

Starred Review in Publishers Weekly, August 26, 2002:
for

Jennifer Weiner's IN HER SHOES

"Weiner, whose debut novel GOOD IN BED was an instant bestseller, is back with another exuberantly confident offering. Twenty-eight-year-old Maggie Fuller relies on her looks and size zero body to flirt her way through life while working dozens of dead-end jobs and dreaming of stardom. At the other end of the spectrum is her older, larger sister Rose, who relies on her intelligence and is an accomplished attorney at a large Philadelphia firm. The only things that these two seem to have in common is their shared history, a loathing for their "stepmonster", Sydelle, size six feet and a passion for luxurious shoes. When Maggie is evicted from her apartment and loses yet another job, Rose takes her in and tries to endure her closet raids and endless insults. But her patience abruptly ends when Maggie crosses a line so sacred that Rose kicks Maggie out and all but terminates their relationship. The sisters go on with their lives and Maggie discovers that she has a brain and a will to learn, while Rose learns to loosen up a bit and finds that there is more to life than work. The two sisters also get to know their maternal grandmother, Ella Hirsch, who they haven't seen since their mother's funeral more than 20 years ago. With Ella's love and support, Maggie reaches out to Rose, and the two begin to repair their relationship. In the end, these three remarkable women learn that they are stronger than they thought they were, that family ties are worth preserving, and that there are perks to sharing the same shoe size. Weiner, a marvelously natural storyteller, blends humor and heartbreak to create an irresistible novel."

PW Forecast: This sweet sophomore effort should land Weiner on bestseller lists again -- she more than proves that she has staying power.

mark, including Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain*, Tracy Chevalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Frances Mayes's *Under the Tuscan Sun*. Special kudos to the best-selling trade paperback in 2003, *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd—achieved without a movie tie-in booster or special Oprah attention.

Dr. Atkins' New Carbohydrate Gram Counter, with sales of more than two million, was the lead trade paperback bestseller last year, and two other titles from the diet guru—*Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* and *The Atkins Journal*, also ranked high on the end-of-the-year charts, with sales of more than 1,328,000 and 639,000 copies, respectively.

Nora Roberts, who in the last three years has had more bestsellers in one year than any other single author, managed to land five on the trade paperback list and 11 on the mass market lists last year. In 2002, she had two in trade and nine in mass.

Rack-Size Racks Up

At every unit-sales level, there were more mass market bestsellers in 2003 than in 2002. The total number of books that sold more than 500,000 last year was 118, compared to 107 in 2002. And in mass market, too, an Atkins title led the pack—*Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution*, with sales of more than 4.2 million last year. John Grisham's *The King of Torts*, *Seabiscuit* and four books by Nora Roberts sold two million or more in 2003. Despite the larger numbers for mass market overall, the only nonfiction titles to achieve the 500,000-copy sales level were Atkins and *Seabiscuit*. As usual, the mass market category is dominated by veteran bestselling authors of romance or contemporary women's fiction, plus suspense. Only about 15% of all mass markets with sales of 500,000+ are originals.

Rules for Inclusion

Listed on the following pages are trade paperback and mass market titles published in 2002 and 2003; the rankings are based only on 2003 sales. To qualify, trade paperbacks had to have sold more than 100,000 copies in 2003; for mass markets, sales of more than 500,000 were required. A single asterisk (*) indicates the book was published in 2002; a double asterisk (**) means the book was published earlier but either remained or reappeared on PW's bestseller charts in 2003. These reap-

pearances are most often movie tie-ins. A pound symbol (#) indicates that the shipped and billed figures were rounded down to the nearest 5,000 to indicate the book's sales relationship to other titles. The actual figures were given to PW in confidence for use only in placing titles on these lists.

TRADE PAPERBACKS ONE MILLION+

**Dr. Atkins' New Carbohydrate Gram Counter*. Robert C. Atkins, M.D. Orig. M. Evans (2,042,522)

The Secret Life of Bees. Sue Monk Kidd. Rep. Penguin (1,852,721)

East of Eden. John Steinbeck. Rep. Penguin (1,689,010)

**Seabiscuit*. Laura Hillenbrand. Movie tie-in. Ballantine (1,506,025)

**Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution*. Robert C. Atkins. Rep. Quill (1,328,000)

750,000+

Life of Pi. Yann Martel. Rep. Harvest/Harcourt (903,268)

Self Matters. Phillip C. McGraw. Rep. Free Press (881,613)

The Nanny Diaries. Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus. Rep. St. Martin's (869,256)

**The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*. Alexander McCall Smith. Rep. Anchor (842,864)

Trading Spaces Behind the Scenes. Meredith Editors. Orig. Meredith (750,000)

500,000+

**What to Expect When You're Expecting*. Heidi Murkoff, Arlene Eisenberg and Sandee Hathaway. Revised. Workman (763,289)

***Fix-It and Forget-It Cookbook*. Dawn J. Ranck and Phyllis Pellman Good. Orig. Good Books (746,842)

Cold Mountain. Charles Frazier. Movie tie-in. Vintage (670,121)

The Atkins Journal. Robert C. Atkins, M.D. Orig. M. Evans (639,296)

The Hours. Michael Cunningham. Movie tie-in. Picador (636,000)

Cry, the Beloved Country. Alan Paton. Reissue. Scribner (617,450)

Girl with a Pearl Earring. Tracy Chevalier. Rep. Plume (567,401)

Sea Glass. Anita Shreve. Rep. Little, Brown/Back Bay (532,843)

Three Junes. Julia Glass. Rep. Anchor (527,394)

Atonement. Ian McEwan. Rep. Anchor (504,345)

Under the Tuscan Sun. Frances Mayes. Movie tie-in. Broadway (500,152)

**Dangerous*. Nora Roberts. Orig. Harlequin (500,000)

Mysterious. Nora Roberts. Orig. Harlequin (500,000)

Love by Design. Nora Roberts. Orig. Silhouette (500,000)

300,000+

***Rich Dad, Poor Dad*. Robert T. Kiyosaki and Sharon Lechter. Orig. Warner (497,069)

**Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul*. Jack Canfield and Victor Hansen. Orig. HCI (483,712)

Nights in Rodanthe. Nicholas Sparks. Rep. Warner (473,080)

Golden Buddha. Clive Cussler. Orig. Berkley (455,173)

**Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul on Love and Friendship*. Jack Canfield and Victor Hansen. Orig. HCI (449,044)

***Of Mice and Men*. John Steinbeck. Rep. Penguin (448,605)

Armageddon. Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. Rep. Tyndale (441,797)

**Bel Canto*. Ann Patchett. Rep. Harper-Perennial (433,000)

***Mrs. Dalloway*. Virginia Woolf. Rep. Harvest/Harcourt (425,594)

**Chicken Soup for the Soul of America*. Jack Canfield and Victor Hansen. Orig. HCI (423,145)

Chicken Soup for the Sister's Soul. Jack Canfield and Victor Hansen. Orig. HCI (422,367)

#*Shopaholic Ties the Knot*. Sophie Kinsella. Orig. Delta (405,000)

In Her Shoes. Jennifer Weiner. Rep. Washington Square (401,029)

Master and Commander. Patrick O'Brian. Movie tie-in. Norton (400,000)

***It's Not About the Bike*. Lance Armstrong with Sally Jenkins. Rep. Berkley (400,000)

Irish Born. Nora Roberts. Rep. Berkley (400,000)

In This Mountain. Jan Karon. Rep. Penguin (399,047)

The Dinner Doctor. Anne Byrn. Rep. Workman (375,051)

praise for

Jennifer Weiner's IN HER SHOES

"Weiner follows the successful GOOD IN BED with a wonderful contemporary fairy tale. (Yes, there is a wicked stepmother.)

Meet plump, dependable Rose Feller and her gorgeous, out-of-control sister, Maggie. As children, they lost their mother and contact with grandmother Ella. Now, 20 years later, we follow their struggles to forgive the past, reclaim each other's love, and become their best selves. Within a year and a half, all three women, who seemed only to share a shoe size, possess more than they ever dreamed possible.

Reworking the age-old theme that self-knowledge and acceptance are needed before love and happiness can be achieved, Weiner embroiders serious matters with threads of humor to produce a novel full of memorable characters and situations. (Every family should have a Mrs. Lefkowitz.) **Here's a novel that satisfies on many levels.**

LIBRARY JOURNAL

"One is a plain Jane with a brain; the other's a hot redhead with a learning disability and a body like Britney's. Naturally they hate each other and, of course, they're sisters. Maggie thinks Rose, a Princeton-educated lawyer, is boring. Rose thinks Maggie, fired and evicted yet again, is a leech and a slut. What they have in common is an enemy -- their stepmother -- and a conundrum -- how to get their father to discuss their vibrant birth mother, who died when they were children.

Weiner's vivid characterizations and her light touch with heavy topics make this follow-up to last year's bestselling debut *Good in Bed* an entertaining romp through family battles and toxic relationships. Weiner combines the zany and the serious without making light of the issues faced by her characters. The book is like spending time with an

understanding friend who has a knack for always being great company, brightening the best times and knowing just how to convince you that not only will you get through the worst, you'll manage to squeeze a laugh or two out of the experience. **Bottom Line: Wonderful fit."**

PEOPLE MAGAZINE

"You don't need a shoehorn to see that [Jennifer Weiner]'s plot fits the Cinderella formula like a glass slipper. But unlike the fairy tale, which relies on stereotype characters who never change or surprise, Weiner's plot depends upon people who ultimately are unpredictable."

Boston Herald

"Weiner, whose debut novel *Good in Bed* was an instant bestseller, is back with **another exuberantly confident offering**. Twenty-eight-year-old Maggie Fuller relies on her looks and size zero body to flirt her way through life while working dozens of dead-end jobs and dreaming of stardom. At the other end of the spectrum is her older, larger sister, Rose, who relies on her intelligence and is an accomplished attorney at a large Philadelphia firm. The only things that these two seem to have in common is their shared history, a loathing for their "stepmonster," Sydelle, size six feet and a passion for luxurious shoes. When Maggie is evicted from her apartment and loses yet another job, Rose takes her in and tries to endure her closet raids and endless insults. But her patience abruptly ends when Maggie crosses a line so sacred that Rose kicks Maggie out and all but terminates their relationship ("Her sister was like a fucking Weebel, [Rose] thought. She'd wobble, she'd screw up, she'd steal your shoes... but she'd absolutely never fall down"). The sisters go on with their lives and Maggie discovers that she has a brain and a will to learn, while Rose learns to loosen up a bit and finds that there is more to life than work. The two sisters also get to know their maternal grandmother, Ella Hirsch, who they haven't seen since their mother's funeral more than 20 years ago. With Ella's love and support, Maggie reaches out to Rose and the two begin to repair their relationship. In the end, these three remarkable women learn that they are stronger than they thought they were, that family ties are worth preserving, and that there are perks to sharing the same shoe size. **Weiner, a marvelously natural storyteller, blends humor and heartbreak to create an irresistible novel. Forecast: This sweet sophomore effort should land Weiner on bestseller lists again—she more than proves that she has staying power."**

Publishers Weekly

In *Her Shoes*, Jennifer Weiner's highly anticipated follow-up to *Good in Bed*, speaks to women who have endured the hardships of sibling rivalry or dreamed of trying on someone else's life. It is also an honest look at one woman's struggle with weight. But unlike other weight-obsessed characters in contemporary popular fiction, 30-year-old Rose Feller actually is plus-size. She is not like Bridget Jones, who worries about being fat even though her weight is normal. Rose, a smart, wisecracking, successful lawyer in Philadelphia, is most definitely fat. The book begins when Rose's dream date is interrupted by a call and she is forced to rescue her drunk, irresponsible sister from a 10-year high school reunion. Maggie Feller, 28, is quite the opposite of Rose. Maggie is gorgeous and glides effortlessly through life, from one job and boyfriend to the next, until she's evicted from her apartment. She moves in with Rose, swiping everything from her older sister's credit cards to her shoes. But Maggie crosses the line by stealing the one thing Rose isn't willing to share. *In Her Shoes* chronicles the sisters' adventures as they go their separate ways and end up discovering, along the way, a missing part of themselves. **Weiner is at her best with her witty descriptions of the "stepmonster" Sydelle and Rose's eccentric law firm, where the managing partner has gone off the deep end.** Obsessed with extreme sports, Dom Dommel treats his firm like a sports team — replacing the water cooler with Gatorade, meetings with pep rallies and the yearly bonus with a skateboard. **The book has a happy ending, and Weiner avoids selling out Rose by making her thin (and more likable).** She finds love and happiness without shedding a pound."

USA TODAY

The Feller sisters are equal but opposite. Maggie is the good-looking, dyslexic little sister who knows how to get anything she wants--but not how to keep it. She "felt as if somewhere between the ages of fourteen and sixteen she'd walked off the edge of a cliff and had been falling ever since." Rose is the plump, practical, responsible older sister who knows about law but not much about her own happiness: "What did she like, besides shoes, and Jim, and foods that were bad for her?" When Maggie's latest eviction lands her in Rose's apartment, and Maggie insults Rose by seducing one of her sister's rare boyfriends, what follows is a chain of events by turns hilarious and heartbreaking. Embarrassed Rose evicts Maggie and begins a work sabbatical leading to a new livelihood and way of living. Maggie flees and runs away to Princeton. Masquerading as a student, she learns to love poetry and saves money for a trip to Miami--and a visit to a long-lost grandmother named Ella who might offer her a last shot at sanctuary. But *In Her Shoes*, the second novel from *Good in Bed* author Jennifer Weiner, is about more than the sisters' latest sibling rivalry; Maggie and Rose must sort out the childhood vulnerabilities and family mysteries that still linger two decades after their mother's death. In less capable hands, the plot might grow corny, but **Weiner's**

humor and affection for the characters ultimately helps them transcend both neuroses and grief and learn the redemptive power of love."

Amazon.com

"Weiner follows up *Good in Bed* (2001) with this **engaging tale of two very different sisters** and the grandmother they've been estranged from since their mother's death. Rose Feller is a successful lawyer whose life finally seems to be going right, until her feckless younger sister, Maggie, gets evicted from her apartment and needs a place to stay. Rose reluctantly lets Maggie move in with her. It's a mistake: Maggie steals Rose's shoes, halfheartedly looks for a job, and soon sets her sights on Rose's handsome new boyfriend. While the two sisters' relationship grows more strained, their grandmother, Ella, is trying to get up the nerve to seek them out. After the girls' mother--Ella's daughter, Caroline--died, her husband shut Ella out of their lives. When one of her granddaughters, who is in desperate need of help, contacts her suddenly, Ella sees a chance to finally get to know the girls. But can the rift between Rose and Maggie ever be healed? **Weiner's second novel is every bit as enjoyable and moving as her first.**"

Booklist

Maybe Jennifer Weiner, former *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter and columnist, isn't so bad after all. Her first book, *Good in Bed*, came out in May of last year and landed on the *New York Times* bestseller list by the end of that month. Now she's written another book, *In Her Shoes*, that--with its feminine touch and page-turning plotline--is poised to be just as big. *In Her Shoes*, just released to a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*, is the story of two sisters, Rose and Maggie Feller, who live in Philadelphia and frequent places like Rittenhouse Square, Striped Bass, even the Jamaican Jerk Hut on South Street. The two share a childhood tragedy, but that's about all they have in common. Maggie is a beautiful, too-skinny party girl who can't keep a job; Rose is a stern, overweight lawyer with a stack of romance novels for a social life. Things get shaken up a bit and the women learn to become more than the roles their family assigned them. Judging by the success of her debut novel, many American women are seduced by Weiner's topics--finding love, mending broken families and being big in a size 2 world--which for some hit close to the bone. **What you may not have counted on is that her writing's big heart and sense of humor might pull you in**--you who eschews beach books and instinctively turns your nose up at the mere mention of Bridget Jones.

Ironically, Jennifer Weiner says she was that way once, too. "Oh, I was a pretentious little thing," she says, when asked about winning Princeton's

Academy of American Poets prize for poetry. But now her prizes for poetry are dwarfed by her commercial success. Weiner is in talks to make *Good in Bed* a TV series, and she just signed another two-book deal with her publisher, Atria Books. She is now at work on a novel that features "lots of sex and violence," and Fox 2000 has optioned *In Her Shoes* with *Erin Brockovich* screenwriter Susannah Grant signed on to adapt the story for the big screen.

Philadelphia Weekly

The sophomore slump. Authors fear it. Critics often cite it. Publishers hope that it's just a myth. **But following a bestselling first book with another winner can be a daunting task. So it's a pleasure to report that Jennifer Weiner has avoided the slump with "In Her Shoes."** Weiner, 32, is a Connecticut native who by her own account had a miserable time in high school before becoming a reporter and columnist at the Philadelphia Inquirer. Then she wrote "Good in Bed," which rocketed onto the New York Times bestseller list. The comic novel about a woman whose ex-boyfriend writes about her in a magazine column titled "Good in Bed" was a natural for readers sympathetic to its witty, weighty heroine. So some might be wary when opening "In Her Shoes," the story of two dissimilar sisters -- smart, overweight Rose and screwy, sexy, size-2 Maggie. Is Weiner just revisiting familiar territory? Happily, no. There are similarities, and the heroine of "Good in Bed" makes a cameo appearance, but "In Her Shoes" succeeds on its own. Maggie can't hold a job, drinks too much and blithely appropriates things that mean a lot to Rose, such as her expensive shoes and, oh yeah, her boyfriend. Rose, a lawyer with self-esteem issues, is way too fond of lecturing Maggie about her shortcomings, all but driving her to bad behavior. There are reasons the Feller sisters have problems. As children, they lost their mother, Caroline, to emotional illness -- and for all practical purposes lost their widowed dad when he married their "stepmonster," Sydelle. Worse, when their mother died, Daddy shut off all contact with their maternal grandmother, Ella, who has wound up in a "Seinfeld"-ian seniors condo development in Florida. At first it seems that readers are meant to take Rose's side. **Then Weiner pulls the switcheroo that makes this novel a success.** Having set up Maggie as the selfish one, she takes us inside her head and heart and in so doing makes her sympathetic. Then Weiner introduces the missing grandma, who completes the triangle of women devastated by the sad life and death of Caroline Feller. Still smarting, still wary, the three gingerly connect and begin to form the family that had been missing for so long.

Hartford Courant

