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## Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 11:11

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Dunno.

Is there anyone contemporary to compete with the c\*nt who wrote Jonathan Livingstone Seagull?

Some literary equivalent of "Thomas Kinkade, Painter of Light"?

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 13-05-2008 13:58

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Dan Brown?

I liked Jonathan Livingstone Seagull. I read it in a free period in 10th grade.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 14:30

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Brown's a good shout, but I was thinking more of someone who styled him or herself as a poet.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 13-05-2008 15:52

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Paulo Coelho?

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by mafu - 13-05-2008 17:49

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andrew motion?

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Purves Grundy - 14-05-2008 09:11

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Chubby Cyclist beat me to the punch. Absolutely spot on. Paolo Bloody Coelho by a fucking mile.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Purves Grundy - 14-05-2008 09:13

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And if not Coelho then Frank McCourt and that Child Called "It" bloke for ushering in the tyranny of "Unhappy Childhood" as an entire section in Waterstones. Pity porn.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 14-05-2008 12:15

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That's a good call on Frank McCourt. The amount of dreadful "My Miserable Irish Childhood" books that have emerged in one form or another over the last decade has been horrendous. And, not merely imposing their miserable lives on the pity-porn addicts, they've also managed to create a form of Irish racial stereotype where all Irish people were brought up in miserable slums by evil parents. Probably more destructive even than the "drunk Irish enjoying the craic and a beer" idea of the 90s.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-05-2008 12:20

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Not to defend McCourt, but is he really more responsible for that than Hornby is for the rooms full of atrociously bad rip-offs of Fever Pitch?

You can give McCourt additional grief for pushing the sequel (something Hornby has quite conciously never attempted), but I consider the primary responsibility for all of these "me too" schools of "literature" to be lazy editors and publishing houses run by people who "think" like the heads of Hollywood studios.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Crusoe - 14-05-2008 12:26

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I find it hard to be offended by Dan Brown; he's just churning out a new flavour of airport thrillers.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by The Chubby Cyclist - 14-05-2008 12:32

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And another candidate on the me-too ism line of bad writing, surely Helen Fielding is solely responsible for all those books with bad cartoony pictures of 30 something women with handbags and flowers and glasses of wine on them.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Lyra - 14-05-2008 17:47

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Wosname. James Patterson. Makes Dan Brown look like Dostoevsky.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by toro toro toro toro - 14-05-2008 23:32

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Poetry has become so reclusive and segregated a genre that there's very little room left for real charlatans anymore.

I dunno, Pam Ayres?

To be honest, the correct answer is probably some arsehole working at Hallmark as a copywriter.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 15-05-2008 01:48

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Yeah, poetry isn't really mainstream enough to do any damage.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-05-2008 08:37

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It appears that the best selling volume of poetry by a living US author is by Jewel.

Yes, that one.

More than a million copies.

We may have a winner.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Mr Kite - 15-05-2008 15:49

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It's a toss up for me. Not strictly a bard, but two connected categories

Firstly, the growth in biography. I've had a couple of hit singles/run on big brother/two seasons in the premiership etc, here's my book. I was in borderstones over christmas and counted 16 continuous cases of this drivell.

Secondly, hoolie-lit. I'd like to say that I have no reason why people buy this, but the events in Manchester yesterday clearly show the appetite will be as strong as ever. And how can they all be the number one firm?

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by nefertiti - 16-05-2008 16:49

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Pam Ayres A Charlatan- never. A neat cute light versifier.

You've got the wrong A

you're looking for Armitage, Simon.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 16-05-2008 16:54

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I was going to suggest Jewel, but she seems so likeable otherwise I didn't have the heart to do it.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by dgih - 20-05-2008 13:25

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If it widened to authors, I was going to be in with Jodi Picoult as quick as a shot.

Poetry and me don't meet often at the moment (not that it should surprise anyone).

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

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Posted by ursus arctos - 20-05-2008 18:07

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I'm pleased to be able to say that I have no idea what a Jodi Picoult is.

And amazed that this title-punning thread is still going.

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by gerontofiel - 21-05-2008 06:24

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it isnt

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by gerontofiel - 21-05-2008 06:45

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However... if you just mean author, Dan Brown rips this.

If you mean bard, then its too early to say... Toni Morrison. But she can write, and its last century. (damaging in the sense of making you think whether you wish to, or not)

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by Carlo Ginzburg - 21-05-2008 12:41

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Maya "Oprah" Angelou?

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by ursus arctos - 21-05-2008 13:25

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It's almost certainly because I am American, but I actually have a significant amount of respect for both Angelou's and Morrison's earlier work. Their "Oprahization" is a different issue, and something to be decried.

Which leads me to note that Ms. Winfrey very much deserves a mention herself for actively promoting many of the more appalling trends noted by other posters. Perhaps not hoolie lit, but give her time . . .

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## Re:Most Damaging Bard of the Last Decade?

Posted by dglh - 21-05-2008 15:33

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I can't believe Dan Brown can be the worst, as he isn't prolific. That is the thing with Picoult - she turns out a book a year, and it is always best-selling hideous dross. A recent one was some twist on Columbine or somesuch - it was nothing like the standard you get on the topic (Lionel Shriver's We need to talk about Kevin for instance).

In a wonderful show of principles, the lady hand has refused to work on the forthcoming Tila Tequila book that her label is publishing. It doesn't stop her going into an incandescent rage about the topic, but I appreciated her taking a stand (it was easy to get someone else to do it).

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