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BOOKS

Toronto Star bestsellers: 'Heated Rivalry' author still dominates the list with six books

On the original fiction list, Freida McFadden has claimed top spot with her new thriller, "Dear Debbie."

Feb. 4, 2026 2 min read

All six books in Reid's "Game Changers" romance series remain on the Canadian fiction bestsellers list. Harlan Wong/Getty Images

By Debra Yeo Special to the Star

It took a switch to break the stranglehold of **Rachel Reid's** queer hockey players atop the Canadian bestsellers list.

To be sure, all six books in Reid's "Game Changers" romance series — given an astonishing second life thanks to the Crave TV drama "Heated Rivalry" — are still on the list, but **Jennifer Chevalier's** "The Winter Witch" managed to sneak in between them at No. 5.

This is the first novel by Chevalier, a CBC Radio producer in Ottawa who runs the political affairs program "The House."

Publisher Simon & Schuster says the book was inspired by the "filles du roi," or king's daughters, young French women who travelled in 17th-century Quebec, then called New France, to marry the settlers who were already there and increase the colony's population.

In Chevalier's novel, two sisters travel from Normandy to Montreal hoping to lift a curse that's followed them from their village and turn to a stowaway on the bride ship who's believed to be a powerful witch.

On the original fiction list, queen of the thrillers **Freida McFadden** has claimed top spot with "Dear Debbie."

The psychological thriller, about a wife, mother and advice columnist seeking payback against the people who have wronged her, is already in development as an Amazon MGM Studios TV adaptation.

In December, the film version of McFadden's bestseller "The Housemaid" became a box office hit. Preparation is already underway on the sequel, "The Housemaid's Secret."

CANADIAN FICTION

1. **Heated Rivalry**, Rachel Reid, Carina
2. **The Long Game**, Rachel Reid, Carina
3. **Game Changer**, Rachel Reid, Carina
4. **Tough Guy**, Rachel Reid, Carina
5. **Role Model**, Rachel Reid, Carina
6. **The Winter Witch**, Jennifer Chevalier, Simon & Schuster
7. **Common Goal**, Rachel Reid, Carina
8. **Hollow (deluxe limited edition)**, Celina Myers, Hanover Square
9. **Love Poems**, Rupi Kaur, Andrews McMeel
10. **Dove**, Paisley Hope, Sourcebooks Casablanca

CANADIAN NON-FICTION

1. **The Wealthy Barber**, David Chilton, Financial Awareness
2. **Attention Seeker**, Darcy Michael, DK
3. **Values**, Mark Carney, Signal
4. **The First Survivor**, Lisa Banfield, Sherri Alkenhead, Maureen Banfield, Sutherland House

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5. **A Love Affair With the Unknown**, Gillian Deacon, House of Anansi
6. **Book of Lives**, Margaret Atwood, McClelland & Stewart
7. **Sorry, Not Sorry**, Mark Critch, Viking
8. **We Breed Lions**, Rick Westhead, Random House Canada
9. **North of Normal**, Cea Sunrise Person, HarperCollins Canada
10. **If Only Love**, Shelley Sywell, Random House Canada

ORIGINAL FICTION

1. **Dear Debbie**, Freida McFadden, Poisoned Pen (1)*
2. **Heated Rivalry**, Rachel Reid, Carina (6)
3. **Woman Down**, Colleen Hoover, Montlake Romance (3)
4. **The Long Game**, Rachel Reid, Carina (7)
5. **The Correspondent**, Virginia Evans, Crown (4)
6. **Game Changer**, Rachel Reid, Carina (4)
7. **My Husband's Wife**, Alice Feeney, Pine & Cedar (2)
8. **Half His Age**, Jennette McCurdy, Doubleday Canada (2)
9. **Vigil**, George Saunders, Random House (1)
10. **Broken Country**, Clare Leslie Hall, Simon & Schuster (28)

ORIGINAL NON-FICTION

1. **The Wealthy Barber**, David Chilton, Financial Awareness (10)
2. **Attention Seeker**, Darcy Michael, DK (2)
3. **The First Survivor**, Lisa Banfield, Sherri Alkenhead, Maureen Banfield (2)
4. **A Love Affair With the Unknown**, Gillian Deacon, House of Anansi (1)
5. **Nobody's Girl**, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, Knopf (14)
6. **Book of Lives**, Margaret Atwood, McClelland & Stewart (12)
7. **1929**, Andrew Ross Sorkin, Viking (13)
8. **Enough**, Oprah Winfrey, Asia M. Jarrett&#8#, Avid Reader (3)
9. **Sorry, Not Sorry**, Mark Critch, Viking (7)
10. **Vanished Beyond the Map**, Adam Shoalts, Allen Lane (11)

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT

1. **Little Blue Truck's Valentine**, Alice Schertle, Jill McElmurry, Clarion
2. **Talons of Power (Wings of Fire #9)**, Tui T. Sutherland, Mike Holmes, Graphix
3. **Big Jim Believes (Dog Man #14)**, Dav Pilkey, Graphix
4. **For the Fans! (KPop Demon Hunters)**, Angela Song, Golden Books
5. **Partyopoez! (Diary of a Wimpy Kid #20)**, Jeff Kinney, Amulet
6. **Happy Valentine's Day, Little Critter!**, Mercer Mayer, Harper Collins
7. **Love You Forever**, Robert Munsch, Sheila McGraw, Firefly
8. **Powerless**, Lauren Roberts, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
9. **Darkstalker (Wings of Fire: Legends)**, Tui T. Sutherland, Jake Parker, Graphix
10. **Sunrise on the Reaping**, Suzanne Collins, Scholastic

HEALTH AND FITNESS

1. **The Body Keeps the Score**, Bessel van der Kolk, Penguin
2. **The Forever Strong Playbook**, Gabrielle Lyon, Aritia
3. **The Hunger Crushing Combo Method**, Abbey Sharp, Balance
4. **When the Body Says No**, Gabor Maté, Vintage Canada
5. **Plant Powered Plus**, Will Bulsiewicz, Avery
6. **What to Expect When You're Expecting**, Heidi Murkoff, Workman
7. **The Myth of Normal**, Gabor Maté, Daniel Maté, Vintage Canada
8. **Come As You Are (updated)**, Emily Nagoski, Simon & Schuster
9. **Unbreakable**, Vonda Wright, Rodale
10. **Outlive**, Peter Attia, Bill Gifford, Harmony

*Weeks on list

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