

MediaMix

A Quick Take on New Releases

	TITLE	BASIC STORY	SAMPLE GRAB	WHAT YOU'LL LOVE	WHAT YOU WON'T	GRADE
BOOK	Lush Life By Richard Price Farrar, Straus and Giroux \$26	The critically beloved Bronx-born author ("Clockers") checks in with a vividly imagined police procedural set in New York City's rapidly gentrifying Lower East Side.	"He just doesn't want to go along to get along anymore, play ball with anybody. He doesn't want to break anymore. He's picked maybe the worst thing to say No to, but there you are." — <i>The narrator describes a freed murder suspect who refuses to help the police</i>	 Price's dialogue and stream-of-consciousness descriptions are so natural that the characters at the heart of his tale spring instantly to life.	A few easy plot-propelling coincidences make the story feel a bit "Law & Order"-ish at times. — Reviewed by Sara Cardace	A-
BOOK	The Man Who Made Lists By Joshua Kendall Putnam \$25.95	The author presents a comprehensive biography of the frequently depressed, highly intellectual and incredibly obsessive word hound Peter Mark Roget (of Roget's Thesaurus fame).	 "The inquirer may often discover forms of expression, of which he may avail himself advantageously, to diversify and infuse vigor into his phraseology." — <i>The "why" behind Roget's Thesaurus</i>	Kendall's impeccable research reveals a fascinating hodgepodge of little-known facts. (Who knew that a paper Roget wrote for the Royal Society would lead to the discovery of motion pictures?)	At times, Kendall focuses too much on tying together extraneous information rather than presenting an evocative and well-structured portrait of Roget's life. — Alexis Burling	B
CD	These Are the Good Times People The Presidents of the United States of America Fugitive \$13.98	Tonight we're gonna party like it's 1995, when the Presidents' "Lump" and "Peaches" were inescapable on something called the radio.	"Don't ever get involved with a French girl, nooooooooooooooooooooo" — <i>"French Girl"</i>	The POTUSes stay mostly in their wheelhouse. These absurdist tunes are hookier than a quintuple-neck fishing pole and rarely last longer than three minutes.	 A singles band if e'er there was one. Even at 39 minutes, this disc feels longer than it needs to be. The band's still basically a novelty act. — Chris Klimek	B
CD	West Texas Wine Dave Insley \$12.99	 Wry, road-tested, DIY country from the country wing of the country genre. Insley is so for-real he doesn't even need a Nashville address. Or a publicist.	"I got two days' worth whiskers / I better have a drink before I shave / I'm shakin' so bad I might cut my own throat / I ain't ready for the grave" — <i>"Come See What's Left of Your Man"</i>	Insley's singalong-ready material lands somewhere between Rhett Miller and Tex Williams on the sliding scale of twangy-fun vs. funny-twang. It's unpretentious, heartfelt and never dumb.	You can't always tell whether Insley is rocking classic country or mocking classic country, but, shoot, that ain't such a bad thing, nohow. — C.K.	A
COMIC	RASL #1 By Jeff Smith Cartoon Books \$3.50	Smith, the award-winning creator of "Bone" and last year's "Shazam!: The Monster Society of Evil," returns to self-published work with an eponymous tale of a dimension-hopping master thief.	"I drifted to the wrong world. The person who hired me doesn't exist here." — <i>RASL wonders about his new whereabouts</i>	 Smith proves as adept with rough-edged sci-fi noir as he is with whimsical fantasy, and the action moves at a brisk clip.	Drinking and cussing make this book off-limits for any of younger fans of Smith's work, and questionable plot points may confuse some adults, too. — Evan Narcisse	B+
DVD	Dan in Real Life Rated PG-13 Buena Vista \$29.99	Advice columnist, widower and father Dan (Steve Carell) connects with a beautiful woman (Juliette Binoche). The only problem? She's his brother's (Dane Cook) girlfriend.	 "Instead of telling our young people to plan ahead, we should tell them to plan to be surprised." — <i>Dan shares a valuable lesson with his readers</i>	Carell and Binoche have a winning chemistry that manages to elevate the film's spurious story, and fans will want to take advantage of the copious bonus features.	The mush-to-laughs ratio is a bit too high, and it's impossible to believe that anyone's extended family could get along so well. — Greg Zinman	B-
DVD	No Country for Old Men Rated R Miramax \$29.99	The Oscar-winning adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's novel follows a Vietnam vet (Josh Brolin, right) who must avoid being caught by a code-keeping killer (Javier Bardem) and the local sheriff (Tommy Lee Jones).	 "I always figured when I got older, God would sorta come into my life somehow. And he didn't. I don't blame him. If I was him, I would have the same opinion of me that he does." — <i>Ed Tom Bell (Jones) gets ruminative</i>	A "making of" feature sheds light on Joel and Ethan Coen's working methods on what is flat-out the best American movie in some time.	Those expecting easy answers will blanch at the film's mysterious ending. — G.Z.	A
GAME	Lost: Via Domus PC, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 Rated Teen Ubisoft \$29.99-\$59.99	You are Elliott, an amnesiac survivor of Oceanic Flight 815, exploring the otherworldly island of the hit TV show and trying to figure out why another survivor is out to kill you.	Elliott's back story unfolds through a series of interactive flashbacks, giving each of the game's seven "episodes" a similar feel to that of the show.	 Rabid fans of "Lost" will enjoy the in-jokes, subtle hints about the island's mysteries and the mind-blowing ending.	If you're looking for a game and not just a cool peripheral to the show, the repetitive puzzles and unexciting action sequences will leave you stranded. — Christopher Healy	C+

JOSH BROLIN FROM MIRAMAX