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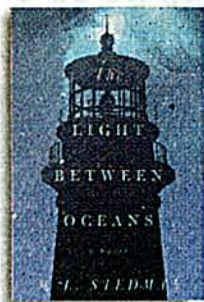
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012

Book Buzz

What's new on the list and in publishing

Seeing the 'Light': Aussie writer M.L. Stedman's debut novel, *The Light Between Oceans*, seems to be the "it" book for August. Arriving at No. 22 on USA TODAY's



Best-Selling Books list, it's the tale of a baby's arrival into the life of a barren couple. It's the No. 1 IndieNext pick of independent book-sellers this month and is Amazon's Spotlight Selection. Oprah's Book Club 2.0 e-newsletter says it's "the one

book you must read before summer ends." Susan Moldow, publisher of Scribner, says booksellers are comparing it to Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* and Kim Edwards' *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*. "We believe this remarkable debut will perform as well as those novels," she says.

Love stories: Summer's hit hue remains grey as E.L. James again handcuffs the top three spots. But traditional romance — the kind sans sex toys with weird names — remains hot. Among the top 20 this week: Linda Lael Miller's *Big Sky Mountain*, about a Montana cowboy and a divorcée (No. 6); *All Summer Long* by Susan Mallery, featuring a male model turned entrepreneur who falls for a lady firefighter (No. 11); and *Catching Fireflies* by Sherryl Woods, starring a pediatrician and a teacher (No. 15).

'Infinity' and beyond: In the latest attempt at boosting books in a digital world, Scholastic, the kids' publisher, will offer a sneak peek next Tuesday (at infinityring.com) of an online game that supplements a new adventure series aimed at readers 8 to 12. *Infinity Ring: Book 1: A Mutiny in Time* by James Dashner (*The Maze Runner*), the first in a seven-book series, will be released Aug 28. Scholastic hopes to duplicate its success with *The 39 Clues*, another multiplatform series, which sold more than 15 million copies. *Infinity Ring*, to be written by a series of authors, stars two young time travelers who must "fix the past to save the future." Exclusive images and a video preview of the online game are posted at books.usatoday.com.

By Craig Wilson, Deirdre Donahue
and Bob Minzesheimer