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## Press Release

### The 50 Fiction Authors Whose Work Had the Greatest Impact on European Reading Markets in 2009

**Compiled from top 10 bestselling lists in Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the UK**

The leading trio comes with little suspense: The posthumous “Millennium” crime series by Swedish Stieg Larsson, followed by the “Twilight” vampire stories of Stephenie Meyer and Dan Brown’s “The Lost Symbol” (a book released only late in fall in most languages) have been the smash hit reads in 2009.

Yet who would have guessed that only 21 of the 50 strongest performers on the reading markets have been written in English, with less than a handful of writers hitting the top 10 in more than just three different language editions. Among the 10 leading authors, 3 authors of Swedish crime can be found, with Camilla Läckberg as the new rising star – toppling Henning Mankell who had started the bloody craze among particularly German readers a good decade ago.

But aside from readers’ fondness of suspense, hardly any overarching principle can be identified for which are the ingredients to make a bestseller. There is “heartbreakingly precise prose” (The Daily Mail) in Paolo Giordano’s “La solitudine dei numeri primi”, a book of erotic self reflection with Charlotte Roche’s „Feuchtgebiete“, or with Anna Gavalda’s “L’échappée belle” even a family novel first released in 2001 and now revised and re-published for a second time. And a strong Nobel prize winner writing in German, Romania born Herta Müller, has been at the very top only in Germany and in Spain (and in Romania, of course).

#### How this ranking was made:

This European list has been compiled for the second time, after spring 2009, analyzing data over 12 months, between January and December 2009, from seven of Europe’s largest book markets, attributing points for every month that a title has stayed in the top 10 bestselling lists of Buchreport/Der Spiegel in Germany, Livres Hebdo/Ipsos in France, Informazioni Italiani in Italy, Boekblad/GfK in the Netherlands, El cultural in Spain, Svensk Bokhandel in Sweden, and The Bookseller in the UK.

Compilation and analysis by Rüdiger Wischenbart Content and Consulting

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For more background and details, see also the

“Diversity Report 2009” at [www.wischenbart.com/translation](http://www.wischenbart.com/translation)

Rank	Author	Total Points	Countries
1	Stieg Larsson	4338,00	UK, SP, NL, F, I
2	Stephenie Meyer	2795,5	D, SP, UK, S, I
3	Dan Brown	866,5	UK, F, NL, SP, D, S, I
4	Paolo Giordano	818,5	NL, SP, I
5	Carlos Ruiz Zafón	821	F, NL, UK, S, D, I
6	Camilla Läckberg	459	F, S, SP
7	Herman Koch	449	NL
8	Tatiana de Rosnay	430	NL
9	Henning Mankell	370	S, SP, D
10	John Grisham	384,5	UK, NL, I
11	Simon Beckett	360	D
12	James Patterson	322	UK
13	Börje Hellström	313	S
14	Anders Roslund	313	S
15	Michael Kobr	282	D
16	Sarah Kuttner	281	D
17	Karin Slaughter	275	NL, UK
18	Andrea Camilleri	272	SP, I
19	Annie Barrows	270	F
20	Mary Ann Shaffer	270	F
21	Hugh Laurie	270	F
22	Charlotte Roche	270	D, UK
23	Åsa Larsson	263	SP, S
24	Cecelia Ahern	262	D, UK
25	Dave Gibbons	258	SP, UK
26	Alan Moore	258	SP, UK
27	Lars Kepler	244	S
28	Patricia Cornwell	243,5	UK, F, I
29	Saskia Noort	241	NL
30	Harlan Coben	235	F, UK
31	Anna Gavalda	235	F, S
32	Dora Heldt	234	D
33	Marc Levy	233	F
34	Daniel Kehlmann	231	D
35	Herta Müller	230	D, SP
36	William P. Young	224	D
37	Marian Keyes	220	UK, S
38	Kluun	215	NL
39	Muriel Barbery	203	S, I
40	Guillaume Musso	196	F
41	Marie NDiaye	192	F
42	Mari Jungstedt	190	S
43	Mark Levensgood	186	S
44	Ann Heberlein	186	S
45	Martin Bril	185	NL
46	Hilary Mantel	183	UK
47	Douglas Kennedy	182	F
48	Ildefonso Falcones	182	SP
49	Frédéric Beigbeder	177	F
50	Katherine Neville	177	SP

