

WEEKEND @ HOME

Insider



TV'S TOP 10

Prime-time viewership numbers compiled by Nielsen Media Research for March 8-14.

- 1 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation**, CBS, 27.4 million viewers.
- 2 American Idol** (Tuesday), Fox, 24.6 million viewers.
- 3 Survivor: All-Stars**, CBS, 22.6 million viewers.
- 4 American Idol** (Wednesday), Fox, 22 million viewers.
- 5 Without a Trace**, CBS, 19.7 million viewers.
- 6 The Apprentice**, NBC, 19.2 million viewers.
- 7 Everybody Loves Raymond**, CBS, 16.7 million viewers.
- 8 Friends**, NBC, 16.6 million viewers.
- 9 Cold Case**, CBS, 15.9 million viewers.
- 10 Will & Grace**, NBC, 15.6 million viewers.



STAR CARS

The Top 10 television and motion picture star cars, as determined by Hagerty Insurance, which specializes in collector car insurance:

- **1969 Dodge Charger General Lee** from *The Dukes of Hazzard*
- **Green 1968 Ford Mustang** driven by Steve McQueen in *Bullitt*
- **1967 Shelby GT500** from *Gone with the Wind*
- **1983 DeLorean** from *Back to the Future*
- **Batmobile** from *Batman*
- **Aston Martin DB5** from *Goldfinger*
- **1977 Pontiac Firebird T/A** from *Smokey and the Bandit*
- **1963 Volkswagen Beetle** from *Herbie, the Love Bug*
- **1974 Ford Torino** from *Starsky and Hutch*
- **Chrysler Imperial Black Beauty** from *The Green Hornet*

THEY SAID IT

"We didn't anticipate that the clothing from the show would fit the average New York City-size woman."

Melissa Weinberg, a Manhattan shopper buying *Sex and the City* wardrobes that HBO's costume shop put on sale at a consignment shop.

WWW.
RockyMountainNews.com

Korean-American Chang-rae Lee reflects on writing, identity, and the struggle to belong

Home work



Chang-rae Lee burst onto the publishing scene in 1995 with his first novel, "Native Speaker". The story of a Korean-American spy, the book earned raves, including the PEN/Hemingway Award and the American Book Award.

It was followed by Lee's equally acclaimed novel "A Gesture Life," a tale about an elderly immigrant born in Korea and raised in Japan who treats Korean "comfort women" as a medic during World War II.

In both books, Lee explores themes of identity and assimilation that reflect his own life as a Korean-American.

Lee came to the United States with his family when he was 3 years old. He worked on Wall Street for a year before turning to writing full time.

Hailed by the The New Yorker as one of the 20 best fiction writers under 40, he continues his literary run with his new novel, "Aloft", the story of Jerry Battle, a suburban man in the midst of a family crisis who seeks to escape by flying solo in his small plane.

In advance of Lee's appearance today at the Tattered Cover, News staffer Jessica Slater spoke to the author from New Jersey, where he lives and teaches writing at Princeton University. Lee mused on writing, identity and the yearning for home.

I read that you worked in a bank for a short time after graduating from Yale. What made you decide to focus on a career in writing? Was it a difficult decision?

"Yes, I worked in a bank for exactly one year, to the day — I made sure to quit after exactly one year, just so I could say it was exactly one year!

"It was a difficult decision, sort of like deciding to jump off a cliff, especially when you have a nice-paying job and a future that way, and especially given how pleased my parents were that I had a job like that. . . .

"I really didn't know if I could make a career as a writer, or even write a book for that matter. It was more like having a voice, an incessant voice that said, 'You should write, you should write!' and finally I got tired of hearing it and decided to try. . . .

"Looking back, I'm so happy I did it. Life moves in funny ways — I could have gotten enamored with the money, and my nice life in New York, and it would have been harder and harder to make that decision."

So, did you just decide to be a writer and sit down and do it? How did that work?

"I had given up so much in my mind, all the 'normal' things, like stability and prosperity, so I didn't want to (mess) around.

"When you live in New York, you go to a party or to the bar, and half the people there are saying they're writing a novel. I didn't want to be someone who just says that. I really did work very hard, sitting there all day, all night, whenever I had the energy to work. . . . I knew nothing was going to happen if I just sat around waiting for inspiration."

You were named one of the 20 best writers under 40 by The New Yorker. Did that kind of accolade inspire you, or add extra pressure?

"It was very nice — I think I was the last guy in, I was No. 20, I really do. . . . I appreciate it, but it doesn't add that much pressure. Those

Chang-rae Lee