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By Christopher Schoppa



The flurry of shoppers in bookstores (and on-line) across the area in the week before Christmas produced a roundup of "most desired" books that, for the most part, mirrors the lists' lineup for the past few months.

In hardcover sales, Jay-Z's "Decoded" popped back on the list, as did Morris's third volume of his trilogy on TR, "Colonel Roosevelt." Both had fallen off the list in recent weeks.

As for paperback titles, much the same there, too. David Sedaris's little book of seasonal essays is always popular this time of year.

And it's worth mentioning, and praising, the sales renaissance being enjoyed by Abraham Verghese's powerful novel, "Cutting for Stone." Especially as the book has been in paperback for just about one year exactly, and strong sales for such a literary novel are rare indeed. But word is out about its many merits --- it was recommended by Fred Bollerer, director and CEO of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, in the Style section's recent article, "25 notable Washingtonians pick arts and culture highlights of 2010."

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/political-bookworm/2011/01/book_world_-_january_2_2011_1.html