

LESTER AGENCY

FICTION

SPRING 2024

HIGHLIGHTS



Cécile Coulon

LA LANGUE DES CHOSES CACHÉES

(The Language of Hidden Things)

144 pages, Jan-24, L'Iconoclaste

Over 34,000 copies shipped and 20,000 actual sales only a few weeks after publication, making this the 3rd most successful title of the Winter rentrée littéraire, just behind Sylvain Tesson and David Foenkinos.

Rights sold in Spanish (Planeta), Greece (pre-empted by Dardanos Gutenberg)

With its witchy feel, we are plunged in a revenge story out of times and places, where women are restored to their dignity.

A DARK TALE REVOLVING AROUND NATURE, ITS SECRETS, LEGACIES AND VIOLENCE.

The mother knows the language of hidden things. They call her, she comes at dusk. She knows how to heal, fix what the madness and fury of men have damaged. She know how to accompany people on their journey towards death. And she leaves before sunrise. That's what her duty is about. She transmits her gift day after day to her son, in silence. One night to heal... One night, the mother is called to the tiny village known as the « Fond du Puits », but it is her son who goes. For the first time, he is alone. And like all the first times, nothing goes as planned. There, he is confronted with the silences of the past, the violence of men and the revenge of women over millennia. His mother always told him that he should never leave traces of his passage. He always obeyed by his mother. Except that night. The astonishing and poetic spiritual landscape of Cécile Coulon Cécile Coulon explores her obsessions: landscapes, the body, the power of women and the poetic force of Nature. In The Language of Hidden Things, her talents as a novelist and poet merge to describe the fragile balance which at every moment threatens to be overturned.

A prodigy novelist since adolescence, Cécile Coulon stands out, her novels and her poetry too. She is notably the author of *A beast in paradise* (L'Iconoclaste), *Trois Saisons d'orage* (Viviane Hamy, Prix des Libraires) and the poetry collection *Les Ronces* (Castor Astral, Apollinaire Prize). Nothing stops her, she traces her path. The language of hidden things is another proof of this fact. « Une bête au paradis » was published by E/O in Italy, Europa in the UK, Planeta in Spanish, U Sifrut Shenogaat in Hebrew and Dardanos Gutenberg in Greek. « Seule en sa demeure » was published by Planeta in Spanish and Ripol in Russian.



Jean-Paul Dubois

L'ORIGINE DES LARMES

(The Origin of Tears)

256 pages, Mar-24, L'Olivier

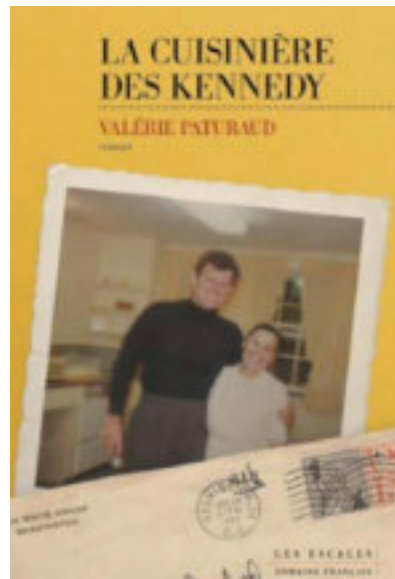
A blend of humor and melancholy, this novel can be read as a dark comedy or a burlesque drama.

Perhaps both at the same time.

PAUL HAS COMMITTED THE IRREPARABLE: HE HAS KILLED HIS FATHER.

However, when he decided to act, Thomas Lanski was already dead, of natural causes. It will take nothing less than a mandatory year of therapy to unravel the circumstances that led Paul to this parricide of which he is not truly the author. The novel is the narrative that Paul confides to his psychiatrist: the story of a wounded man, harboring an obsessive hatred for his father, guilty of causing suffering to his wife and son throughout their lives. It's a tale of learning vengeance, in a way.

Jean-Paul Dubois was born in Toulouse in 1950. He won the Prix Femina and Prix du roman Fnac for *Une vie française*, and the Prix Goncourt in 2019 for *Tous les hommes n'habitent pas le monde de la même façon*.



Valérie Patureaud

LA CUISINIÈRE DES KENNEDY

(Kennedy's Cook)

352 pages, Apr-24, Diable Vauvert

Based on a true story.

Entertaining and well-written, appropriate for a wide reader base.

The destiny of an extraordinary woman whose name has been forgotten by history.

A plunge into the intimacy of personalities who continue to inspire.

Strong focus on French cuisine with authentic recipes that will win over food lovers.

Valérie Patureaud is passionate about literature and history and worked as a primary school teacher in a very tough neighborhood for over twenty years, teaching reading and writing, but now she's decided to devote myself to writing.

A FICTIONALIZED BIOGRAPHY OF AN AUDACIOUS WOMAN WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL DESTINY WHO, THANKS TO HER TALENT AS A COOK, CONJURES UP HER DESTINY AND RUBS SHOULDERS WITH FAMOUS PERSONALITIES. HER FABULOUS STORY TAKES US THROUGH THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND ITS GREAT HISTORY.

1907: A newborn is found on the snow-covered steps of a church in Marseille. 1999: In a small cemetery in Vaucluse, South of France, on the grave of a certain Andrée Imbert, a wreath of flowers and a note: "With all the sympathy of the Kennedy family." What is the link between this woman and the illustrious family? At her foster care placements on various farms in the South-East of France, Andrée learns the secrets of authentic, simple cooking with the flavors of thyme, savory, and oregano. Andrée is determined and courageous. She leaves her village for Lyon where she trains in cuisine bourgeoise. Her journey will lead her to cook for the greatest, all the way to Hyannis Port, the Kennedy residence. A dedicated employee, she devoted her life to this family, living alongside them through their most glorious and darkest hours. This is a fascinating story of a bold and emancipated woman who really existed, punctuated with recipes taken from her notebooks.



Hervé Le Corre

QUI APRÈS NOUS VIVREZ

(Who Will Live On)

340 pages, Jan-24, Payot Rivages

Rights sold in Greece (Ekdoseis tou Eikostou protou).

Longlisted for the Grand Prix RTL – Lire Magazine 2024

IN THE DYING YEARS OF THE 21ST CENTURY, ENERGY CRISES AND PANDEMICS COME IN SUCH RAPID SUCCESSION THAT SOCIETY EVENTUALLY COLLAPSES. A SMALL NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE AMIDST THE VIOLENCE AND THE CHAOS.

Without decisive political action to halt global warming, the climate crisis has gotten worse. In addition to recurrent epidemics, shortages of energy, water and other resources lead to tremendous social unrest. In a large town in the provinces, a young woman and her partner had a baby recently anyway. One day, the whole country's electrical grid collapses and an even more violent riot than usual ensues. The young father doesn't come home that night, and his partner grows more and more anxious. Three generations later, in a world from which all technological progress has disappeared, a small group of people have taken shelter in an abandoned country house that escaped the waves of destruction. But not for long. Vandals soon burn it down, and the survivors have to flee in their horse-drawn wagon. So begins a western-like saga in which the group struggles for survival every day..

Raised in Bordeaux, where he used to teach French, Hervé Le Corre first became known for his books published by Série Noire. His 2004 novel *L'Homme aux lèvres de saphir* (The Man with Sapphire Lips, Rivages/ Noir) revealed him as a major new voice in French crime fiction; it won the 2005 Critic's Prix Mystère. A series of remarkable books followed: *Les Coeurs déchiétés* (Talking to Ghosts – 2009 Grand Prix de Littérature Policière); *Après la guerre* ("After the War" winner of six awards, including the European Crime Fiction Prize); *Prendre les loups pour des chiens* (Mistaking Wolves for Dogs); *Dans l'ombre du brasier* (In the Shadow of the Fire), a saga set during the Paris Commune, and *Traverser la nuit*, another book that sold very well. Critics consider him to be France's top author of crime fiction.

SYLVAIN
TESSON
AVEC
LES FÉES



Sylvain Tesson

AVEC LES FÉES

(With The Fairies)

220 pages, Jan-24, Humensis

Chinese (simplified), Croatian, Dutch, German and Greek translation rights already granted

SYLVAIN TESSON MAKES US TRAVEL BY SEA AND ON FOOT FROM SPAIN TO SCOTLAND, PASSING BY BRITTANY AND IRELAND.

« The word fairy means something else. It is a characteristic of reality revealed by a certain visual angle. There is a way of perceiving the world and discerning the miracle of the immemorial, and of perfection. The reflection from the sun to the sea that bounces back, the rustling of the wind in the leaves of a beech tree, blood on snow and a dewdrop pearling on the fur of a mustelid: there, are the fairies. They appear because we look at nature with deference. Suddenly, a signal. The beauty of a form bursts forth. I call them fairies, those eruptions. The promontory of Galicia, Brittany, Cornwall, in Wales, the Isle of Man, Ireland and Scotland form an arc. By sea, I was going to join up the crumbs of this fragmentation. Balanced on that curve, you are sure to perceive the materialization of the wonderful. Since the night had fallen on this world of machines and bankers, I gave myself three months to try and observe it. I left. With the fairies. »

Sylvain Tesson is the author of what is now considered to be a major work. Notably *Petit traité sur l'immensité du monde* (Equateurs), *La Panthère des neiges* (Prix Renaudot), and *Dans les forêts de Sibérie* (Médicis Prize for an Essay).



Philippe Besson

UN SOIR D'ÉTÉ

(That Summer)

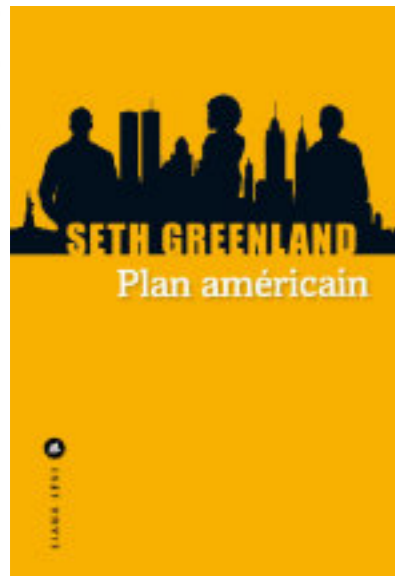
208 pages, Jan-24, Julliard

After the success of PARIS-BRIANÇON (which sold over 150,000 copies) and CECI N'EST PAS UN FAIT DIVERS, a powerful and militant novel (Prix Nice-Baie des Anges), Philippe Besson returns to autobiographical fiction, a memoir of his youth in the vein of ARRÊTE AVEC TES MENSONGES, whose highly successful screen adaptation was released in cinemas in 2023.

Philippe Besson is the author of some twenty novels, including *Son frère* (screen adaptation by Patrice Chéreau) and *L'Arrière-saison* (Grand Prix RTL- Lire), *"Arrête avec tes mensonges"* (Prix Maison de la Presse, screen adaptation in 2023 by Olivier Peyon), *Le Dernier Enfant*, *Paris-Briançon* and *Ceci n'est pas un fait divers*.

IN THE MIDST OF A SCORCHING 1980s SUMMER, AN INEXPLICABLE TRAGEDY SHATTERS THE CAREFREE INNOCENCE OF SIX TEENAGERS, WHO ARE VIOLENTLY JOLTED INTO ADULthood. INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY, PHILIPPE BESSON'S NEW NOVEL RETURNS TO THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL VEIN OF "ARRÊTE AVEC TES MENSONGES" KNOWN IN ENGLISH AS "LIE WITH ME".

In sharing this chapter of his adolescence, Philippe Besson unveils the chronicle of a summer filled with boundless possibilities. The summer he got his driving licence and took his first car trips, the summer of nightclubbing, Subway and "Marcia Baila", reunions, crushes, sexual desire, hot bodies seeking and finding each other. Philippe Besson reconstructs this last carefree summer with an acute sense of detail and a heightened sensitivity. The last summer before choices must be made that will determine everyone's future. A suspended moment in time when childhood ties have not yet been severed, social classes mix without prejudice, and friendship prevails over all else.



Seth Greenland
PLAN AMÉRICAIN

(Bleecker&Bowery)

320 pages, Sep-23, Liana Lévi

Original language: English

SET AT THE END OF THE 70s IN A NEW YORK FIZZING WITH CREATIVITY, THIS WRYLY HUMOROUS NOVEL FOLLOWS THE TRIBULATIONS OF ASPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS PASSIONATE ABOUT CINEMA, WHILE DEALING WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING ETHNICITY, RELATIONS BETWEEN JEWS AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS, LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, AND FATE.

Paul, also known as Pablo, is in his mid-twenties and dreams of becoming a filmmaker. Until something better comes along, he works as a film critic for a pornographic magazine. One night at a comedy club, he meets up with Jay Gladstone, a childhood friend from a far more well-heeled family than his own. That evening, they also meet Avery, a brilliant African-American actress who dreams of breaking into the movies. Together, the two friends will do anything to produce and direct their first film. Jay hopes to ride the wave of blaxploitation and asks Pablo to write the script of a road movie. But setting up a feature film production proves far more complicated than they thought... They're forced to accept Russian mafia money to finance it, then little by little the filming turns into a fiasco. to the National Assembly and take back control of the people's voice.

Seth Greenland works as a scriptwriter for both the big and small screens. A novelist, he has written five other novels including Mécanique de la chute (The Hazards of Good Fortune, Europa, 2019) which was enthusiastically received by the critics and nominated for the 2019 Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger. In this, his most recent novel, Seth Greenland pays homage to the city of New York and to that moment in life when all things seem possible.



Marie Darrieussecq

FABRIQUER UNE FEMME

(Making a Woman)

336 pages, Jan-24, P.O.L.

Ranked # 7 in the bestselling lists with 30 000 copies sold up to date

UK (FITZCARRALDO), ANZ (Text Publishing) and Sweden (NORSTEDTS); feature film rights currently under negotiation.

It's the story of a sincere but unbalanced female friendship, peopled by a gallery of delightful characters, both comic and pathetic, and punctuated by sharp dialogue and repartee.

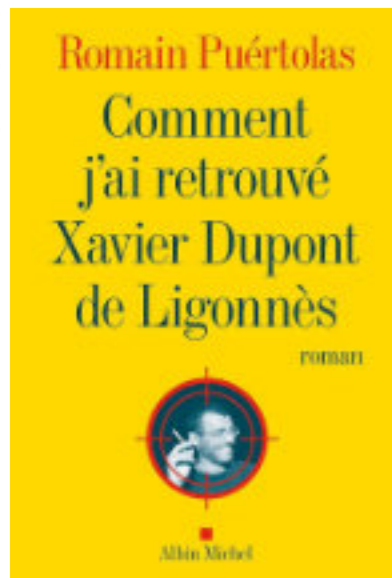
An ardent feminist, Marie Darrieussecq's new novel tells the story of two women long before #MeToo. Solange and Rose come from very different backgrounds and follow very different destinies.

They are, however, inexorably linked by their gender, their desire to remain free and alive in a patriarchal world, and their desire to stand up to it.

Marie Darrieussecq was born in 1969. In 1996, at the age of 27, she published her first novel, *PIG TALES*, which became an overnight sensation and bestseller. It has been translated in 44 countries. The *New Yorker* featured her as France's "best young novelist". She has strongly established herself as one of the leading voices of contemporary literature.

THE STORY OF TWO TEENAGE FRIENDS, SOLANGE AND ROSE, AS THEY ENTER ADULthood DURING THE LATE 1980s. TWO DESTINIES AT ONCE LINKED AND DIFFERENT, A MAGNIFICENT NOVEL, BOTH RADICAL AND FUNNY, ABOUT FEMININE DESIRE AND LIVING.

Rose will study psychology and remains faithful to Christian, her first love; Solange goes from one love affair to another, becomes pregnant at fifteen, gives birth to a little boy she leaves with her parents, and has a more or less successful career as an actress. The story of the intimate and social ambitions of two young women "under construction" in a masculine world. Two women's destinies, written in a language that is wildly energetic, full of humour and emotion. Solange indulges in the excitement and melancholy of nightlife, nightclubs, the pitfalls of seduction, dreams of success and odd jobs, whereas Rose patiently builds a wise, well-advised life. The novel unfurls a veritable soundtrack to the era, and blends in the ups and downs of history: the Mitterrand years, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the beginning of the AIDS years...



Romain Puértolas

COMMENT J'AI RETROUVE XAVIER DUPONT DE LIGONNÈS

(How I Found Xavier Dupont de Ligonnès)

288 pages, Jan-24

Albin Michel

Romain Puértolas, novelist and Captain at the French Border Police, has filled in the blanks in this well-documented, domestic investigation, not without humour, opening up new possible avenues and conclusions to this disappearance.

AS METICULOUS AS IT IS FUNNY – AN INVESTIGATION INTO FRANCE’S N° 1 FUGITIVE.

What could have become of Xavier Dupont de Ligonnès, France’s most wanted fugitive, between the moment when the surveillance camera in a small-town hotel car park caught sight of him for the last time, on April 15, 2011, and possible sightings in Lançon-Provence, Versailles or even San Francisco four years later?

Born in 1975, Romain Puértolas grew up in the South of France. At the age of 25, he moved to Barcelona and then Brighton (England), before returning to Spain to Madrid, where he worked in the aviation industry and later as a teacher. At 35, he passed the competitive examination to become a police lieutenant and moved to Paris. Following the release of *Le Fakir*, and thanks to its success, he took a leave of absence from the police force (he is now a captain) and since 2014 has devoted himself to his novels and their film adaptation. He has published *La Police des fleurs, des arbres et des forêts* and *Sous le parapluie d'Adélaïde* with Albin Michel in 2019 and 2020.



Ada Vivalda

PORCELAINE SOUS LES RUINES

(Porcelain Beneath the Ruins)

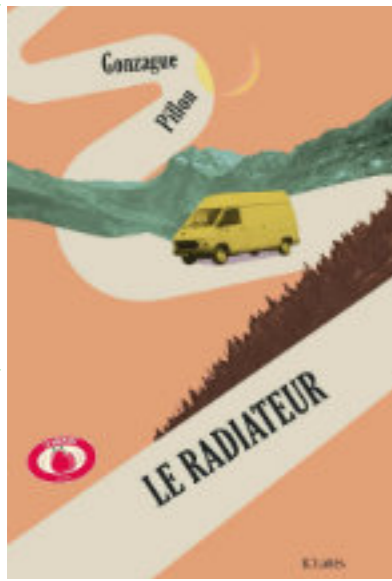
390 pages, Jan-24

Gallimard

FOR THE SIN OF GRANTING TOO MANY WISHES TO HUMANS, ALBA WAS BANNED ON EARTH BY THE GENIES. AFTER A LONG PERAMBULATION THROUGH THE CENTURIES, SHE FINALLY FOUND A REFUGE AND A FAMILY ON THE PEACEFUL ARCHIPELAGO OF HIBERNIA.

The inhabitants of what was once known as Ireland now see her as dark-eyed Lady Whitmore, guardian of those last pieces of verdant land, at which the sea nibbles away a little more with each passing day. But the abundance that prevails in Hibernia is beginning to whet the appetite of Cymru, the neighbouring archipelago, both powerful and overpopulated. The Council of Cymru sends an emissary to Lady Whitmore, as loathsome as he is attractive: Lethan Alcor. Newly elected as Councillor, Lethan has been entrusted with a vital mission: unlocking the secret of Hibernia’s riches. And to succeed, he is ready to use his most elaborate subterfuges on Alba and those closest to her. Cohabitation is likely to be stormy...

Born in 1992 by the seaside, Ada Vivalda is impassioned by fantasy literature, tea and cottages. So it was natural for her to write *Porcelaine sous les ruines* a cup in one hand, while listening to the rain falling against her window, and looking out onto the spell-binding landscapes of Ireland. In her novels, she enjoys re-imagining the great figures of our collective imagination and creating magical atmospheres full of nuance. Under her other pen name, Chris Vuklisevic, she has published *DERNIERS JOURS D'UN MONDE OUBLIÉ* (2021) and *DU THÉ POUR LES FANTÔMES* (Denoël), which is being translated in seven languages.



Gonzague Pillon

LE RADIATEUR

(The Radiator)

216 pages, Mar-24, JC Lattès

An ode to artisans and a hymn to tuning out from the modern world.

Through succulent dialogue, prose reminiscent of Audiard, and improbable circumstances, this debut novel recounts with superb finesse how difference and weakness can become strengths.

Gonzague Pillon holds a university degree in sociology. One day in the Massif central he comes across an old 1984 Renault Trafic. It becomes his faithful destrier and accompanies him in the job he loves, bookseller/bookstall owner, before becoming the theatre of this first novel.

TWO FRIENDS, BOTH DISHEARTENED AND IN SEARCH OF AUTHENTICITY, EMBARK ON A CATHARTIC ROAD TRIP IN A RENAULT TRAFIC. THEY DECIDE TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET FINANCIALLY BY STEALING RARE MANUSCRIPTS.

José has a crazy plan, a way to make a huge life change. In an isolated mountain monastery, he has spotted some rare manuscripts, incunabula, that he knows, thanks to his friend Michel, a bookstall owner and binder, could be worth a fortune. Michel confirms their value so José convinces him to come to Haute-Savoie. Aboard a vintage 1984 Renault Trafic, the energetic young José and his fifty-something, mildly depressed, jobless friend, Michel, make up a hilarious tandem in this wild expedition. As they roam across the roads of France, one problem leads to another. When the Renault's radiator gives out, their wonderful adventure turns into a desert crossing during which José and Michel will discover themselves.



Pauline Guéna

REINE

(Queen)

250 pages, Mar-24, Denoël

A man's world staged by a woman. A new depth of field.

Pauline Guéna is one of the new leading voices in French fiction.

The movie adaptation of her book 18.3. Une année à la PJ (La Nuit du 12 by Dominik Moll) won 6 Césars.

Pauline Guéna is a novelist and screenwriter. She wrote the screenplay for the French adaptation of the TV series In Treatment, which met a great success in France. Reine is her fifth novel.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, A HITMAN IS ABOUT TO KILL FOR LOVE.

Marco is a hitman. He has always followed through on his contracts, nothing more, nothing less. But this time, killing Igdir was ordered solely by his own conscience.

Léan is a freelance journalist. Something tells him that this "ongoing investigation in Champigny-sur-Marne" is the perfect story to get his career off the ground. He wouldn't be the first to sell his soul for a good scoop.

Reina was Igdir's prisoner. Marco freed her of him. She saw everything. She won't say a word.

A dive into a dark part of the world, a subtle critique of society, an exploration of the depths of the human soul, Reine is a detective story and much, much more.



Sophie Van Der Linden

ARCTIQUE SOLAIRE

(Solar Arctic)

120 pages, Jan-24, Denoël

A stunning and visual text that depicts the majestic landscapes of the Far North.

The striking portrait of a woman who was long referred to as “the wife of” – but who produced a remarkable body of works without ever taking a painting class.

A beautiful novel meant for readers of David Foerkinos’s Charlotte of Marie Darrieussecq’s Being Here Is Everything .

Sophie Van der Linden (1973) has written or directed works about children’s literature with several publishers. She has is the author of four novels: the award-winning *La Fabrique du monde* (Buchet-Chastel, 2013), *L’Incertitude de l’aube* (Buchet-Chastel, 2014), *De terre et de mer* (Buchet-Chastel, 2016), and *Après Constantinople* (Gallimard, 2019).

A NOVEL TO (RE)DISCOVER THE LITTLE-KNOWN SWEDISH ARTIST ANNA BOBERG (1864-1935). EACH WINTER, SHE TRAVELLED ON HER OWN TO CAPTURE THE RAW BEAUTY OF THE LOFOTEN ISLANDS’ ARCTIC LANDSCAPES.

At over 60, Anna Boberg has exhibited her work as far as France and Italy, but still isn’t known in her own country, Sweden. Ever since discovering the Lofoten Islands in 1901, she returns there every winter on her own and stays for several weeks to capture the raw beauty of the arctic landscapes and their blinding lights. Over the course of this painting season, the novel slips into Anna’s inner character. Closely following her emotions, it explores her expectations, ambitions, and memories. Anna may be an adventurer, but she is hardly a loner: she knew the architect Charles Garner quite well, met the actress Sarah Bernhardt, she is close to Sweden’s crown prince, and she is the loving wife of an acclaimed architect with whom she works. But she cannot shake the artist within, or the compelling call of the northern lights. With an impressive, calm, and delicate writing style in tune with the sensations, the lights, the smells, and the temperatures, Sophie Van der Linden conjures up the creative and artistic quest of an exceptional woman.



Célia Houdart

LES FLEURS SAUVAGES

(Wild Flowers)

208 pages, Jan-24, P.O.L.

A whole mysterious network of connections is woven, almost magically, between the worst in the contemporary world and the delicacy of an intimate family universe.

The poetic, mysterious, floral world of a teenaged girl confronted with the most violent geopolitical realities.

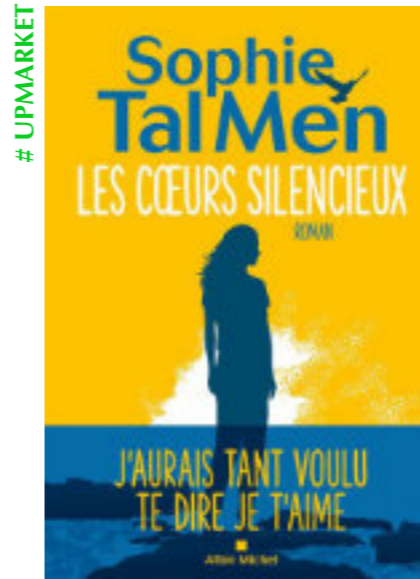
Without Manicheanism or pathos, Célia Houdart describes two visions of our world today, as close as possible to bodies and sensations.

Célia Houdart was awarded the Villa Médicis hors-les-murs, the Académie Française's Henri de Régnier prize in 2008 for her first novel *Les merveilles du monde*, the Prix Françoise Sagan in 2012 for *Carrare* and the Prix de la Ville de Deauville in 2015 for *Gil*. Latest book: *Journée particulière* (P.O.L, 2021).

PART APPRENTICESHIP NOVEL, PART THRILLER, PART LOVE STORY, PART PROSE POEM, WILD FLOWERS TAKES US ON A DANGEROUS JOURNEY OF TENDERNESS BETWEEN AN ARTISTIC SISTER AND A BROTHER WHO EARNS HIS LIVING IN THE ARMS TRADE.

The 16-year-old Milva lives with her father, a foundry worker, in the Swiss Jura. During the holidays, she joins her mother, a taxi driver in the South of France. Milva draws all the time. Théo, her half-brother 8 years her senior, is a petty criminal who has gradually fallen into organised crime. When Kyoko, Theo's Japanese girlfriend, looks into her boyfriend's computer, she discovers that he is trading in weapons from the Balkans, which he sells to Libyan militias. Due to an arms delivery in exchange for which he fails to receive the payment he was promised, Théo decides to keep three crates of weapons and hide with them in an old railway tunnel. Milva decides to take care of her brother and secretly visits his hiding place to offer him her most precious, intimate gift: her sketchbook. Throughout the novel, we come across flowers: a belladonna tattooed on an arm, a valley carpeted with heather and rhododendrons, Art Nouveau motifs. And weapons: a penknife, anti-tank missiles, an A47 assault rifle...

UPLIFTING



UPMARKET

Sophie Tal Men

LES CŒURS SILENCIEUX

(The Silent Hearts)

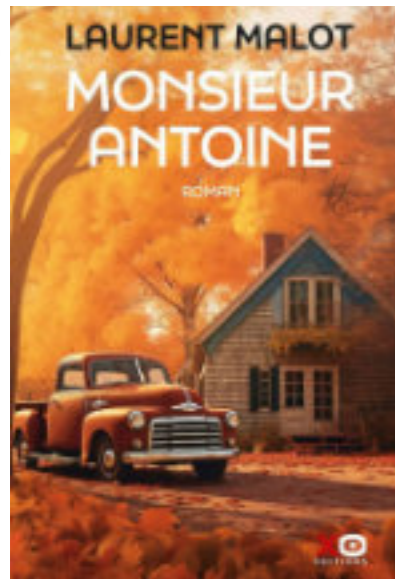
320 pages, Mar-24

Albin Michel

BETWEEN BRITANNY AND LISBON, A GRACEFUL, GENEROUS NOVEL CELEBRATING THE INDISPENSABLE VIRTUES OF RECONCILIATION.

When Pedro loses his speech after a stroke, he becomes aware of all the things he still had to say. Secrets to reveal, apologies to make. How can he make up with his sons, having lost touch with them for several years? Sarah, his daughter-in-law of a second marriage, offers to be his voice and to search for his family. Walled into silence and resentment, will they all find a path to peace and forgiveness?

Sophie Tal Men has two passions, neurology and literature. The eight novels she has written since 2015 are inspired by her daily life in the hospital.



Laurent Malot
MONSIEUR ANTOINE

(Monsieur Antoine)

220 pages, Jan-24, XO

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM. FAMILIES AND FRIENDSHIPS ARE MADE IN MYRIAD WAYS...

In his other life, Antoine Lagadec was binding books, restoring them and printing photos. One day, out of the blue, he decided to sel his printing business and move to a small town. With his energy and vivid imagination, with his way of talking to people, of taking an interest in their lives and their projects, with his cowboy hat and that dog he's always got around, Antoine wil help his new neighbors to enhance the social fabric. A sweet love story between Antoine and Faustine, a soccer team whose average age is close to fifty, a teenager whose dream of becoming a photographer wil finally become true. But the man now known as Mister Antoine hides, under this benevolent and cheerful shell, secrets just as heavy as the silence he keeps on his past life. Little by little, tables are being turned: his new neighbors and friends help him to face up to his responsibilities and heal his wounds.



Gilles Legardinier
MON TOUR DE MANÈGE

(My Merry-Go-Round Ride)

448 pages, Oct-23, Flammarion

IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT YOU CAN'T CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY. NOR DO YOU CHOOSE THE LETTERS YOU RECEIVE.

Amandine will receive one letter, just one, that will force her to ask herself who she is, what she expects from life, what she gets from her parents, what she hopes from men, what she owes to her friends, whether the pumpkin colour suits her, where squirrels really live, whether she believes in ghosts, how long she can last in ice-cold water, what you get for passing the 100 fines mark, what cat food really tastes like, and above all what she's prepared to put up with for a chance to build a life that's truly hers. A single letter to choose her destiny, because as she knows, there won't be a second ride on the merry-go-round.

Gilles Legardinier is a French author and screenwriter. His novels have been published in over 25 countries. He co-wrote and co-directed the adaptation of his novel Complètement cramé! (Fleuve noir, 2012). His latest book, Le Secret de la cité sans soleil, published by Flammarion in 2022, has been very well received by the press.



Sophie Jomain

ET VIVA LA VIDA!

(Viva la Vida!)

280 pages, Feb-24, Charleston

With over twenty-five novels to her name and 200 000 copies sold in France, Sophie Jomain is a bestselling author at Charleston. Among her most popular novels: M'ASSEOIR CINQ MINUTES AVEC TOI (2021) with 20 000 copies sold (audio rights sold to Audible Germany). LES PERCE NEIGES S'EVEILLENT (2022) 7 000 copies sold. CHERCHE JEUNE FEMME AVISEE (2023) 8 000 copies sold

With its share of surprises, well-kept secrets and intertwined destinies, this novel is a story of laughter and tears, a journey of self-discovery.

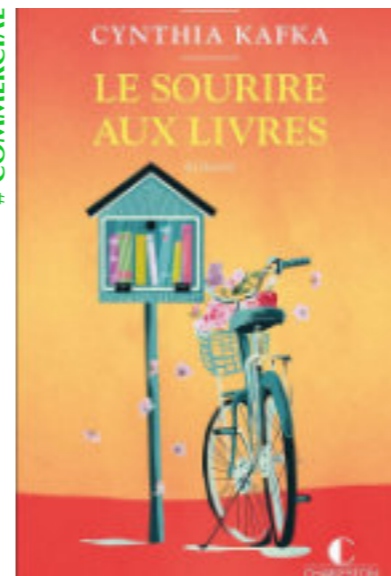
A comedic and heartwarming tale of female friendship and self-discovery that will move you from laughter to tears with its share of surprises and secrets...

An unforgettable feel-good novel that doesn't shy away from emotional and essential topics, perfect for fans of Lucy Diamond and Jojo Moyes.

Sophie Jomain is a leading figure on the French-language literary scene, with over twenty-five novels to her name, from fantasy, to comedy and contemporary fiction. Her books include M'asseoir cinq minutes avec toi (2021), Les perce-neige s'éveillent sous les flocons (2022) and Cherche jeune femme avisée (2023), published by Charleston. She lives in Hauts-de-France.

SOPHIE JOMAIN, AN ICONIC AUTHOR OF WOMEN'S FICTION (200,000 COPIES SOLD), RETURNS TO COMEDY WITH THIS UNMISSABLY TENDER TALE OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIP. AN ADVENTUROUS NOVEL THAT WILL EMBARK THE READER ON A ROAD TRIP FROM MONT-SAINT-MICHEL TO THE BORDERS OF BELGIUM.

When Marnie meets Fran, she has no idea that being uncomfortable in her own skin will soon be a thing of the past. Fran reconciled herself with her own body a long time ago, and Marnie is about to discover that it's possible to be uninhibited. The challenge is on: from Mont-Saint-Michel to the borders of Belgium, the two friends will embark on a road trip during which Marnie will have to do everything she has never dared to do.



Cynthia Kafka

LE SOURIRE AUX LIVRES

(Reading My Way Back To You)

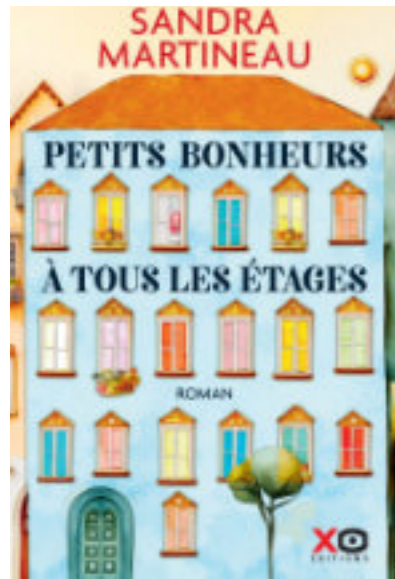
320 pages, May-23, Charleston

10,000 copies sold.

A HEART-WARMING, PAGE-TURNING AND MULTI-LAYERED NOVEL EXPLORING THE POWER OF THE TIES THAT BOND, BY AN EXCITING NEW VOICE.

After a tragic car accident involving her mother and siblings, fifteen-year-old Alexia is sent to live with Greg, her father, deep in the beautiful French countryside of the Dordogne. Living together is complicated in many ways: in addition to the grief, and the weight of guilt, Greg and Alexia must learn to bond, as they have never spent any quality time together. Greg, an eternal teenager with his head in the clouds, is overwhelmed by the situation, and prefers to leave it to Ida, a retired local lady to take care of the taciturn and withdrawn teenager. Alexia is left to her own devices and her own pain, until the day Solène appears, like a ray of sunshine in the middle of a rainstorm. Will Greg and Alexia find their way back to each other? This touching and uplifting novel reminds us of the enduring ties of family and love.

Cynthia Kafka is an author and former teacher. Her previous novels include Je suis venue te dire and Contre vents et secrets in 2022 (L'Archipel). She lives in the Dordogne.



Sandra Martineau

PETITS BONHEURS À TOUS LES ÉTAGES

(Little Pleasures on Every Floor)

350 pages, Apr-23, XO

A TENDER, HUMOROUS & OPTIMISTIC NOVEL. THE WAY TO BELONGING IS A DISCOVERY OF THE SELF THROUGH OTHERS.

Joanna Baron's partner is a prominent tax expert, and by his side, she leads a peaceful existence in a chic neighborhood in a town in the Paris area. But when her partner is arrested for criminal conspiracy and money laundering, this mother of three finds her life upended. With no money or place to live, she is forced to move to a low-income housing complex on the wrong side of the highway. There, between life's surprises and happenstance, Joanna and her children cross paths with Djibril, a mysterious neighbor always surrounded by bimbos; Raymond, a young retiree at pains to declare his love to one of his neighbors; and then there's Fatou, who works three jobs as she home-schools her three children, always wearing a smile on her face. They are all "little pleasures on every floor" that will change Joanna's vision of the world and bring her unexpected energy.

Sandra Martineau was born in Saint-Brieuc in 1978 and she now lives in the Sarthe region. She joined Xo Editions in 2021, where she published *Look to another sky to better see the stars* which was acclaimed by the press and the readers.



Clara Héraut

LES COQUILLAGES NE S'OUVRENT QU'EN ÉTÉ

(Shellfish Only Open in Summer)

436 pages, Jun-24, Hachette Romans

A delicate summer novel about coming of age. A unique style, a superb page-turner.

A third novel after two great successes. Unanimous feedback from readers and booksellers!

A title to be published in June to tie in with the theme of the summer novel and the return to the family holiday destination.

A talented young author, winner of the #NosFuturs N°2 competition. Cultura 2023 Talent Award Building loyalty: 6,500 followers on Instagram, enthusiastic feedback from readers ("I think it's official, I'm a fan of the author! Can't wait for the next one! - LeslecturesdeNinon) A unique style of writing, equally at ease with both light-hearted and committed subjects, commenting on society as well as intimacy.

TWO SISTERS, THINGS LEFT UNSAID, A FIRST LOVE, NEW ENCOUNTERS: THE SUMMER WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGES. A SUMMER NOVEL THAT DELICATELY EXPLORES FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, FRIENDSHIPS AND LOVE DURING THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD.

Like every year, Léna and Phoebe are spending the summer holidays with their grandmother in Anglet. All Léna wants to do is surf and party on the beach, while Phoebe is struggling to catch her breath after a complicated first year at university. The two sisters barely speak to each other and their family is on the brink of implosion. But this summer, there's Inaya, the girl who overturns all of Léna's certainties. Then there's Isaac, Phoebe's first love, whose heart she broke last summer. Above all, there are all the things the two sisters have never said to each other. Will they be able to put their past hurts behind them and find each other again?



Jessica Cymerman

ET QUE CHACUN SE METTE À CHANTER

(Let Everyone Sing)

368 pages, Sep-23, Leduc

With unforgettable, quirky characters, a heart-warming novel about the therapeutic power of music and singing by the bestselling author of *Diary of an Unworthy Mother* (over 9,000 copies sold) and *Serial Mother* (over 15,000 copies sold).

Jessica Cymerman is a journalist, podcaster and author of around thirty books. Under the pseudonym Serialmother (check her podcast) she shares her thoughts with her 130,000 fans. *Et que chacun se mette à chanter* is her second novel.

AN UPLIFTING AND HEART-WARMING NEW NOVEL.

Eliette has always been just her parents' daughter. Forever in love with singers who are now deceased, she has never built a life of her own. At the age of 75, when her parents have long since joined the idols of her youth, the ghosts of John Lennon, Elvis, Cloclo and Mike Brandt are the only confidants she has left. Until the day she comes across an advertisement for "karaoke therapy" sessions... In the surreal karaoke room of a Chinese restaurant, surrounded by statues of dragons and traditional lanterns, Eliette meets Elisa, Vincent, Pierre and their coach Valérie-Anne. They have nothing in common apart from their love of music and their visceral need to be listened to. Over the course of several karaoke sessions, they get to know each other, for better or for worse. This book is perfect for those looking for a heartwarming story of friendship, and coming to terms with who you are.



Bruno Combes

LA NEIGE NE TOMBE PAS EN HIVER

(Snow Doesn't Fall in Winter)

384 pages, Apr-24, Michel Lafon

VALENTINE, FRESHLY GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY, DECIDES TO SET OFF ON A TWO-YEAR ROAD-TRIP TO DISCOVER THE WORLD.

She is just at the beginning of her journey when she finds herself trapped by a snowstorm in the middle of the Cévennes. Valentine takes refuge in the isolated home of Constance, an old woman who is as terrifying as she is endearing. A strange encounter begins, in which reality and fiction tend to merge. When she sets off again, the young woman already knows that she has left a part of herself with Constance. Valentine's life will never be the same again. There are encounters that turn your life upside down.

In eight novels, best-selling author BRUNO COMBES has drawn a map of all that is most important in human existence. Love, of course, but also the fulfillment of our dreams and the essential need to surmount the dramas of life. His novels have sold 800.000 copies in France and have been translated in Russian, Serb and Romanian.



Laure Manel

CINQ CŒURS EN SURSIS

(Five Hearts And a Suspension)

368 pages, Mar-24, Michel Lafon

Catherine is Marc's happily married wife. Anaïs and Florian's blossoming mother. Josette's loving daughter. Nathalie's sister. Catherine is a decent woman, a good person. Or so everyone thought, until the police came and arrested her. For those close to her, the wait and the doubts begin...

Following the runaway success of *La Délicatesse du homard* and *La Mélancolie du kangourou*, LAURE MANEL gave up teaching to become a full-time writer. With her subtle powers of analysis and finely wrought portraits of coupledom and family life, which she depicts with a tender yet sharp eye, Laure Manel has an unrivaled ability to suggest profound reflections on life. Her books have sold over 1 million copies in France so far.

CONTEMPORARY NEW VOICES



Isabelle Boissard

CAMILLE VA AUX ANNIVERSAIRES

(Camille goes to Birthday Parties)

224 pages, Apr-04, Les Avrils

In a light-hearted tone, Isabelle Boissard makes us laugh at the incongruities of contemporary life in wealthy circles.

Her narrator, in her 50', recently divorced and having never worked a day in her life, portrays an acidic and disillusioned character.

She disguises her fear of growing old with sharp wit and a cynical self-irony.

Isabelle Boissard was born in Burgundy in 1971. *Camille Goes to Birthday Parties* is her second novel.

FRIENDS, LOVE AND APPEARANCES AT THE AGE OF 50, THROUGH BITING SELF-MOCKERY AND UNABASHED CYNICISM.

Camille is back in Paris after years abroad following her husband. Correction: her ex-husband. Laurent has just left her. At the age of 52, she finds herself alone in the capital city, disillusioned and idle. Luckily there's her best friend, Christophe. And as it just so happens, he has a favor to ask of her. He is a very particular kind of veterinarian and an emergency situation requires his assistance on the other side of the world. The problem is that he was supposed to plan a surprise birthday party for his girlfriend at his father-in-law's house, in a charming seaside resort in Brittany. He begs Camille to do the job for him. Out of friendship, vanity, or maybe to forget her own reality, Camille agrees. Isabelle Boissard explores the idiosyncrasies of our era with a sharp and self-ironic style. In her new novel, she delves into the social gatherings emblematic of our contemporary times, made up by online fundraisers, the incessant chatter of WhatsApp groups, and the glossy facade of Instagram. And she shows us that facing the fear of aging with humor isn't just cynical - it's downright exhilarating and a whole lot of fun. A rom-com for mean ladies!



Floriane Joseph

LES VIVANTS SONT DES ROIS

(The Living are Kings)

146 pages, Jan-24, Michel Lafon

A gentle, poetic contemporary novel, into a deeply moving, clear-sighted closed-door story about the uncertainties and doubts of young adulthood.

Far from being the mere reflection of a generation, this novel is a magnificent reflection on life. In the words of the author, parties are like little bubbles where all the pain and all the glitter can coexist, as they do in real life.

Moments that seem to be out of time or out of life yet are actually the moments which contain everything that truly matters: talk about love, life, death, friendship, how to save the world and how to find one's place in the world.

A French lit teacher currently working on her PhD thesis on English literature, Floriane Joseph is an emerging talent on the literary scene. She discovered Victor Hugo at a very early age, and the word "writer" entered her life, never to leave it again. Her debut novel, *La Belle est la bête*, a tale for adults that mixes politics and love, was shortlisted for the Prix de la Vocation in 2021 and the Prix Vleel. She also writes short stories (Sterenn Editions) and poetry that she shares on Instagram.

6 FRIENDS ARE GATHERED FOR A PARTY OVER THE COURSE A LONG SUMMER NIGHT.

One late summer evening, six friends meet in a flat. Over the course of a night, in poetic language, a voice tells us about these six characters, sketching out their personalities, dreams and anxieties. As the bonds that unite them and the silences that separate them take shape, we realise that a tragedy has taken place, the nature of which escapes us, but which each of them will have to face up to. A novel that questions and reveals, through a subtle play of light and shadow, intimacy, love and death.



Nathalie Démoulin

CARTOGRAPHIE D'UN FEU

(Cartography of a Fire)

160 pages, Jan-24, Denoël

A novel about the fire within with hints of the fantastic. Singular, daring, and spellbinding writing.

A very visual and magnetic novel reminiscent of films by Murnau or David Lynch.

Beautiful pages about the world of competitive sports and its idiosyncrasies may very well attract attention given the Olympics this year.

Born in 1968 in Besançon, Nathalie Démoulin is the author of four novels: *Après la forêt* (Le Rouergue, 2005), *Ton nom argentin* (Le Rouergue, 2007), the award-winning *La Grande Bleue* (Le Rouergue, 2012), and *Bâtisseurs de l'oubli* (Actes Sud, 2015). She now works as a literary director at Editions du Rouergue in Arles.

DURING A FIRE ON A SNOW-COVERED MOUNTAIN, A MAN IS SEEKING REFUGE IN HIS CHILDHOOD HOME, A PLACE THAT HOLDS TOO MANY MEMORIES. SOON ONE OF HIS LOVED ONES DISAPPEARS.

The Jura Mountains are covered in February snow. But despite the temperatures below freezing, an implausible yet virulent fire is sparked. Unable to return home, high up on the mountain, Jason Sangor makes his way to the house where he grew up, where his wife has already taken refuge. Jason's father and brother still live there, a fact that the couple has no choice but to accept. But the lakeside house is very old: it is full of ghosts and objects bearing witness to old wars, both regional and familial. While this impossible fire takes hold and encircles the city where Jason manages his father's factory, memories surge forth: a mother who was a skiing champion and trained her sons for competition; a young girl with dark braids from the Balkans who ran faster than any of the boys in their middle school; a powerful and mysterious father with secret lives. As reality turns phantasmagoric and the fire takes on the form of a circle of Hell, the living and the dead, missing and lost souls cross paths around this fascinating lake, whose surface is as opaque as pewter.



Emma Tholozan

LE RIRE DES AUTRES

(The Laughter of Others)

200 pages, Jan-24, Denoël

World English rights sold (Scribe).

A first novel with caustic humor that paints the raw and infinitely unique portrait of a generation without ideals.

A world reminiscent of a clever blend of works by Ottessa Moshfegh, Julia Ducournau, and Ruben Östlund.

The portrait of a new kind of heroine: a devouring, monstrous, non-maternal, and non-empathetic femininity clashes with all the clichés of the naive young woman.

A dark humour that turns it into an invigorating and accurate satire.

An incredible moral tale that questions the drifts of our society.

Emma Tholozan, 26, works in publishing. *Le rire des autres* is her first novel.

YOU'RE A BRILLIANT YOUNG WOMAN. YOU HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE: EARN MINIMUM WAGE WITH YOUR HONOR INTACT, OR HIT THE JACKPOT WHILE RENOUNCING YOUR VALUES. WHAT DO YOU DO?

When her adviser at the Unemployment Office tells her that she "doesn't have any special skills," Anna says goodbye to her brilliant studies in philosophy, her passion for Heidegger, and her ambitions. Having found a job as a warm-up act for a TV show, her only source of consolation is her relationship. She and Lulu have the perfect love story: two people earning minimum wage and defying consumer society and its absurd injunctions together. Until the day Lulu starts to vomit money. Bills of 20, 50, and then 100 Euros start pouring from Lulu's trachea at an alarming rate. While he painfully throws up the money she needs to buy fancy handbags and a chic apartment, Anna is faced with a dilemma: should she prioritize Lulu's health... or ensure that this precious stream never runs dry? How far will she go to earn her place amongst the elite?



Sophie Loubière

OBSOLÈTE

(Obsolète)

520 pages, Feb-24, Gregory Messina

FOR FANS OF THE HANDMAID'S TALE AND VOX, SOPHIE LOUBIÈRE OFFERS A NEW VISION OF WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE FOR WOMEN...

2224. Moving away from hyper-connectivity, of which they have only retained the essential tools in the scientific and medical fields, men have rebuilt villages organized in self-sufficiency. Preserving water, protecting yourself from a torrid sun, maintaining balance in all things: such is the credo of this peaceful world, where even moods are moderated thanks to a hormonal bracelet assigned to each person at puberty. However, it is a civilization that is dying. To fight against infertility, the Chamber of Governance imposed a drastic rule: the Great Recycling of women aged 50, replaced within their home by a younger, newer, more fertile model. At 49, Rachel is getting ready. This is how the world goes, Rachel accepts it, even if no one knows what awaits these women. Another incident tarnishes this moment: the bodies of three little girls were found in the cliffs. After more than a century without any crime, the authorities are in the process of covering up the affair. Serene in the storm, proud and fearless in the face of this unknown destiny that threatens her, Rachel is still unaware of it, but in this world in disarray, she will soon have a major role to play...

Journalist and novelist, Sophie Loubière has long divided her professional life between writing and radio. She is the author of several novels including *L'Enfant aux cailloux* (Fleuve Noir, 2011), a psychological thriller which earned her international fame – translated in nearly twenty countries, the novel received five literary awards. Her talent was confirmed in 2020 with *Cinq Cartes Brûlées*, winner of the Landerneau Polar Prize, and *De Cendres et de larmes*, in 2021, both published by Fleuve Noir. *Obsolète* is her first novel to be published by Belfond.



Candide Proulx

MAJESTÉ

(Majesty)

232 pages, Apr-24, Hurtubise;XYZ

With verve and a sense of humour reminiscent of Marie-Renée Lavoie, Candide Proulx delivers a debut novel that punches above its weight and addresses our current obsession with armchair psychology.

Candide Proulx held several positions in the media industry before she became a researcher and producer for TV and radio. In her spare time, she studied literature and has developed a regular writing practice.

IN THEORY, ROSEMARIE KNOWS HOW TO PLAY THE DATING GAME.

In practice, she's never been able to put her knowledge to use: after all, she's been in a relationship with Tom forever. Convinced that she's asexual, Rosemarie drifts slowly down the path of love-marriage-baby carriage, her dead libido in tow. That is, until she meets a handsome contractor who's about to renovate her kitchen and awaken her pheromones... Rosemarie sets out to find her one true love—the person who'll make her head, heart and body sing. But the bumpy path is bound to be too hard to share with friends and relatives. In order to talk/share/open up to other women who are going through the same thing, she chooses to publish her experiences on Majesty.ca, her (anonymous) blog, covering everything from emotional intelligence to narcissism and the ubiquitous toxic relationship.



Benoit Picard
NOS VIE PARALLÈLES

(Parallel Lives)

336 pages, Feb-24, Hurtubise;XYZ

Author of two bestsellers, Benoit Picard offers a new novel that perfectly captures all the nuances of a couple adrift.

A TWO-VOICE NOVEL THAT GENTLY CALLS COUPLES INTO QUESTION WHEN THEIR PATHS DIVERGE.

Éliane and Vincent have been together for thirteen years and have two young children. When their relationship begins to falter, they realize habit is the only thing keeping them together; they've been living parallel lives for quite some time. The flame is out, and they keep brushing the uncomfortable questions under the rug. But these become harder to ignore for Vincent once he meets Aurélie, a younger, more interesting—and interested—colleague. Despite a rational streak, he can't deny his attraction for her. Meanwhile, Éliane is wrestling with doubts about her professional life and worried about her mother, who is experiencing major health concerns. Between medication, yoga class and therapy sessions, Éliane seems to be losing the struggle to stay on top of things.

Benoit Picard is a passionate traveler. His writing is filled with humour, and he relies on his own experiences to tell heartwarming stories of love and self-discovery.



Camille Beauchamp
LÀ OÙ LES TORNADES NOUS MÈNENT

(After the Tornado)

240 pages, Mar-24, Hurtubise;XYZ

Camille Beauchamp explores the highly topical theme of non-maternity and the after-math of choosing to create your own path.

IN THIS SEQUEL TO THE NATURAL DISORDER OF THINGS, SOPHIE HAS COME TO TERMS WITH THE FACT THAT SHE WON'T HAVE CHILDREN AND IS STILL TRYING TO GIVE HER LIFE NEW MEANING.

Before she died, Sophie's octogenarian friend Irène taught her that it's never too late to start listening to your heart. Feeling like an extra wheel while she crashes with a friend, Sophie starts to look for a place of her own. Luckily Jacob, Irène's nomadic grandson, has offered to rent her his grandmother's old house. For Sophie, who has never lived alone before, the adjustment will prove challenging—and that's before she experiences the highs and lows of online dating thanks to Tinder. Despite a string of failed attempts at love, Sophie finally admits that she's ready to share her life with someone. But what if she's already found that someone in Jacob?

Camille Beauchamp holds degrees in communication and social work. As well as writing, she loves to travel, enjoy board game nights with her friends, cook and discover new hobbies.

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Valérie Chevalier
LES CERTITUDES VAGABONDES

(Wavering Convictions)

260 pages, Apr-24, Hurtubise;XYZ

In her characteristic, uncompromising style, the author delivers the story of a passionate relationship that isn't without its challenges.

When it comes to love and commitment, every story is unique and each one rattles our convictions. Some people spend their lives searching for True Love, while others realize they've let it slip away. Between the neverending quest for love and the comforting stability of a relationship, how can we find happiness? Over time, the whirlwind intensity of the first months gives way to deeper questions about relationships, love and motherhood. Through *Wavering Convictions*, the reader is sucked into the narrator's past as she examines previous romances—some fleeting—to help her understand the woman she's become.

Valérie Chevalier is a beloved host, columnist, comedian and author. Her dynamic narration and writing style have produced six bestselling novels.

CONTEMPORARY, UPMARKET, WOMEN'S



Cécile Reyboz
FACE À LA PENTE

(Facing the Slope)

230 pages, Mar-24, Denoël

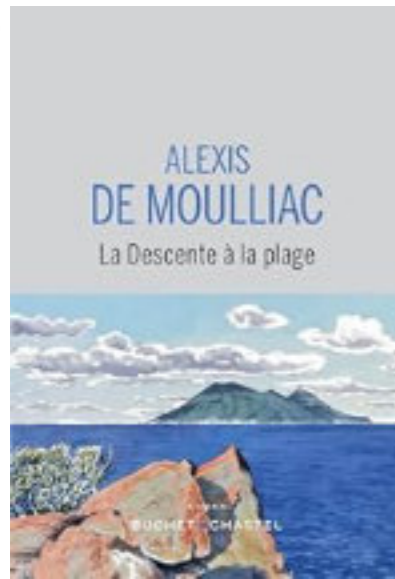
This novel is an ode to the end of the youth that could be the beginning of true freedom.

Full of fancy, joy, doubt, and gravity, it features a delightful gallery of characters and, invites us to rediscover the virtues of calm, silence, nothingness – and to cultivate the youth of the soul.

NEWLY RETIRED, SEPARATED, LÉONORE IS AS FREE AS A BIRD. OVERWHELMED BY ALL OF THE POSSIBILITIES NOW OPEN TO HER, SHE FOLLOWS HER INSTINCT, BOUND AND DETERMINED NOT TO SETTLE FOR A MARKED-DOWN LIFE.

What to do with all of this free time? She opens her eyes and ears, and allows herself the pleasure of following her impulses. An impromptu encounter with an ageing DJ who once enchanted her adolescence leads her to a village in the Isère region. When she falls under the spell of a piece of land that is sought-after for various projects, she finds herself ready to fight for it, at the risk of upsetting the community to whom she is an outsider. Is there an age for taking risks, hesitating, loving, making mistakes, or owning up to your desires?

Born in 1968, Cécile Reyboz lives and works in the Paris region. She has published four novels with Actes Sud, each either short-listed or awarded with a literary prize.



Alexis de Moulliac

LA DESCENTE À LA PLAGE

(Going Down to the Beach)

160 pages, Jan-24, Libella

THE STORY OF A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DARIO, A NOTORIOUS MISANTHROPIST, WHO SPENDS SOME TIME ON HIS OWN EVERY YEAR IN THE FAMILIAR CALM OF A HOTEL ON THE ISLAND OF PANAREA. THAT DAY, HE IS FORCED TO LEAVE HIS ROOM BECAUSE THERE'S NO WATER TO BE HAD IN IT.

Dario leaves no stone unturned in his quest to find water, but each failure forces him inexorably closer to his fate. Which, as Roberto – the receptionist at a nearby hotel – says, is to go down to the beach. Dario hates the beach with all his might. So he wanders from one place to the next in a desperate attempt to avoid his final destination, meeting all sorts of people along the way. The total and absurd lack of water on the entire island, the sun beating hotter and hotter, the tanker called Caronte... Dario only realizes it belatedly, but he's in hell. His own private one. Of his own making. Stuck in the narrow streets of Panarea, he is forced to confront what got him there. Because, consumed by his guilty feelings, Dario comes every year to honor his father, who disappeared on that accursed beach and who he didn't try to save. The infernal day he's going through will force him to acknowledge his own wrongdoing, to accept it, and to make a greater effort to free himself of it.

Alexis de Moulliac is a Franco-Italian author born in Paris to artistic parents, yet for the past six years, he has been working in new technologies and artificial intelligence. Despite that slight paradox, his taste for literature is still his driving force. *La Descente à la plage*, his debut novel, pays homage to his unconditional love for both Italy and his father.



Martin Dumont

TEMPO

(Tempo)

224 pages, Jan-24, Les Avrils

French mass-market rights have been sold to J'ai Lu (Madrigall).

A NOVEL ABOUT THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD IN WHICH MARTIN DUMONT CONFIRMS HIS TALENT FOR MODESTLY AND DELICATELY PROBING THE HEARTS OF MEN.

30-year-old Félix has just become a father and makes a living from playing the guitar in bars, clinging to the hope that his solo career will take off. Because Félix has already tasted fame; he put together a rock band in his younger years that briefly “made it” before everything collapsed. He remembers it all: the fever, the excitement, the creativity, the group dynamics, the friendships. And the fall from glory that he was powerless to stop. What should his next move be now? The wistful excitement and music within him clash with a world that now dances to new beats. Is it worth trying for the summit one last time?

Born in 1988, Martin Dumont lives in Paris and is a naval architect. As a teenager, he lived in Rennes where he fell in love with the ocean and sailing. Whenever he can, he leaves to go to sea. He is the author of *Schrödinger's Dog* (Delcourt Littérature, 2018, sold to the US, The Other Press, 2020) and *Tant qu'il reste des îles* (Les Avrils, 2021), awarded Prix France Bleu and longlisted for several prizes.



Titiou Lecoq
UNE ÉPOQUE EN OR

(A *Gilded Age*)

320 pages, Apr-24, L'Iconoclaste

Always biting, never boring, Titiou Lecoq paints a portrait of a modern woman and mother.

We laugh, we are moved, and we rebel.

We embark on the extraordinary adventures of an ordinary woman who is, in truth, quite brilliant.

A novel that takes a humorous look at a subject that affects millions of women and men: step-parenthood.

In just a few years, Titiou Lecoq has imposed a unique tone on the French literary landscape: cynical and irresistible. Her novels and essays take the pulse of our society. For the first time in ten years, she returns to her first love, the novel, and opens up to a new theme: family ties, those we don't choose, those we can't leave.

AN EXAMINATION OF MODERN SOCIETY THAT PLAYS WITH ALL ITS PRESUPPOSITIONS REGARDING ITS MOST SENSITIVE TOPICS: MOTHERHOOD, THE COUPLE AFTER #METOO, GLOBAL WARMING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, GENTRIFICATION.

Chloé Berthoul. 38 years old, average height, normal weight, living in Gabarny, an average-sized town of course. She's Greg's partner, Colette's mother-in-law and Raoul's mother, and her life is punctuated by her uninteresting job, announcements of environmental disasters and cooking dinner. The day her seemingly uneventful neighbors are unmasked as burglars, she is shocked back to life. It's no longer possible to be stuck in such a mundane life. Between two meetings at SMA – Step Moms Anonymous - to vent her anger at her partner's daughter Colette, Chloé Berthoul decides to take her life into her own hands. And so her odyssey begins. As two children are not enough, she takes Lapouta with her, the little girl on the second floor of her building who seems to have been completely forsaken. On the agenda: digging for hidden treasure, revealing family secrets, and a public lynching. Is Chloé Berthoul's life about to change for the better? Nothing could be further from the truth.



Ketty Rouf
MÈRE ABSOLUMENT

(*Mother at All Costs*)

304 pages, Feb-24

Albin Michel

A STRONG, RADICAL NOVEL ABOUT THE ALL-POWERFULNESS OF MOTHERS AND THE PAIN OF FATHERS.

Marie-Louise is in her forties, she has a good job and occasional lovers. But after a miscarriage, she is surprised by her enduring desire for a child, right when her own mother is dying. Her biological clock is ticking, the first man who comes along will do the trick: the embalmer hired to prepare her mother's body has 'magic hands'. He will be the father of her child. But nine months later, when the longed-for infant arrives, she is constantly ousting this man to exclude him from her new, exclusive idyl as an absolute mother.

After getting a master's in philosophy, Ketty Rouf settled in Paris. She gives Italian lessons for adults, and works as a translator and interpreter. No Touching, published by Albin Michel and translated in English and Italian, received the Prix du premier roman 2020. It is being adapted for the cinema.



Paloma de Boismorel

LA FIN DU SOMMEIL

(The End of Sleep)

256 pages, Feb-24, L'Olivier



An absurd, witty comedy, Paloma de Boismorel's first novel plays with the tyranny of well-being, vanity and pretense.

"Sleeping, that's what I had been doing from the beginning." Having become a fashionable architect in spite of himself, Pierre-Antoine is the father of three indifferent children and the husband of an overworked gallery owner. In the middle of a sleepless night, his eyes are opened to a strange revelation. Reality now appears to him in a new light. His daughter's face, the lighting in his kitchen, his customers' e-mails, his wife's smile, the works he's looking at... everything has changed. After being diagnosed with a simple allergy, the narrator announces to those around him that he is suffering from throat cancer. This ruse should give him time to write a novel, regain the love of his wife, the consideration of his children and the meaning of his burlesque existence.

Born in 1988, Paloma de Boismorel is a journalist living in Brussels. *La fin du sommeil* is her first novel.



Magali Destruel

JE SUIS LA FEMME DE BARBE BLEUE

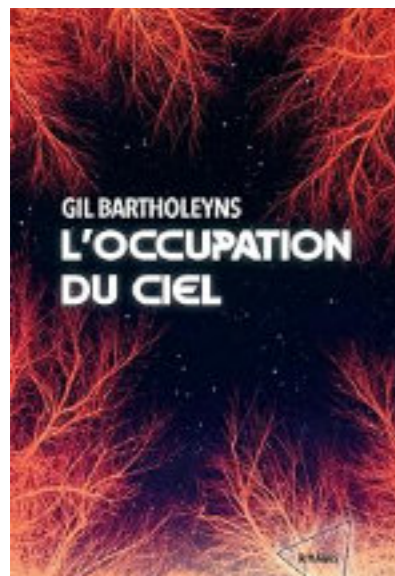
(I am Bluebeard's Wife)

288 pages, Apr-24, Libella

A COUPLE REFURBISHES A CASTLE TO LIVE IN IT. THE WOMAN DISCOVERS HER HUSBAND'S SECRETS ON THIS OCCASION.

They've been together for years and he is fed up with their apartment. He dreams of a house, a real one, with a garden. She isn't too keen, but he is determined and always gets his way. One morning, he shows her around a superb ruined castle. They'll be able to renovate it, live and work there. He'd set up his fitness center, she'd have her own law practice. Enthusiastic, they can't resist. The château gradually became a symbol. A symbol of the narrator's imprisonment in her past history - a childhood tormented by the ghost of a sister who died before she was born - and in her controlling relationship with her husband. The novel is peppered with references to Bluebeard: the blood, the locked rooms, real or symbolic - the cell phone -, the passkey - now a sex toy -, the key. The husband's secrets are not the ones we might imagine. In this suspenseful fiction, the leading role is goes to Bluebeard's wife. It is she who rewrites the story, like a palimpsest.

Magali Destruel is a lawyer specializing in family law. *Je suis la femme de Barbe bleue* is her first novel.



Gil Bartholeyns

L'OCCUPATION DU CIEL

(Occupying the Sky)

260 pages, Mar-24, Payot Rivages

The second novel by a young Belgian author provides some thought-provoking ideas about the space conquest in the era of climate change.

BACK ON EARTH, THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF A MACABRE MISSION TO MARS TRIES TO REMEMBER THE DETAILS OF HIS ILL-FATED VOYAGE.

During a mission on Mars, astronaut Clay Sawyer loses his partner, who dies due to a technical glitch with her spacesuit. Then a general malfunction leads to the death of the entire crew at the base. Back on Earth, Clay – the mission's only survivor – is subjected to intense questioning and pressure from the space agency, which does not want to accept responsibility for the catastrophe. Suffering from post-traumatic amnesia, Clay has trouble remembering the circumstances of either the accident or his unlikely return journey. With his tragic voyage tarnishing the fantasy of colonizing Mars, Clay tries to foil the agency's attempts to destabilize him. With the help of a woman reporter, Clay also seeks to find and reveal the truth. California, where the story is set, is being plagued by unprecedented forest fires, and as the hero dives deeper into his memories of the tragedy and finds those who are dear to him, our collective fantasy of a "second Earth" comes to seem ever more pathetic.

GIL BARTHOLEYNS was born in 1975. He lives in Brussels and teaches history and anthropology at the University of Lille (France). He is the author of two essays and one earlier novel, the critically acclaimed *Deux kilos deux* (2.2 Kilos, JC Lattès, 2019), which was listed for numerous literary awards. Gil Bartholeyns is also a commentator on Belgian radio.



Nathalie Azoulai

PYTHON

(Python)

310 pages, Jan-24, P.O.L.

11,000 copies sold.

The investigation gradually becomes more intimate and troubling, until it reveals another seduction.

Python is the name of a programming language, but this is above all a story written like a mythological tale of initiation, during which the narrator meets Boris, Chloé, Margaux and Enzo, young people who code and try to explain how they do it.

Nathalie Azoulai is a novelist, winner of the Prix Médicis for *Titus n'aimait pas Bérénice* (P.O.L, 2015). She has also worked for the theatre, radio and young people, and translated *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf (P.O.L, 2021). Latest book: *La Fille parfaite* (P.O.L, 2022).

THE FASCINATING STORY OF A THWARTED SEDUCTION FOR THE 'NEW WORLD' OF COMPUTERS, ITS LANGUAGE AND THE POWER AND YOUTH ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

The world's machines run on computer programmes known as code. I'm a woman, I'm over fifty, I'm a writer and, despite all these handicaps, I want to learn to code. I want to understand what is going on under the fingers of the young coders who type in a language the rest of us cannot decode. They are right there next to us, silent and powerful, and we don't see them. Where do I start?

She doesn't understand anything, gives up, over the hill, and goes back to her books, what's the point? But she is obsessed with Python and persists. She gets back into it, intrigued by these battalions of geeks turned towards the depths where they descend among themselves, among men. Who are they? What are they after? What is their secret? She investigates and Python is written in images on her wall with faces, scenes, words, paintings, films, like in the series *Homeland*. Then suddenly the face of a suspect appears. She goes back in time and finds her friend Simon...



Benjamin Fogel

L'ABSENCE SELON CAMILLE

(Absence According to Camille)

400 pages, Mar-24, Payot Rivages

In a similar vein to the Black Mirror series, a futuristic noir that warns against the dangers of digital enslavement.

A fascinating and intelligent trilogy, at the crossroads between 1984 and The Matrix, which presents us with a more than probable future.

Topical issues about the progressive dehumanization of a society entirely focused on performance and control.

Benjamin Fogel first became known for LA TRANSPARENCE SELON IRINA (Transparency According to Irina). Now he's back with a prequel, set in our contemporary world, which is no more serene than the one in La Transparence. Benjamin Fogel is also the co-founder and director of the Playlist Society, where he publishes books about movies and music, his two passions.

2060 – A SLOGAN HAS APPEARED ON THE WALLS OF PARIS: “DESPITE TRANSPARENCY, THEY’RE LYING TO YOU.” THE LAST VOLUME IN THE TRANSPARENCY TRILOGY, EACH BOOK OF WHICH CAN STAND ALONE.

Sébastien Mille, a retired policeman who now volunteers his time, and his daughter, Police Commissioner Holly Mille, are investigating where the graffiti is coming from and what it means. Léonard Parvel, 13, is convinced that his missing father is a member of the Obscuranets, a revolutionary movement fighting the proliferation of the virtual word. Léonard joins insurrectional actions in hopes of finding clues to help him track his father down. But the Obscuranets soon expose a scandal involving the government, setting off a period of political instability.



Benjamin Fogel

LA TRANSPARENCE SELON IRINA

(Transparency According to Irina)

280 pages, Mar-19, Payot Rivages

2058: THE WORLD HAS ENTERED THE AGE OF TRANSPARENCY. EVERYONE’S PERSONAL DATA IS ALL PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON LINE.

In 2058, the world has entered the age of transparency. Everyone's personal data is publicly accessible online. To preserve their privacy, some people choose a pseudonym in real life. Camille, 30, calls herself Dany Rogne in real life. Chris Karmer, a policeman who hunts down Internet opponents, is murdered. Camille wonders.



Benjamin Fogel

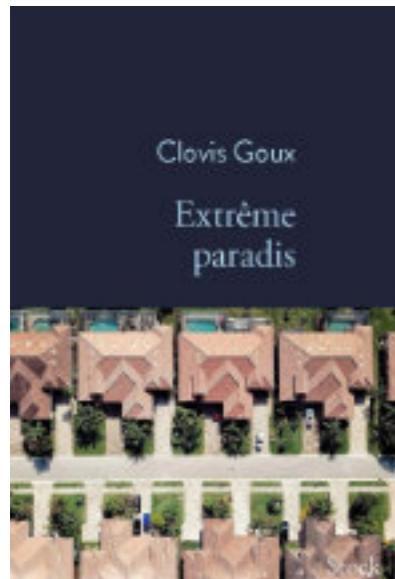
LE SILENCE SELON MANON

(Silence According to Manon)

352 pages, Apr-21, Payot Rivages

IN PARIS IN 2025, GROUPS OF FRUSTRATED MEN CULTIVATE A HATRED OF WOMEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA. THEY’RE ABOUT TO ACT ON IT IN REAL LIFE...

Confronted with a wave of suicides in cases of cyber harassment, Commissaire Sébastien Mille takes a close look at the maneuvers of masculinists who gather on forums where they pour out their hatred of women. This episode is only the prelude to a much more violent attack that will turn the lives of leader Yvan, his brother Simon and their entourage upside down.



Clovis Goux

EXTRÊME PARADIS

(Extreme Paradise)

280 pages, Jan-24, Stock

A STERILE, GERONTOCRATIC SOCIETY GRAPPLES WITH A MYSTERY THAT THREATENS TO DREDGE UP A SORDID PAST.

In a not-too-distant future, Florida has seceded from the United States to create a federation of private communities exclusively reserved for retirees—The Villages. In this luxurious and artificial paradise designed by and for senior citizens, death, crime, and youth have been eradicated, only entertainment remains. However, the suspicious death of a French resident upsets the established order. Accident, murder, or suicide? Thrown into the outrageous world of Florida's United Villages, the journalist son of the deceased pieces together the disturbing events that led to his father's demise. Overcome with grief, he delves into the past and awakens the region's old demons. His search for the past will take him behind the scenes and The Villages will reveal their true colours. Satire, dystopia, or science fiction? Powerful and humorous, *Extreme Paradise* challenges our ambivalence to violence and society's drift towards communitarianism. What if barbarity was a necessity? And what if the elderly were the future of humanity?

Clovis Goux is a journalist and author. His previous works are *La Disparition de Karen Carpenter* (Actes Sud, 2017), *Chère Jodie* (2020) and *Les Poupées* (2022), both published by Stock.

LITERARY UPMARKET



Tiffany Tavernier
EN VÉRITÉ, ALICE

(In Truth, Alice)

280 pages, Jan-24, Sabine Wespieser

Through twists and turns, Tiffany Tavernier invites the outside world into Alice's bubble of denial, thus allowing her to find her own truth.

True to her compassion for tormented souls, Tavernier offers us a splendid portrait of a woman.

Tiffany Tavernier is a novelist and screenwriter. She joined Sabine Wespieser éditeur in 2018 with Roissy, a highly acclaimed portrait of an « undetectable », a woman with no memory who takes refuge in an airport. L'Ami, published in 2021 and a gripping portrait of a man whose neighbour and only friend turns out to be a serial killer, was a finalist for the prix RTL/Lire, the prix des libraires and the prix du Livre Inter. En Vérité, Alice is her third novel.

HOW WILL ALICE MANAGE TO ESCAPE FROM THIS HOLD HER HUSBAND HAS ON HER? THIS FAST-PACED BOOK, PUNCTUATED BY GLIMPSES OF LIGHT EVEN IN ITS DARKEST SCENES, WILL LEAD US ON TOTALLY UNEXPECTED PATHS:

Ordered by the monster she lives with to find a job, Alice, who gave up her law studies when she met him, has very few options. She comes across a mysterious advert at the local church, where, despite being completely atheist, she finds refuge in her rare moments of respite. To her surprise, the bishop hires her to put the files neglected by her predecessor back in order. Alice is in charge of examining applications for canonization, the first stage in a lengthy procedure that of course ends in Rome. Her partner, infuriated because she is no longer at his entire disposal, is constantly harassing her; and she obviously struggles with understanding what is expected of her. Nevertheless, with the help of extremely kind prelates and colleagues, she manages to familiarize herself with the documents and to discover the extraordinary lives of these « servants of God », « Venerables » or « Blesseds » that are to be evaluated, and whose lives punctuate Tiffany Tavernier's narrative, thereby illuminating her text and the daily life of her protagonist.



Nicolas Mathieu
LE CIEL OUVERT

(The Open Sky)

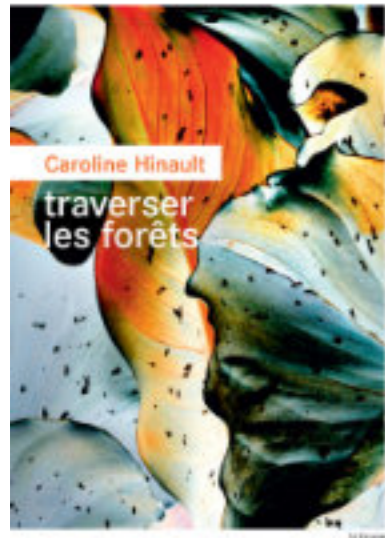
128 pages, Feb-24, Actes Sud

German (Hanser Verlag)

THIS POETRY COLLECTION IS A SERIES OF INCANDESCENT MINIATURE FICTIONS PUBLISHED OVER SEVERAL YEARS ON INSTAGRAM BY NICOLAS MATHIEU.

We discover the many facets of a wild love, and a world of coincidences, analogies and banalities transformed into treasures: fleetingly glimpsed towns, the sea, encounters and new beginnings, despair and joy, unsustainable happiness, the seasons, mornings in bed and aborted dinners, hangovers, waiting around, desertion, childhood and the imminent end. Every page recounts our distress and our wonder, the tribulations of the body, or the love for a father, a woman or a child: all fragments of this world that are still holding out against absence and oblivion.

Nicolas Mathieu was born in 1978 in the Vosges and lives in Nancy. In 2014, he published his first novel Aux animaux la guerre, adapted for television with Alain Tasma. In 2018, his second book, Leurs enfants après eux, won the Prix Goncourt. Connemara, his latest novel, was published in 2022.



Caroline Hinault

TRAVERSER LES FORÊTS

(Crossing the Forest)

192 pages, Mar-24, Actes Sud

HAVING BURST ONTO THE LITERARY SCENE WITH HER BRILLIANT, PRIZE-WINNING SOLAK, CAROLINE HINAULT HAS FOLLOWED IT UP WITH THIS WONDERFUL SECOND NOVEL THAT CARRIES ECHOES OF DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY.

Three women, one forest. The forest in question is Europe's last virgin forest, located on the edge of Poland, and this is where the Belarusian journalist Vera has taken refuge among the trees and animals. Nina has also returned here, having once imagined that her beauty would open doors in the West. And lastly there is Alma, who is seeking to cross the border in this 'red zone' now patrolled by the army. Though they don't yet know it, this forest is going to intertwine the fate of these three women. But how to negotiate this labyrinth, and what direction should they be taking?

Caroline Hinault is a teacher of literature in secondary school. Her debut novel, *Solak*, was published in the Rouergue Noir collection in 2021. Praised by the critics, it won a total of eight literary prizes. In 2022 her *In carna, fragments de grossesse* appeared in La Brune collection.



Adeline Fleury

LE CIEL EN SA FUREUR

(Heaven in Fury)

208 pages, Jan-24, Humensis

Adeline Fleury draws the dark outlines of a village and its mazes.

A modern noir tale, where chimeras emerge from the shadows like sublime nightmares: frogs falling from the sky, slugs coming out of mouths and other black sheep come to haunt our heroines.

Adeline Fleury is a journalist, essayist and novelist. Her previous titles include *Frénétiques* (Julliard, 2022) and *Petit éloge de la jouissance féminine* (Françoise Bourin, 2015).

IT'S A SMALL VILLAGE IN THE COTENTIN REGION, WITH ITS BELL TOWER, ITS FARMS, ITS INHABITANTS AND THEIR SECRETS. WITH ITS MAGIC TOO, ITS BELIEFS NOT QUITE OF OUR WORLD. SO WHEN DISMEMBERED ANIMAL CARCASSES ARE FOUND IN THE FIELDS, THE VILLAGERS ARE WORRIED BUT NOT SURPRISED: IT'S THE VAROU RETURNING TO DRINK THE BLOOD OF ANIMALS...

Julia, a young vet and former city dweller, and her friend Stéphane can't believe their eyes: no animal could have done what was done to the Bellay twins' horse. Only a madman could have committed such an atrocity. As the days go by, more bodies are found, and the village goes into a frenzy: it's the Varou who has come back. Julia and Stéphane don't know what to believe, while strange events are taking place in the surrounding woods and little Levavasseur, a strange kid the other children seem to distrust and whom everyone in the village calls the fairy boy, has gone missing... Have the laws of reality been suspended in this strange land of legend? What are the villagers hiding from the two women? Accompanied by Guillaume, a journalist who has returned to the region to confront the demons of the past, and an old woman with surprising powers, the two friends enter the night and its mirages.



Philippe Ségur

APOLOGIE DE L'AMOUR FOUDRE

(An apology for love at first sight)

320 pages, Mar-24, Libella

PASSIONATE LOVE, INTOXICATING SENSUALITY AT THE HEART OF FRUSTRATION, JEALOUSY AND EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY.

At the end of a stay in Egypt, Prat Saker, a teacher of literature in the Pyrénées-Orientales region, meets Shesha El-Hassan, a bewitching Lebanese woman living in Paris and an expert in the Islamic art market, at Cairo airport. Fueled by a fiery passion, they begin a long-distance relationship, and Pratt joins her every weekend in the capital, exhilarated by her sensual intoxication and romantic idealism. Shesha introduces him to the games of love, contemporary art and Parisian hotspots in a frenzied race of seduction, fierce independence and unbridled thirst for pleasure. At first captivated by her radiance and the mystery with which she surrounds herself, Prat realizes that she is in complete control of their relationship. Little by little, Pratt feels the poison of frustration, jealousy and emotional dependence eating away at his spirit to the point of despair.

Philippe Ségur publishes his novels with Buchet/Chastel. A keen observer of political and social movements, he teaches constitutional law and fundamental rights at the University of Perpignan. Other publications by the author: *La nuit nous sauvera* (Buchet/Chastel, 2022) *Le Gang du biberon* (Buchet/Chastel, 2022)



Neige Sinno

TRISTE TIGRE

(Sad Tiger)

224 pages, Aug-23, P.O.L.

130,000 copies sold.

Rights sold to Booka (Serbia), Literackie (Poland), Park (Hungary), Petrine (Croatia), Slovenia.

Awarded the Prix Fémina 2023, Prix Littéraire Le Monde 2023, Prix des Inrockuptibles 2023. prix Goncourt des lycéens 2023.

Rights sold in 24 languages. # 7 on the bestseller lists.

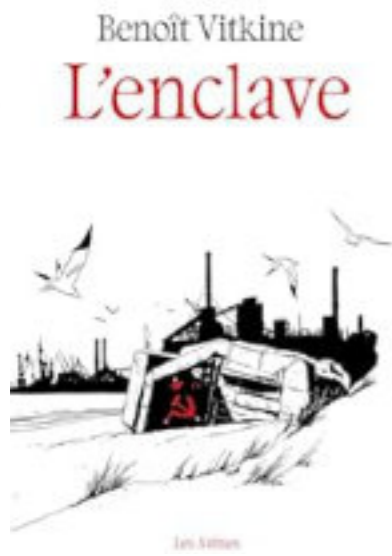
A sensitive, intelligent, utterly sincere form of reflection, a confessional narrative that relates as much the facts and their impossible explanation.

An exploration of both the power and the impotence of literature.

Neige Sinno was born in 1977 in the Hautes-Alpes region of France and lives today in Mexico. She studied American literature, which she taught at university, and has worked as a translator. She has published short stories and a novel (*Le Camion*, Christophe Lucquin éditeur, 2018) and an essay in Spanish on the reading experience.

BETWEEN THE AGE OF SEVEN AND FOURTEEN, THE LITTLE NEIGE WAS RAPED REGULARLY BY HER STEPFATHER. YEARS LATER, NEIGE SINNO DELIVERS A DEVASTATING ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HER. WITHOUT PATHOS, WITHOUT COMPLAINT, SHE TRIES TO LITERALLY PULL THE PIN OUT OF WHAT SHE CALLS HER "LITTLE BOMB."

This is not only the chilling story of a child being systematically raped by an adult who should have protected her. It also carries us into Neige Sinno leads us through a radical rereading of Nabokov's *Lolita*, the works of Virginia Woolf, and many other texts on incest and rape (Toni Morrison, Christine Angot and Virginie Despentes). How is it possible to tell "what happens in the torturer's mind," and not just stick to the victim's point of view? The author brings up the question that the poet William Blake asked the Tiger: "Did he who made the Lamb make thee?" (*The Tyger*). Sinno's account draws us into the community of those who have known "the other place," a place of darkness and evil, but who have been able to break away while remaining marked forever, at the limits of gloom and daylight. Never giving in, never forgetting or forgiving, striving to keep upright.

**Benoît Vitkine****L'ENCLAVE***(The Enclave)*

250 pages, Jan-24, Les Arènes

A NOVEL ROOTED IN THE PICARESQUE NOVEL TRADITION, HARSH AT TIMES AND EXTREMELY MOVING.

August 1991, while the USSR is falling apart and riots are breaking out in Moscow, Le Gris, a teenager from Kaliningrad, is released from prison. He plans to return to his mother and find the love of his life. Along the way, he will encounter young people who are discovering freedom and the call of the West; idle soldiers who no longer know to whom they should pledge their loyalty; police officers in disarray, fearing the threat of anarchy; and even a child who takes advantage of the general disorder to escape his orphanage... Soviet decay and the end of the USSR L'Enclave is a short, poignant story that describes a moment of crisis, the end of the USSR, in a very specific territory, Kaliningrad, a formerly German territory that came under Russian administration at the end of the Second World War. With the end of the Soviet regime and the independence of the Baltic countries, this Russian territory becomes an enclave, as if cut off from the rest of the world. A perceptive reflection on freedom and individual choice Through the pilgrimage of Le Gris, the entire moribund Soviet world is portrayed to us with finesse and restraint. A world is collapsing and no

Benoît Vitkine is Le Monde's correspondent in Moscow. A journalist with fifteen years of experience, he has notably covered the war in eastern Ukraine. L'Enclave is his third novel.

**Nina Bouraoui****OTAGES***(Hostages)*

160 pages, Jan-20, JC Lattès

20,000 copies sold

Rights sold: Sweden (E. Grathe), under offer in Spain and under option in Italy and UK.

A striking female portrait which echoes our lives, revolts, and our dreams of freedom.

Literary quality, strong and contemporary heroes and for an engaged, social literature.

SYLVIE IS A FEMALE HOSTAGE WHO ENDURES THE WORLD'S VIOLENCE, AND WHO HAS BEEN SUPPRESSING THE PERSON SHE CARRIES WITH HER. SOMEONE WITH NO PREVIOUS RECORD, WHO, IN FACT, RESISTS SILENTLY BEFORE YIELDING TO VIOLENCE AND FINALLY COMING TO LIFE. IT IS THE STORY OF CONFINEMENT AND LIBERATION.

Sylvie is a trivial, modest, punctual, solid, and good comrade, a simple woman who you can count on. Sylvie did not say anything when her husband left her, nor did she cry. She tried acting like everything was well in order to raise her sons and fill the space in a bed that has become too big for her. When her boss asked her to work overtime and oversee other workers, she did not protest: she acted as others expected, until one morning in November where all the world's violence and unfairness and her loneliness dawned on her. Sylvie's world collapses. What she does is condemnable, may result in legal proceedings, or worse: imprisonment. But this rebellion makes Sylvie feel alive. She is reborn.

Born in 1967, Nina Bouraoui is a novelist. She is noted for her books LA VOYEUSE INTERDITE (Livre Inter award 1991), MES MAUVAISES PENSÉES (Prix Renaudot 2005) and more recently, TOUS LES HOMMES DÉSIRENT NATURELLEMENT SAVOIR (Lattès, 2018) and OTAGES, (Lattès, 2020, Anaïs Nin Award, 40 000 copies)



Nina Bouraoui

SATISFACTION

(Satisfaction)

250 pages, Aug-21, JC Lattès

30,000 copies sold.

Rights sold in: UK/US, Germany and Sweden.

FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE.

A captivating, sensual, poetic novel that combines Nina Bouraoui's literary obsessions : the end of childhood, tumultuous love and insane desire.

NINA BOURAOUI BRINGS TO LIFE A NEW, RADIANT FEMALE VOICE, THAT OF MADAME AKLI.

For the love of her husband Brahim, Madame Akli settles in Algiers after the war for independence. Together with their son, they live in a house in the city heights: it is there that her identical days flow into weeks, there where she spends hours in her garden taking care of her flowers, there where she waits the return of her husband from his paper factory and her son from school. In a diary, she writes what she can't say to anyone: that she is no longer the freshly arrived young woman full of love and dreams, that maybe she chose the wrong life, that she finds herself hoping for, and fearing, an encounter, a revolution, that she dreams of escaping or becoming someone else. What holds her back is the love she has for her son and for the countryside of this chosen place: the cliffs, the fiery mountains, the sea, the desert... A natural beauty so poetic that it affects people like a magnetic wave. Like the terrifying war that is secretly brewing at the end of the seventies, everything is hidden, suspended. Until the day she meets Bruce and Catherine and Madame Akli allows herself to be swept away.

Born in 1967, Nina Bouraoui is a novelist. She is noted for her books LA VOYEUSE INTERDITE (Livre Inter award 1991), MES MAUVAISES PENSÉES (Prix Renaudot 2005) and more recently, TOUS LES HOMMES DÉSIRENT NATURELLEMENT SAVOIR (Lattès, 2018) and OTAGES, (Lattès, 2020, Anaïs Nin Award, 40 000 copies)



Véronique Ovaldé

FILLE EN COLÈRE SUR UN BANC DE PIERRE

(Angry Girl on a Stone Bench)

320 pages, Jan-23, Flammarion

33,500 copies sold.

Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt (German), Etcetera (Danish), Gema (Greek)

2023 Relay des Voyageurs-Lecteurs Prize 2023 Romanières Prize

A GREAT NOVEL ABOUT GRIEF AND REVENGE, WRITTEN AS SPLENDIDLY AS ALWAYS BY VÉRONIQUE OVALDÉ.

When her sister calls her to announce the death of their father, Aïda is flabbergasted. Not by the death of the Old Man, Il signore Salvatore, but rather by the sudden resurgence of the idea of family in her life – if one can call “life” the meticulous and repetitive nature of her daily routine. All those years patiently spent forgetting them all, and there it is, an invitation to lazza for the funeral. What an odd situation for one who was punished for a “crime” committed when she was only eight-years-old. Is it a good idea to return to this island from which she was banished, taken away, without notice, when she was still a teenager on a ferry heading to Palermo? Was it fair, besides, to have been held as the sole culprit? Weren't there any other ones? So, yes, it may be time, at last, to revive her anger, and to go there to unearth secrets. After all, she has nothing to lose, since she's already lost it all.

Véronique Ovaldé has published ten novels, including Et mon coeur transparent (Prix France Culture-Télérama), Ce que je sais de Vera Candida (Prix Renaudot des lycéens 2009, Prix France Télévisions and Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle), Des vies d'oiseaux, La Grâce des brigands (L'Olivier, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013) and, more recently, Soyez imprudents les enfants and Personne n'a peur des gens qui sourient (Flammarion, 2016 and 2019).



Margaux Leridon

LA FILLE DE LA BANDE

(The Girl of the Group)

272 pages, Jan-24, JC Lattès

Alternating points of views from different characters, Margaux Leridon writes about the sometimes-tortuous relationships uniting a “normal” group of friends, at two different times of their lives.

A PORTRAIT OF A SOCIETY AND OF A TIME, TOLD BY MULTIPLE VOICES. LIES, LOVE, TREASON, BITTERNESS, AMBITIONS, THE GIRL OF THE GROUP IS HUMAN FRESCO IN WHICH THE LIVES OF A FRIENDSHIP GROUP ARE SHAKEN UP BY A RAPE ACCUSATION.

What has become of Max, Romy, Omar, Maider, Ludovic, Matthieu and Antigone? They were “young and beautiful”, careless. Now they are wretched adults. Romy, the girl of the group, is the central element and is now a lawyer. Max, a war reporter having worked in Syria and with the Kurds, is accused of rape by a Turkish girl: is he guilty? Romy is in charge of the defence of her former best friend. Let’s go back fifteen years earlier. Everything unites them, before it tears them apart – and life will end up separating this group that Max’s trial, fifteen years later, will bring together one last time.

Journalist Margaux Leridon is a geopolitics and fiction specialist interested in the interactions between these two fields of study. The Girl of the Group is her debut novel.



Nathalie Azoulai

TITUS N'AIMAIT PAS BÉRÉNICE

(Titus Did Not Love Berenice)

320 pages, Sep-15, P.O.L.

130,000 copies sold in total.

Rights sold to: Germany (Secession Verlag), Serbia (Akademiska Knjiga) and Korea (Alchemistbooks) & Russia (Ivan Limbakh Publishers), Lebanon (DAR AL-FARABI Liban).

WINNER of the Prix Médicis 2015 Shortlisted for: Prix Goncourt, Prix Goncourt des Lycéens & Prix Femina 2015

A fascinating book that draws a parallel between a contemporary love story and timeless literature.

Heartbreak is a timeless theme, its intensity and expression span the centuries, from Antiquity to the present day.

The setting: Paris, Versailles and Port Royal des Champs during the reign of Louis XIV were places of intense intellectual activity, as well as centers of political and religious power.

A book that will make readers want to rediscover both Racine’s work and the Greek and Roman tragedies that inspired it.

Nathalie Azoulai is a professor of literature, a publisher and a writer. TITUS N'AIMAIT PAS BÉRÉNICE is her sixth novel.

BÉRÉNICE, ABANDONED BY TITUS, BURROWS INTO RACINE’S PLAYS TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE PLAYWRIGHT COULD HAVE PORTRAY ABANDONED WOMEN’S PASSION AND PAIN SO ACCURATELY, SO LONG AGO.

Titus is going back to his wife, Roma. Which means he’s leaving his mistress, Bérénice. Everyone has advice for how Bérénice should get over her heartbreak, but no one can actually ease her sorrow. She realizes that her pain is comparable to the classic tragic, abandoned heroines’. So she burrows into Racine’s plays in order to try to understand how the playwright was able to portray heartbreak, especially from a women’s point of view, so lucidly and so timelessly. Thus begins the true story of the playwright’s life, interwoven with the emotions and existence of Bérénice, who is present at Titus’s deathbed. Racine wrote stunning tragedies in a precise, chiseled style that is still studied and admired today. Although his work is well-known, his life is much less so. Nathalie Azoulai draws readers into the heart of the 17th century, and into the private life of this respected writer.



Claire Etcherelli

ÉLISE OU LA VRAIE VIE

(Elise or Real Life)

277 pages, May-05, Denoël

Adapted into a movie by Michel Drach.

Rights sold in Spain, Italy, Brazil

Awarded the Prix Fémina 1967.

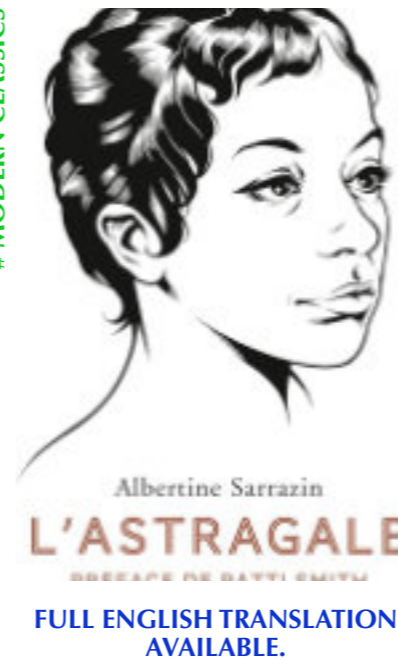
A forgotten gem that deserves to be rediscovered.

After being awarded Annie Ernaux presented Claire Etcherelli as one of the main writers that inspired her. Claire Etcherelli has also collaborated with Simone De Beauvoir.

Claire Etcherelli (1934-2023) was a French writer. Coming to a very modest background, she obtained a scholarship to continue her studies and moved to Paris, where she also worked at a factory. After leaving the factory and completing *Elise ou la vraie vie*, she worked in a youth organization and published a second novel, *À propos de Clémence* (Denoël, 1971). In 1973, she became secretary of the magazine *Les Temps modernes*. She pursued a demanding literary career.

AN OVERWHELMING AND AWARDED SOCIAL NOVEL WRITTEN IN THE '60S.

The story, partly inspired by the author's experience as a factory worker, takes place in France during the decade of the Algerian war. Élise, a young woman coming to a very humble family from Bordeaux moves to Paris to join her brother and finds a job in a factory. There, she meets Arezki, an Algerian, with whom she falls in love. And it is at that very point that things turn very difficult for them. Published at a time of rising protest, the novel was noted for its accurate socio-cultural description, particularly of the working-class world and relations between French people in metropolitan France and those in Algeria. Combining everyday life with a love story, Claire Etcherelli reveals the climate of xenophobia in France at the time, visible in all walks of life.



Albertine Sarrazin

L'ASTRAGALE

(Astragal)

256 pages, Oct-13, Fayard

Rights sold in: Italy (Bompiani), The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Turkey (Everest!English), USA (New Directions), UK (Serpent's Tail), Germany (Hanser Berlin), Russia (Corpus), Greece (Patakis), Spain (Seix Barral), China (Shanghai Century Publishing), Sweden (Natur&Kultur), Norway (Cappelen, Denmark (The People's Press) and Croatia (Zagrebačka naklada-2020).

FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE.

Albertine writes with rage. She is committed and fascinating. She narrates her scandalous life with a smooth beautiful writing that intertwines slang vocabulary with poetic passages.

A vibrant, impertinent character who chooses a passionate life, even burn their wings, like a French Bonnie & Clyde. Foreword by Patti Smith, adapted several times to the cinema (the latest film, directed by Brigitte Sy was released in April 2015).

A cult autobiographical novel, in which the author artistically transcends her life.

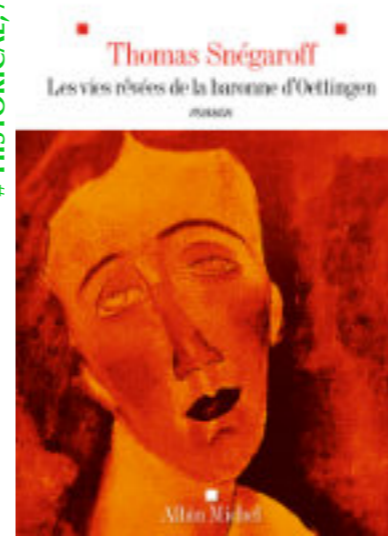
Born in Algiers in 1937, Albertine Sarrazin's experiences of public assistance, prison and prostitution served as material for her books, including *La Traversière* and *La Cavale (Pauvert)*. She died at the age of 30, after spending eight years in prison.

A POWERFUL NOVEL FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1966. THIS AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL IS A GRIPPING TALE SMUGGLED OUT OF PRISON ON GRUBBY PAGES AND WENT ON TO SELL MILLIONS OF COPIES WORLDWIDE, ENCHANTING READERS WITH ITS POETIC, SPIRITED AND COLORFUL PROSE.

Anne is sprawled at the foot of a wall, gazing up at the window ten meters above her head. She's just jumped from it. In this daring prison escape, she has broken a bone in her ankle, the astragal from which the book takes its name, and can only half crawl, half drag herself to the roadside. Picked up by the handsome Julien, she soon realizes that he too is familiar with the wrong side of the law; without hesitating, he takes this nineteen year old, wild-eyed stranger on the run. From hide-out to hide-out, through months of physical pain tempered by a growing love for the strong but tender man at her side, Anne uses all her nerve and cunning to keep hold of her increasingly precious freedom. Simple, poignant, tender, this story burns with a humor and irreverence that draw the reader in, and carry us along the incredible journey that Anne makes from the prison wall, and along the roads that lead her back.

HISTORICAL

HISTORICAL, ART



Thomas Snégaroff

LES VIES REVEES DE LA BARONNE D'OETTINGEN

(The Mad Lives of Baroness Oettingen)

256 pages, Jan-24

Albin Michel

BOHEMIAN MONTPARNASSE OF THE BELLE ÉPOQUE SEEN THROUGH ONE OF THE DAWNING 20TH CENTURY'S MOST BRILLIANT FIGURES.

Who was Hélène of Oettingen, born Miontchinksa in Ukraine, one of the most outstanding characters of the Belle Époque? An impassioned woman, fervently avant-garde, a painter, poetess, novelist, a muse to artists and a patron of the arts, she went under as many pseudonyms as she lived different lives. How did this exceptional exiled woman end her life in anonymous poverty? Thomas Snégaroff, haunted by the memory of the stories he heard from his great-grand-father – a friend of the Baroness – set off in search of the life of this mysterious exiled woman who ended her life poor and unknown. In his quest, he plunges us into the bohemia of Montparnasse at the turn of the century, where Hélène, with her cousin and lover Serge Férat, rubbed shoulders with Apollinaire, Modigliani, Picasso... in the swirl of light and shadows of a life of freedom.

Thomas Snégaroff is a journalist and a historian. He has written several essays about the United States and a novel, Putzi (Gallimard, 2021), admired by critics and booksellers.



Béatrice Wilmos

TANT DE NEIGE, SI PEU DE PAIN

(So Much Snow and So Little Bread)

160 pages, Jan-24, Actes Sud

IN 1919, THE 27-YEAR-OLD MARINA TSVETAeva FINDS HERSELF ALONE IN MOSCOW WITH HER TWO DAUGHTERS, ARIADNA (AKA ALIA) AND IRINA, IN THE MIDST OF THE CIVIL WAR.

Her husband has enlisted in the White Army and she doesn't know if he's still alive. In this frozen city beset by famine, the material hardships force her to entrust her daughters to an orphanage. Seven-year-old Alia is an exceptionally intelligent child towards whom she is demanding but very loving. But she is less fond of the two-year-old, who appears to be mentally handicapped and ends up starving to death. This tragedy prompts Marina to revisit her past in an attempt to understand how she could have allowed the toddler to perish in an orphanage, having taken her older sister of it a few days earlier.

Journalist and writer, Béatrice Wilmos is the author of three novels published by Flammarion (La Dernière Sonate de l'hiver and L'Album de Menzel) and Belfond (Le Cahier des mots perdus). In January 2024, her novel *Tant de neige et si peu de pain*, dedicated to the Russian poet Marina Tsvetaeva, was published by Rouergue.



Marek Halter

LA JUIVE DE SHANGHAI

(The Jewish Girl of Shanghai)

460 pages, Nov-22, XO

The little known story of the Shanghai ghetto.

The destiny of two remarkable women.

A poignant novel about a forgotten exodus.

RUTH AND CLARA MEET IN GERMANY IN 1937. RUTH IS JEWISH AND DREAMS OF BECOMING A FASHION AND DRESSMAKER ICON, AND CLARA, THE DAUGHTER OF RICH BOURGEOIS FAMILY, FIGHTS ALONGSIDE THE COMMUNISTS.

They both must flee the Nazi regime and find refuge in Asia. Clara, the first one to leave for China, flees by boat to Shanghai. Ruth has to cross Europe all the way to Siberia before joining her friend Clara. Thanks to the Japanese consul in Lithuania, she obtains a visa for Kōbe, a major port in Japan, the land of the rising sun. When she finally arrives in Shanghai - a bustling city where an underworld of spies, opium dealers and resistance fighters rub shoulders - she miraculously finds Clara, who has become a Communist agent. What happens next? It is Bo Xiao-Nao, Ruth's daughter, who picks up the thread of the story. She comes across a secret diary left behind by Ruth. As she flips through it, she discovers the fascinating destiny of the woman who will forever be known as the Jewish girl of Shanghai...

Marek Halter was born in 1936 in Warsaw. His life's work — which focuses largely on Jewish history — is dedicated to furthering peace, human rights, and interfaith dialog. Marek Halter's works have been translated into more than 20 languages and have sold millions of copies around the world: *The Book of Abraham*, *The Kabbalist of Prague*, *The Cannan trilogy* (Sarah, Tsippora, Lilah), *Mary of Nazareth*, *The Women from Islam* (Khadija, Fatima, Aïcha).



Sophie Brocas

LE BAISER

(The Kiss)

306 pages, Jan-19, Julliard

15,000 copies sold.

Rights sold in Romania (Vremea).

By oscillating between the narratives of two women,

Sophie Brocas paints a double portrait set in both 1910 in 2010.

This masterful melding of historical epic and psychological investigation results in a gripping novel that questions the starters of artworks over time.

Are works of art meant to rest in the hands of dealers and owners for all eternity or do they end up belonging to us all as part of the heritage of humanity?

Sophie Brocas is a novelist and a senior civil servant. In 2014 she published LE CERCLE DES FEMMES followed in 2016 by CAMPING CAR. LE BAISER is her first book

TWO STRONG WOMEN ANONYMOUS HEROINS OF EVERY DAY FIND THEMSELVES LINKED A CENTURY APART BY BRANCUSI'S CULTURE FAMOUS SCULPTURE THE KISS

Camille, a disillusioned corporate lawyer finds herself entrusted with an unusual matter: to find the true owner of a sculpture which decorates a young woman's tomb in Paris' Montparnasse Cemetery. A mysterious art dealer has threatened to remove this magnificent artwork which depicts two lovers enlaced in each other's arms. To determine the rightful owner, Camille must travel one hundred years into the past and follow the life of Tania, a young Russian medical student and anarchist, who leaves her aristocratic family and takes refuge in bohemian Montparnasse where the artistic avant-garde lead garrulous, reckless lives. In the greatest secrecy Tania becomes the mistress and muse of the Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi. But at that time, falling pregnant by an artist who flees all kind of marital commitment could easily leads to tragedy. As she pieces together the reasons for Tania's suicide, Camille has the opportunity not only to reestablish the dignity of one forgotten woman but also to pay homage to all the free women who were unjustly banished from society.



Sébastien Spitzer

LÉONIE B

(Léonie B.)

336 pages, Mar-24

Albin Michel

The story of the incredible courage of a free woman condemned by her contemporaries, and of a shared passion that probably inspired Les Misérables.

THE SECRET, ALL-CONSUMING PASSION BETWEEN VICTOR HUGO AND LÉONIE D'AUNET.

19-year-old Léonie d'Aunet bluffs her way onto a vessel of the French navy, disguised as a man, to take part in an expedition to Spitzbergen. On her return, she marries the artist François-Auguste Biard and settles in a province town but is overcome by ennui. Until she meets Victor Hugo. She's twenty years younger than him, they are both married, but their love drives them to take risks. Her jealous husband has her arrested for adultery and sent to a woman's prison, while Hugo benefits from the impunity his rank confers.

Sébastien Spitzer is an author, screenwriter and teacher at Sciences Po Paris. In 2017, he published his first novel, Ces rêves qu'on piétine (Ed. de l'Observatoire), which received the Stanislas and the Emmanuel-Roblès prizes. His second novel, Le cœur battant du monde (Albin Michel, 2019) was shortlisted for the Goncourt des lycéens. A specialist of Victor Hugo, he authored Dictionnaire amoureux de Victor Hugo (Plon, 2023).



Zoé Brisby

LA DOUBLE VIE DE DINA MILLER

(The Double Life of Dina Miller)

272 pages, Mar-24

Albin Michel

AN INTENSE, THRILLING NOVEL ABOUT APPEARANCES, LIES IN HISTORY AND WOMEN'S HEARTS.

Huntsville, Alabama, 1961. Kennedy has just launched Project Mercury and the race against the USSR for the conquest of space is at its apogee. The whole town is beating to the rhythm of the space centre and district, as they wait to see an American walk on the Moon one day. Everyone is fascinated by rocket launchings and manned flights, but there's only one idea in Dina Miller's mind: to obtain justice. For the Rocket District hides many secrets: these brilliant scientists, perfect American citizens - good husbands and model fathers - aren't perhaps all they seem to be. Dina will stop at nothing to bring the abominable truth to light...

Zoe Brisby is an author. Her previous novel, *Les mauvaises épouses*, received the Waknine prize in 2023.



Muriel Romana

L'ESCADRON VOLANT

(The Flying Squad)

302 pages, Jun-24

Albin Michel

FROM THE FRENCH COURT TO DELIGHTS OF VENICE, THE AUTHOR TAKES US TO THE HEART OF THE RENAISSANCE IN THE FIRST VOLUME OF A SAGA, FULL OF FIRE AND PASSION.

1559. For twenty years, Catherine de Medici has been an unassuming queen and a neglected wife. But Nostradamus announces a dreadful prophecy: her husband will soon die. A few days later, Henri II is killed by the Count of Montgomery in a tournament. His death places the queen on the front line. Determined to avenge the death of the king, she creates her Flying Squad. Who hides behind this mysterious force? Simple ladies of honour who, one mission after the next, show themselves to be fearless spies, who run into Mary Stuart, Diane de Poitiers, Montaigne, Bratôme and Ambroise Paré. Their first target: the man who killed the king.

Muriel Romana is an author and a scenarist. She has participated in several films (*Le dernier Empereur*, *1492 Christophe Colomb*, *Vatel*, *Le pacte du silence*). *L'escadron Volant* is the first volume of a historical series.



Aurélie Tramier

BIEN-AIMÉE

(A Time for Love)

430 pages, Jan-24, Gregory Messina

IN THIS POIGNANT DUAL NARRATIVE, AURÉLIE TRAMIER HAS CRAFTED A STORY OF LOVE AND WAR WITH A LITTLE KNOWN PART OF HISTORY AS THE BACKDROP.

May 1940. Hans Weber, a celebrated German musician imprisoned in the Camp des Milles, is visited by his brother's widow, Elisa. Hans has always been in love with Elisa but has kept his distance out of respect for his brother who saved his life during WWI. Except for one moment of abandon that brought Hans and Elisa together. Hans had promised his now deceased brother that he would watch over Elisa and their daughter but this is proving to be a promise difficult to keep while trapped in the camp. The Camp des Milles is a prison for German intellectuals and artists; people who fled Nazi Germany.

May 2022, Aix-en-Provence. Esther's father Joseph give her an unusual watch with a name engraved on it: Hans W. One month later during a visit to the Camp des Milles, she notices a photograph that is part of the museum's exhibition. In it, the same watch, on the wrist of a prisoner. This sets Esther off on the search to find out who Hans was and why her family has his watch.

Aurélie Tramier, born in Aix-en-Provence in 1982, studied literature in Paris before turning towards marketing. The mother of three boys, she lives in Munich where she splits her time between writing and working as a consultant. In December 2017, she self-published her first novel *Vous reprendrez bien un petit chou ?* and then *La Belle Étoile* published her next two novels *Peindre la pluie en couleurs* (2020) and *Le flamme et le papillon* (2022). Author website [here](#)



Jérôme Attal

NEUF RENCONTRES ET UN AMOUR

(Ninze Encounters and One Love)

270 pages, Jan-24, Fayard

This novel dives into Artaud and Nin's frantic quest for freedom, in an attempt to understand these captivating yet elusive beings a little better.

JÉRÔME ATTAL'S MISCHIEVOUS EYE BRINGS TO LIFE THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN ANTONIN ARTAUD AND ANAÏS NIN, TWO INCREDIBLE ARTISTS CONFRONTED WITH THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF CREATION AND DESIRE, IN THE HEART OF 1930S LITERARY PARIS.

When Antonin meets Anaïs, it's love at first sight – for both. He's single, she's not. Yet, despite her husband and lovers, she's freer than he is, and more extravagant too. No matter, the countdown is on. Because, according to Antonin's theory, from the moment we meet someone we like, we only have nine chances, not one more, to decide on a love story. As they meet again, whether by chance or for a date, Anaïs and Antonin discover each other, and try to live life to the full.

Jérôme Attal is the author of some twenty books, novels and stories, including *37, étoiles filantes*. He is also a composer and singer.



Paola Pigani

LE CHÂTEAU DES INSENSÉS

(The Château of the Lunatics)

288 pages, Mar-24, Liana Lévi

In her sensitive and engaging fifth novel, Paola Pigani lends her voice to those men and women whom history has neglected.

Paola Pigani was born to a family of Italian immigrants settled in the French Charente. After working in education, she devoted herself to writing, regularly publishing poetry collections. In 2013, Liana Levi brought out her first multi-award winning novel *N'entre pas dans mon âme avec tes chaussures*. Her next novels, *Venus d'ailleurs* (2015), *Des orties et des hommes* (2019), *Et ils dansaient le dimanche* (2021), she continues to shed light on humble lives and collective destinies. She is also a poet.

IN FRANCE OF THE 1940s, A BROKEN WOMAN REGAINS HER EQUILIBRIUM THANKS TO NEW PSYCHIATRIC METHODS.

«Jeanne, just Jeanne, no maiden name, no married name. Jeanne, with no civil status and no handbag.» Just Jeanne: this is how a young woman introduces herself to Victor on September 1, 1939, on the platform of a railway station. Interned after the loss of her newborn, she is part of a convoy of «loonies» from the Saint-Evrard asylum in the Paris area. The declaration of war has prompted their urgent evacuation to the remote Lozère region. There in the château of Saint-Alban a new world opens up for Jeanne, Victor, and the other patients. No more bunches of keys, no more confinement. Instead, the freedom to work according to their inclinations and abilities within an unusual community. A new approach to care is developed by a daring team of psychiatrists soon to be joined by the Catalan François Tosquelles in exile from Franco's Spain. The team secretly opens the doors of the château to members of the Resistance and to Jews for whom it was to become an unexpected place of refuge. Just as it is for the «lunatics» who can there rebuild their lives and open a new chapter.

THRILLER

HORROR



Cyril Carrère
LA COLÈRE D'IZANAGI

(The Wrath of Izanagi)

350 pages, Feb-24, Denoël

An atypical detective novel set in Japan, where the author lives: a realistic look at the country, far from clichés and preconceived ideas.

Violence at work, the role of women in a traditional society, the darknet...

Carrère captures contemporary themes with acuity.

A duo of endearing and unusual cops who will become regulars.

Born in 1983, Cyril Carrère is a pharmacologist by training. The author of three novels, including the greatly lauded *Grand Froid* (*La Mécanique générale*, 2018, finalist for the “Grand prix VSD-RTL” for detective fiction), he now shares his time between France and Japan. His previous novel published by Denoël, *Avant de sombrer*, is listed for the Grand Prix du Festival Sans Nom and the Prix Cognac.

LIFE HAS A THOUSAND FACETS; DEATH HAS ONLY ONE.

Back in his home village for a sad anniversary, Hayato Ishida, a young detective, is forced to return to Tokyo when a huge fire destroys Shinjuku, the biggest business district in the world. While the city watches on in stupefaction, the young police captain Hayato, a compulsive loner with an IQ far above average, must team up with Noémie Legrand, a friendly and empathetic Franco-Japanese woman. Meanwhile, some students at the art university, whose livelihoods have gone up in smoke, hear about an online forum that could solve their problem: the Sheepfold. They don't all know it yet, but the gates of Hell have just opened before them...



Olivier Merle
LES ENTRAILLES DU MAL

(The Guts of Evil)

352 pages, Oct-23, XO

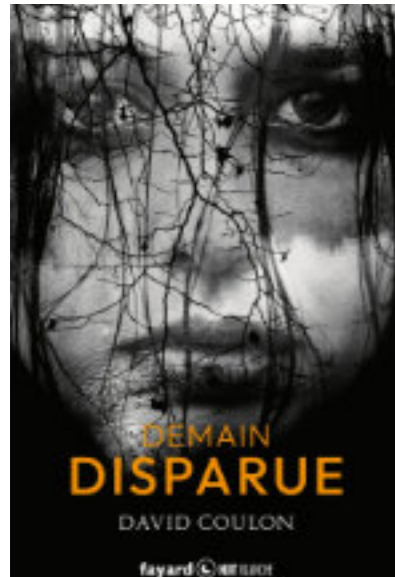
The story of an unexpected and horrifying vengeance.

A terrifying investigation in which the policeman become the prey.

Olivier Merle was born in Rennes in 1956. He's the author of *Free to Love*, and two other investigation by Major Grimm, *In the Shadow of the Wolf* and *Sacrifice Manor*, all published by Xo Editions. He won the Charles-Exbrayat award in 2013.

ARE YOU PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE? THE HOUR OF RECKONING HAS COME!

The anonymous letter Inspector Grimm receives is an accusation and a threat. Grimm doesn't understand the accusation. What did he do? When? The threat on the other hand, is explicit. His life is in danger. You don't write that kind of letter innocently, but as a prelude to murder. While investigating the notorious Drajić, a Serbian pimp, and his sidekick The Chinaman, Grimm uncovers the terrifying and elusive darkness lurking in their shadow, and the threat it carries. This shadow draws him back into the distant past, plunging him into the nightmare of his childhood Grimm thought was safely behind him. And yes, he is guilty of the act his mysterious accuser accuses him of. From this point onward, the inevitable faceoff becomes Hubert Grimm's ultimate combat for nothing less than his very existence. Because the hatred that separates these two human beings is so powerful, so ingrained, it can only fade if one of the two is killed.



David Coulon

DEMAIN DISPARUE

(Gone Tomorrow)

272 pages, Feb-24, Fayard

WHY LIF AND ROMUALD HAVE ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION TO DINNER? THEIR MARRIAGE IS ON THE ROCKS, THE VILLAGE THEY HAVE TO TRAVEL TO IS COMPLETELY ISOLATED AND A TERRIBLE STORM IS LOOMING. BUT A PROMISE IS A PROMISE, AND THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES.

But as soon as they arrive, one odd situation follows another, and Lif cannot recognise her lifelong friend Marie. Who are the two teenagers who are also attending? And why their friends were so insistent on seeing them on this particular evening? Very soon, Lif has only one key objective: to run away from this house where fear is everywhere. Especially as she must also protect the child she is carrying. But the teenagers, after murdering in cold blood Romuald and their mutual friends, track her down and hold her hostage until she gives birth. After being separated from her baby daughter at birth, Lif does everything she can to find her and to rescue her from the madness of these teenagers, whose motivations are even more frightening than she had imagined.

David Coulon is a psychologist and a playwright. He is especially interested in people experiencing a mental breakdown in a social world that is tearing them apart.



Alexis Laipsker

D'ENTRE LES MORTS

(From the Dead)

336 pages, Mar-24, Michel Lafon

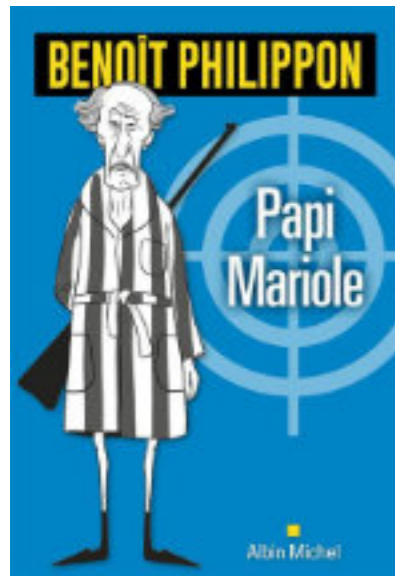
Alexis Laipsker's talent for fast paced stories carried by singular characters has already caught the attention of screen producers. LE MANGEUR D'ÂMES, adapted by Julien Maury & Alexandre Bustillo, will be released in French cinemas in April 2024.

Alexis has already sold 100.000 copies in France and been translated into Czech (Knihy Dobrovsky).

Alexis Laipsker, a journalist and TV presenter specialized in poker, made his crime fiction debut with the bestselling ET AVEC VOTRE ESPRIT. In 2021, he confirmed his talent with a second, equally chilling crime novel, LE MANGEUR D'ÂMES, a nail-biting thriller that made him the new voice of crime fiction. In 2022, LES POUPÉES introduced Commissioner Venturi and Olivia Montalvert and left readers begging for more. A critical and commercial success, it won the Prix de la Ligue de l'Imaginaire and Prix Mordus de Thrillers. HURLEMENTS is under option with Phase 4 Prod.

“EVERYTHING IS ALREADY WRITTEN. WE CANNOT ESCAPE OUR DESTINY. »

Commissioner Venturi had no idea that the ominous threat launched by a prophetic vagrant would come true. The macabre scene that awaits him in a cellar is one of the worst horrors he has had to face. Although weakened by the illness that is gnawing at him, he does everything possible to solve this new case. And he can count on the unfailing support of Olivia Montalvert, the brilliant psychocriminologist who has become a star in the courtrooms since they teamed up. A race against Death begins, where the latter is never far away and always one step ahead...



Benoît Philippon

PAPI MARIOLE

(Grandpa Witty)

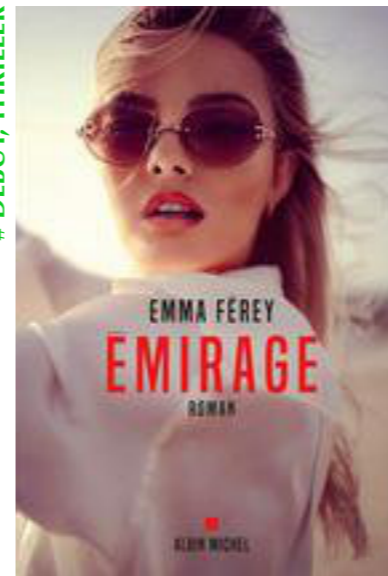
368 pages, Mar-24

Albin Michel

A CONTRACT KILLER, FEMINIST AND SUFFERING FROM ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: A TARANTINOESQUE ROAD TRIP - RAW, VIOLENT AND FUNNY.

Mariole is an aging contract killer, who has one last mission to complete before dying. To do so, he escaped from the retirement home. But there is one problem: suffering from Alzheimer's disease, he cannot remember what the mission was. Mathilde, a victim of revenge porn, has found herself caught up in a spiral of cyberharassment. She's on the verge of suicide when Mariole offers to help her take revenge. In exchange, she must promise to help him. Together, they hit the road to achieve their missions, each one the other's guardian angel.

Benoît Philippon is an author, screenwriter and filmmaker. He wrote and made the film *Lullaby* (2009) with Forest Whitaker and Clémence Poesy, and *Mune* (2015), an animated film which won the best film prizes in Tokyo and Toronto. His first novel, *Cabossé* (2016, Gallimard), received the Prix Transfuge du meilleur espoir polar. He then published *Mamie Luger* (2018), *Joueuse* (2020) and *Petiote* (2022) with Les Arènes.



Emma Férey

ÉMIRAGE

(Emirage)

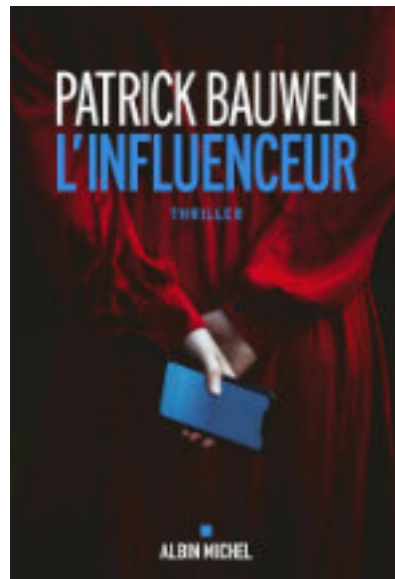
304 pages, Apr-24

Albin Michel

DUBAI: FROM PHANTASM TO NIGHTMARE.

Norma, a 'rising social media influencer' with millions of followers, has settled in Dubai. She's doing product placement for the Andy Corps agency, which is controlled with an iron fist by the scandalous Andy. Everything goes swimmingly – until the agency is collared by the French government for "organised fraud". Norma finds herself implicated in this affair; she is swept into the terrifying and fiendish underside of this sun-scorched Disneyland. One fine day, she simply disappears. Her best friend, Alice, who is determined to find her, sets off for the Persian Gulf to investigate. But what she uncovers is well beyond her imagination...

Emma Férey is a journalist. *Emirage* is her first novel.



Patrick Bauwen
L'INFLUENCEUR

(The Influencer)

336 pages, Mar-24

Albin Michel

A GRIPPING SUSPENSE AT THE HEART OF THE WORLD OF INFLUENCERS, INSTAGRAM AND THE PALPITATING UNIVERSE IT CONCEALS.

Lisa is a medical assistant in a clinic, and a literary critic on social media during her spare time. One day, a woman turns up at her office and makes a tempting offer: 'I can make you the next big influencer. But for that, you must do exactly what I tell you.' Who is this former reality show producer? What's her link with the famous influencer Vicky Vonn, who has disappeared mysteriously? From Paris to Dubai, Lisa's ascension is dazzling. She meets fascinating, seductive and scary men and women. In this universe, one disquieting character nicknamed the Influencer reigns. Soon, Lisa's only obsession is to solve the mystery of Vicky Vonn's disappearance. Her own life depends on it...

Patrick Bauwen shares his time between two passions: writing and emergency medicine. *L'oeil de Caine* (2007) received the Prix Polar des lecteurs du Livre de Poche and the Prix Carrefour for a first novel; *Monster* (2009), the Prix Maison de la Presse; and *Seul à savoir* (2010) the Littré prize. In 2020, he closed his trilogy featuring the character Le Chien, a dreaded psychopath, with *L'heure du Diable*.



Céline Denjean
CHÂTIMENTS

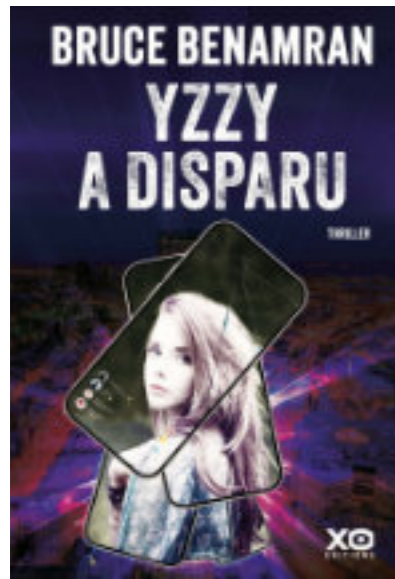
(Punishment)

400 pages, Mar-24, Michel Lafon

A CHILLING NOVEL WITH A STUNNING OUTCOME IN THE CONTINUITY OF PRÉCIPICE, CONTINUES THE EXPLORATION OF THE ORIGIN OF EVIL AND BRINGS BACK MAJOR LOUISE CAUMONT.

Toulouse, at the foot of the Pyrenees. The meticulously cleaned body of Marie-France Bellegarde, a 43-year-old mother of four, is found on a small country road, at the foot of a calvary, a key in the palm of one hand. A secret violence is eating away at the very respectable Bellegarde family, whose mother was brutally murdered. The foundations of the family building are shaking. Will Major Louise Caumont find the loophole to uncover the clan's secrets?

In six novels, CÉLINE DENJEAN has established herself as the revelation of French crime fiction, acclaimed by readers and critics, winner of the Prize for best crime novel in Cognac for *Le Cheptel*. Her previous novel, *Précipice*, is currently under option for a TV series adaptation (Sortilèges Prod).



Bruce Benamran
YZZY A DISPARU

(Yzzy is Missing)

440 pages, Feb-24, XO

IN THIS CHORAL NOVEL OF BREATHLESS SUSPENSE, BRUCE BENAMRAN RECOUNTS THE MADNESS THAT RULES THE WORLD OF INFLUENCERS. HE SHEDS LIGHT ON THE HIDDEN FACE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS, THEIR ABUSES AND THEIR EXCESSES.

Where is Yzzy? "With her 30 million subscribers, I don't understand how no one has found her yet." Kevin Randal Jones, influencer "I don't know what's worse about this investigation: the press or these damn social networks." Steve O'Maley, Boston Police Department detective "I will soon be able to lift the veil on the mystery of this disappearance. So subscribe!" Travis Midsummer, mentalist and Youtuber Yzzy has now been missing for several days. The famous Instagrammer went into a Boston hotel for a photo shoot and no one has seen her come out. The Internet is in overdrive, and Boston's cops and DA are on their toes... A vertiginous thriller on this virtual octopus that extends its tentacles over our lives. Embracing us. And threatens to suffocate us.

His previous novels, *L'ultime expérience* (Flammarion, 2020) *Lola doit mourir* (Flammariobn, 2021) sold 12 000 and 5 000 copies.



Olivier Descosse
LE CIRQUE DU DIABLE

(The Devil's Cirque)

512 pages, Nov-23, XO

An unordinary manhunt in a hostile nature where dangers lurk everywhere.

A terrifying secret hidden inside the heart of the Devil's Cirque.

Olivier Descosse is a lawyer in Marseille. Fascinated by the most bizarre and extreme places on earth, he is the author of 14 novels. In 2022, he published his first novel with Xo, *Deep-Sea Terror*.

AN ICE AND FIRE THRILLER.

Massif de la Meije. A frozen body, completely naked. Found by a group of snowboarders who end up stranded in the Devil's Cirque, an inaccessible place they thought to be first humans to have trodden it. A place of terrifying legends. Haut-Var region. Three calcified cadavers. Found in an abandoned sheepfold in the middle of the forest. Ice and fire! And two criminal cases handed over respectively to two investigators so different from each other. Paul Cabrera - a cop who looks like a biker, a hothead with a remarkable record of service, an MMA enthusiast transferred over to the crime unit after earning his stripes with a police squad of dubious reputation. And Chloé Latour, a brilliant investigator and group leader at the Crime Unit in Marseille, who hides beneath an aloof demeanor secrets that have been haunting her for so many years. From the untouched glaciers to the centuries-old woods, from extreme sports enthusiasts to survivalist groups, the link between the two murders will gradually become clear. Crimes committed by a murderer with uncommon skill whose perversity is only matched by his or her determination.



Olivier Bal

ROCHES DE SANG

(Bloody Stones)

450 pages, Apr-23, XO

Film rights under negotiation.

A breathless hunt and quest for redemption in the heart of Europe.

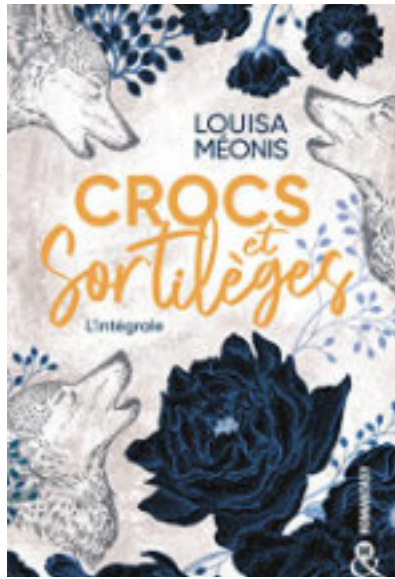
What if the victims were actually the culprits?

Olivier Bal is 43 years old. Three years ago, he has taken the thriller world by storm. a winner of the Prix de la Ligue de l'imaginaire, he is the author of Beware of Angels, The Clara Miller Affair and The Forest of the Vanished all published by Xo éditions

BEHIND THE SCENES OF ORGANIZED CRIME.

Corsica, 1993. After having fled his island, Ange Biasini is forced to return home. His younger brother Theo needs his skills as a former professional freediver to mount a series of unusual robberies involving the yachts of three billionaires. In the process, they will be confronted with something they should never have seen. London, 2019. In an apartment overlooking the Thames, the police have just found a strangled man – a Serbian billionaire. Marie Jansen, an agent for Europol, who had been investigating him, is captivated by a message written in Italian in blood: CHE LA MIA FERITA SIA MORTALE Marie, who grew up in Corsica knows what these words mean: “May my wounds be mortal.” Thus begins a terrifying investigation that will bring her to the “scarred one”, the Godfather, in his lair.

ROMANCE,
FANTASY,
SCI-FI
#BOOKTOK



Louisa Méonis

CROCS ET SORTILÈGES

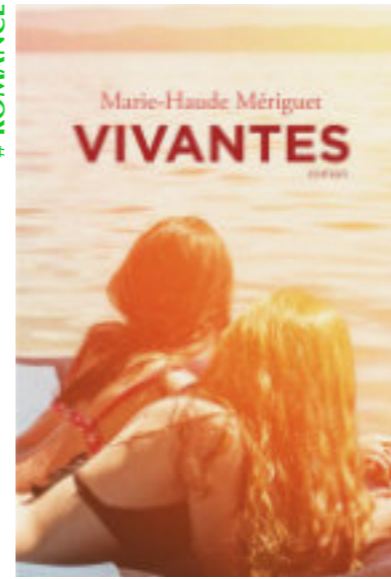
(Fangs and Witchcraft)

400 pages, Mar-24, Gregory Messina

IF YOU GO OUT IN THE WOODS TODAY, MAYBE THE WOLF WILL KISS YOU!

Léontine isn't even surprised when she finds out the sexy stranger who kissed her stupid a few days ago is a werewolf. After all, her life has been spiraling out of control lately... She just lost her fiancé (who it turns out is gay) and her apartment, succeeded in a job she never wanted, and she had to cross the ocean to come live with her aunt near Seattle. So not even a werewolf, however impressive he may be, will make her lose her cool! There's only one problem: he must never find out she's a witch, and she can't interfere in his pack's problems. That would be bad. She must avoid him as much as she can but she gets lost in his eyes, can't look away from his abs, and how could she resist this perfect mix of bestial passion and intoxicating sweetness?

First discovered in 2017 for her successful series "Lola", Louisa Méonis began writing texts almost at the same time as she learned to read. A compulsive devourer of stories of all kinds, she enjoys inventing thrilling intrigues just as much, to the delight of her readers.



Marie-Haude Mériquet

VIVANTES

(Alive)

416 pages, May-24, Gregory Messina

BETWEEN THE SENSUALITY OF AN ITALIAN SUMMER AND THE POWER OF EMOTIONS PLAYED OUT DURING ADOLESCENCE, AN ADDICTIVE AND INCANDESCENT COMING OF AGE NOVEL THAT ALREADY SOLD 12 000 COPIES IN PRINT WHEN SELF-PUBLISHED.

1996, Nicolette is sent to Italy to look after the two young boys of a rich Franco-Italian family. For the student, who dreams of travel and emancipation, this immersion in the grandiose landscapes of the Dolomites is the beginning of an adventure. There, she meets Faustine, the daughter in the family who is just a year or two younger than she is. Faustine is as sunny as she is mysterious; their complicity is immediate. Together, through unforgettable parties, first romantic stirrings and trips to the lake, they experience an absolute concentration of life. However, there remains an elusive part in Faustine, which escapes her friend: something like an unfathomable sorrow, which disturbs the euphoria of their summer nights. So much so that Nicolette realizes that she was brought there to look after Faustine rather than the two boys. As one secret after another is revealed, Nicolette makes discoveries that are about to forever change her relationship with the world and with friendship.

Marie-Haude Mériquet was born in 1983 in Paris. Creator of the blog "Marie Grain de sel", she now devotes her time to writing. Vivantes is her second novel.



Lorena Brumuidi

ALIX 1 - LE MYSTÈRE @CRUSH

(Alix)

648 pages, Jul-24, Hachette Romans

A fresh, easy-to-read romance that tastes like a tangy sweet. A subplot of investigation and mystery.

Alongside A CONTRE-SENS by Mercedes Ron, A TRAVERS MA FENÊTRE by Ariana Godoy, DID I MENTION I LOVE you by Estelle Maskame, etc.

ALIX'S SUMMER COULDN'T HAVE GOT OFF TO A WORSE START.

She's just failed her driver's licence, her boyfriend broke up with her just before her French A-levels, which she's probably also failed, and she's finding it harder and harder to stand her best friend. The only thing that cheers her up is that during the holidays, @Crush, the account that spills all the school's secrets and of which she is the favourite target, should give her a break. Or not... A light, spicy summer romance. A slice of life, the summer after a break-up.



Liv Stone

KING OF SCOTS

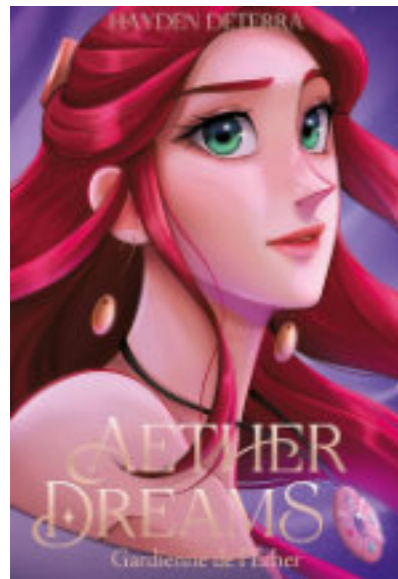
(King of Scots)

544 pages, Jan-24, Hachette Romans

3500 copies sold within three weeks.

WHAT IF SCOTLAND WAS STILL AN INDEPENDENT MONARCHY WITH CLAN WARS? WHAT IF THE YOUNG KING ABSOLUTELY HAD TO MARRY TO CALM TENSIONS?

In a Scotland ruled by a monarchy supported by clans and parliament, King Aedan Stuart I is at a turning point in his reign. Faced with one of the greatest challenges of his life -marrying and siring an heir - Aedan is looking for a distraction to lighten the burden of his responsibilities. That's when Halley, an ambitious young pastry chef, is recruited to join the royal palace's culinary brigade. Although she grew up in Los Angeles, her Scottish roots run deep. She even shares a common past with King Aedan, who was her babysitter for a summer on Skye! While he takes a malicious pleasure in enjoying his place at the top, Halley doesn't seem to give in to the charm he arouses, remembering above all a cruel teenager. But with each nocturnal dessert she brings him, a step is taken. Intimacy is born, defenses crumble, and initial animosity gives way to mutual fascination. And if they're not careful, they could find themselves caught up in a storm of passion, secrets and conspiracies that could jeopardize the future of a Scotland in the throes of transformation.



Hayden Deterra

AETHER DREAMS TI - GARDIENNE DE L'ÉTHÉR

(Aether Dreams, Guardian of the Ether)

384 pages, Sep-23, Hachette Romans

In the footsteps of Alice Oseman, who first published Heartstopper on Tumblr In the footsteps of Rachel Smythe for Lore Olympus (Hugo BD, 38,000 copies sold in France) 90M views

An illustrated romantasy, a thrilling enemies-to-lovers story with real tension between the characters Between La Passeuse de mots : a lost heroine with hidden powers helped by a mysterious stranger and the Spanish duology (Planeta) Strawberry Moon by Laia Lopez: a colourful and addictive illustrated novel

When she started her webtoon a few years ago, author-illustrator Hayden Deterra already had the idea of writing the novels in parallel and thus building a truly rich and complete transmedia universe. The novel isn't just a novelisation of the first part of the webtoon, it's a truly original creation that will appeal to fans of the webtoon as much as to readers who don't know the webtoon (yet) . The novel is accompanied by an 8-page colour booklet with previously unpublished illustrations. A second novel is in preparation for September 2024. In 2024 Hachette Romans will be publishing the webtoon itself as a graphic novel, again with additions.

A HIGHLY ORIGINAL PROJECT SINCE IT IS A NOVEL BASED ON THE POPULAR FRENCH WEBTOON AETHER DREAMS.

Amnesiac and lost in the middle of nowhere, Hayden is more alone than she's ever been. The only thing that connects her to her past is a strange necklace she wore around her neck when she woke up in the forest. The pendant seems to be inhabited by mysterious energies and, as she feels them, the stones begin to glow, as if coming to life. As Hayden struggles to acclimatise to her new life, she meets Leigh, a young man who is as enigmatic as he is intrusive, and who seems to know exactly who she is. At his side, Hayden finds herself plunged into a world of magic and danger in which she may hold the key... How far will her quest for identity take her?



Alice Doublie

ELLES & LE FEU

(She, Them & Fire)

480 pages, May-24, Hachette Romans

Inspiring heroines ready to do anything to change the course of their destiny.

All the codes of fantasy: different kingdoms, magic and fire, princes and princesses, conspiracies. An original 3-voice text.

A political fantasy that tackles powerful contemporary issues: consent, abortion, motherhood, sexual orientation, etc.

One of the subplots is a lesbian romance.

Alice Doublie was born in 1995 in a small village in Isère. She has been dreaming and imagining stories ever since she first walked through the doors of the local library. After studying political science, she felt out of place. She gave up everything to find a job in the reception area of a publishing house, trained as a proofreader and, above all, wrote avidly. In her manuscripts, she delights in dissecting the dark side of her characters. ELLES & LE FEU is her first novel.

THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THREE PRINCESSES AND THREE DESTINIES LINKED BY THE POWER OF FIRE. 15+

In a world that reveres fire as much as it fears it, hunting down fire-cursed beings has brought peace to the unified kingdoms. When the prince of the most powerful kingdom reaches the age of marriage, the noble families see it as an opportunity to increase their influence and place their princess on the supreme throne. Among them, Alyhia has only one objective: not to be chosen. Ever since she was a child, she has been hiding a dangerous secret. She can spread fire, and if discovered, she would be killed. Efa, on the other hand, is dying to be noticed. For her, this event may be the only chance to escape her parents' clutches. For Sybil, the stakes are quite different. As the heiress of a fragile kingdom, she needs allies if she is to have any hope of remaining free. Between plots and scheming, the meeting of these three young women throws their destiny into turmoil. And when love gets involved, the whole continent is in danger of going up in flames.



Marie F Florie

B COMME BOOK BOYFRIEND

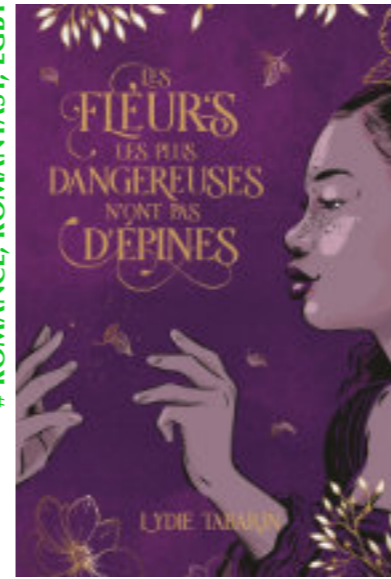
(B is for Book Boyfriend)

468 pages, Mar-24, Hachette Romans

ENGLISH SUMMARY AVAILABLE.

A BOOKSTAGRAMMER ARRIVES AT UNIVERSITY WHILE A CHILDHOOD FRIEND RESURFACES: THE PERFECT FEEL-GOOD ROMANCE! WHAT IF LIFE WAS JUST AS GOOD AS IN THE BOOKS?

It's Norie's freshman year and she fully intends to enjoy this new adventure with her best friend Penny (her "chick"). They have been like sisters since junior high and are seldom seen without one another. Together, they review their favorite literary discoveries (mostly romance and fantasy novels) on an Instagram account with the handle The Book B (for "Book Best friend", their take on the popular term "Book Boyfriend"). They garner about 80 000 followers and are in partnerships with several publishing houses. Norie was far from expecting any real-life romance in her outgoing booklover's life. But the day the pair of "chicks" moves in on campus, Joshua, her childhood friend she hadn't seen in years, comes knocking on their door. She is happy to see him again though she feels slightly embarrassed. He was her very first crush, and she never confessed to him. Now, they will be living in the same dorms, just three doors apart from each other. Though none of that matters since he's no longer her crush... right?



Lydie Barantin

LES FLEURS LES PLUS DANGEREUSES N'ONT PAS D'ÉPINES

(Deadly Flowers Don't Have Thorns)

400 pages, Jan-24, Hachette Romans

ENGLISH SUMMARY AVAILABLE.

Two enemies united to clear their families' names.

The bewitching gift of mastering flowers and aromas. Between poison and power, a magic that must remain secret.

A colourful and suspenseful romantasy, somewhere between Queen Charlotte and Romeo & Juliet.

An original plot inspired by the court of Versailles and the tea trade.

A LESBIAN HISTORICAL ROMANTASY SET IN THE TEA WORLD. 15+

In the neo-kingdom of Etheros, keeping up appearances is key. The De Mora and Rodrigues families are keenly aware of this fact. Acknowledged and well-respected as refined tea makers throughout the country, they have even gained entry to the royal palace. Their business flourishes in the busy capital of Acelerno despite their undying rivalry, which drives them to compete against one another in hopes to outdo the other's tea recipes. Isabel de Mora and Andarina Rodrigues are the true heirs to this toxic rivalry: they each shall find no peace until they have crushed the other, thus becoming the best tea maker of the kingdom. When the queen's mysterious death is attributed to the tea she drank, royal guards are quietly dispatched to take the heirs of the two most renowned teahouses in custody. The girls are told to use their fine knowledge of tea to identify Her Majesty's assassin.



Sarah Rivens

LAKESTONE

(Lakestone)

800 pages, Jan-24, Hachette Romans

68,000 copies sold in two weeks.

IN THE DECEPTIVE TRANQUILITY OF THE AMERICAN TOWN OF EWING, IRIS, STUCK IN THE LIBRARY, IS RIVETED TO HER BOOKS.

Miles away, a mercenary faces the bitter cold of the night, as icy as the corpse he's just buried. They have nothing in common, yet both have the same goal: to make enough money. Iris, to pay her university tuition fees; the mercenary, to complete his mission. A mission in which she is the target. From now on, her existence is linked to his, a connection that awakens his curiosity and desire. Torn from the life she's always known, the young student finds herself at the mercy of the mercenary whose impulsiveness has forged his reputation, one who was shaped to kill...A mercenary named Lakestone.

Sarah Rivens, the one who shook the French publishing world with her trilogy CAPTIVE (600k copies soldn translated in 10 languages)).

A success in figures: 155 K followers on instagram, 96K on Tiktok, 124M views for #Asherscott on tiktok, 584M views for #Captive N°1 Best-selling author in trade paperback Fiction in 2022, 3 books in the market top 100 for a year.



Camille Créati

FALLEN ANGEL

(Fallen Angel)

400 pages, Jun-23, Hachette Romans

In the top 30 bestselling books of 2023. 80,000 copies sold in total.

Rights sold in Czech (Dobrovsky).

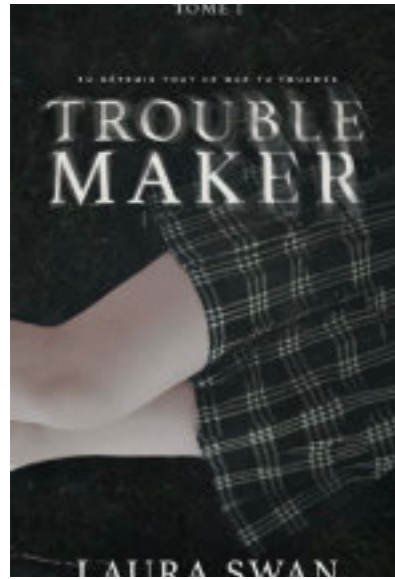
A world of mafia and clan wars. Tortured heroes, enemies-to-lovers.

No problematic scenes.

Memorable characters: the enigmatic bodyguard and the boss's sassy daughter, a gallery of secondary characters.

ERATO IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD OF ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST POWERFUL GANGS. BUT FOR THIS YOUNG WOMAN WHO GREW UP OUTSIDE THE MAFIA, THIS WORLD REMAINS A MYSTERY. NOTHING HAD PREPARED HER TO BECOME THE TARGET OF HER FATHER'S ENEMIES OVERNIGHT.

Her life is turned upside down: forced to leave her family, she moves into an isolated villa. From now on, she is under the constant surveillance of her regular bodyguard, the dangerous and enigmatic Caz. Caz can't understand why he's been given this job. As long as he's been a member of the Bloody Reapers, he's been longing for something more than babysitting! And Era's provocations only make him angrier. Their cohabitation couldn't have got off to a worse start... Yet he's not insensitive to the fiery temperament of his boss's daughter. And for her part, Era has to admit that the young man is terribly attractive. Torn between a mutual hatred and a forbidden attraction, Era and Caz will have to learn to tame each other if they are to prevail over the enemy. A risky gamble from which no one will emerge unscathed...



Laura Swan

TROUBLEMAKER

(Troublemaker)

612 pages, Nov-23, Hachette Romans

50,000 copies sold.

LAURA SWAN, THE POWER OF A PEN LIKE NO OTHER COMBINED WITH THE STRENGTH OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

This is June's suffocating daily life: a year left at her prestigious private high school, a year of constant harassment from the other students, a year of surviving in a house where she doesn't belong and where violence fills the air. One night, when she's home alone, thieves break in. One of them spots her and orders her to keep quiet, saving her life. Months later, this episode seems forgotten, when a new teacher appears at her high school. This replacement is none other than the burglar who spared her that night. Shayn, who has been exiled to London following a series of bad choices, now finds himself confronted by June, a witness to a past he had left behind. To ensure her silence, he's ready for all kinds of intimidation. But June has no intention of giving in. For while Shayn is determined to keep his secrets, she is also fighting to preserve hers.



Laurent Mantese

LA SONDE ET LA TAILLE

(The Probe and the Scalpel)

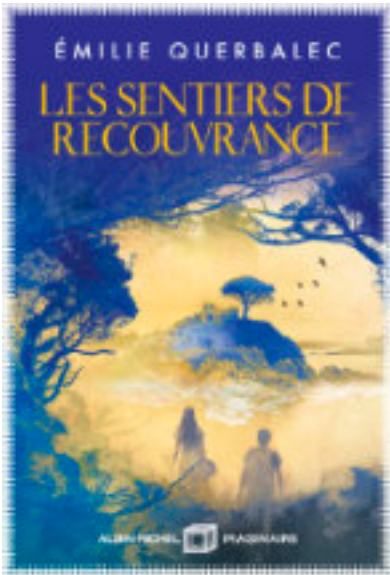
650 pages, May-24

Albin Michel

THIS STORMY, DARK NOVEL PAYS HONOURS THE CHARACTER OF CONAN, OLD AGE, SICKNESS AND FATHERHOOD.

Conan, the king of seven nations, is old. In the eyes of the Barbarian he remains – in spite of the kingdom's gold and the affectation of the court – he has reached the formidable age that is counted by multiplying the total number of fingers on both hands by eight. In his fortress in Kaldre, in his native land of Cimmeria, he endlessly receives visitors and he suffers from kidney pain. This is the illness that will kill him. As all those around him plot in the shadows, gaze covetously at his ebony throne – sharpening their knives and preparing the succession – one surgical intervention could still save him: a probe and the scalpel. A dangerous operation that could just as easily hasten his death. But what does he have to lose? Nothing, especially if he wants to have the chance to die with his sword in his hand, protecting the only thing that now matters in his eyes: his adoptive son.

Laurent Mantese is a professor of philosophy and the author of several novels and selections of short stories.



Emilie Querbalec

LES SENTIERS DE RECOUVRANCE

(The Paths to 'Recouvrance')

240 pages, Jan-24

Albin Michel

A POIGNANT, LUMINOUS PORTRAIT OF TWO TEENAGERS MINGLING THEIR OWN RECOVERY WITH THE ONE OF EARTH.

2035. Anastasia grew up in Spain as it reeled under the consequences of global warming. After the accidental death of her father, she felt like a stranger in the ruins of her own family. Ayden, for his part, has learned to his own expense that if you play with fire, you get burnt. Leaving their broken lives behind them, each one sets sail for Brittany, to the Island of Recouvrance, where a revolutionary method of psychotherapy and the hope of a better life await them.

Émilie Querbalec was born in Japan. Although Japanese is her mother tongue, it's in French that she feels most comfortable writing. After a convenient stint in literary preparatory classes, she studied photography, oriental languages and art history, before working in a variety of professions whose sole purpose was to feed her passion for travel. Today, she divides her time between her job as a nutritionist and writing.