in another room,"



'My favorite thing is to do the laundry.'

explained Silva, who is the author of 25 spy novels, including "Portrait of an Unknown Woman," now in its third week on the hardcover fiction list after debuting at No. 1.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Silva has completed three books. (The

other two are "The Cellist" and "The Order.") He will let a new idea percolate over the summer, then enter a seven-month writing cycle that sounds both grueling and so simple, you wonder why you haven't attempted it at home. "I scratch and peck and find my way into a book, and I consider Labor Day the starting gun," Silva said. "I hand it in on April 1." Generally, he wraps up final edits by early June, calling in changes to his publisher until the last possible moment. ("I'm always up against the clock.") In the peak of the process, he'll work for 12 hours at a time.

Silva, a former journalist, admits to one creative quirk: He requires absolute silence while cooking up new capers for Gabriel Allon, his art-restoring, intelligence-gathering, newly retired protagonist. "A leaf blower could destroy my day," said Silva, who works from home offices in Georgetown and Palm Beach County, Fla. (The former has a view of a small garden; the latter overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway.) "You can hear the lawn mower on the sports field adjacent to our house. It's the bane of my existence."

Sounds of walking, construction and "general banging" are also pet peeves. As for the most distracting noise, Silva admitted, "My least favorite is also my favorite. My wife is a reporter for CNN. When she is on the phone, she is *really* loud. I love listening to her do her work but it interferes with mine, so there's a lot of 'shush' and 'can you please go to another room.'" Silva and Jamie Gangel have been married since 1987; he added, "The sound of my typing annoys her. It's a two-way street."

Lest you think Silva is an ogre (his word), his writing routine includes one mutually beneficial, household-friendly quirk. "When I take a break, my favorite thing is to do the laundry," he said. "My wife comes home to a lovely folded pile of her clothes every single day. The laundry bins are empty in our house." □

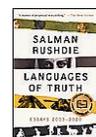
PRINT / HARDCOVER BEST SELLERS

SALES PERIOD OF JULY 31-AUGUST 6

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	Fiction	WEEKS ON LIST	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	Nonfiction	WEEKS ON LIST
1	1	THE 6:20 MAN , by David Baldacci. (Grand Central) When his ex-girlfriend turns up dead in his office building, an entry-level investment analyst delves into the halls of economic power.	4	1	1	FINDING ME , by Viola Davis. (HarperOne) The multiple award-winning actress describes the difficulties she encountered before claiming her sense of self and achieving professional success.	15
2		WRONG PLACE WRONG TIME , by Gillian McAllister. (Morrow) A mother who witnesses her son murder a stranger finds her days are going in reverse and seeks to use that to alter events.	1	2	3	CRYING IN H MART , by Michelle Zauner. (Knopf) The leader of the indie rock project Japanese Breakfast describes creating her own identity after losing her mother to cancer.	55
3	2	PORTRAIT OF AN UNKNOWN WOMAN , by Daniel Silva. (Harper) The 22nd book in the Gabriel Allon series. Allon becomes an art forger to uncover a multibillion-dollar fraud.	3	3	7	GREENLIGHTS , by Matthew McConaughey. (Crown) The Academy Award-winning actor shares snippets from the diaries he kept over the last 35 years.	80
4	3	THE HOTEL NANTUCKET , by Elin Hilderbrand. (Little, Brown) The new general manager of a hotel far from its Gilded Age heyday deals with the complicated pasts of her guests and staff.	8	4	10	WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? , by Bruce D. Perry and Oprah Winfrey. (Flatiron) An approach to dealing with trauma that shifts an essential question used to investigate it.	40
5	4	THE IT GIRL , by Ruth Ware. (Scout) A decade after her first year at Oxford, an expectant mother looks into the mystery of her former best friend's death.	4	5	4	THE BIG LIE , by Jonathan Lemire. (Flatiron) The MSNBC host and White House bureau chief at Politico examines Donald Trump's continuing influence over the Republican Party.	2
6	10	THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME , by Laura Dave. (Simon & Schuster) Hannah Hall discovers truths about her missing husband and bonds with his daughter from a previous relationship.	60	6	5	BATTLE FOR THE AMERICAN MIND , by Pete Hegseth with David Goodwin. (Broadside) The "Fox & Friends Weekend" host makes his case for what he calls classical Christian education. (†)	8
7	6	SPARRING PARTNERS , by John Grisham. (Doubleday) Three novellas: "Homecoming," "Strawberry Moon" and "Sparring Partners."	10	7	8	THINK AGAIN , by Adam Grant. (Viking) An examination of the cognitive skills of rethinking and unlearning that could be used to adapt to a rapidly changing world.	31
8	5	SHATTERED , by James Patterson and James O. Born. (Little, Brown) The 14th book in the Michael Bennett series.	3	8	11	UNTAMED , by Glennon Doyle. (Dial) The activist and public speaker describes her journey of listening to her inner voice.	100
9	7	TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW , by Gabrielle Zevin. (Knopf) Two friends find their partnership challenged in the world of video game design.	5	9	9	KILLING THE KILLERS , by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. (St. Martin's) The 11th book in the conservative commentator's Killing series gives an account of the global war against terrorists.	14
10		THE MANY DAUGHTERS OF AFONG MOY , by Jamie Ford. (Atria) A former poet laureate grapples with inherited trauma and connects with past generations of women in her family.	1	10	2	HAPPY-GO-LUCKY , by David Sedaris. (Little, Brown) The humorist portrays personal and public upheavals of his life in its seventh decade and the world in the time of a pandemic.	10

An asterisk (*) indicates that a book's sales are barely distinguishable from those of the book above. A dagger (†) indicates that some bookstores report receiving bulk orders.

Paperback Row / BY MIGUEL SALAZAR



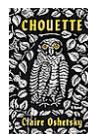
LANGUAGES OF TRUTH: Essays 2003-2020, by Salman Rushdie. (Random House, 368 pp., \$20.) Rushdie's collection gathers nearly two decades of writings on literature and life, including a defense of the highly criticized fantastical and magical elements of his novels, remembrances of friends such as Carrie Fisher and Christopher Hitchens, and his frightening experience contracting Covid-19 in 2020.



THE DOPE: The Real History of the Mexican Drug Trade, by Benjamin T. Smith. (Norton, 480 pp., \$20.) Smith tells a sweeping and clarifying history of the drug trade that opens with the 1908 arrest of a marijuana wholesaler in Mexico City and chronicles the violence, corruption and greed on both sides of the border that helped fuel the industry's rise over the next century.



ALL THE FREQUENT TROUBLES OF OUR DAYS: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler, by Rebecca Donner. (Back Bay, 576 pp., \$18.99.) Donner's book about the anti-fascist American Mildred Harnack, who was part of the German resistance against Hitler and executed by the Nazi regime in 1943, uses government archives, interviews, photographs, diaries and letters to present an expansive and textured account of her life.



CHOUETTE, by Claire Oshetsky. (Ecco, 256 pp., \$16.99.) This debut novel tells the story of Tiny, a professional cellist in Sacramento, who — after an affair with an owl — gives birth to a humanoid owl-baby, forcing her to grapple with the dual responsibilities of mother and artist while staving off pressure to make her daughter conform to societal expectations.



PRETENDING IS LYING, by Dominique Goblet. Translated by Sophie Yanow. (New York Review Comics, 144 pp., \$24.95.) Goblet, a Belgian painter and sculptor, employs charcoal, pencil, ink and splotches of oil to render layered memories of trauma, pleasure and dark humor in this readable graphic memoir. Our reviewer, Sheila Heti, called it "tender, affecting and complete."



OUT, by Natsuo Kirino. Translated by Stephen B. Snyder. (Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 416 pp., \$18.) This reissued 1997 Japanese crime novel is "a potent cocktail of urban blight, perverse feminism and vigilante justice," according to a 2003 Times review. It follows a woman who, after being fired from her job for demanding equal rights, starts working nights at a boxed lunch factory, where she becomes an accomplice to the murder of a colleague's abusive husband.