

Home > Bestsellers

Monkeying around: Jamie Smart climbs to the top of the indie tree

FEB 25, 2026 BY ALEX CALL



Jamie Smart collected the Nibbie for Audiobook: Fiction Book of the Year for *Bunny vs Monkey* at the British Book Awards 2025 © David Monteith-Hodge

The latest Independent Bookshop Top 20 from NielsenIQ BookData sees no fewer than nine **World Book Day** (WBD) titles appear – with four of them entering the chart for the first time after failing to make the cut in their first week on sale.

Those four new titles include Rose Ayling-Ellis’ collaboration with Katie Blackburn, *The Big Bang* (DK Children), leap-frogging nearly all of the others to take third place with the indies. It is beaten only by **Jamie Smart’s *Bunny vs Monkey: Total Chaos!*** (DFB Phoenix), which this week rises one place to take the crown – ousting the previous number one, Matt Dinniman’s *Operation Bounce House* (Michael Joseph), which falls out of the Indie Top 20 completely.

Elaine Sinclair of the Daydreams Bookshop in Glasgow has had a good start to the World Book Day campaign: “We’ve seen a big rise in footfall and sales over the weekend thanks to the free World Book Day books. In previous years, schools have been slower to provide children with their tokens, but this year, thanks to increased

Latest News

Nadiya Hussain on her Islamic cuisine cookbook: 'Suddenly I wasn't palatable any more'



World Book Day's Fiona Hickley discusses the charity's rebrand



You are viewing 1 of your 3 free articles. ✕

DK and Eddi Atkin **Like what you're reading? Subscribe for unlimited access to expert insight and analysis.**

The Works appoints Angela Rushforth as independent non-executive director



SLA receives 'landmark' £500k to launch 'low pressure, social' school book clubs



[VIEW ALL](#)

Andrew Lownie suing S&S US after Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor biography 'dropped'



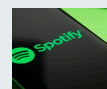
Literary agents urge writers to avoid AI as they see 'change in nature of submissions'



Member of staff who died at Hachette UK distribution warehouse named



Spotify launches audiobook charts in UK and US



The British Book



We use cookies to give you with the best, most relevant online experience. By continuing to browse this site you are agreeing to our use of cookies. Click on the banner to find out more.

[Cookie Settings](#)

[ACCEPT ALL COOKIES](#)

NielsenIQ do not provide sales data for titles in independent bookshops, so it is impossible to say how Smart's sales have changed compared with the previous week – though it is likely that they have increased dramatically as half term pushes customers into bookshops across the country. Though, despite the school holiday, the WBD books are the only children's books to appear in the indie ranking.

Continues...

Read More



Chaos reigns supreme: Jamie Smart tops chart for second week



Selling yourself: trad publishing takes bite out of indie charts



Spotify launches audiobook charts in UK and US

Cate Baumer's *The Faithful Dark* (Hodderscape) is this week's highest new entry, appearing in second place – 139 places higher than its TCM placing, where it sold 2,031 copies. Its success with the indies is likely boosted by an appearance in **Goldsboro's Fellowship subscription box**.

The only other non-WBD title in the Indie Top 10 is *How to Launder Money* by George Cottrell and Lawrence Burke Files, which debuts in fifth place – compared to 170th in the TCM. A high-profile book launch, attended by many senior figures from Reform UK, is likely to have benefitted sales in its first week.

Several fiction paperbacks continue to do well for indies, with Maggie O'Farrell's ***Hamnet*** (Tinder Press), Rachel Joyce's *The Homemade God* (Transworld), Anne Tyler's *Three Days in June* (Vintage) and **Nussaibah Younis' *Fundamentally*** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) all retaining positions in the Top 20, despite slipping down the ranking due to the World Book Day titles.

Emily Brontë replicates her success in the TCM with a copy of *Wuthering Heights* appearing at the bottom of the Indie Top 20 – though it is a different edition that has appealed to the indie shopper, with the English Library Edition from Penguin proving most popular in these quarters.

The full Independent Bookshop Top 20 can be found on **[The Bookseller's bestseller pages](#)**.

The Bookseller has adjusted the Independent Bookshop chart to remove some titles where sales do not derive from traditional bricks and mortar bookshops, such as exhibition catalogues and those featured on conglomerates' subscription boxes.



LATEST ISSUE



You are viewing 1 of your 3 free articles.

Like what you're reading? **Subscribe for unlimited access to expert insight and analysis.**

20th February 2026

In this week's issue:

- **Editor's Comment:** We need to widen the lens on book sales
- **Author profile:** Sara Wheeler
- **Narrator profile:** Adam Buxton
- **Children's Previews:** May
- **Self-Publishing Focus:** Features, profiles and more
- **The British Book Awards:** Regional and Country Finalists

[READ IN FULL](#)

We use cookies to give you with the best, most relevant online experience. By continuing to browse this site you are agreeing to our use of cookies. Click on the banner to find out more.

[Cookie Settings](#)

books | Charts | Financial | Independent bookshop charts | independent bookshops | Jamie Smart

sales | World Book Day



Add New Comment

Type your comment here.

POST

You are viewing 1 of your 3 free articles.

Like what you're reading? [Subscribe for unlimited access to expert insight and analysis.](#)

Related

THE BOOKSELLER

All in for the book trade since 1858

Subscribe from just £3.65 a week

TOPICS

[NEWS](#)
[RIGHTS](#)
[COMMENT](#)
[BESTSELLERS](#)
[BOOKS](#)
[SPOTLIGHT](#)
[EVENTS](#)
[JOBS](#)
[DIRECTOR](#)

SUBSCRIBE

WORLD BOOK DAY'S FIONA Hickley discusses the charity's rebrand

Sunderland-set debut horror by Charlotte Haley signed by Angry Robot Books

DK appoints Victoria Eddison and Rebecca Atkinson to Sourcebooks and Canelo roles

The Works appoints Angela Rushforth as independent non-executive director



We use cookies to give you with the best, most relevant online experience. By continuing to browse this site you are agreeing to our use of cookies. Click on the banner to find out more.

[Cookie Settings](#)

THE BOOKSELLER

All in for the book trade since 1858



YouTube



Twitter



LinkedIn



Facebook



Instagram

PRODUCTS

[The Bookseller Magazine](#)

[The Bookseller Buyer's Guides](#)

[The Bookseller Conferences](#)

[The British Book Awards](#)

[The YA Book Prize](#)

[Jobs in Books](#)

[Webinars](#)

[Newsletters](#)

INFORMATION

[About Us](#)

[Contact](#)

[Meet The Team](#)

[Careers](#)

[Publishing Calendar](#)

[Editorial Features](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Press](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Digital Editions](#)

[Upgrade Subscription](#)

LEGAL

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Advertising Terms & Conditions](#)



Subscribe Today

Subscribe from just £3.65 a week

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[SIGN UP TO OUR MAILING LISTS](#)

You are viewing 1 of your 3 free articles.

Like what you're reading? [Subscribe for unlimited access to expert insight and analysis.](#)

We use cookies to give you with the best, most relevant online experience. By continuing to browse this site you are agreeing to our use of cookies. Click on the banner to find out more.

[Cookie Settings](#)