

FICTION
TION

LONDON
2022

INTERNATIONAL
HIGHLIGHTS

GROUPE LIBREX
GROUPE VILLE-MARIE LITTÉRATURE

FICTION

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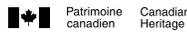


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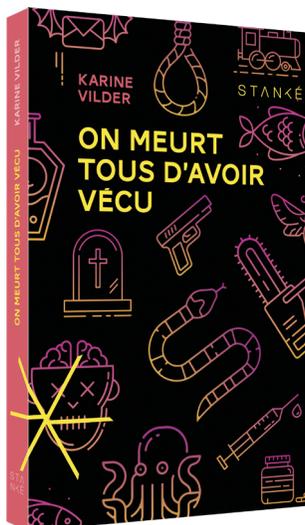
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new RELEASES

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



On meurt tous d'avoir vécu
/ We All Die of Having Lived

Karine Vilder

STANKÉ
JANUARY 2022
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 224 P. ■ \$26.95

All rights available

Nothing is plausible in this totally insane story. But, at the same time, almost everything is true

DESCRIPTION

New York, 2009. Although Michael Jackson has just died, Iraq is under attack, and deadly typhoons are hitting South-East Asia, journalist Louky Crapo has never felt so alive: after having spent nearly 20 years writing death notices for a news agency, he has finally landed his dream job in the Obituary section.

The work will quickly lead him into a fast-paced danse macabre, with him alone as choreographer. For, overnight, Louky discovers in himself a strange gift: by writing obituaries ahead of time, he can hasten almost anyone's death. A gift that will completely change his life...as well as those of several people around him.

SALES POINTS

- Although not a crime novel, this book probably contains more corpses than all of the detective novels published in the last 10 years.
- Delightful characters, an unusual plot, writing that is bursting with erudition, humour that hits the mark!

PRAISE

"A dazzling outburst of humour and knowledge! An entertaining and exhilarating spectacle." *Journal de Montréal*

STANKÉ



AUTHOR

Karine Vilder has been editor-in-chief of several popular magazines. Since 2011, she has been a literary columnist (foreign fiction) for *Le Journal de Montréal*. *We All Die of Having Lived* is her first novel.



new RELEASES

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Une femme extraordinaire / An Extraordinary Woman Catherine Ethier

STANKÉ
APRIL 2022
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 304 P. ■ \$27.95

All rights available

A tragicomic novel about solitude and the culture of appearances, borne along by a high-energy writing style

DESCRIPTION

An Extraordinary Woman recounts the story of a highly successful young woman in her thirties. A young woman who seems to have everything going for her but who, behind the scenes, is quietly falling apart. A young woman who never had the right to fail. *An Extraordinary Woman* is also about the hope of overcoming depression, an unwelcome surprise in a life that was not supposed to turn out quite like this.

SALES POINTS

- Catherine Ethier has her own personal style, a distinctive way of writing that is both captivating and entertaining.
- A writing style capable of making us laugh with one sentence and tug at our heartstrings with the next, of astonishing us with linguistic acrobatics without concealing the narrator's vulnerability.
- An author with 1001 projects, a very broad network, and a large popular following (65,000 Instagram subscribers).

STANKÉ



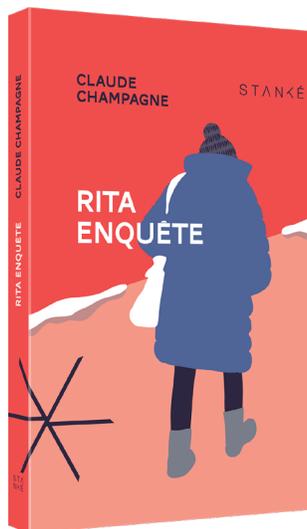
AUTHOR

Catherine Ethier is a writer, columnist, and editor. She has presented various segments on major media shows in Quebec (ICI Première Radio-Canada, ICI ARTV, VRAC, URBANIA, etc.) and co-hosted a number of podcasts. Since December 2020 she has been the spokesperson for Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale, a collective of shelters for women who are victims of domestic violence. *An Extraordinary Woman* is her debut novel.



new RELEASES

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Rita enquête
/ Rita Investigates
Claude Champagne

STANKÉ
FEBRUARY 2022
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 200 P. ■ \$25.95

All rights available

With affection and humour, the author sketches a portrait of the elderly but inquisitive residents, battle-scarred but still sociable, in one of east-end Montreal's mythical neighbourhoods

DESCRIPTION

When Rita Deschamps, 83, receives a summons for potential jury duty in a murder trial, she finds it very upsetting. In the end she isn't chosen, but she becomes friendly with people of her age who enjoy attending trials at the courthouse.

Over time, as she attends more hearings, the outcomes of the trials and the fates of the plaintiffs cause Rita to reflect on her life, on the rare joys and everyday indignities that have marked its passage. At the same time, along with the residents of her building, she investigates suspicious activities in the parking lot of the McDonald's where they usually meet for coffee.

SALES POINTS

- The author continues his semi-nostalgic, semi-melancholic exploration of the neighbourhoods of east-end Montreal, inspired this time by the life of a widow with no history, not without a touch of dark humour.
- Published in September 2020, the author's previous novel, *La dernière fois qu'on l'a vu, c'est au Perrette*, was praised by Michel Tremblay, renowned Quebecois playwright, novelist, and screenwriter.

STANKÉ



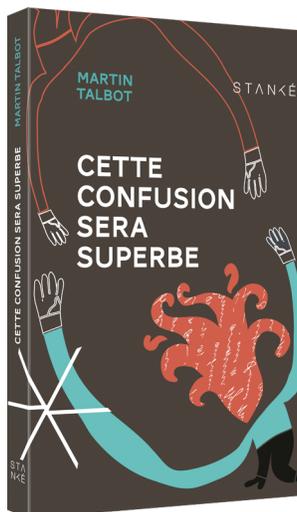
AUTHOR

Claude Champagne is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting program and has a master's degree in literature from UQAM. He cofounded Dramaturges Éditeurs, the only publishing house in Quebec specializing in playwriting, where he was editor for eight years. A writer for stage and radio, he has written eight children's novels, while teaching playwriting at UQAR.



new RELEASES

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Cette confusion sera superbe
/ This Chaos Will Be Magnificent

Martin Talbot

STANKÉ
MARCH 2022
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 184 P. ■ \$26.95

All rights available

This ensemble novel questions the meaning of a work of art by weaving links between creation and destruction, madness and fate

DESCRIPTION

October 2019. Sarah, a fragile young actor; Benoit, a producer looking for a theme for a film whose casting is undecided; Daniel, Benoit's brother, who spends a lot of time at the Grande Bibliothèque highlighting lines in poetry collections: between the lines of the late lamented Huguette Gaulin, a young poet who died by self-immolation in a public square, just as she was about to make her mark on the Montreal scene, these characters find threads leading from poetry to life, and then to death. Émile Nelligan and Nick Carter, of the Backstreet Boys, make an appearance.

SALES POINTS

- This book is an homage to the poet Huguette Gaulin, who did not live to see her collection *Lecture en vélocipède* published in the fall of 1972.
- Fifty years after the poet's death, the author tries to decipher her as an artist, from the intertwined perspectives of several characters.
- A more literary Stanké novel, in which all kinds of references are intermingled and poetic texts speak across time.

STANKÉ



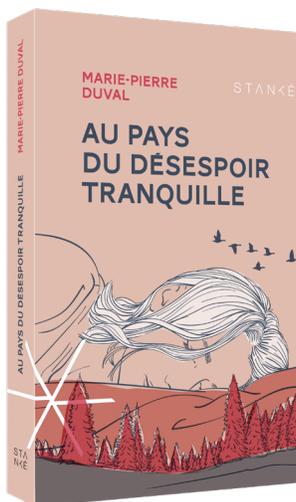
AUTHOR

Screenwriter and producer of the film *Henri Henri* (2014), **Martin Talbot** has always been fascinated by storytelling techniques and the world of children. He directed the popular show *Les Parent*, broadcast on Radio-Canada and, in 2018, he produced the TV series *File d'attente* for Unis TV. In February 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, Stanké published his first novel, *Trop-plein*.



new RELEASES

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Au pays du désespoir tranquille
/ In the Land of Quiet Desperation

Marie-Pierre Duval

STANKÉ
FEBRUARY 2022
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 304 P. ■ \$29.95

All rights available

The “I” and the “we” are superimposed in a quest that is both personal and universal, aiming for a higher-level, more liberated existence, freed from its domestic obligations

DESCRIPTION

Marie is lucky. She has everything. At least so it seems.

One day, the excitement of the TV studio and her enviable job are no longer enough. She can't stand this life anymore. So this incorrigible researcher begins work on her most important investigative file: her own collapse, and perhaps that of so many women of her generation. Unhesitatingly, she calls into question her romantic relationship, work, motherhood, technology. She dives back into her memories, combs through books, digs into psychology, philosophy, and popular culture in order to understand. Marie spares not a single layer of her existence, even going so far as to delve into the depths of Quebec itself, the land of her birth.

Buoyed by her discoveries, she tries to gain control of real life. Her true life. Freed from her domestic attachments.

SALES POINTS

- *In the Land of Quiet Desperation* is the story of a woman struggling within the invisible corsets of normality.
- A new author respected by her peers and well-connected in the media, who addresses failed illusions from the female perspective.

STANKÉ



AUTHOR

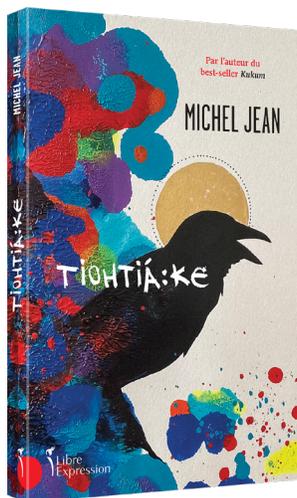
Known for her expertise in television production, **Marie-Pierre Duval** has put her skills to work on programs that have left their mark on Quebec. She has been a researcher, producer, and documentary writer, and has won four Gémeaux awards. In 2017, she undertook a major life change that inspired this debut novel.



new RELEASES

Libre
Expression

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Tiohtiá:ke / Tiohtiá:ke Michel Jean

LIBRE EXPRESSION
OCTOBER 2021
14 CM × 21.6 CM ■ 240 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: French Canada book club: Québec
Loisirs, German (Wieser Verlag), TV series

49,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Michel Jean is Innu from Mashteuiatsh. He is a writer, TV news anchor, and investigative journalist revered and appreciated by audiences across Quebec. This author of 10 books also writes short stories and has contributed to several collections, as well as curating two volumes bringing Indigenous voices to the fore: *Amun*, in the fall of 2016, and *Wapke*, in May 2021. His previous novel, *Kukum*, a tribute to his great-grandmother published in Quebec in 2019, won the France-Quebec Literary Prize in 2020 and was the first best-selling novel in Quebec in 2021, with total sales exceeding 140,000 copies.

***Tiohtiá:ke* casts light on the Indigenous people who gather in cities to rebuild the communities they have lost**

DESCRIPTION

Élie Mestenapeo has just been released from prison after serving time for killing his father, who was a violent alcoholic. Banished by the Innu community of Nutashkuan where he was born, he makes his way to Montreal, where he soon finds himself on the street, rubbing shoulders with Indigenous people from other nations—Inuit, Cree, Atikamekw—all of whom have washed up in the city just like him. A series of decisive encounters help Élie to begin rebuilding a life for himself. But ultimately, his only chance to make it through lies in his connection to values that are greater than the individual.

SALES POINTS

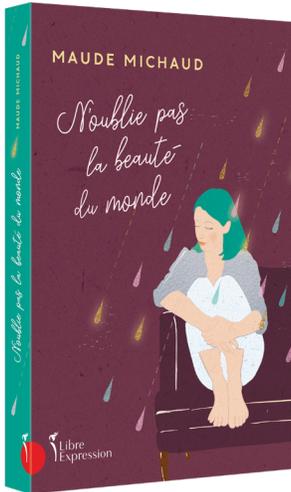
- Tiohtiá:ke means “Montreal” in the Mohawk language.
- A serious and timely topic: Indigenous homelessness in urban centers.
- *Tiohtiá:ke* has sold 49,000 copies in Quebec since the end of October 2021.

PRAISE

“Michel Jean writes about this tragic universe with grace, in a minimalist style, bursting with sounds, smells, and images and stripped of the pathos that would inevitably create a limiting distance.” *Le Devoir*



new RELEASES



N'oublie pas la beauté du monde / Never Forget the Beauty of the World Maude Michaud

LIBRE EXPRESSION
AUGUST 2021
14 CM × 21.6 CM ■ 336 P. ■ \$27.95

All rights available

5,500
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Maude Michaud started her popular blog, *La parfaite maman cinglante* (*Perfect Scathing Mum*: parfaitemamancinglante.com) in March 2016. She is also the brains behind the travel blog, *Tes fesses au soleil*. Since March 2018 she has published four books and three of these with Libre Expression. *Never Forget the Beauty of the World* is her third novel.

A dramatic story about motherhood, family, and friendship

DESCRIPTION

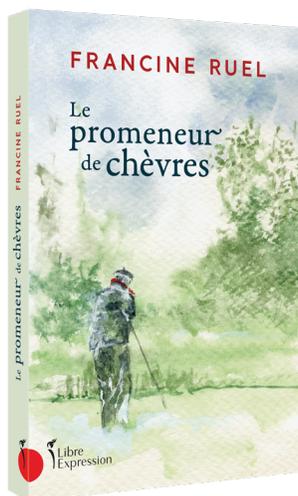
Élie leads an extraordinarily uneventful life and tries to fill it with little glimmers of happiness. Wherever she can find them. She knows she's taking a big risk at the end of this pregnancy. But before her final act, she has thousands of little golden nuggets to pass on to her daughter-to-be. It's a treasure trove in the form of texts her child will read and reread in her teenage years to help her understand where she came from, learn about her family, and how to tackle life. But above all, it will teach her how to see all the beauty in the world.

SALES POINTS

- The author's two previous novels were readers' favourites: "Real-life writing." "Maude Michaud hits the nail on the head." "A wonderful way with words."
- Maude Michaud is the founder of the wildly popular blog *La parfaite maman cinglante* (*Perfect Scathing Mum*), which has 1 million page views per month, 50% from Europe, and more than 55,000 Instagram followers.
- *Never Forget the Beauty of the World* has sold 5,500 copies.



new RELEASES



Le Promeneur de chèvres / The Goat Walker Francine Ruel

LIBRE EXPRESSION
OCTOBER 2021
14 CM × 21.6 CM ■ 280 P. ■ \$27.95

Rights sold: French Canada book club: Québec
Loisirs, TV series

30,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

For the last 40 years, **Francine Ruel** has divided her talent and imagination between acting, entertaining, and writing. She has written for the theatre, the television, and the big screen as well as penning songs and publishing 14 books.

A novel of encounters: a young man with his grandfather, that same young man with nature, and a curious goat walker with all the people who walk by his side, each on their own quest

DESCRIPTION

In post-pandemic Montreal, 29-year-old Gilles is in trouble. He's lost his girlfriend, his apartment, and his job as a tour guide. In desperation, he holes up with his grandfather Henri, who owns a farm outside the city. He's reluctant at first, but the city-dweller gradually comes to appreciate life in the country and the job his grandfather gives him every day: to walk the goats. That summer, a whole bunch of different people from different places come and fall into step with the curious goat walker. Some of them are anxious, others are sad, some are carrying a lot of baggage, and others are caring, high on life and laughter. They all add a little spice to Gilles' life. As the young man from the city changes the lives of the people who walk by his side, he too finds himself changing.



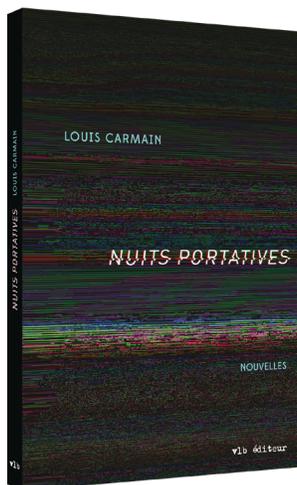
SALES POINTS

- A philosophical novel brimming with humanity that doesn't touch directly on the pandemic, but on what it has awakened in us, this awareness of emptiness and the fragility of some of the aspects of our lives.
- Francine Ruel is a best-selling author in Quebec. Her popular saga of *Happiness* has sold 170,000 copies and her last novel, *Anna et l'enfant-vieillard (Grieving the Living)*, has sold more than 60,000 copies.
- *The Goat Walker* has sold more than 30,000 copies in Quebec.

new RELEASES

vlb éditeur

LITERARY FICTION / Short Stories



Nuits portatives / Portable Nights Louis Carmain

VLB ÉDITEUR
MARCH 2022
13.4 CM × 19.7 CM ■ 168 P. ■ \$23.95

All rights available



AUTHOR

Louis Carmain is the author of the novels *Guano*, *Bunyip* and *Les offrandes*. *Portable Nights* is his first short story collection.

Six well-honed, razor-sharp short stories

DESCRIPTION

Stories about couples. Phantom couples, impossible couples. Stillborn couples, one-way couples. Stories about other things too. Unhealthy, worrying obsession, the incommunicability of our inner worlds. And that tiny thing called dignity—its loss, most often, but also, sometimes, its fleeting conquest.

SALES POINTS

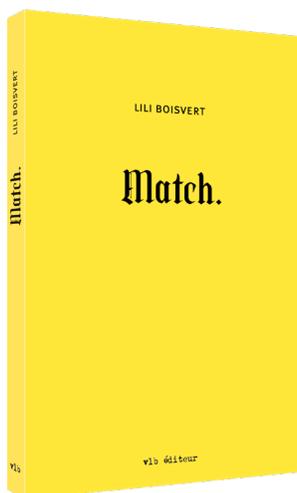
- Louis Carmain won the Prix des collégiens for *Guano*.
- He was a finalist for the Prix des collégiens and the Arthur Ellis Award for his previous book, *Les offrandes*.



new RELEASES

vlb éditeur

UPMARKET FICTION / Novel



Match

/ Match

Lili Boisvert

VLB ÉDITEUR

MARCH 2022

12.7 CM × 19.1 CM ■ 192 P. ■ \$22.95

All rights available



AUTHOR

Lili Boisvert is a journalist and media host. She has published, through VLB éditeur, the hit feminist essay *Le principe du cumshot* (published in English by Dundurn Press as *Screwed*) and the first two volumes of *Anan*, a fantasy trilogy.

A head-on, unflinching look at toxic relationships in the post-#MeToo era

DESCRIPTION

Émilie Martin is strong. She has always known this and whenever she forgets it, people rush to remind her. A committed feminist, she hosts broadcasts, gives lectures, writes books and articles.

One day, she meets a brilliant, thoughtful man, unafraid to show his vulnerability. It's the start of a year and a half of hell.

The forces that start to overpower Émilie include the extraordinarily effective forms manipulation can take, the persistence of well-meaning paternalism, the mental wear and tear that women who speak out in public put up with, the appalling violence of social media trolls, the psychological mechanisms that make her agree to the unacceptable, to the point of self-renunciation...

In *Match*, Lili Boisvert chronicles from the inside, at close range, the insidious way a toxic relationship can develop and take root even in the lives of the most circumspect of people.

SALES POINTS

- Lili Boisvert is known for her commitment to the feminist cause and frequently speaks on issues related to sexuality.
- Published in April 2017, *Le principe du cumshot* (*Screwed*) sold over 7,000 copies and was published in English by Dundurn Press.



new RELEASES

vlb éditeur

UPMARKET FICTION / Novel



Noël à Kingscroft / Christmas in Kingscroft Mylène Gilbert-Dumas

VLB ÉDITEUR
NOVEMBER 2021
13.4 CM × 21.6 CM ■ 176 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: French Canada book club: Québec Loisirs



AUTHOR

Mylène Gilbert-Dumas is the author of highly popular novels. Her work has been recognized with many awards and earned her a loyal and sizable readership.

A Christmas story for grown-ups set in the pandemic that makes us think about how we live together

DESCRIPTION

In the midst of the Covid pandemic, Clarisse is raising her six daughters on her own in her grand ancestral home in the village of Kingscroft, in Quebec's Eastern Townships region. Raymond, the beloved patriarch of the family, who can be a bit difficult at times, lives a few doors away. We follow the family through the first 25 days of December, as in an advent calendar, while Raymond's new book teaches him about Christmas traditions over the ages and around the world that he then shares with his granddaughters. Meanwhile, in the secret of her heart, Clarisse is mourning the departure of a new neighbour she has become so attached to. Rabih has gone back to Syria for a long visit, where his mother is determined to find him a wife. Clarisse tries to be happy for him, but comes to realize, thinking about the time they've spent together, that her feelings go beyond friendship, and that maybe she should tell him before he does something he won't be able to undo.

SALES POINTS

- Masterful writing and a moving novel.
- Mylène Gilbert-Dumas is a prolific author. *Christmas in Kingscroft* is her 20th novel.

PRAISE

"A Christmas story for adults that makes us think about everyone's destiny, about the importance of being open to others and of welcoming them with open arms." *Journal de Québec*



new RELEASES

vlb éditeur

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



La jeune fille de la paix

/ *Girl of Peace*

Ook Chung

VLB ÉDITEUR

SEPTEMBER 2021

13.4 CM × 19.7 CM ■ 544 P. ■ \$34.95

All rights available



AUTHOR

Born in Japan to Korean parents in 1963, **Ook Chung** is the author of *Kimchi* (Boréal and Le Serpent à plumes, 2001, winner of the Canada-Japan Literary Award) and *Contes Bûto* (Boréal, 2003, Prix littéraire des collégiens). He lives in Montreal, where he teaches literature and creative writing. *Girl of Peace* is his sixth book.

One of Quebec's most unique literary voices

DESCRIPTION

A novel of legends and folktales, contemporary life moments and past experiences, intermingled destinies and parallel paths between Korea, Japan, France, Quebec, and British Columbia, *Girl of Peace* features swatches of the history and culture of the countries its author has known. Chung's pages also bear the haunting mark of the terrible fate of thousands of so-called "comfort women" who were forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army. The refined structure of the novel beckons readers to weave together the deep and unexpected connections of a shared humanity.

SALES POINTS

- An ambitious mosaic-like book imbued with the memory of women victimized by wars.
- Ook Chung is a two-time winner of the Canada-Japan Literary Award.

PRAISE

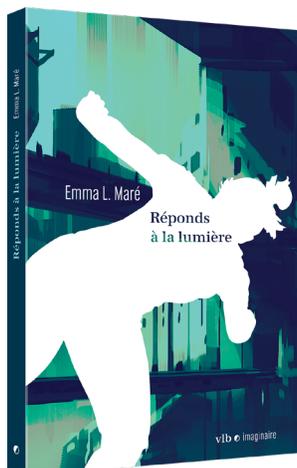
"In this book, Ook Chung is performing a useful task by encouraging us to keep our consciences awake and by sowing the idea that changes on a human scale can lead to revolutions." *Les Libraires*



new RELEASES

v**l**b ◉ imaginaire

UPMARKET FICTION / Science-Fiction



Réponds à la lumière / Answer the Light Emma L. Maré

VLB ÉDITEUR
NOVEMBER 2021
14 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 192 P. ■ \$24.95

All rights available

A novel that will appeal to both autobiographical fiction readers and urban sci-fi fans

DESCRIPTION

Emma, a lost soul with literary aspirations, works as a moderator of pornographic images and clips uploaded to a seedy website. Day in, day out, she contemplates sides of human existence we tend to keep secret. One day, a terrifying video emerges that shows aliens are among us, and she quickly realizes some secrets are more dangerous than others. Emma finds herself being hunted down and she must find a way to survive—and maybe improve the fate of all humanity along the way.

SALES POINTS

- A riot of a novel, this is Quebec's answer to Jack Finney's *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.
- An offbeat sci-fi story where suspense meets a deliciously dark humour.



AUTHOR

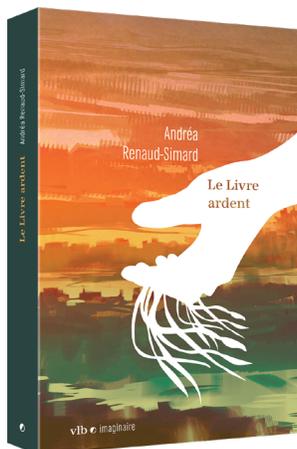
Emma L. Maré lives in Montreal. She had studied some literature in college but finally obtained a master's degree in autodidacticism, which she spread out over many years, between day jobs. Sprinkling unreality on her otherwise insipid life, she strives to magnify beauty and make it sublime. Sometimes, she succeeds. *Answer the Light* is her first novel.



new RELEASES

vlb ◉ imaginaire

UPMARKET FICTION / Science-Fiction



Le Livre ardent / *The Ardents' Book* Andréa Renaud-Simard

VLB ÉDITEUR
OCTOBER 2021
14 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 368 P. ■ \$29.95

All rights available

A lyrical sci-fi novel set in a world transformed by a mysterious invasive plant

DESCRIPTION

Shardwort is spreading. Trying to protect any zone from its rampant assault is a never-ending, exhausting task. Pol and his peers are lowly workers who spend their downtime playing virtual games and visiting the Ardents, genetically modified humans with a phantasmagorical physique. They are led by their elder, Amira, a living straw doll. They have the Queen to thank for overturning the seat of political power by creating their curious culture. It just so happens that in the shadows, a new storm is brewing...

SALES POINTS

- A novel that embodies what the VLB Imaginaire collection is all about—avant-garde fiction to please diehard sci-fi fans and attract new readers to the genre.
- Andréa Renaud-Simard was the winner of the 2017 Solaris magazine short story contest.



AUTHOR

Andréa Renaud-Simard studied all kinds of things, from theatre to psychology, before becoming a speech therapist. Winning the Solaris short story contest made her a bit of a late bloomer in the realm of fiction of the imagination. She also made it to the semifinals of the Radio-Canada short story contest last spring. *The Ardents' Book* is her first novel.





Le vent en parle encore
/ *The Wind Still Talks About It*
Michel Jean

LIBRE EXPRESSION
SEPTEMBER 2021
14 CM × 21.6 CM ■ 216 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: French outside Canada
(Éditions Dépaysage) under the name
Maikan, German (Wieser Verlag), TV series

30,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Michel Jean is Innu from Mashteuiatsh. He is a writer, TV news anchor, and investigative journalist revered and appreciated by audiences across Quebec. This author of 10 books also writes short stories and has contributed to several collections, as well as curating two volumes bringing Indigenous voices to the fore: *Amun*, in the fall of 2016, and *Wapke*, in May 2021. His previous novel, *Kukum*, a tribute to his great-grandmother published in Quebec in 2019, won the France-Quebec Literary Prize in 2020 and was the first best-selling novel in Quebec in 2021, with total sales exceeding 140,000 copies.

When love and friendship are the only defence lines against violence and attack

DESCRIPTION

At the age of 14, Virginie, Marie and Charles are snatched away from their families on the orders of the Canadian government. With the other youngsters in their village, they are sent by plane to a remote residential school on an island nearly a thousand kilometres away from home to be educated. Their hair is cut off, they are washed clean and given a uniform. They are forbidden from speaking their own language. Their names no longer exist, now they are only numbers.

70 years later, lawyer Audrey Duval sets out to understand what happened at Fort George, the island of the damned buffeted by the merciless ocean wind, and what became of the three youngsters who disappeared mysteriously without a trace.

SALES POINTS

- In a sober and heartfelt style, the author lifts the veil on one of the darkest chapters in Canada's history: Indigenous residential schools.
- The first edition of *The Wind Still Talks About It*, published in 2013, has sold 30,000 copies in Quebec.

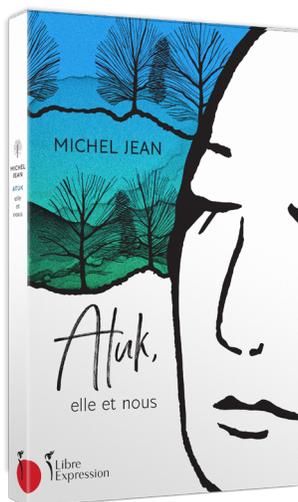
PRAISE

"*The Wind Still Talks About It* doesn't just tug at our heart strings, it ties them in knots and weaves an intrigue from the thread of the past and the present." *Le Devoir*

backlist FICTION

Libre
Expression

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Atuk, elle et nous
/ Atuk, Her and Us
Michel Jean

LIBRE EXPRESSION
MARCH 2021
14 CM × 21.6 CM ■ 232 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: French outside Canada (Éditions
Dépaysage), German (Wieser Verlag), TV series

46,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Michel Jean is Innu from Mashteuiatsh. He is a writer, TV news anchor, and investigative journalist revered and appreciated by audiences across Quebec. This author of 10 books also writes short stories and has contributed to several collections, as well as curating two volumes bringing Indigenous voices to the fore: *Amun*, in the fall of 2016, and *Wapke*, in May 2021. His previous novel, *Kukum*, a tribute to his great-grandmother published in Quebec in 2019, won the France-Quebec Literary Prize in 2020 and was the first best-selling novel in Quebec in 2021, with total sales exceeding 140,000 copies.

In light of the phenomenal success of Michel Jean's novel *Kukum*, in which he tells the life story of his great-grandparents Almanda and Thomas Siméon, this new edition of his work *Atuk, Her and Us* traces the life of their daughter, the author's maternal grandmother

DESCRIPTION

"Michel, the Indian is right there inside you." She whispered those words as if she were confiding in me. The way you'd share a secret. And those words have troubled me. Atuk means "caribou" in the Innu-aimun language. My grandmother Jeannette, daughter of Almanda Siméon, rarely spoke of her Innu origins. Yet this woman, who was always impeccably dressed and coiffed, lived a life of hunters and trappers in the boreal forest until she met the man who would transform her existence. Her large family, gathering for her funeral, knew very little of her story, not even the name given to her by her father Thomas, a century ago: Shashuan Pileshish. In *Atuk, Her and Us*, a grandmother and her grandson retrace the respective trails of their lives. Little by little, their crisscrossing paths weave a tapestry of shadows and light in which nothing is quite black or white.

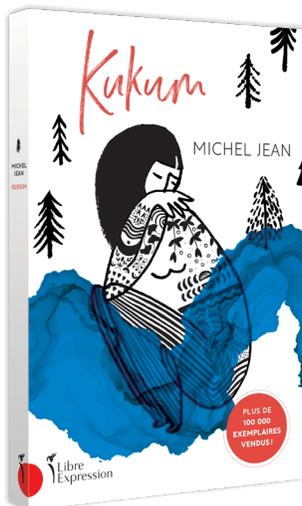
SALES POINTS

- Central theme: origins, roots, and the quest for identity.
- This new edition has sold 46,000 copies in Quebec.

PRAISE

"*Atuk, Her and Us* delivers some rich, instructive, touching, and well-written content where length gives way to rhythm and words take the reader on a journey through scents, sentiments, and seasons. An homage to an exceptional grandmother and her people." *Huffington Post*

backlist FICTION



Kukum / Kukum

Michel Jean

LIBRE EXPRESSION
SEPTEMBER 2019
14 CM × 21.6 CM ■ 224 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: English-North America (House of Anansi), French outside Canada (Éditions Dépayage), German (Wieser Verlag), Spanish (Tiempo de Papel), TV series

140,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Michel Jean is Innu from Mashteuiatsh. He is a writer, TV news anchor, and investigative journalist revered and appreciated by audiences across Quebec. This author of 10 books also writes short stories and has contributed to several collections, as well as curating two volumes bringing Indigenous voices to the fore: *Amun*, in the fall of 2016, and *Wapke*, in May 2021. His previous novel, *Kukum*, a tribute to his great-grandmother published in Quebec in 2019, won the France-Quebec Literary Prize in 2020 and was the first best-selling novel in Quebec in 2021, with total sales exceeding 140,000 copies.

Love brings orphaned Almanda to an Innu community, where she will struggle to get accepted and break down the barriers that Indigenous women face

DESCRIPTION

This novel tells the story of Almanda Siméon, an orphan who goes to share her life with the Pekuakami Innu community. They come to accept her as one of their own when she falls in love with a young Innu man. She goes on to learn not only the language but, also, how to live a nomadic existence, and succeeds in breaking down the barriers forced on Indigenous women. As time passes, Almanda and her family find themselves facing the loss of their traditional lands, being confined to reserves and enduring the violence of residential schools. Unfolding over the course of a century, this woman's story is recounted from a personal perspective, expressing the attachment of the Innu to their ancestral values and the need for freedom still felt by nomadic peoples to this day.

SALES POINTS

- #1 best-selling fiction book in 2021 in French Canada.
- Michel Jean's novels, including *Kukum*, have revealed the hidden side of Indigenous life in Canada.
- *Kukum* has sold 140,000 copies in Quebec.

PRAISE

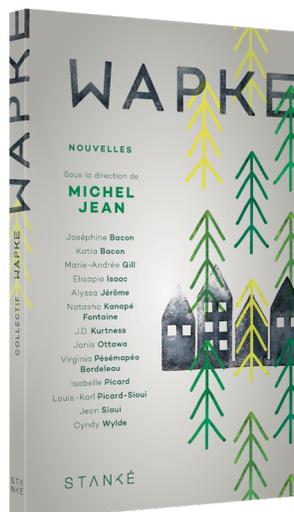
"Far more than official reports and reconciliation commissions can, the simple story of Almanda Siméon opens our hearts to the suffering of these First Nations men, women and children." *L'Actualité*

"A relatively rare phenomenon in the publishing world [...] Books of this kind, taken to their hearts by readers, given as gifts, passed from hand to hand. A huge success that has made Michel Jean a well-known figure in Europe, especially at the recent Frankfurt Book Fair, where everyone was vying for his attention." *La Presse*



backlist FICTION

LITERARY FICTION / Short Stories



Wapke / Wapke
Edited by Michel Jean

STANKÉ
MAY 2021
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 216 P. ■ \$27.95

Rights sold: English-North America
(Exile), German (Wieser Verlag)

Fourteen First Nations authors take a dystopian approach to writing about today and tomorrow

DESCRIPTION

Wapke, which means “tomorrow” in the Atikamekw language, is a collection of 14 dystopian stories that explores contemporary sociopolitical issues from Indigenous perspectives. Written by authors from different First Nations with different outlooks, and curated by author and former news anchor Michel Jean, these stories offer a glimpse of the future, delivered with a social commentary imbued with a desire for change.

SALES POINTS

- First collection of futuristic Indigenous short stories.
- A collection of engaged and engaging short stories that touch on some very topical social and environmental concerns.
- *Wapke* has sold more than 9,000 copies in Quebec.

PRAISE

“*Wapke* is a collective gathering of short stories that looks resolutely to the future, curated by Michel Jean with all the strength of his apt and appropriate words clear to appreciate.” *L’Actualité*

“*Wapke* means ‘tomorrow’, and it’s a gathering of short stories that stir and shake up many of today’s concerns with an apprehensive outlook to the future. (...) with such a diversity of tones, voices, and worlds, all converging to form a collection of texts that will take your breath away.” *Les Libraires*

STANKÉ

OVER 9,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC

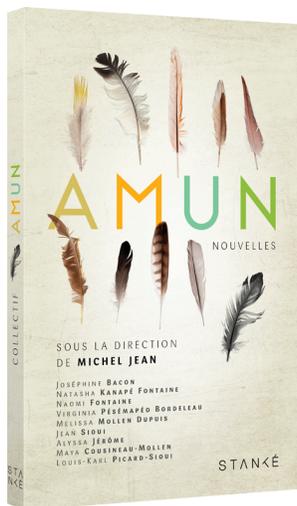


AUTHORS

Joséphine Bacon
Katia Bacon
Marie-Andrée Gill
Elisapie Isaac
Michel Jean
Alyssa Jérôme
Natasha Kanapé Fontaine
J.D. Kurtness
Janis Ottawa
Virginia Pésémapéo Bordeleau
Isabelle Picard
Louis-Karl Picard-Siouï
Jean Sioui
Cyndy Wylde

backlist FICTION

LITERARY FICTION / Short Stories



Amun / Amun Edited by Michel Jean

STANKÉ
SEPTEMBER 2016
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 168 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: English-North America (Exile),
French outside Canada (Éditions Dépaysage),
German (Wieser Verlag)

Quebec's first collection of short stories to exclusively feature Indigenous authors

DESCRIPTION

In the Innu language, "amun" means "gathering." Edited by Innu journalist and writer Michel Jean, this blazingly contemporary collection brings together Indigenous authors of different nations, generations, and outlooks. Their varied works of fiction reflect not only the history and traditions, but also the harsh reality, of First Nations in Quebec and across Canada. Featuring an array of renowned wordsmiths, this book is a forum for a rare gathering of voices and viewpoints.

SALES POINTS

- Quebec's first novella collection to exclusively feature Indigenous authors.
- *Amun* has sold 8,000 copies in Quebec.

PRAISE

"*Amun* speaks up and speaks out both politically and poetically. Filled with beauty and sadness, there's an aching pain running right through this moving collection edited by Michel Jean that's hard to ignore." *La Bible urbaine*

"They all write with a drop of their own blood, their stories ring of personal drama and a memory sullied by centuries of oppression." *Le Devoir*

"These novellas are remarkable in their inspiration, engagement and authenticity, bearing witness to the invaluable support the authors' voices have brought to Francophone Quebec literature." *L'Actualité*

STANKÉ

8,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



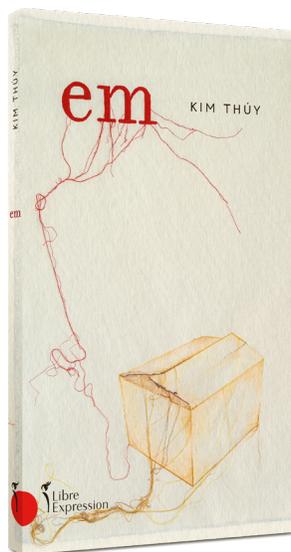
AUTHORS

Joséphine Bacon
Maya Cousineau-Mollen
Naomi Fontaine
Michel Jean
Alyssa Jérôme
Natasha Kanapé Fontaine
Melissa Mollen Dupuis
Virginia Pésémapéo Bordeleau
Louis-Karl Picard-Siouï
Jean Sioui

backlist FICTION

Libre
Expression

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Em / Em Kim Thúy

LIBRE EXPRESSION
NOVEMBER 2020
13.3 CM × 22.9 CM ■ 152 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: Arabic (Al Arabi), English-Canada (Random House), World English except Canada (Seven Stories Press), Finnish (Gummerus), French Canada book club (Québec Loisirs), French outside Canada (Liana Levi), German (Kunstmann, DTV), Korean (Moonji), Romanian (Spandugino), Serbian (Clio), Spanish (Periférica), Swedish (Sekwa)

80,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Born in Saigon in 1968, **Kim Thúy** left Vietnam with the boat people when she was 10 and settled in Quebec with her family. As well as being a writer, she has earned degrees in translation and law and has worked as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer, and restaurant owner. Her debut novel, *Ru*, was published in 2009 and became a best-seller in Quebec and in France, garnering several prestigious literary awards, including a Governor General's Literary Award in 2010. Kim Thúy was one of the top four finalists of the Alternative Nobel Prize in 2018. Her books have sold more than 850,000 copies around the world and have been translated in 29 languages and distributed across 41 countries and territories.

A tragic tale steeped in humanity, inspired by historical events

DESCRIPTION

Written in her trademark style, Kim Thúy's stunning and formally complex new novel reveals a fascination with connection. *Em*, which in Vietnamese means "little brother," "little sister," or "beloved," explores how humans traumatized by war and exile are driven to seek out love and family when their present catches up with their past.

Through the linked destinies of a family of characters, the novel touches on Operation Babylift, which evacuated thousands of biracial orphans from Saigon in April 1975, the nail polish and nail salon industry, as well as the rubber plantations of Indochina that was.

SALES POINTS

- Not as personal as the author's earlier novels, and more daring, *Em* turns to the canvas of history to paint a tragic yet deeply human picture.
- #1 best-selling fiction book in 2020 in French Canada, *Em* has sold 80,000 copies in Quebec.
- 2021 Longlist - Scotiabank Giller Prize.

PRAISE

"*Em* traces the fates of a handful of characters linked by love, loss, secrets and complicated family ties. [...] A heartbreaking requiem for all of the lives this war has destroyed." *L'Humanité*

"By turns sombre and lyrical, Kim Thúy recounts the sound and the fury [of war], but always foregrounds hope and love, certain that 'good steals in and edges its way into the cracks of evil.'" *Le Monde*

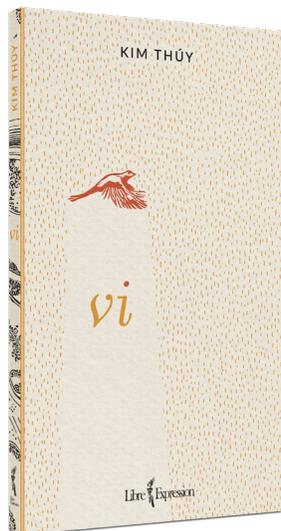
"*Em* may be [Kim Thúy's] most beautiful book yet. [...] Dazzling and all-consuming." *Lire*



backlist FICTION

Libre
Expression

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Vi / Vi

Kim Thúy

LIBRE EXPRESSION
APRIL 2016
13.3 CM × 22.9 CM ■ 144 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: World English (Random House), Arabic (Al Arabi), Finnish (Gummerus), French Canada book club (Québec Loisirs), French outside Canada (Liana Levi), German (Kunstmann, DTV), Italian (Nottetempo), Japanese (Sairyu sha), Romanian (Spandugino), Spanish (Periférica), Swedish (Sekwa), Turkish (Epsilon)

53,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Born in Saigon in 1968, **Kim Thúy** left Vietnam with the boat people when she was 10 and settled in Quebec with her family. As well as being a writer, she has earned degrees in translation and law and has worked as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer, and restaurant owner. Her debut novel, *Ru*, was published in 2009 and became a best-seller in Quebec and in France, garnering several prestigious literary awards, including a Governor General's Literary Award in 2010. Kim Thúy was one of the top four finalists of the Alternative Nobel Prize in 2018. Her books have sold more than 850,000 copies around the world and have been translated in 29 languages and distributed across 41 countries and territories.

Vi explores the lives, loves, and struggles of Vietnamese refugees as they reinvent themselves in new lands

DESCRIPTION

In Vietnamese, "Vi" means infinitesimal, microscopically tiny. In this book, Vi is the first name of a little girl, the younger sister of three older brothers, the "little treasure" who finds herself caught up in a privileged life and its turmoil. Leaving Saigon for Montreal via Suzhou and Boston and growing up beside ordinary heroes, Vi witnesses the vastness of the ocean, the multiplicity of horizons, the sameness of sadness, the luxury of peace, the complexity of love, the endlessness of possibilities, and the violence of beauty. Like a good student, she watches, learns, and takes it all in. But will she ever live Life, with a capital L?

SALES POINTS

- Unique style, every word counts.
- *Vi* won the 2017 Pescarabruzzo Foundation NordSud International Prize in Italy and the 2017 Arlette Cousture Award in Quebec.
- *Vi* has sold 53,000 copies in Quebec.

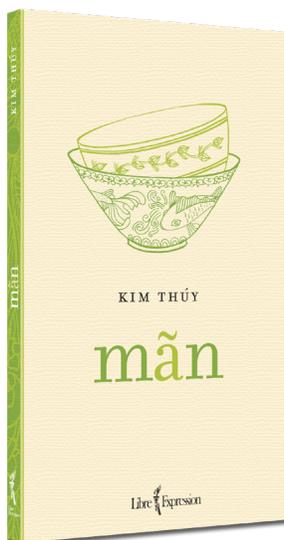
LITERARY AWARDS

2018 Shortlisted – Scotiabank Giller Prize
2017 Winner – NordSud International Award, Pescarabruzzo Foundation
2017 Winner – Prix Arlette Cousture
2017 Shortlisted – Prix Littéraire Des Lycéens (France)
2016 Shortlisted – Prix Des Cinq Continents De La Francophonie

backlist FICTION

Libre
Expression

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



mãn / mǎn

Kim Thúy

LIBRE EXPRESSION
APRIL 2013
13.3 CM × 22.9 CM ■ 152 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: Bulgarian (Colibri), Chinese (Shanghai 99), English-Canada (Random House), English-Great Britain (Clerkenwell Press), French Canada book club (Québec Loisirs), French outside Canada (Liana Levi and France Loisirs), German (Kunstmann, DTV), Italian (Nottetempo), Japanese (Sairyu Sha), Korean (Moonji), Romanian (Spandugino), Serbian (Carobna knjiga), Spanish (Periférica), Swedish (Sekwa), Turkish (Epsilon)

mãn is a refined work of delicate beauty and a lesson in the meaning of the word "love"

DESCRIPTION

Mãn has three mothers. The teenager who gives birth to her and abandons her, the nun who plucks her from the vegetable garden of a Buddhist temple on the banks of the Me-kong River, and her beloved Maman, a teacher forced to become a spy. For her safety, Maman sends Mãn to live with a restaurant owner in Montreal, whom she then marries. In this new world, Mãn develops her natural talent for cooking, an art she learns can not only nourish the body but also distill memories, emotions, and sensual pleasure, one dish at a time. When she meets a Parisian chef, she encounters the dangers of passionate love and discovers how love and food are inextricably entwined.

SALES POINTS

- *mãn* was shortlisted for the Prix des cinq continents de la francophonie Award in 2014.
- The English paperback version was among Barnes & Noble's Discover Great New Writers Fall 2015 Selections.
- *mãn* has sold 60,000 copies in Quebec.

PRAISE

"This slim, wondrous book tells a story of love, food, passion and life rooted between worlds." *Maclean's*

"A delicate and vital love story.... The writing is both heartbreaking and insistent." *Toronto Star*

"A story that is ageless and universal, and exquisitely told." *Winnipeg Free Press*

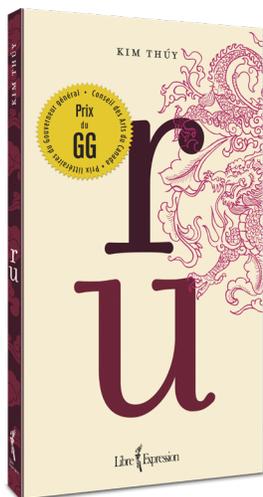
"An ode to love, friendship and selflessness, *mãn* encourages us to see the cracks that appear in our lifeline as opportunities to be embraced." *Le Figaro Magazine*

60,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Born in Saigon in 1968, **Kim Thúy** left Vietnam with the boat people when she was 10 and settled in Quebec with her family. As well as being a writer, she has earned degrees in translation and law and has worked as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer, and restaurant owner. Her debut novel, *Ru*, was published in 2009 and became a best-seller in Quebec and in France, garnering several prestigious literary awards, including a Governor General's Literary Award in 2010. Kim Thúy was one of the top four finalists of the Alternative Nobel Prize in 2018. Her books have sold more than 850,000 copies around the world and have been translated in 29 languages and distributed across 41 countries and territories.



Ru / Ru
Kim Thúy

LIBRE EXPRESSION
OCTOBER 2009
13.3 CM × 22.9 CM ■ 152 P. ■ \$24.95

OVER
520,000
COPIES SOLD
AROUND THE
WORLD



Kim Thúy's debut novel, *Ru*, became a runaway success upon publication in 2009 by Libre Expression

DESCRIPTION

Ru is a mosaic of very short stories that play off each other the way a wind chime jingles in the breeze, the first sentence of a chapter picking up where the previous left off. Born in Vietnam during the war, the narrator and her family flee their home with the boat people and are welcomed as refugees in a small town in Quebec. She later goes on to higher education, starts a family and discovers life with an autistic child. The writer pens a tale of a life filled with charming, unique characters and a happy-go-lucky approach to the most absurdly challenging of situations, tugging expertly at the reader's heart strings.

SALES POINTS

- *Ru*, a bestselling title in Quebec and France, was translated into 28 languages.
- *Ru* has sold more than 520,000 copies around the world.
- The film adaptation is currently being shot.

LITERARY AWARDS

- 2018 Finalist – The New Academy Prize In Literature (The Alternative Nobel)
- 2015 Winner – Canada Reads
- 2014 Winner – Prix Littéraire Des Ambassadeurs De La Francophonie (Denmark)
- 2012 Finalist – Scotiabank Giller Prize (Canada)
- 2011 Winner – Mondello Prize For Multiculturalism (Italy)
- 2011 Winner – Grand Prix Littéraire Archambault–People's Choice Award
- 2010 Winner – Prix Du Grand Public, Salon Du Livre De Montréal
- 2010 Winner – Governor General's Literary Award For Fiction (Canada)
- 2010 Winner – Grand Prix Rtl-Lire, Salon Du Livre De Paris (France)

PRAISE

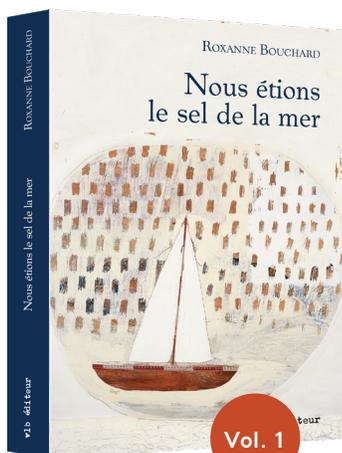
"Light on description yet filled with strong images that leave an imprint in the reader's mind. A remarkable literary debut." *L'Express*

"Kim Thúy has delivered a superb work of literature." *RTL*

"A novelist who lays herself bare with grace and modesty." *Télérama*

Rights sold: Albanian (Dritan), Arabic (IQRani Publishing House), Bulgarian (Colibri), Chinese (Haitian Publishing House), Czech (Emitos), Danish (Gad), Dutch (Van Gennepe), English-Canada (Random House), English-Great Britain (Clerkenwell Press), English-United States (Bloomsbury), Estonian (Loomingu Raamatukogu), Finnish (Gummerus), French Canada book club (Québec Loisirs), French outside Canada (Liana Levi, Livre de Poche, Grand Livre du Mois, France Loisirs, Feryane), German (Kunstmann, DTV), Greek (Agra), Icelandic (Benedikt), Italian (Nottetempo), Japanese (Sairyu Sha), Korean (Moonji), Macedonian (Antolog), Norwegian (Perleblekk), Polish (Drzewo Babel), Portuguese-Portugal (Objectiva), Portuguese-Brazil (Áyiné), Romanian (Spandugino), Serbian (Clio), Spanish (Periférica), Swedish (Sekwa), Turkish (Epsilon), Ukrainian (Anetta Antonenko Publishers), Film rights (Amalga, Canada)

backlist FICTION



VLB ÉDITEUR
MAY 2014
13.9 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 360 P. ■
\$26.95

Rights sold: World English (Orenda Books), French outside Canada (Éditions de l'Aube), Germany (Atrium), Italy (E/O Edizioni), TV series

Nous étions le sel de la mer / We Were the Salt of the Sea Roxanne Bouchard

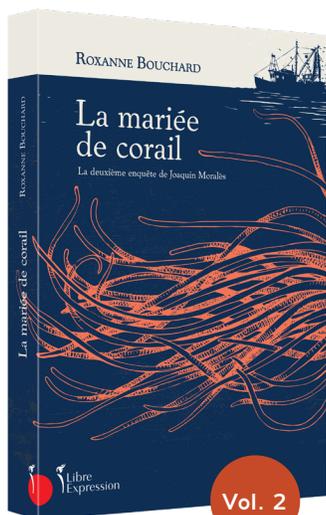
20,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC

DESCRIPTION

As Montrealer Catherine Day sets foot in a remote fishing village and starts asking around about her birth mother, the body of a woman dredges up in a fisherman's nets. Not just any woman, though: Marie Garant, an elusive, nomadic sailor and unbridled beauty who once tied many a man's heart in knots. Detective Sergeant Joaquin Moralès, newly drafted to the area from the suburbs of Montreal, barely has time to unpack his suitcase before he's thrown into the deep end of the investigation.

SALES POINTS

- Shortlisted for the 2015 France-Quebec Award.
- Shortlisted for the 2015 Tenebris Prize.
- Shortlisted for the Henri-Queffélec Award for Maritime Literature in Brittany, France.
- Shortlisted for the First Book Award, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Scotland.
- *Nous étions le sel de la mer (We Were the Salt of the Sea)* has sold more than 20,000 copies.



LIBRE EXPRESSION
JUNE 2020
15.2 CM × 22.9 CM ■ 392 P. ■
\$27.95

Rights sold: World English (Orenda Books), French outside Canada (Éditions de l'Aube), Germany (Atrium), Italy (E/O Edizioni), TV series

La Mariée de corail – La deuxième enquête de Joaquin Moralès / The Coral Bride: Moralès' Second Investigation Roxanne Bouchard

18,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC

DESCRIPTION

Angel's heart skips a beat as the anchor chain clatters over the edge of her lobster trawler. It's caught on something. But what? Something yanks at her ankle and pulls her off her feet. Her wedding dress rides up around her waist as she feels her body being dragged away. She feels the cold air biting into her bare thighs. Angel draws a sharp breath as it dawns on her that someone's trying to kill her.

SALES POINTS

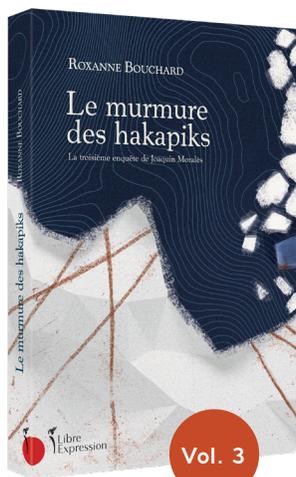
- Best 2021 French Crime Book (Fiction and Non-fiction) Crime Writers of Canada.
- One of Crime Reads UK's top international crime fiction books of May 2021.
- *La Mariée de corail (The Coral Bride)* has sold 18,000 copies.
- Finalist for the 2021 Saint-Pacôme Prize.

READ AN
EXCERPT

backlist FICTION

Libre
Expression

UPMARKET FICTION / Crime Series



Le Murmure des hakapiks – La troisième enquête de Joaquin Moralès / *The Hakapik's Whisper: Moralès' Third Investigation*

Roxanne Bouchard

LIBRE EXPRESSION
APRIL 2021
15.2 CM × 22.9 CM ■ 264 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: World English (Orenda Books),
French outside Canada (Éditions de l'Aube)

12,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Roxanne Bouchard is a writer and teacher of literature. She has published eight novels. Her literary crime novel, *Nous étions le sel de la mer* (*We Were the Salt of the Sea*), was published by VLB éditeur in 2014 and shortlisted for the France-Quebec Award in 2015. Its sequel, *La Mariée de corail* (*The Coral Bride*) was published by Libre Expression in 2020.

A stunning, poetic detective novel with a salty tang and an icy chill

DESCRIPTION

Simone Lord can't wait until spring when she'll get to see Detective Joaquin Moralès again. But for now, she's on watch aboard the Jean-Mathieu, a crab boat that's gone to sea for a week to join the seal hunt. Far from being welcome on board, she soon sees that nothing is going to go as planned. Meanwhile, in an attempt to bounce back from his divorce, a forlorn Moralès finds himself trekking along the shores of the St. Lawrence on cross-country skis. But now forensic psychologist Nadine Lauzon is here to join him and his friend, Erik Lefebvre, with her own ski gear and a major case file that Moralès has no choice but to open.

SALES POINTS

- *The Hakapik's Whisper* has sold 12,000 copies in Quebec.
- In Quebec, Roxanne Bouchard is considered a reference in maritime crime fiction.

PRAISE

"This new Moralès investigation is sheer pleasure to read: tension you could cut with a knife, punchy dialogue, complex characters, and plenty of suspense, enchanting descriptions and maritime metaphors." *Journal de Québec*



backlist FICTION

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Tout est ori / All Is Ori Paul Serge Forest

VLB ÉDITEUR
MARCH 2021
13.6 CM × 19.7 CM ■ 456 P. ■ \$29.95

Rights sold: French outside Canada
(Éditions des Équateurs), English-North
America (Baraka Books), Film rights

Where magic realism meets the seafood industry: from the North Shore to Japan, this crazy saga will have readers tearing their hair out

DESCRIPTION

The Lelarge family quietly lords over the seafood trade on the northern shores of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. One day, a mysterious visitor, member of the Isumi Hues, Pigments, Colours, Mollusks and Shellfish Conglomerate, makes his arrival. Nobody knows at first that Mori Ishikawa has made an invention that will come to change the course of history. Nobody, that is, except for Frédéric Goyette, an official from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and a lover of aquavit and fusion jazz, and Laurie, the younger, rebellious Lelarge daughter, on whom Ishikawa exerts an irrepressible attraction...

SALES POINTS

- A powerful and original intrigue that leaves nothing to be desired when compared with the best of American novels.
- *All Is Ori* will be made into a movie by Couronne Nord.
- *All Is Ori* has sold 14,000 copies.

PRAISE

"Fantasy meets philosophy in this family fresco drawn with a skillful stroke of the pen. Stray from the trodden path and prepare to be charmed!" *L'Actualité magazine*

"*All is Ori* is already a must-read of Quebec literature." *Les Libraires*

"Paul Serge Forest's dazzling debut crushes the competition. This book is a rare and precious literary event." *Lettres québécoises*

"Paul Serge Forest is as at home in literature as a fish in water. Not surprising that he should make such a grand entrance." *Le Devoir*

"An outstanding novel! A real pleasure to read if you are a lover of food—and if you're a lover of words, you're really going to enjoy it. It's my favourite of the year!" *ICI Radio-Canada Première*

"A profusion of powerful scenes intersects, bearing witness to the author's incredible imagination!" *Journal de Montréal*

vlb éditeur

14,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

Paul Serge Forest was born in 1984 in the Côte-Nord region of Quebec. He now lives in Montreal, where he practices medicine. *All Is Ori* is his first novel.

LITERARY AWARDS

Finalist for Les Rendez-vous du premier roman 2021-2022.

Finalist for the Prix des libraires 2022.

Winner of the prix Robert-Cliche du premier roman.2021

Prix d'excellence des Écrivains francophones d'Amérique 2021.

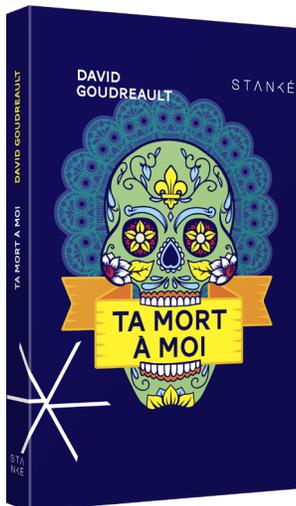
Governor General's Awards finalist in 2021.

Finalist for the Prix des collégiens 2022.



backlist FICTION

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Ta mort à moi / Your Death is Mine David Goudreault

STANKÉ
SEPTEMBER 2019
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 344 P. ■ \$24.95

Rights sold: French outside Canada (Philippe Rey), French Canada book club (Québec Loisirs)

An author at the height of his creative powers. An absolute literary gem

DESCRIPTION

Marie-Maude Pranesh-Lopez is struggling with a “white hole” that is constantly pushing her out of her comfort zone and making her try anything and everything, which invariably leaves her totally apathetic. Her mother deliberately provokes road accidents and causes traffic jams. Her father, a devout consumer of pop psychology, can’t get enough of chromatic meditation and buys into anything that might further his personal growth. Through this deconstructed story, woven together by pages from Marie-Maude’s diary, author David Goudreault explores the idea of fate with a cast of characters who will never live to see redemption.

SALES POINTS

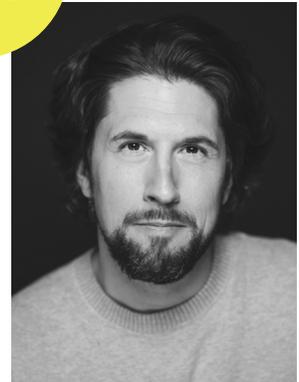
- David Goudreault writes with a crazy, vivid imagination all his own.
- *Your Death is Mine* was on the shortlist for the 2020 France-Quebec award
- *Your Death is Mine* has sold more than 42,000 copies in Quebec.

PRAISE

“With his ability to juggle language so masterfully, Goudreault is one of our greatest contemporary authors.” *Le Devoir*

STANKÉ

42,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC

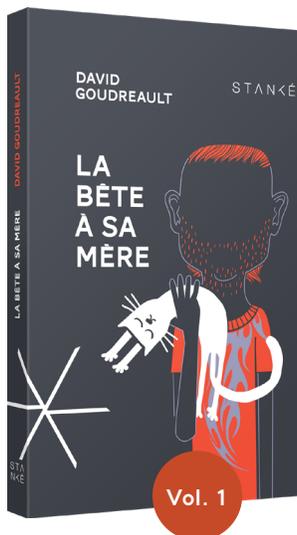


AUTHOR

A social worker, poet, and novelist, **David Goudreault** makes a lasting impression on everyone. His caustic writing has earned him a large number of awards, including Quebec’s Medal of Honour of the National Assembly, the World Cup of Slam Poetry, the Grand Prix littéraire Archambault and the Prix des nouvelles voix de la littérature. A mix of poetry and comedy, his first stand-up performance, *On the Tip of Your Tongue*, enjoyed great critical and popular success, and was performed over a hundred times for audiences in Canada and Europe, as well as in Tunisia and La Réunion, in addition to sweeping up several awards.

backlist FICTION

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



La Bête à sa mère

/ *Mama's Boy*

David Goudreault

STANKÉ

APRIL 2015

12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 232 P. ■ \$22.95

Rights sold: English-North America
(Book*hug), French outside Canada (Philippe
Rey, 10/18), Film, TV, and Theatrical Rights

47,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

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The family drama of a lonely man. And the unfortunate cats that stray across his path

DESCRIPTION

Written with gritty humour in the form of a confession, *Mama's Boy* recounts the family drama of a young man who sets out in search of his mother after a childhood spent shuffling from one foster home to another. A bizarre character with a skewed view of the world, he leads the reader on a quest that is both tender and violent. His search takes an unexpected turn.

SALES POINTS

- Masterful wordplay and a sassy, rhythmic use of language.
- *Mama's Boy* has sold 47,000 copies in Quebec.
- This debut novel was nominated for a series of major literary awards: Archambault Literary Award, New Voices in Literature Award, Shortlisted for the Académie des lettres du Québec Ringuet Award, Shortlisted for the France-Canada Award, Shortlisted for the Robert Walser Award.

PRAISE

"This is a 'tour de force' by David Goudreault, a powerful first novel, written in a chiseled, paced, visual style that one is not ready to forget." *Huffington Post*

"A fierce, pugnacious, and dazzling tale, the trailer of which could be set to a Pixies song (remember *Fight Club?*)" *Le Vif/L'Express (Belgique)*

"David Goudreault stays his course, explaining nothing, forcing the reader to make up his own mind about this character, lost and endearing in spite of his madness, his self-absorption, and his cruelty." *Culturebox (France)*

backlist FICTION

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



La Bête et sa cage / *Mama's Boy Behind Bars* David Goudreault

STANKÉ
APRIL 2016
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 248 P. ■ \$22.95

Rights sold: English-North America (Book*hug),
French outside Canada (Philippe Rey, 10/18)

21,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

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Prison may break a man, but being behind bars awakens the beast within

DESCRIPTION

The beast is back! Now incarcerated in a wing reserved for psychiatric cases, he struggles to survive in the hierarchical and violent prison world. Through the eyes of this character's distorted views of reality, David Goudreault paints a picture of the prison world, its daily life, and inhabitants. If prison breaks men, the cage excites the beasts...

SALES POINTS

- *Mama's Boy Behind Bars* has sold 21,000 copies in Quebec.
- Runner-up, City of Sherbrooke Book Award.
- Guest of honour, Montreal Book Fair 2016.

PRAISE

"Another essential work for anyone who wants to clearly see the things our society would rather keep hidden, the things that so clearly reveal who we are." *info-culture.biz*
"*Mama's Boy Behind Bars* is, without question, even better than *Mama's Boy*: delicious observations, hard-hitting humour, a majestic style, and a sense of rhythm that will make many more experienced authors envious." *Huffington Post Quebec*

backlist FICTION

LITERARY FICTION / Novel



Abattre la bête / *Mama's Boy Game Over* David Goudreault

STANKÉ
APRIL 2017
12.7 CM × 20.3 CM ■ 240 P. ■ \$22.95

Rights sold: English-North America (Book*hug),
French outside Canada (Philippe Rey, 10/18)

With an outpouring of love and explosive violence, this grand finale brings the trilogy to a fitting end that's nothing short of apocalyptic

DESCRIPTION

The grand finale of the trilogy picks up where the first two novels left off and unravels the intrigue. Delving deeper into egocentricity and cognitive distortion, the author leads his protagonist to run away frantically again and again.

Still driven by a desperate need to feel a family connection, the narrator finds refuge in drugs and denial, as well as in the arms of Maple, a hooker in her fifties who takes him in after he escapes from the Pinel Institute. Together, they track down the narrator's mother, for worse or for worse.

SALES POINTS

- David Goudreault won the 2016 Prix Excellence Culture Estrie Award.
- *Mama's Boy Game Over* has sold 17,000 copies in Quebec.

PRAISE

"David Goudreault will captivate you from the first line!" *Kim Thúy, author of Ru and Vi*

STANKÉ

17,000
COPIES SOLD
IN QUEBEC



AUTHOR

A social worker, poet, and novelist, **David Goudreault** makes a lasting impression on everyone. His caustic writing has earned him a large number of awards, including Quebec's Medal of Honour of the National Assembly, the World Cup of Slam Poetry, the Grand Prix littéraire Archambault and the Prix des nouvelles voix de la littérature. A mix of poetry and comedy, his first stand-up performance, *On the Tip of Your Tongue*, enjoyed great critical and popular success, and was performed over a hundred times for audiences in Canada and Europe, as well as in Tunisia and La Réunion, in addition to sweeping up several awards.

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