

FEATURES

## 24 Fiction Firsts for Fall

Our annual selection of 10 debut novelists varies widely, from artificial intelligence to Berlin women during WWII, stories that delve into families, and two distinct views of the Iraq War.

## 17 Strength in Stitchery

Crafts and hobbies are now entrenched in the younger generation, and we feature new books for knitters and works by well-known authors like Kaffe Fassett, while duct tape and paper get multiple treatments.

## 28 Jo Nesbø Is Not the Next...

... but he is a bestselling Scandinavian writer of addictive crime novels, after careers in soccer, stockbrokering, and playing in and writing songs for a rock band.

## 16 Selling 'The Night Circus'

Erin Morgenstern's bestseller spawned fan clubs, tarot cards, cookies, and parties at bookstores that have kick-started the marketing of the paperback.

NEWS

### 4 Print Declines Offset E-book Gains in 2011

The joint AAP/BISG report on book sales showed gains for YA fiction, religion, online retailers, but formats were more significant than category.

### 5 The Weekly Scorecard

The hardcover format, which has been holding up fairly well in 2012, had a bad week for the seven days ended July 15, with unit sales falling 12% compared to the same week in 2011 at the outlets tracked by Nielsen BookScan.

### 5 Self-Publishing Goes Big-time

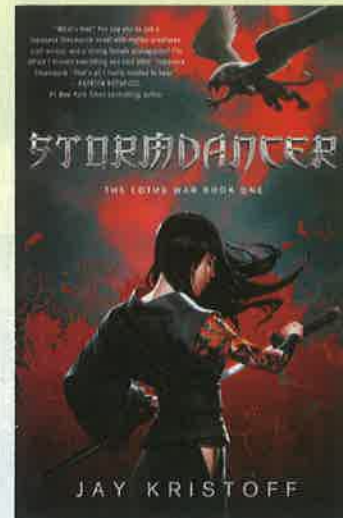
Pearson's buy of Author Solutions for \$116 million strikes home how self-publishing is transforming the industry.

### 7 Scholastic Hopes to Repeat Great Year

*The Hunger Games* film helped the publisher to a 14% rise in sales in fiscal 2012; digital investments are expected to continue positive results, but more gains aren't expected until fiscal 2014.

### 13 Digitizing the Classics

The Library of America is now releasing e-books, in partnership with eBook Architects, at premium prices. It is also linking its print and digital publishing to dedicated Web sites, as for a fall release of *American Science Fiction: Nine Classic Novels of the 1950s*.



### ★ Stormdancer

Jay Kristoff. St. Martin's/Dunne, \$24.99 (336p) ISBN 978-1-25000-140-5

Kristoff's imaginative debut, the first in a series, presents the feudal, dystopian Shima Empire, a menacing Japanese-inspired setting in which "the lotus must bloom" even though it turns all it touches into a toxic wasteland. Blood lotus seeds produce the fuel that powers sky ships, but the plant's roots render the soil barren, and the fuel's noxious exhaust fumes slowly poison those too poor to afford mechanized breathing masks. Power lies in the hands of the corrupt, fanatical Lotus Guild and Yoritomo-no-miya, the mad, one-dimensionally evil shogun. During an impossible quest ordered by Yoritomo, 16-year-old Kitsune Yukiko is stranded in the country's last wilderness with Buruu, a furious griffin maimed by Yukiko's father. The two band together to survive, facing demons from the underworld and, in an exhilarating climax, the might of the empire itself. The innovative setting, fast-moving plot, vivid descriptions, and thrilling action scenes make this a refreshing addition to the steampunk canon. *Agent: Matt Bialer, Sanford J. Greenburger Associates. (Sept.)*

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