

LINWOOD  
MESSINA



**LITERARY**  
AGENCY

**SPRING 2022**  
**—FICTION—**

## RECENT SUCCESSES (FICTION)



### A TREASURE TO KILL FOR

by Michel Bussi

(on behalf of Denis Bourgeois)

**Rights sold** Germany: Aufbau, Italy: E/O, Poland: Swiat Ksiazki

**One murder...8 million witnesses.**

On the 6th day of the 2008 edition of the Armada of Rouen a sailor is found stabbed to death on the docks. The same sailor who, a few days earlier during the parade of big ships, dove from his ship's mast into the Seine and stayed under water for over two minutes. Without any explanation. Commissioner Paturel and his team investigate while Maline Abruzze, a local journalist, leads her own search for the killer. When two more sailors are mysteriously murdered, both investigations seek to find the ties that bind them together. All clues lead to believe that these men were on a search for a lost treasure hidden in the Seine. But it very well looks like the treasure may be cursed.



### THE 5 PERFUMES OF OUR STORY

by Laure Margerand

**Rights sold** Bulgaria: Kragozor, Germany: Thiele Verlag, Italy: Giunti, Czech Republic: Metafora

**THE FIRST PERFUMED NOVEL**

An uplifting novel about the improbable collaboration between a bestselling author whose marriage is falling apart, a freelance editor trying to overcome tragedy and a woman who works as a nose who will create perfumes that perfectly match the novel they are working on together.

[MORE INFO HERE](#)



### FROMAGE À TROIS / BRIOCHE IN THE OVEN

by Victoria Brownlee

**Rights sold** UK: Quercus, US: Amberjack, Denmark: Hoi, Germany: Goldmann, Italy: Garzanti, Czech Rep: Metafora, Slovakia: Grada, Sweden: Hoi

"Brownlee craftily combines the beauty and charm of Paris with the allure of romance, creating a novel of sensory delight." — *Publisher's Weekly*

[MORE INFO HERE](#)



### THE BUTTERFLY

by Katarzyna Puzynska

(on behalf of Prsoszynski i S-ka)

**10-BOOK CRIME SERIES  
OVER 550 000 COPIES SOLD**

**Rights sold** Czech Rep: XYZ, Spain: Maeva (3 books in the series)

«Katarzyna Puzynska deserves to be called the Polish Camilla Lackberg» — Robert Ostaszewski, Literary Critic

One cold winter morning on the outskirts of the village of Lipovo, a dead nun is found lying in the road. Daniel Podgorski and his team investigate to determine if this was an accident or murder. In this quiet town where nothing ever happens, it's Daniel's first chance to prove he can investigate a crime of this magnitude. When another victim is found dead, the pressure mounts...



### AN IMPOSSIBLE RETURN

by Caroline Laurent

(on behalf of Les Escales)

**Rights sold** World English: Amazon Crossing, Italy: Edizioni E/O

**PRIX MAISON DE LA PRESSE 2020  
+30 000 COPIES SOLD**

« With a strong show of faith in the power of fiction, Caroline Laurent gives a voice and strength to a forgotten tragedy. » — **Le Point**

« A deeply moving story about the heartbreak of exile » — **Version femina**

The epic love story of two people from entirely different worlds that have to constantly fight against outside forces keeping them apart...

[MORE INFO IN ENGLISH HERE](#)



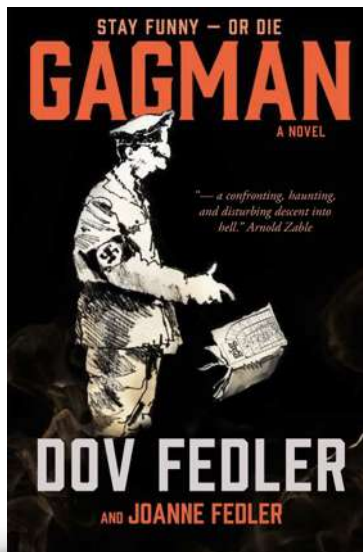
### THE BOOKSHOP OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS

by Emily Blaine

**Rights sold** UK: Chapter One (HarperCollins), Czech Republic: Omega, Germany: Piper, Italy: Tre60, Hungary: Alexandra

Sarah and Max should never have met. She's a shy bookworm who's barely ever left her little village; he's a bad boy actor with the world at his feet. But when Max crosses one line too many, he's faced with community service in Sarah's bookshop. With an unruly theatre group to run and a gorgeous, tattooed stranger under her roof, Sarah's about to discover that real life is more...

[MORE INFO HERE](#)



LITERARY FICTION  
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLISHER: BRIO BOOKS (AUS)

## GAGMAN

Dov Fedler and Joanne Fedler

February 2022  
272 pages

"Dov Fedler, in *Gagman*, has plunged the reader into a crazy world where the Holocaust collides with Superman and Nietzsche and the result is a virtuosic graphic and written allegory. It is a very original take on a highly contested history — who can tell the story of the Holocaust? Through a mishmash of Talmudic scholarship and confronting black humour, *Gagman* is a way of looking into the abyss. — Sydney Jewish Museum

"*Gagman* is a daring and uncompromising work, both allegory and achingly real — a confronting, haunting, and disturbing descent into hell, drawing on word and image to create a world in which to remain sane one must go mad. Dov Fedler totally inhabits his protagonist, and pushes his craft and his imagination to the limits to expose the horrors of Nazism, and to explore the redemptive power of art, humanity and humour." — Arnold Zable, Australian writer, prize-winning novelist, and human rights advocate.

As the Sydney Jewish Museum put it, « *Gagman* is a 21st century *Scheherazade*, a tale of our time. » It's the tale of a man who survives the Nazi concentration camps by telling jokes to the commandant. Each time he lives to see another day, another prison does not. And so ultimately it is about survivor's guilt to the extreme and explores how we make meaning in a post-Holocaust world.

The author, Dov Fedler, was one of South Africa's most beloved and preeminent political cartoonists before his retirement in 2016. He first imagined *Gagman* while in an Israeli hotel room in 1986 and the story has never stopped evolving since then.

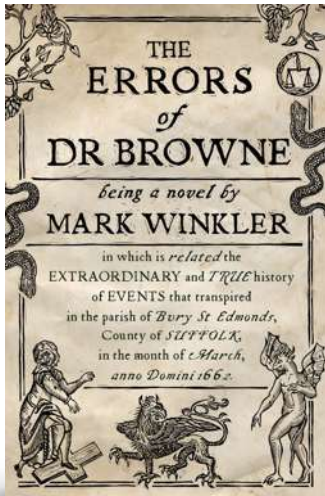
There were so many drafts and versions that Dov lost sight of how to piece it all together. He also had experienced powerful bursts of self-doubt: is he qualified to write a story about the camps? And is it okay to use humor to do so? And so *Gagman* spent many years stored away in boxes until 2018 when Dov became determined to finish what he had started. That's when his Sydney-based daughter Joanne Fedler, an internationally bestselling author, stepped in to sort through those 17 drafts in order to help craft what is now a complete manuscript, 35 years later.

*Gagman* is *not* a graphic novel but a novel with some illustrations that complement the story; they do not *tell* the story.

Click [here](#) to see more, including a video of Dov Fedler talking about the evolution of *Gagman*.

**Dov Fedler** spent fifty years drawing for *The Star*, South Africa's leading daily newspaper. His memoirs *Out of Line* were published in 2015.

**Joanne Fedler** is the internationally bestselling author of 12 books, which have been translated into many different languages and have sold over 750 000 copies worldwide. She is a Fulbright scholar, has a Master's degree in Law from Yale, set up and ran an advocacy centre to end violence against women in South Africa and has spent her life fighting for women's rights.



UPMARKET / HISTORICAL FICTION  
LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLISHER: PENGUIN SOUTH AFRICA

## THE ERRORS OF DOCTOR BROWNE

Mark Winkler

August 2022

**A novel based on one of the last witch trials in England,  
for fans of *The Crucible* and *Burial Rites*...**

*The Errors of Doctor Browne* is an exquisitely written work of historical fiction based on the involvement of the historical figure of Dr Thomas Browne, a medical doctor, naturalist and philosopher, in one of the last witch trials to be held in England (in 1662).

Dr Thomas Browne's presence is requested in Bury St Edmunds by judge Sir Matthew Hale, an old acquaintance. Hale commissions him to act as a witness in a trial to be held against two old women accused of being witches, Amy Denny and Rose Cullender. Dr Browne's task is simple enough; he is to interview the women (who are currently being held in jail in deplorable conditions) as well as their accusers in order to present his opinion before the court.

At a time when the burden is on the accused to prove their innocence, the villagers' accusations are seemingly insurmountable. As a man of both science and religion, Dr Browne is the ideal candidate for determining what is true. But as his investigation deepens and the trial proceeds it becomes clear to him that the truth isn't necessarily what people are seeking.



Mark Winkler's first book was written after more than twenty years as copywriter, creative director and creative partner at leading South African agencies. He has been long-listed once and short-listed three times for the Sunday Times Barry Ronge Fiction Prize. He lives in Cape Town with his family.



## CRIME / MYSTERY LANGUAGE: FRENCH

### INSPECTOR LLOB MYSTERIES by Yasmina Khadra

1. MORITURI
2. DOUBLE BLANK
3. AUTUMN OF PHANTOMS

Now updated and revised...international bestselling and multiple prize-winner author Yasmina Khadra's Algiers-set crime series published in France in the late 90s on the Folio crime list.

The remarkable roman policier *Morituri* introduces us to the formidable and yet very human detective-writer, Superintendent Llob and his devoted lieutenant Lino. It follows Llob in his search for the missing daughter of Ghoule Malek, one of the top power brokers in Algiers.

In his search, Llob must traverse the fear-filled streets of Algiers, from the dens of the drug pushers to those of the cruel and fanatical Islamic fundamentalists. The poverty and constant terror and suspicion endemic to Algiers, torn apart by civil war, is set against contrasting glimpses of the corrupt and luxurious high society. The memory of the serene and beautiful Algiers that was makes the current situation all the more heartbreaking.

More than just an outstanding mystery novel, with *Morituri* Khadra paints an unforgettable picture of the tragedy of modern Algeria. in language of breathtaking power and poetry.



**Yasmina Khadra** is the pen name of the former Algerian army officer Mohammed Moulessehoul. One of the most famous Algerian novelists in the world has written almost 40 novels, and has published in more than 50 countries. Khadra has often explored Algerian and other Arab countries' civil wars, depicting Muslim conflicts and reality, the attraction of radical Islamism to those alienated by the incompetence and hypocrisy of politicians, and conflicts between East and West.

He has twice been honored by the Académie française, winning both the Médaille de Vermeil (2001) and Grand Prix de Littérature (2011). He lives in France.





**LITERARY SUSPENSE**  
**LANGUAGE: ENGLISH**

**PUBLISHER: SANDSTONE PRESS (UK)**

## **CAGED LITTLE BIRDS**

Lucy Banks

September 2022

**Rights sold**  
France: Belfond

**Secrets from the past always come back to haunt you...**

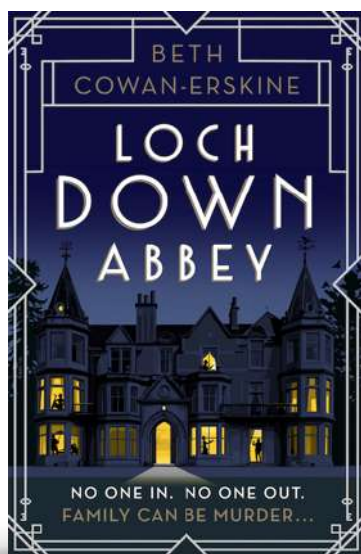
Ava, nearing her late 50s, has just been released from almost thirty years of prison after being "wrongly" convicted of murdering a pre-teen boy. It was all the more difficult to prove her innocence because the boy was the son of the married man Ava had an affair with at work; a man that abruptly ended things with her in order to stay with his family. The British press depicted her as a monster and the public opinion believed all the lies they were fed about her.

With Ava's time now served, she just wants to put all of that behind her and move on in peace in a small town. The government has provided her with a new identity so that she can smoothly integrate back into society without being recognized and shunned. While appreciating the quiet time at home alone and tending to her garden, she strikes up a charming friendship with her neighbor Bill who, in a very gentlemanly manner, starts to woo her. Yes, after spending so much time in prison for doing something she didn't do, this is the quiet life that Ava has been waiting for.

Then one day her photo is taken and printed in the local newspaper for having saved a little child from being run over by a car at a busy intersection. She was a hero. But someone who has recognized Ava for her crime sends her threatening notes and begins following her. Little by little, Ava's new existence starts to unravel, particularly when she starts to suspect that the person menacing her is Bill's daughter, Amber. As her new world slowly falls in around her, sweet, innocent, wrongly accused Ava may turn out to be someone quite unexpected.



Originally hailing from Hertfordshire, **Lucy Banks** now lives in Devon with her ornithologist husband, two children, and occasionally alarming cat.



**COMMERCIAL FICTION**  
**LANGUAGE: ENGLISH**

**PUBLISHER: HODDER & STOUGHTON**

## **LOCH DOWN ABBEY**

Beth Cowan-Erskine

April 2021  
300 pages

### **Rights sold**

Czech Rep: Dobrovsky  
Finland: Bazar  
(3 book deal)  
France: Pygmalion  
Italy: Mondadori  
Russia: Eksmo

**TV SERIES IN DEVELOPMENT**

‘It was an entertaining romp and a fascinating insight into the weird and wonderful ways of the British aristocracy. It has made me want to go to Scotland and stay in a place like the Abbey as soon as our lockdown allows!’

— **S.J. Bennett**, author of *The Windsor Knot: Her Majesty The Queen Investigates*

### **NetGalley Reviews:**

« Perfect if you loved The Thursday Murder Club... »

« Its just incredibly good fun. »

‘Beautifully written with real attention to detail, this is a joyous read that’ll stay with me for a long time’

« The ending took me completely by surprise but in the best way. I hope Cowan-Erskine writes some additional novels as her characters are interesting and the plot compelling. »

« The stand out moments are brilliant. If you want to escape for a while this is definitely a good book for that. »

### **A clever parody of Downton Abbey with a virus and perhaps a murder.**

The noble family of Inverkillen lives upstairs at Loch Down Abbey and everyone else, well, they're downstairs of course. There are countless members of the family, most of whom stay at home tiring themselves out by doing what can only be described as nothing.

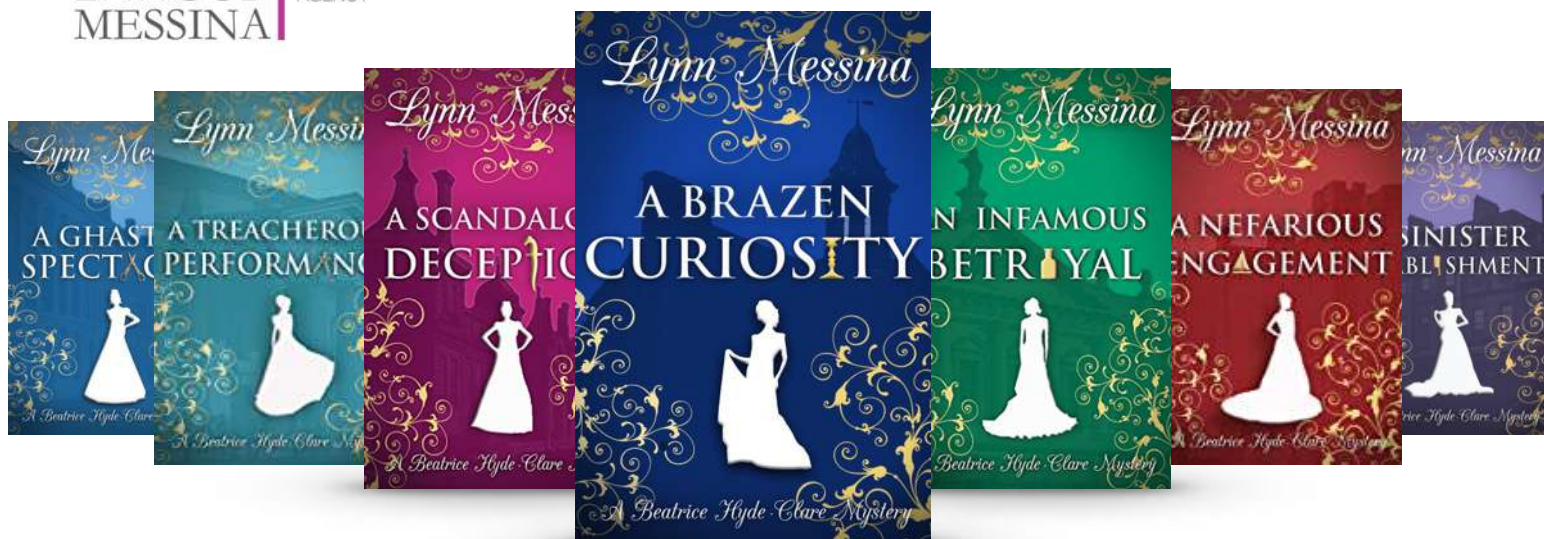
It's the 1930s and a mysterious illness is spreading over Scotland; the Nanny is struck first and so someone in the family, maybe a parent for once, will have to look after the children. But no, that duty falls upon Iris, the family ward taken in from the orphanage as young girl. Then Lord Inverkillen is found dead but it's not the virus that killed him. No, he drowned while fishing in the river that runs through the estate. The inspector declares it an accident but Mrs MacBain, the head housekeeper, isn't so convinced. She'll have to do some digging in between chores. As no one is allowed in or out — because of the illness — the residents of the house are her only suspects.

Lord Inverkillen's death is just the beginning of the unrest the family will be forced to go through over the coming months. There isn't enough money to pay the death taxes so they may have to sell the house (gasp!). And to top it off, one by one the servants fall ill with the virus and leave the Inverkillen's mostly to their own devices. The horror! (Of having to make their own beds.)

*Loch Down Abbey* is a playful parody of that great British tradition of portraying nobility and domestics living under the same roof with weddings to plan, spouses to mourn, elaborate five course meals to serve (while masked), titles to fight over, affairs to conceal, honour to protect, illegitimate children to hide, deaths to investigate and much, much more.



**Beth Cowan-Erskine** is originally from a small town in Wyoming. She moved to the UK in 2010 and started an Interior Architecture firm. She lives on a farm in the Cotswolds with her Scottish husband but longs for the Highlands. This is her first novel.



**HISTORICAL COZY**  
**LANGUAGE: ENGLISH**

## A BRAZEN CURIOSITY

A Beatrice Hyde-Clare Mystery

Lynn Messina

August 2018 / 225 pages  
Self-Published

**+300 000 readers....**

**Rights sold (3 book deals)**  
Czech Rep: Dobrovsky  
France: Les Escales  
Germany: Thiele Verlag

**"Messina's prose is witty and assured (she's read her Austen, her Wharton, her Noel Coward), and her novel is an irresistible frolic." — Publishers Weekly**

Twenty-six-year-old Beatrice Hyde-Clare would never dare to think about investigating the suspicious death of a fellow guest at a weeklong house party at a country estate in the Lake District. A spinster who has been living on the sufferance of her aunt and uncle since the age of 16, she would certainly not presume to search the rooms of her hosts and other guests looking for evidence. Reared in the twin virtues of deference and docility, she would never dare to question the imperious (and handsome) Duke of Kesgrave about anything, let alone how he chose to mark the obvious murder as a suicide.

And yet when she stumbles upon the bludgeoned corpse of poor Mr. Otley in the deserted library of the Skeffingtons' country house, that's exactly what she does.



**Lynn Messina** is the author of over a dozen novels, including *Fashionistas*, which has been translated into 16 languages. Her essays have appeared in *Self*, *American Baby* and the Modern Love column of *The New York Times*. She's also a regular contributor to the *Times Motherlode* blog. Lynn lives in New York City with her two sons.

9	Anne Perry	Open Road Media Mystery & Thriller, Ballantine Books	3	76
10	Robert Goldsborough	MysteriousPress.com/Open Road	1	44
11	Lynn Messina	Potlatox Press	5	89
12	Stephen King	Hard Case Crime	1	42
13	Thomas M. Wright	Amazon Publishing	2	55

#11 in U.S.  
market for  
historical mystery  
ebook sales





**LITERARY SUSPENSE  
LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: BELFOND**

## **THE LIAR**

Patricia Delahaie

February 2022  
368 pages

**LOONGLISTED:  
PRIX LECTRICES D'ELLE  
PRIX MAISON DE LA PRESSE**

**When a very ordinary doctor in a very ordinary town is manipulated to do something extraordinarily deadly.**

Paul Ménard is a good man. He is a small-town doctor who has been married to his wife for over thirty years. They have two grown children and live in a beautiful home. Theirs is a quiet, uneventful, ordinary existence.

And then Camille Ellis comes to town. She is beautiful, like a movie star. Like Marilyn Monroe even and she has her eyes set on Paul. It starts innocently enough, with a visit to his office because of a chronic headache. But little by little, Camille seduces him; Paul could hardly believe that such a beautiful, young woman could be interested in him. But she is and his lust for her is overwhelming.

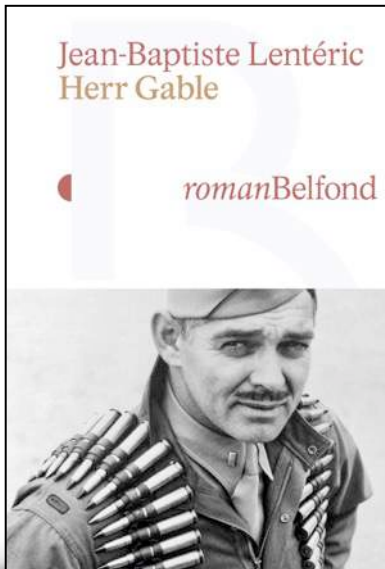
Camille slowly opens up to him about her abusive husband Marc, an air force pilot who is often away on missions. He beats her and “shares” her with drunken friends; he even hits their daughter Céleste. Camille’s friend Sophie calls Paul regularly begging him to do something to help Camille. Even Celeste asks for his help. Paul is a good man. He must do something.

When Marc comes home from a mission feeling unwell, Camille takes him to see Paul for treatment. This is Paul’s chance to be Camille’s hero. To do what needs to be done.

Maybe, in the end, he’s not such a good man after all. But maybe not everything is as it seems.



**Patricia Delahaie** was a journalist who specialized in the relationships between parents and children, and couples. She is the author of several books on personal development and has now turned her writing towards fiction. *La Faussaire* is her first novel.



**LITERARY FICTION**  
**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: BELFOND**

## **HERR GABLE**

Jean-Baptiste Lentéric

Winter 2022  
432 pages

**A war novel about the fictionalized meeting of Hitler and Clark Gable and the German soldier who made it happen...**

February 1943. After six months of relentless combat, Hitler's troops lose the Battle of Stalingrad 700 000 German soldiers died for nothing. It's the turning point of the war. Certain ranking office of the Wehrmacht no longer believe victory is possible.

In Berghof, far from the horrors of the Eastern Front, the Führer and Eva Braun spend their days in peace. They enjoy lounging about with their dogs on the panoramic terrace that looks out onto the Bavarian Alps. It's in part, from this mountain home, that the chancellor leads his war against the Allies. It's always where he enjoys watching American films. Especially those starring Clark Gable whom he considers to be the greatest living actor.

After the death of his wife Carole Lombard, Gable joins the US Air Force and is apart of missions to bomb Germany. When Hitler learns that his favorite actor is against him, he orders his capture. Martin Bormann, Hitler's personal secretary, is tasked with finding the officer who is the most qualified for this unusual mission. After having studied countless profiles, Bormann is intrigued by a young sharpshooter who has already successfully completely several dangerous missions: Captain Florian Weiter.

During a mussion, the B-17 that Gable is flying is shot down and crashes in the Chevreuse Valley, near Paris. But not before Gable managed to eject himself and parachute to safety, helped by the Resistants. But German radars were able to locate the crash site and so Captain Weiter is sent to France which leads to the improbable meeting between Adolf Hitler and Clark

Jean-Baptiste Lentéric worked as an assistant director notably for the prestigious director Samuel Fuller. He now writes full-time.



LITERARY FICTION  
LANGUAGE: FRENCH

PUBLISHER: BELFOND

## ANTOINE

Christian Blanchard

March 2022  
300 pages

**A poignant story about a teen from a troubled family just trying to find peace and security in a world that won't let him...**

It's the early 1970s and Antoine is an only child. His peaceful, idyllic childhood on the family farm deteriorates when his father decides to stop working the land and begins working in a factory. His loving, caring father turns into a violent man under the influence of alcohol. After long days at work he settles into a routine of getting drunk at a local bar only to come home to abuse his wife, both verbally and physically, and sometimes his child. Only one night, things go too far and in order to save his mother from his father's grip, Antoine stabs and kills his father. But it's too late, his mother is also dead.

As a now-orphaned early teen, Antoine is sent to a detention center for minors where victims like himself are mixed in together with criminals. There he is confronted with older boys who decide to make him a target especially because he is so frail and timid. It turns out that life without his abusive father is not any easier for Antoine.

But then there's hope. Antoine is welcomed into a foster family that genuinely wants what's best for him. He learns how to box which helps him gain self-assurance and strength. He makes a best friend at school and even develops feelings for a girl in his class who seems like him in return. But little by little everything starts to go terribly wrong and the beast living inside of Antoine awakens yet again...



Christian Blanchard lives in Brittany. After working in the public sector for 25 years, he decided to write full-time. He is the author of *Iboga* (Belfond, 2018), prix des lecteurs du meilleur polar Points 2020, *Seul avec la nuit* (Belfond, 2019), *Angkar* (Belfond, 2020), prix du roman noir 2020 des bibliothèques et médiathèques de Grand Cognac, as well as *Tu ne seras plus mon frère* (Belfond, 2021), prix du roman de la ville de Carhaix 2021.



**LITERARY FICTION**  
**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: BELFOND**

## **EXCUSES FOR THE DOGS**

Marion Bello

March 2022  
320 pages

**A debut novel that is reminiscent of *The Slap* by Christopher Tsiolkas and *The Gods of Carnage* by Yasmina Reza**

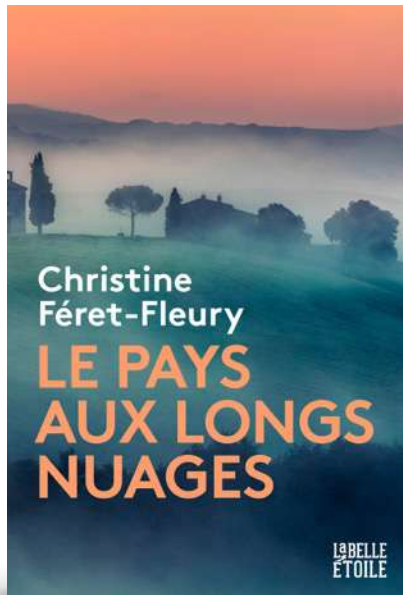
At a party celebrating the end of the school year at an elementary school in Haute-Savoie, a child is hit by the father of another student. But it was a mistake because the man actually intended to hit *another* student. Lorraine, the mother of the intended victim refuses to let the man get away with it while the principal of the school and the police do nothing to intervene. Even the parents of the student actually assaulted simply change schools without taking any further action.

Lorraine is ready to do anything to fix this injustice even as the lies that were buried in her own family start to crack. Because this incident has awoken in Lorraine a painful memory from her own childhood, at a time when adults didn't protect their children like they should have.



**Marion Bello**, born in 1978, is a copy-editor. *Des excuses pour les chiens* is her first novel.





FICTION  
LANGUAGE: FRENCH

PUBLISHER: LA BELLE ETOILE (MARABOUT)

## THE LITTLE RECIPE BOOK OF FORGOTTEN FAMILY

Christine Féret-Fleury

April 2022  
240 pages

**The new novel from the author of *La fille qui lisait dans le métro* (sold in over 20 languages)...**

In Italy, Acia suddenly finds herself without work after the boss of the restaurant where she works disappears with all of the money. She takes off in her car without with a specific destination in mind. During a stop for lunch, she comes across a recipe book that has been left out on a bench. The name of a town is written on the inside: Palazzo. Acia takes that as a sign and decides to make her way to Palazzo.

Once she arrives, she is led to the best cook in town, a woman named Nebbe who is in desperate need of help to keep her restaurant in business.

Meanwhile, Kamar and her daughter flee the bombings, death and war of Syria to make their way towards Europe, and happen to end up in the the small Italian town of Palazzo.

These three women will join together to bring Nebbe's restaurant back to life and to create a new family for themselves in the most unexpected way.



**Christine Féret-Fleury** is an editor and author, and runs writing workshops. She has written nearly one hundred novels for children and adults (*La Fille qui lisait dans le métro*, 2017, Denoël, *La Femme sans ombre*, 2019, Denoël). Her first novel, *Les vagues sont douces comme des tigres* (Arléa, 1999) was the recipient of the prix Antigone.



**CRIME / THRILLER**  
**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: BLACK LAB (MARABOUT)**

## **MATRIX**

Céline Denjean

March 2022  
368 pages

**SHORLISTED!**  
**PRIX LANDERNAU POLAR**

**A highly original, page-turning mystery from the winner of 2018's Prix Cognac**

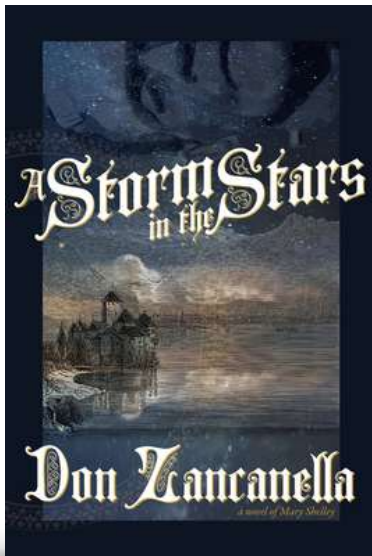
One night in the dead of winter, a violent storm lashes out across the Pyrénées. A young pregnant woman runs in the down-pouring rain as if her life depends on it. When she is hit by a truck. Before she dies, she mutters a few words in English: « Save the others. »

Who is this woman? She doesn't have any ID on her. What was she running from? What does the strange mark on her shoulder represent? And who are the « others » that need to be saved?

Detectives Louise Caumont and Violaine Menou throw themselves into this highly unusual investigation and soon discover that women are being trafficked as surrogate mothers. In order to track down the unknown women's killer, the detectives realize they must save the other women undoubtedly pregnant and being held prisoner.



Céline Denjean is the author of *Le Cheptel*, prix Cognac 2018, prix de l'Embouchure 2018, prix Mordus de thriller 2019; and *Le Cercle des mensonge*, prix L'Alsace/DNA 2021.



FICTION

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLISHER: DELPHINIUM BOOKS

## A STORM IN THE STARS

Don Zancanella

August 2022  
300 pages

"Zancanella breathes fresh life into the radical enchantment of Mary Godwin and Percy Shelley—one of the great love stories of all time. Incredibly rich and vivid. »

—**Samantha Silva**, author of *Love and Fury: A Novel of Mary Wollstonecraft*

"A panoramic sweep through the lives and viewpoints of the Shelley circle, this compassionate novel is beautifully told. »

—**Alix Hawley**, author of *All True Not a Lie In It*

**A novel based on the lives and romance of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, the romantic poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley and their friendship with the larger-than-life Lord Byron.**

In London, early in the nineteenth century, five-year-old Mary Godwin, daughter of philosopher William Godwin, plays with her sister Fanny, mourns her deceased mother, and marvels as a hot air balloon lands not far from the Thames. Nearby, in Sussex, eleven-year-old Percy Shelley entertains his three sisters by telling them stories and performing tricks with chemicals and fire.

A few years later Mary and Percy meet and fall in love in the Godwin bookshop near Black Friar's Bridge. At first their romance seems doomed—Percy is a well-known atheist and already has a wife and children, and Mary is only seventeen and under the care of her father and his overbearing second wife. But they consider such impediments trivial and are soon on their way to Ireland, to Switzerland, and across Europe (with Mary's flighty half-sister Claire in tow).

Upon reaching Lake Geneva they find lodgings near where the notorious poet Lord Byron and his peculiar personal physician John Polidori are staying—the same Lord Byron Claire seduced back in London, her reasoning being that if Mary can have a poet, why can't she? And so begins the summer when Mary Shelley will begin writing her novel about a man who brings to life a creature of his own making, Percy and Lord Byron will debate politics and poetry in the midst of lightning storms, Polidori will begin writing his novel about a man with a taste for human blood.



**Don Zancanella** is the author of *Concord* (Serving House Books) and *Western Electric* (University of Iowa Press). He won the John S. Simmons/Iowa Short Fiction Award and an O.Henry Prize. One of his stories was cited as a distinguished story of the year in the 2019 Best American Short Stories, and another has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. He now lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife and their rescue dogs.

## THE BUILDING ON CAVENDISH STREET BY CAROLINE KANT

FICTION

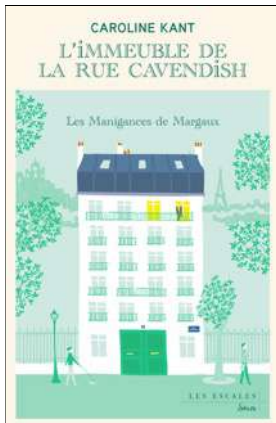
LANGUAGE: FRENCH

PUBLISHER:

LES ESCALES

*L'Immeuble de la Rue Cavendish* is a **6-book series** launching **Les Escalles' series**. These first two books are being published in **April 2022** with a first print-run of over **10 000 copies** each.

Each novel is narrated from the point-of-view of one of the residents of this typically Parisian apartment building in the neighborhood of the Parc Buttes-Chaumont where neighbors are almost like family, for better and for worse. The main character of one book becomes a secondary character in the next. Between the new residents moving in, those who disappear from one day to the next, those who fall in love and those who...well...you'll have to read to find out. One thing's for sure, there's always something exciting happening inside...



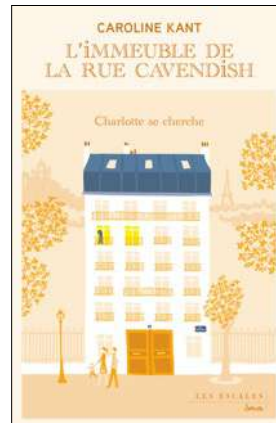
### Les Manigances de Margaux

After a painful breakup, Margaux, 20s, moves into an apartment that her Uncle lends her on rue Cavendish. Near Buttes-Chaumont, the building is always bustling, between the unpleasant concierge who insists on being called Madame

Nathalie, the crazy old man on the 2nd floor and the intolerable kid on the 4th, Margaux hardly finds the time to indulge in watching the horror movies she so enjoys.

Thankfully, she can count on her neighbors: Victoire, Charlotte and Markus are always there for her over a round of drinks. Especially after Margaux meets the hot neighbor who lives across the street.

But things get complicated when worrying noises come from the couple who live in the apartment upstairs and Margaux decides to meddle.



### Charlotte se cherche

Charlotte has gotten herself a new job working for a wedding planner. Now she can support her family while her husband Alexandre starts his new company. She even managed to negotiate Wednesdays afternoons off so that she could spend time with

her two children.

Goodbye to the uncertain life of a freelancer and hello to a steady income, paid vacation and coffee breaks! Except that her co-worker Laetitia isn't too happy with Charlotte's arrival and her behavior becomes more and more difficult to deal with as she tries to sabotage Charlotte in the eyes of their boss.

To make matters worse, Charlotte argues more and more frequently with Alexandre while she gets closer and closer to Thomas, the sexy neighbor who just moved into the building. Just how far will she go? And just how far will Laetitia go to make her regret taking this job?





**FICTION**  
**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: LES ESCALES**

## WAITING FOR DAWN

Julie Printzac

March 2022  
336 pages

**Based on a true story, a harrowing novel that portrays what life was like for Jewish families living in the supposedly Free Zone of France during World War II...**

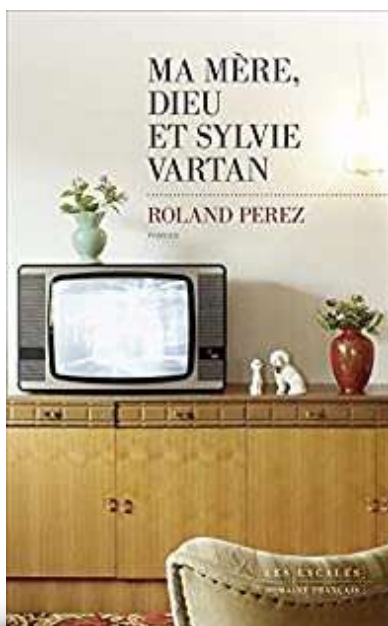
Summer 1941. The Brodsky's, a Jewish family, has fled the occupied zone and Nazi threat to take refuge in southern France. However, the new, brutal laws of Vichy France catch up with them where they have settled, in the town of Saint-Girons at the foot of the Pyrénées. Little by little the three generations of the family organize their lives as best as possible.

Esther, the oldest of the children, meets Clara at school. Like for most teens, it's a time in their lives filled with great emotions, first loves and powerful friendships. It's also a time for the Resistance, the fight for survival and also the roundups. In this time of great upheaval, Esther and Clara will do everything they can to remain masters of their fate. But the brutality of history may have something to say about that as well.

Decades later, while Esther suffers from senility and her granddaughter Deborah visits with her, she yells out the name "Clara". When Deborah questions her about this, having never heard of a Clara, she remains silent. Deborah decides to piece together her family's history which for so long has been kept secret. To do this there's only one place to go. Saint-Girons.

**Julie Printzac**, an editor and translator, lives in Paris. She is the author of *La Solitude des femmes qui courent* (JC Lattès, 2017 ; Le Livre de Poche, 2018).

MA MÈRE,  
DIEU  
ET SYLVIE  
VARTAN  
ROLAND PEREZ



**FICTION**  
**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: LES ESCALES**

## MY MOTHER, GOD AND OTHER HEROES

Roland Perez

October 2021  
224 Pages

+10 000 COPIES SOLD

« A book of remarkable humanity. An incredible destiny » — **Gala**

**A son's charming and touching ode to his mother, the woman who never gave up on him...**

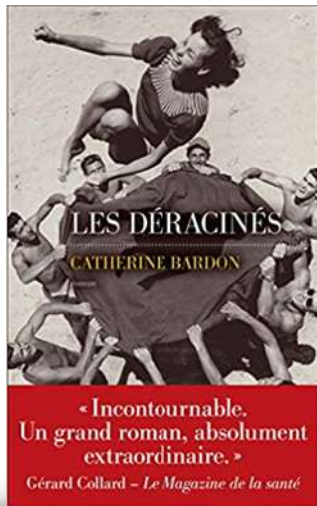
Roland, the youngest child of a large Jewish family, is not like the other children; the doctors said he would never walk. But Esther, his mother, refused to believe it. She criss-crossed Paris with Roland in her arms, from one specialist to the other, looking for a miracle.

The family's 13th arrondissement apartment becomes Roland's playing field that he explores by crawling. He only discovers the outside world through the television which is how he « meets » Sylvie Vartan, a kind fairy at the nascent of her career, whose voice will accompany Roland along his path to healing.

Because while Esther never found the specialist who could cure Roland, she did find his widow. Mrs. Vergepoche had observed her husband enough over the years to know what to do which meant that Roland would be trapped in a harness for 18 months, stuck at home. And during that time it's the voice and music of Sylvie Vartan that kept him company.



**Roland Perez** is a lawyer and radio and television present. This is his first book.



**FICTION**

**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: LES ESCALES**

**Rights sold**

The Netherlands: Mozaiek

**COMBINED SALES:  
+400 000 COPIES**

- **THE UPROOTED (2018)**
- **AMERICAN LADY (2019)**
- **AND LIFE IS BACK ON TRACK (2020)**
- **AN INVINCIBLE SUMMER (2021)**

Catherine Bardon

**A saga about a little known aspect of Jewish history — a deal that sent Jews to the Dominican Republic where they had to work as free labor to escape the Nazis...**

Vienna, 1931: Wilhelm, a 25-year-old journalist, meets Almah, the love of his life. They soon marry, but their wedded bliss is shadowed by the anti-Semitism raging in their country.

Over the course of the next few years, they see many of their friends and relatives escape into exile. Although it is a wrenching decision, Wilhelm knows he must do everything he can to save Almah and their young son. Having obtained visas for the USA, they are convinced they will be able to join Wilhem's sister who is already there. But unfortunately...

The family is stuck in a refugee camp in Switzerland. Their visas were forgeries and the United States' immigration quota has been reached. The situation seems hopeless until a man offers them an escape route: help establish a kibbutz in the Dominican Republic. Trujillo, the local dictator, made a deal with the Nazis: he'll grant 100,000 visas to Jews in exchange for funds. In addition, the Jews will provide free labor to help develop the island's infrastructure.

They finally arrive in Sosúa, in the tropical jungle. Wilhelm and Almah will have to learn to work under a withering sun and to find joy in a simple life, light-years away from the comfortable intellectual life they have been forced to leave



**Catherine Bardon** is madly in love with the Dominican Republic. She has written both travel guides and a photography book about the country, where she lived for many years. *The Uprooted*, first novel, transformed into this best-selling saga.



ROMANTIC COMEDY  
LANGUAGE: FRENCH

PUBLISHER: J'AI LU

## SAVING ALBERT, THE CHRISTMAS LOBSTER

Lise Syven

October 2021  
320 pages

### Rights sold

Germany: Thiele Verlag  
Italy: Newton Compton

**A Christmas-themed romantic comedy about a vegan, her boyfriend's mother who doesn't think she's good enough for her son...and the lobster she has to save from Christmas.**

Béatrice and Erwan have only been dating a few months and so it may be too soon for him to bring her home to meet the family in Brittany. For Christmas! But that's just what he does.

Erwan's mother wishes that he never left home to move to Paris. He barely even calls her to talk. And what's this about a girlfriend? She didn't know he was dating anyone. But she couldn't be happier that he's coming home for the holiday, even if it's with a Parisian vegan.

You know who might be even happier to see Erwan? His ex-fiancée. The one he broke up with when he moved to Paris. His mother should let her know that Erwan will be in town and invite her over...

Erwan's father is the only one who doesn't know that Béatrice is a vegan (a concept he would never tolerate) so when he plans on cooking a lobster as the Christmas feast, he couldn't know that he was being disrespectful. But Béatrice can't bear the thought of the lobster she has now dubbed Albert being killed and eaten for dinner.

She has no choice; she has to save Albert.



**Lise Syven** is from Brittany and is a computer engineer. She is the author of children's books and romantic comedies.





**ROMANTIC COMEDY / MYSTERY**  
**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: J'AI LU**

## **THE CURIOUS MANOR OF AUNT AGLAÉ**

Ena Fitzbel

February 2022  
320 pages

**Welcome to Foistic! For better or for worse.**

Jade, 26, inherits a manor in Foistic, Brittany. Why would her great aunt Aglaé leave it to her? They barely knew one another. In any event, there's no way that should could make it her home. As a Parisian through and through, she wants nothing to do with this town in the middle of nowhere. She will simply renovate the home and sell it for a nice profit.

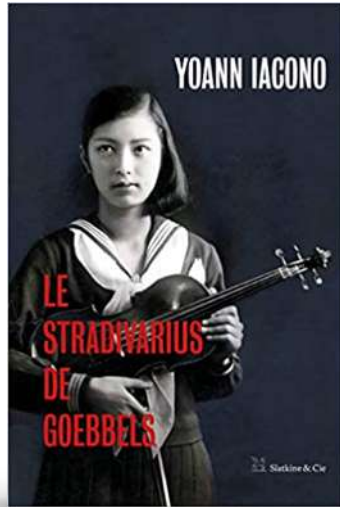
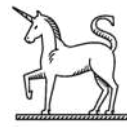
But her arrival into town creates quite the stir amongst thee locals starting with the real estate agent who wants to buy the home no matter what the cost.

In the attic, Jade discovers dozens of antiques which makes sense because Aglaé was passionate about Egypt. As a bonus, she left clues all around the manor leading to a mysterious treasure.

With the help of Alban, a primary school teach, and his nephew (along with his faithful dog), Jade attempts to solve the mystery. And while she does, she may just end up finding reasons to stay in Foistic after all.



**Ena Fitzbel** lives in Toulouse where she is an engineer in a research center. She is the author of several romance novels and romantic comedies.



**GENERAL FICTION**  
**LANGUAGE: FRENCH**

**PUBLISHER: SLATKINE & CIE.**

## THE STRADIVARIUS FROM GOEBBELS

Yoann Iacono

January 2021  
272 Pages

LONGLISTED  
PRIX MAISON DE LA PRESSE

### Rights sold

Catalan: Edicions 1984  
Hungary: Europa  
Italy: Garzanti  
Poland: Mando  
Romania: Publishing  
Solutions  
Spain: Duomo

**A novel based on the life of Nejiko Suwa, a young Japanese prodigy to whom Joseph Goebbels gifted a Stradivarius in Berlin in 1943 in the name of the alliance between Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan.**

At a young age, Nejiko leaves Japan for France so that she could further master the violin. She was simply a musician but got caught up in the struggles of politics and war.

Unbeknownst to Nejiko, the Stradivarius she was offered was taken from Lazare Braun, a Jewish musician killed by the Nazis. Nevertheless, she struggles to make the violin hers; it has a soul, haunted by its past. And it's questionable that it's even a Stradivarius.

After the war, a musician named Félix Sitterlin is asked by the French government to find the violon and return it to Lazare Braun's family. That's when he meets Nejiko who refuses to speak with him. She has protected the violin with her life. However, decades later, after her death, he receives her private journals and uses them to write this, her story.



**Yoann Iacono** was born in Bordeaux in 1980. He spent three years in France, Germany and Japan investigating Nejiko Suwa's life. This is her first novel.

Read the NY *Times* article about Nejiko Suwa and Goebbels' violon [here](#)