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## 'Guy books' are most coveted rarities

**Michelle Pauli**  
Thursday September 13, 2007  
[Guardian Unlimited](#)

The Great Tool Emporium and Cab Forward: the Story of the Southern Pacific Articulated Locomotives may sound like candidates for the Oddest Title award. In fact, perhaps surprisingly, they are some of the most sought after books in the United States.

They appear on a list of in-demand titles requested on BookFinder.com, a 10-year-old comparison search engine for buying used, rare and out-of-print books online. Its annual report tracks the most requested out-of-print titles in the US from an inventory of 125m titles.

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The Great Tool Emporium, described as "a pictorial extravaganza of tools", is just one of a number of what BookFinder calls "guy books" to dominate the lists. Also featured are The Book of Bond; or, Every Man His Own 007 by Kingsley Amis, Hell, I Was There! by the rancher, big game hunter and firearms innovator Elmer Keith, and Football Scouting Methods by Steve Belichick.

[Behind closed doors](#)

As a counterbalance to the testosterone, also sought after are The Principles of Knitting, Knitting Lace and I Do: Achieving your Dream Wedding by Jessica Simpson.

[Critical eye: Sept 8](#)

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Madonna tops the arts and music list with her 1992 photobook, Sex, while the biography list shows a hunger for works about boxer Rubin Carter, singer Johnny Cash and the British occultist Aleister Crowley.

[The bookseller: Sep 8](#)

The most searched-for fiction titles range from the relatively recent but out-of-print - Nora Roberts' bodice-ripper Promise Me Tomorrow - to novels by Nancy Mitford (Wigs on the Green) and CS Lewis (The Allegory of Love).

There nearest equivalent on such a large scale in the UK is AbeBooks.co.uk, the British branch of the global site which stocks over 100m new, secondhand and out-of-print books.

Of AbeBooks' bestselling titles last month, the first four were out of print. Top of the list is Gloria Miklowitz's 1970s novel, A Time to Hurt, a Time to Heal. It is followed by Against The Law by Peter Wildeblood, which is a landmark account of Wildeblood's arrest for indecent acts, his trial, imprisonment and release after 12 months in prison. During the infamous trial in 1954, Wildeblood, a Daily Mail journalist, was one of the first men in Britain to publicly declare his homosexuality. The book became a focal point in the campaign to legalise homosexuality in the UK.

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