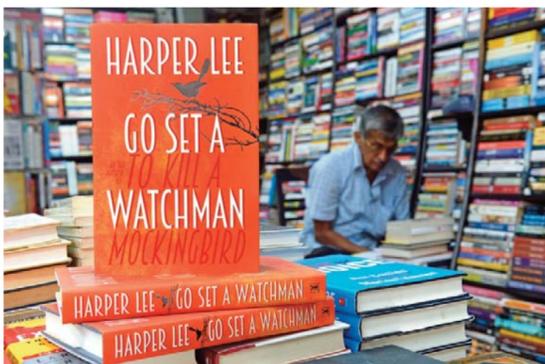


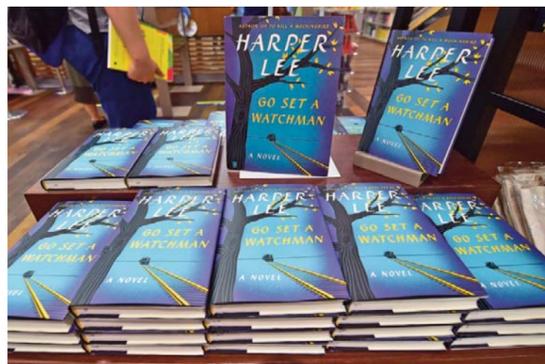


Palestinian Muslim worshippers pray overnight on July 13, 2015 outside the Dome of the Rock in the Al-Qsa Mosques compound in Jerusalem's Old City on the occasion of Laylat Al-Qadr which falls on the 27th day of the fasting month of Ramadan. Laylat Al-Qadr, or Night of Destiny, marks the night Muslims believe the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) through the archangel Gabriel. — AFP

MIDNIGHT OPENINGS FOR HARPER LEE BOOK LAUNCH



Copies of Harper Lee's new book 'Go Set a Watchman' are kept on display at an Indian book store in Mumbai. — AFP photos



Copies of Harper Lee's 'Go Set a Watchman' are on display as part of a global release at a bookstore in Seoul.

Bookstores opened at midnight when copies of Harper Lee's eagerly awaited, but controversial second novel flew off the shelves more than half a century after the groundbreaking success of "To Kill a Mockingbird." The global release of "Go Set a Watchman" has been feted as one of the biggest literary events in years. Thanks to pre-orders, it has been the number one bestseller at online retailer Amazon for months, and publisher HarperCollins has ordered a first print run of two million copies. Lee's only previous novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," is considered a 20th century masterpiece that defined racial injustice in the Depression-era South and became standard reading in classrooms.

Published in 1960, it was translated into more than 40 languages and adapted into an Oscar-winning film starring Gregory Peck. In Britain and Ireland, retailer Waterstones organized midnight openings so that fans could get their hands on print editions as soon as possible, while Amazon delivered pre-ordered Kindle editions at the stroke of 12. British independent chain Foyles also screened the 1962 Oscar-winning adaptation of "Mockingbird" before opening the tills in central London.

Various midnight openings were also scheduled in the United States, although in New York, Barnes and Noble was only set to open its flagship Fifth Avenue branch at 7:00 am (1100 GMT) to accommodate sales. In Lee's hometown of Monroeville in Alabama, where the 89-year-old lives in strict privacy at a nursing home, the small community's only secular bookstore also organized a midnight launch party. The Ol' Curiousities and Book Shoppe is offering special editions with embossed title pages to customers who pre-order and promises a Peck impersonator will amuse revelers.

The shop says it has sold 7,000 pre-ordered copies more than the town's estimated population of 6,300. About half of those orders will be shipped around the

United States and overseas, it says. On Monday, an op-ed published in The Wall Street Journal by Lee's lawyer sought to quell some of the controversy about how "Watchman" was discovered-after lying hidden for more than half a century-and hinted that there may also be a third novel. Tonja Carter said experts "directed by Lee" would be authenticating all documents in her safe-deposit box at a bank in Monroeville, including unidentified pages that she found last week.

A third novel?

"Was it an earlier draft of 'Watchman' or of 'Mockingbird' or even as early correspondence indicates it might be, a third book bridging the two?" she wondered. Mary McDonagh Murphy, a writer and producer, met Lee after the author was presented with the British and US editions of her new novel by publishers at a Monroeville restaurant on June 30. Murphy, whose updated film about Lee recently aired on PBS, told AFP that she briefly communicated with the novelist by writing down and holding up notes. But



despite being in a wheelchair and being "extremely hard of hearing" with poor eyesight, Lee seemed of firm mind. "Don't be silly, of course I did," Murphy quoted her as saying when asked if she ever thought she would see "Watchman" published. The biggest bombshell for die-hard fans has been that Scout's adored father Atticus expresses racist views, a seeming fall from grace for one of America's most loved literary heroes.

Controversy has refused to die over whether Lee, who shuns the media and suffered a stroke, was manipulated into publishing a book that she first wrote in the late 1950s. Her then editor suggested she recast the manuscript from the childhood perspective of Scout, which in turn became "Mockingbird." In a scathing review, National Public Radio called it a "troubling confusion of a novel" that reads "much more like a failed sequel" than a precursor to Mockingbird.

Others have counseled people to read the book as a whole, highlighting its value as an historical document. HarperCollins says "Watchman" has been published exactly as it was written, "without editorial intervention," at Lee's behest. The book is a coming-of-age story that explores "racism and changing attitudes in the South during the 1950s in a bold and unflinching way," it said in a statement. "By confronting these challenging and complex issues at the height of the

Civil Rights movement, the young Harper Lee demonstrated an honesty and bravery that makes this work both a powerful document of its time and a compelling piece of literature." — AFP

A woman walks away after purchasing Harper Lee's new book "Go Set a Watchman" after its release at the Barnes and Nobel in New York.

OnTime & Trinkets

showcase exclusive designer pieces during Ramadan

OnTime the most admired and trend setting designer watch retailer in the region and Trinkets, the region's leading fashion jewelry retailer will be showcasing selected exclusive pieces from their stunning new collection at an interactive booth inspired by the Holy Month of Ramadan at The Avenues Mall.

Brands such as Ferre Milano, Diciand Michael Kors from OnTime and Emporio Armani, Michael Kors and Aigner from Trinkets will be displayed at the booth. A nationwide Ramadan promotion is rolled out simultaneously at all OnTime stores, giving customers the opportunity to walk away with a gift box on all purchases above KD 75.

In an eclectic mix of traditional meets contemporary, the Ramadan booth at The Avenues Mall will feature an Oud instrument a list that shall mesmerize customers with traditional tunes. For the first time in Kuwait, the event will be featuring a musician playing the Hand pan, a new-age German instru-

ment played with the hands and fingers to create soft and warm calming tones. Customers will also be able to pose and be photographed in a crescent-shaped jewelry retailer will be showcasing selected exclusive pieces from their stunning new collection at an interactive booth inspired by the Holy Month of Ramadan at The Avenues Mall.

"It gives us great pleasure in showcasing the OnTime and Trinkets collection for our fashion-conscious clientele through this booth which we believe aptly captures the very essence of Ramadan. The ambience set by the music, furniture and will provide customers with the perfect setting to browse through the collection with the spirit of Ramadan resonating in the background" said Jade Morwa, Marketing Head, Watches & Jewellery Division- Alyasra Fashion. The nationwide promotion at OnTime stores will go on from July 10th to July 20th.

