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## **FICTION**

### **BEST-SELLERS 2011**

**Gaudé, Laurent: *OURAGAN***  
(Actes Sud, August 2010, 190 pages)  
Over 150,000 copies sold in France!!!

As the Hurricane is roaring by, flows of refugees are running away from New Orleans. Going against the current is one man, Keanu. The announcement of this meteorological catastrophe has awoken him from the apathy he was plunged into after a dramatic accident on the oilrig where he was working. He has realised that he has to get back to Rose, the woman he loved and who is about to brave the storm. Rose has a child, the fruit of her failed love, as she puts it. As those two destinies are going to be reunited, we also hear the voices of other outcasts, black people that no one really cares to help out of the inferno: Josephine, almost one hundred years old, the living memory of the city, a priest whose faith is going to be trialled, a silent boy, a group of prisoners who have been abandoned in jail after the guards have fled... The dikes are destroyed, alligators invade the city but the characters will be confronted with monsters of a different kind: fear, violence, stupidity, indifference...

In this apocalyptic context, Laurent Gaudé wrote an ambitious novel that studies human behaviour at its climax with his usual delicacy and beautifully crafted style, in the vein of CRIS and ELDORADO.

Born in 1972, Laurent Gaudé is a novelist and a playwright. He has published five novels with Actes Sud: CRIS (2001), LA MORT DU ROI TSONGOR (2002, *Prix Goncourt des Lycéens, Prix des Libraires*), LE SOLEIL DES SCORTA (2004, *Prix Goncourt*), ELDORADO and LA PORTE DES ENFERS (2008) along with a collection of short stories, DANS LA NUIT MOZAMBIQUE (2007).

The Russian rights several previous books are sold to AST-Group.

*“Puissant. L’adjectif sied parfaitement au nouveau roman de Laurent Gaudé... Passant avec virtuosité d’une voix à l’autre, Laurent Gaudé explore ces âmes confrontées à l’apocalypse.”* **Le Figaro Magazine**

*“Jamais Laurent Gaudé n’a été autant en symbiose avec son sujet, jamais il n’a réussi à porter aussi violemment le choc en nous.(...) Une force intérieure qui ne s’explique pas mais se lit intensément.”* **Le Soir**

*“L’écrivain ose le lyrisme absolu, sans jamais s’essouffler.(...) Il a toujours le mot juste. (...) Livre après livre, Laurent Gaudé s’impose comme un de nos meilleurs conteurs du monde moderne.”* **Les Échos**

*“Un roman haletant qui mène au cœur de la tourmente et du chaos. Une vraie belle réussite que vous n’êtes pas prêts d’oublier.”* **Lire**

**Binet, Laurent: *HHhH***  
(Grasset, January 2010, 448 p.)  
**Prix Goncourt du Premier Roman 2010 - First Novel**  
**60.000 copies of the trade edition sold in France**

The novel’s title, *HHhH*, refers to an acronym invented by the SS: “Himmlers Hirn heißt Heydrich”, or “Himmler’s brain is called Heydrich”. The novel, retracing events from 1938 to 1942, consists of short chapters recounting episodes from different times and places, all converging towards the fateful day of the assassination in Prague.

All the characters really existed – indeed, some are still alive. The author has recounted the facts as faithfully as possible, resisting the temptation to embroider the truth. How should History be narrated? The author himself becomes a character in the book, detailing his own uncertainties, doubts, and hesitations. The search for historical truth is an obsessive and endless quest.

Laurent Binet was born in Paris and is now 37. He was posted to Slovakia for his military service and now divides his time between Paris and Prague. He teaches at both high school and university. *HHhH* is his first novel.

## ***BEST-SELLERS 2011***

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Foreign rights sold to: Castilian (Seix Barral), Catalan (1984 Editions), Chinese complex characters (Ye-Ren), Czech Republic (Argo), Dutch (Meulenhoff), English World (USA: Farrar, Straus & Giroux / UK: Harvill Secker), German (Rowohlt), Hebrew (Kinneret), Hungarian (Europa), Italian (Einaudi), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha), Norwegian (Gyldendal Norsk), Polish (Wydawnictwo Literackie), Portuguese (Brazil: Companhia das Letras / Portugal: Porto Editora), Slovakia (Marenčin).

*Laurent Binet travels back and forth in time and space, between his own personal comments and historical documents, gradually putting together a puzzle that reveals an ever clearer picture of what happened that day, together with a few faces” **Nouvel Observateur***

*“The heart of his project is this: above all, avoid dressing historical characters up as fictional ones; do not reduce their lived experience to mere narrative material; refuse to strike a pose on the pretext of defending their cause.” **Le Monde***

### **Musso, Guillaume: *LA FILLE DE PAPIER***

**(Editions XO, April 1, 2010)**

**N#1 on the bestseller lists**

**615,000 copies in France in Trade+Club!**

**Pocket print-run: 500 000 copies**

*“She appeared on my terrace on a stormy night, soaking wet and stark naked: - Where did *you* come from? - I fell... - Fell out of what? - Fell out of your book. You know, out of your story! ”*

Tom Boyd, a famous writer who's suffering from writer's block, meets one day the heroin of his novels. She's pretty, desperate, and tells him she will die if he stops writing. Impossible? And yet... Tom and Billie will embark together on an adventure where reality and fiction are intricately intertwined, constantly shifting in a seductive and potentially deadly game... A lively and saucy comedy, romantic and suspenseful fantasy.

Guillaume Musso is a phenomenon. Through his seven novels, translated the world over, this 36-year-old has conquered the hearts of millions of readers, and has imposed an original style, where suspense and emotion are closely woven together.

Foreign rights sold to: China (Thinkingdom), Korea (Balgunesang), Croatia (Naklada Ljevak), Spain (Editorial Planeta), Italy (Sperling & Kupfer) Norway (Pantagruel forlag), Poland (Albatros), Romania (Editura Allfa), Taiwan (Crown), Thailand (Amarin), Turkey (Dogan kitap), Vietnam (Nha Nam)

The Russian rights for the previous novels are sold to Geleos Ltd. Geleos Ltd has an option for offer.

*“With Musso, emotion is majorly emphasised.” **Le Figaro Magazine***

*“Musso demonstrates he is the master at creating mystery.” **Paris Match***

*“The intrigue is beautifully crafted, and the ending is deftly put together and quite unpredictable” **Le Figaro Littéraire***

*“Musso is particularly gifted in the art of creating original intrigue, and in keeping us in suspense until the very last page” **Direct soir***

### **Rufin, Jean-Christophe: *KATIBA***

**(Flammarion April 2010, 400 pages)**

**In France 100,000 copies sold**

A *katiba* is an Islamist fighter camp based in the Sahara - both a hideout and a resting point, a place where people pray, negotiate and kill. Invisible from above by plane or satellite, this is where terrorist plots are hatched and attacks are rehearsed. Kader Bel Kader, in charge of the zone stretching between Mali, Algeria and Mauritania, decides to short-circuit the other rampant bands of traffickers and so assert his influence over the heads of Al-Qaeda.

On the way to Mauritania where he is being sent by the intelligence agency Providence (already active behind the scenes in *Le Parfum d'Adam*) to spy on the leaders of these terrorist attacks, Dim comes across a young woman, Jasmine, as fascinating as she is disturbing. With French and Algerian nationality, familiar with the ins and outs of Western diplomacy and the new laws on terrorist warfare, she walks on the edge of two enemy worlds. Jasmine is a living incarnation of the Senegalese proverb which opens the novel and hints at its main plot: “A dog may well have four legs but it still can't follow two paths at once.”

After publishing LE PARFUM D'ADAM which sold 130,000 copies (rights sold in 13 countries), Jean-Christophe Rufin is back with a geopolitical thriller centred on a burning issue. Ambassador to Senegal for the last two years, with first-hand experience of the changes in international relations since Obama's election, Jean-Christophe Rufin in his role as novelist freely draws inspiration from these topical events.

Foreign rights sold to: Germany, Spain, China, Turkey. The Russian rights for the previous novels are sold to Inostranka/Atticus

*“An excellent thriller with an excellent sense of pace, suspense and the world seen from different angles.”* **Libération**

*“A captivating thriller that gives the keys to understand the workings of international terrorism. Certainly his best novel in a long time.”* **L'Express**

*“A gripping geopolitical thriller, sharp and effective, strikingly authentic. [...] Nothing is simply black or white in this fiction but human flaws and qualities are depicted with a keen eye, certainly acquired by the author through his multiples lives.”* **Le Figaro Littéraire**

## **THE HIGHLIGHT SPRING 2011**

### **Dai Sijie: *TROIS VIES CHINOISES* (Flammarion, January 2011, 144 pages)**

Three tales as rich in imagination as the prison-island where they take place is destitute: the young “Ho Chi Minh” is sentenced to death at the very moment when he believes he is reaching his hour of glory, after leaving behind the mountains of electrical waste heaped upon the nobility Island.

A young painter grows up between piles of televisions and computers. While his family fades away, he seems to surround himself with a protective shield enabling him to face life like an “armoured tank crossing mountains”. At the Sunrise Farm re-education camp on the Island, a warden earns a miserable wage. Perpetually with a cigarette hanging from his mouth, he is nicknamed the “Water Reservoir Bogart”. He forces his daughter to ice skate before his eyes every winter – until the ice reveals a secret that will shatter his family.

Tough and dense as ice, these three tales are also bewitchingly playful and graceful. Three modern and timeless family dramas, haunting for their poetic force and paradoxical freedom.

Dai Sijie is a writer, screenwriter and film director. He has been translated into 25 languages.

Foreign rights sold to: Germany, The Russian rights for previous books are sold to Inostranka/Atticus

### **Fargues, Nicolas: *TU VERRAS* (P.O.L., February 2011, 208 pages) 20,000 copies already sold in France**

**#16 in the Express best-seller list**

***Awarded the Prix France Culture / Télérama 2011***

After the premature death of his teenage boy, a griefstricken man will have to face his inner disorder.

TU VERRAS relates the days and weeks following the accidental death of a teenager, knocked down by an underground train. The spectacular gamble of the author is to describe his father's state of mind after this tragedy: how he rethinks their past life and the conflicts that began to oppose them. Nicolas Fargues manages to draw a faithful portrait of a today's teenager as well as the characteristic of a single father, his awkward and oppressive love. Without complacency, he explores this crucial situation to raise a reflexion on the meaning of paternal love.

Born in 1972 in France, Nicolas Fargues lived abroad until age 11. He studied literature and worked alternately for television and press and for the Alliance Française in Madagascar. Nicolas Fargues published eight novels with P.O.L., including J'ÉTAIS DERRIÈRE TOI (2006) that sold 95,000 copies in France in trade and 100,000 copies in paperback, and has been translated into 14 languages: UK (Pushkin Press), Germany (Rowohlt), Italy (Nottetempo), Russian (Azbooka), Spain (Edaf), Denmark (Per Kofod), Sweden (Elisabeth Grate), Finland (Like), Poland (Muza), Serbia (Laguna), Croatia (Profil), Greece (Modern Times), Azbooka (Russia), Turkey (Dusunce) and Israel (Babel).

Foreign rights sold to: Israël (Babel)

*“Un écrivain peut-il raconter cette douleur-là s'il ne l'a pas réellement vécue ? Avec TU VERRAS, Nicolas Fargues prouve brillamment que oui, à sa manière singulière.”* **La Vie**

*“Dans ce roman sec et tranchant, Nicolas Fargues bouscule les clichés et casse les effets attendus. (...) Un beau roman.”* **Le Figaro littéraire**

*“TU VERRAS, au-delà de l'émotion qu'il suscite, devient passionnant. Parce qu'il ne flirte jamais avec le pathos, au contraire, mais fonce dans le règlement de comptes avec soi-même.”* **Elle**

### **Picouly, Daniel: LA NUIT DE LAMPEDUSA (Albin Michel, March 2011, 482 pages)**

General Bonaparte, coming back from his Egyptian campaign, crosses the path of a woman who will obsess his mind to the point of endangering his 1799 coup d'Etat.

June 14, 1799, Bonaparte is marching back to Cairo at the head of a defeated army, while in Paris, 18-year-old Jeanne attends the funeral of the Chevalier de Saint-George, after learning that she is carrying his child. Meanwhile, a horseman had been carrying a call for help to Saint-George, from General Dumas, imprisoned in Sicily... Jeanne, Edmond and Jonathan, two of the Chevalier's brothers-in-arms, will pay that debt of honour at the cost of many adventures.

In the night of September 21, just off the island of Lampedusa, Bonaparte and Jeanne meet and live an intense and fugitive love that will almost compromise Bonaparte's political plans.

After L'ENFANT LEOPARD, Daniel Picouly continues his exploration of the XVIIIst century, capturing historical characters to make them evolve in a fictional narration, built out of facts, personal assumptions and passion for History.

Daniel Picouly is a scriptwriter of comic books and presents a cultural show on TV. Author of LE CHAMP DE PERSONNE en 1995, he received the prestigious Prix Renaudot for L'ENFANT LÉOPARD in 1999.

### **Bassignac, Sophie: DOS À DOS (JC Lattès, January 2011, 200 pages)**

A tragic-comedy of desire and parent/child relationships, this engaging and fast-paced novel delves deep into the themes of artistic creation and the measure of guilt that plagues us all.

Arnaud has been away from Saint-Tropez for years when one night in late August he shows up unannounced at his parents' home, the Villa des Roses. The next morning his father Gabriel, a novelist in his fifties who is suffering from writer's block, reads a shocking text message intended for his son and learns that Arnaud is wanted by the police. After Arnaud's precipitous departure, Gabriel rushes to catch up with his son in a flurry of rage and anxiety. Tormented by his writing and by his Italian wife, Ester, who ferociously and blindly defends Arnaud, Gabriel will have to rediscover this son whom he thought he knew so well. How can people who were so close become such strangers?

Sophie Bassignac lives in Paris. After two books published by Denoel, DOS À DOS is her third novel.

The Russian rights for her previous novel are sold to Inostranka/Atticus

*“Avec le doigté qu'on lui connaît, Sophie Bassignac orchestre un ballet atypique dont le lecteur emballé ne perd pas une miette.”* **Livres Hebdo**

*“DOS A DOS est d'autant plus réussi qu'il livre une réflexion passionnante sur la création artistique, à commencer par l'écriture.”* **Lire**

*“Une tragi-comédie familiale pimentée par des seconds rôles (...) qu'elle sait mettre en valeur comme dans les plus grands films d'après guerre.”* Madame Figaro

### **Jardin, Alexandre: DES GENS TRÈS BIEN (Grasset January 2011, 304 pages)**

**N°2 in the Fiction bestseller list with already 135 000 copies sold.**

A chilling study of the dangers of moral certainty in the minds of fine upstanding men.

Alexandre Jardin's Des gens très bien recounts the author's own personal story since the age of seventeen, when he began to understand the chilling implications of his grandfather's job as private secretary to

Pierre Laval, one of the leading figures of the Vichy government and principal architect of France's collaboration with the Nazi regime. Alexandre Jardin explores what makes "fine upstanding men" become complicit in such horror, without ever once questioning their own morality.

For his latest book, the author of *LE ZÈBRE* and *LE ROMAN DES JARDIN* has taken a brand new direction. Never before has a member of the Jardin family set out to explore the truth about the family's past, mythologised over the years in a flattering light. The author now takes a closer look at the dark side of his grandfather Jean Jardin, known in political circles as the Yellow Dwarf.

Alexandre Jardin has published a number of novels, including the best-sellers *LE ZÈBRE*, *FANFAN*, *LE ZUBIAL*, *LE ROMAN DES JARDIN* and *QUINZE ANS APRÈS*.

Foreign rights sold: Italian (Bompiani).

Foreign rights sold to previous works: Dutch (De Bezige Bij), German (C. Bertelsmann), Greek (Modern Times), Italian (Bompiani), Korean (Munhak Segye-Sa), Romanian (Humanitas), Russian (Corpus), Turkish (Can Yayinlari).

*"Masterful. [...] A sparkling gem. Everything Alexandre Jardin has written has been leading up to this book."* **Télérama**

*"Sincerity suits Jardin; he has written a sensitive book – and one that is bound to be polemical – on the notion of family heritage, and on a very French part of history."* **Elle**

*"Des gens très bien is Alexandre Jardin's best book to date. He has dropped his mask to gaze clear-eyed at – and to exorcise – reality."* **La Tribune**

**Rostain, Michel: *LE FILS***  
**(Editions Oh !, January 2011, 320 pages)**  
**65 000 copies already sold in France**  
***The Goncourt Debut Novel Prize 2011***

Michel Rostain captivates us with the story of an unthinkable sorrow after the loss of his son. With modesty and finesse, he reveals to us the twists and turns of a father's boundless love for his son, and tells his own grief through his son's benevolent, lucid and ironic voice.

"Eleven days after I died, Dad took my blanket to the dry cleaner's. Walking up the Rue du Couedic, his nose buried in my bedding. He's telling himself he's smelling my smell, when in fact it stinks, since I never actually washed the sheets, or the blanket. He's not shocked by it anymore, on the contrary. He's carrying the little bit of me that is left in the smell between the sheets as if he were carrying a sacred cloth. He's crying, his face hidden in the cotton. He's immersing himself in it. Finally, after one last sniff, he enters the shop. He can't put it off anymore. Condolences, etc. The dry cleaner – condolences again, etc.- takes the blanket from dad. Daddy wanted more than anything for it to last longer, a queue, a delivery, a storm, so he could have a few precious moments to breathe in my smell. Daddy is laid bare, he's losing, he's losing..."

Michel Rostain lives in Provence. Born in 1942, a musician and a theatre director, he founded in 1978 the "Un Théâtre pour la musique" company. From 1995 to 2008 he headed the Scène nationale de Quimper – Théâtre de Cornouailles where he directed mainly contemporary works and commissioned works.

Foreign rights sold in 6 languages: German (C Bertelsmann), Dutch (Mouria), Italian (Elliott Edizioni), Spanish (La Esfera de los libros), Portuguese (Sextante), Korean (Yolimwon)

*"The kindness of a son watching over his discombobulated father. A father desperately grasping at humour in an attempt to pick up the pieces left of himself."* **Libération**

*"In his novel *Le Fils*, by conjuring up the strength of the moment and the chaos of grief, without getting bogged down in lengthy and tearful descriptions, Michel Rostain sends a universal message...Long live life."* **Le Télégramme**

*"A both moving and sober work".* **Ouest France**

### **Gran, Iegor: *L'ÉCOLOGIE EN BAS DE CHEZ MOI***

(P.O.L., February 2011, 256 pages)

20,000 copies already sold in France

#18 in the Express best-seller list

Short-listed for the Prix Vialatte 2011

With his cynical humor, Iegor Gran expresses his indignation toward the ecologist dictatorship that grows more and more restrictive and popular.

The era of ecology has poisoned many aspects of life : domestic habits, transports, relations with neighbors, even friendship. Most ecological initiatives, led by righteousness and “civil duties”, make Iegor Gran sick. The violent reactions against an hostile article he published shows the uniformity of public opinion : any criticism against ecology has become a taboo. With subtle derision, he uncovers the hypocrisy and intellectual passivity that often motivate ecological supporters. Openly disrespectful, this caustic book will help us play down the inhibiting importance of environmental issues by a burst of black laughter.

Born in Moscow in 1964, Iegor Gran writes in French. His dark humor was rewarded in 2003 by le “Grand Prix de l'humour noir” for his novel ONG ! (P.O.L., 2003). He is the author of eight novels, from his first novel IPSO FACTO (POL, 1998) to THRILLER (POL, 2009).

Foreign rights of his previous books sold to: Spain (Lengua de Trapo, Siruela, RBA Libros/La Magrana), Greece (Astarti), Germany (Dumont Buchverlag), Denmark (Tiderne Skifter), Italy (Mondadori), the Netherlands (Arbeiderspers, Ijzer), Russia (Zakharov) and Korea (Cirkus Publishers).

“Gran, lui, ne fait décidément pas parti des militants du sympa ou de ceux qui acceptent que l'on pense à leur place. Qui s'en plaindra ?” **Livres Hebdo**

“Affaire de ton plus que de fond : l'atmosphère de pêché originel, d'encens millénariste, lui donne de l'urticaire (...) Fils du dissident Andreï Sinivaski, c'est la dissémination et l'assimilation de l'idéologie, aussi douce soit-elle, qu'il craint : cette union du fond et “de la forme et du fond” qui fait agir, parler, penser chez soi comme à la messe.” **Libération**

### **Besson, Philippe: *RETOUR PARMIS LES HOMMES***

(Julliard/Robert Laffont January 2011, 224 pages)

In 2001, Philippe Besson made his graceful entrance onto the international literary scene with *En l'absence des hommes* (translated in 10 languages). He introduced Vincent who, at 16, was as old as the century while France was at war. Vincent's beauty and precocity captivated two men: Marcel, some thirty years his senior, a writer and celebrated socialite; and Arthur, the 21 year old son of one of the servants who was a soldier at the front home for a week's leave. Both relationships became love affairs of a kind – of the mind or of the body. Confidences were made, absences endured and secrets revealed. Arthur's premature death during the war devastated Vincent with unspeakable pain.

Now, 7 years later, Vincent returns to Paris after having traveled the world to runaway from his memories of Arthur. He realized that it wasn't enough to become someone else, he had to find the courage to become himself. A new encounter once again turns tragic and it will at last give him the strength to mourn Arthur's loss.

Philippe Besson has published with Julliard *SON FRÈRE* which was adapted for the cinema by director Patrice Chéreau, *UN HOMME ACCIDENTEL* which is currently being adapted for the big screen, *EN L'ABSENCE DES HOMMES* which is being adapted for the London stage, *Un garçon d'Italie*, *LES JOURS FRAGILES*, *L'ARRIÈRE-SAISON* (grand prize, RTL-Lire), *UN INSTANT D'ABANDON*, *SE RÉSOUDRE AUX ADIEUX*, and *LA TRAHISON* de Thomas Spencer.

Foreign rights sold for *EN L'ABSENCE DES HOMMES*: USA (Carroll and Graf), UK (Heinemann), Brazil (Rocco), Bulgaria (Uniscorp), China (Shanghai Wanyu Culture & Art), Germany (DTV), Greece (Kastaniotis), Italy (Guanda), Poland (Muza), Portugal (Caleidoscopia), Taiwan (Rye)

“At the height of his talent, Philippe Besson provides this story rhythm, vigor, and pathos. *Retour parmi les hommes* is the best novel that this prolific author has written since *Son frère*.” **Livres Hebdo**

**Malzieu, Mathias: *MÉTAMORPHOSE EN BORD DE CIEL*  
(Flammarion, March 2011, 160 pages)**

Tom Cloudman is undoubtedly the world's worst stuntman. His unintentionally comical acrobatics propel him to the height of glory, promising bright days ahead. Until a doctor treating his umpteenth fracture detects an incurable disease eating away at him.

Thus begins a long hospital stay for Tom, in an attempt to win the fight against what he calls "the Beetroot". During one of his nocturnal wanderings in the hospital corridors, this man who has always dreamed of devouring the clouds, meets a strange creature, half-woman, half-bird, who offers him the following pact: "I can transform you into a bird, which will save your life, but you have to accept the consequences. To trigger your metamorphosis, you will have to make love with me. From this union, a child will perhaps be born. A risk you will have to accept."

In the tradition of his tales for grown-up children, Mathias Malzieu tells the marvellous story of a man who yearns to defy death and to be on familiar terms with the skies. In so doing, he delivers a rare reflection on the power of life and of love.

Mathias Malzieu is the energetic singer of the leading group in French alternative rock: Dionysos. After a highly-praised collection of short stories, 38 mini western (*Pimientos*, 2002), and two best-selling novels: *Maintenant qu'il fait tout le temps nuit sur toi* (Flammarion, 2005), and *La Mécanique du cœur* (Flammarion, 2007), both of which received enormous critical acclaim, Mathias Malzieu is signing his third much-awaited novel. The national and international success of his previous books, notably *LA MÉCANIQUE DU CŒUR*: with over 200,000 copies sold in France, 200,000 copies sold in Spain and translation rights sold into eighteen languages. An adaptation is in production for the cinema with a 3D animated film to be released in October 2012, produced by Luc Besson and directed by Mathias Malzieu .

The Russian rights for *LA MÉCANIQUE DU CŒUR* are sold to Corpus

Foreign rights sold to: Spain, Catalan

**Sylvain, Dominique: *GUERRE SALE*  
(Viviane Hamy, January 2011, 256 pages)  
15,000 copies sold in France  
*Short-listed for the Prix RTL-Lire 2011*  
Now on Livres Hebdo's bestsellers list !**

The atrocious death of Florent Vidal opens this 5th adventure with Ingrid Diesel and Lola Jost.

Burned alive, with a tyre around his body, two steps away from a pool, Vidal used to be a business lawyer, specialized in franco-african relations and arming contracts.

This horrible murder strangely resembles Kidjo's assassination, Lola Jost's former partner when she was a police captain. The case had never been solved and still weighed on Lola's shoulders and conscience.

Willing and full of energy, she takes over this new investigation with her friend Ingrid, parallel to the police. But very quickly the duo understands that the stakes are too high and go way up into the powerful spheres of society. They then decide to have a truce, an understanding with captain Duguin, from the judicial police. Lola's wit and helpless anger as well as the dialogues bring a halo to this energetic and exciting plot.

Dominique Sylvain has been a detective novel writer for over ten years and lives in Japan. Her previous thrillers were award-winning. (*PASSAGE DU DESIR*, *VOX*, *STRAD*). According to the Magazine littéraire, Dominique Sylvain is among the 50 authors that matter in France today. Her previous novels were sold in many countries: Spain (Santillana), Italy (Mondadori), Sweden (Norstedts), the Netherlands (De Geus), Russia (Inostranka), Japan (Shogakukan), Germany (List Verlag / Ullstein), Romania (Universal Dalsi), Lithuania (Baltos Iankos) and Turkey (Altin Bilek).

Foreign rights sold to: Italy (Mondadori)

*"D. Sylvain s'impose comme la nouvelle figure de proue du polar français."* **L'Express**

*"GUERRE SALE (...) possède le rythme endiablé, la sensualité à vif, les dialogues et l'humour mordant de ses meilleurs livres. Mais il est plus sombre, plus inquiétant que les autres, plus profond aussi."* **Livres Hebdo**

*"Ce roman est sans doute le meilleur de Dominique Sylvain."* **Le Figaro**

## **LITERARY FICTION / MASTER'S WRITING**

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### **Lentéric, Bernard: *LA NUIT DES ENFANTS ROIS***

**(Calmann-Levy, 1992, reprint 2011, 350 pages)**

**Paperback edition : more than 650.000 copies sold !**

With the May 25, 2011 French release of the exceptional 3-D animated film, THE PRODIGES-LA NUIT DES ENFANTS ROIS, a new edition of Bernard Lenteric's bestselling cult novel.

New York City, nighttime in Central Park. Seven teenagers are brutally attacked, beaten and sexually abused. All seven victims, however, happen to be child prodigies, linked what is more by a single mind, a single spirit. Thus is born their inexorable hatred of the world, a hatred only to be quenched by a series of robberies and perfect crimes. If there were eight of them, the world would be theirs – and the long night of the Prodiges would come at last... Jimbo knows it and is trying desperately to stop them... Unless, of course, he's on their side!

Bernard Lenteric, born in 1944, died in march 2009. He has been filmmaker before becoming a successful writer.

## **LITERARY FICTION / MASTER'S WRITING**

### **Bailly, Pierric: *MICHAEL JACKSON***

**(P.O.L., January 2011, 416 pages)**

**Already 8,000 copies sold in France**

By telling Luc's student life, developed in three different versions, Pierric Bailly makes an accurate picture of a generation in transition, eager to experience a free way of life and threatened by the duty to build their future.

A bunch of friends in Montpellier, mostly students, seem to spend more time drinking and partying than studying or looking for a job. Parties and binge drinking sessions are opportunities for them to try to catch who they are and what they want. Their everyday life is focused on the disorderly search for originality at any costs, crossed love stories, existential questions, and the refusal to think about the future.

The style perfectly matches a thinking that never stops searching, questioning, trying to understand. The words are always relevant, selected in all language registers, from the trivial to the refined, without restraint. With a great sense of humour, Pierric Bailly subtly expresses a familiar feeling of time passing, of desire growth and of the radiant complexity of life. An intriguing narration, humour and an analytical look at our time.

Pierric Bailly was born in 1984. His first novel POLICHINELLE (P.O.L. 2008) had a warm reception. MICHAEL JACKSON is his second novel.

*"Il y a du Bret Easton Ellis chez un Bailly qui utilise à bon escient la précision des détails et la manière d'aborder une certaine forme d'ennui. Du David Lynch dans l'art de lancer de fausses pistes, de jouer du mystère. Du Michel Houellebecq aussi pour l'humour en creux, le regard analytique sur la sexualité et l'époque."*Lire

*"Derrière sa façade de chronique estudiantine et sexuelle, MICHAEL JACKSON se révèle un roman d'une grande ambition, qui dépasse les contingences générationnelles pour s'interroger sur l'identité, les méandres de la création et le passage à l'âge adulte."*L'Express

### **Armel, Alette: *PONDICHÉRY, À L'AURORE***

**(Le Passage, January 2011, 320 pages)**

**Long listed for the *Prix Orange du livre 2011***

Trying to understand why the recent Literature Nobel Prize disappeared on Pondichery shores, his companion Claire comes back on his last steps, from Sweden to India.

Sir Gerald Manding, Nobel Prize in Literature, disappears in Pondichery after the ceremony. Claire feels the duty to understand what happened during his last days. An opportunity to discover surprising characters connected to the author: his wife, an actress who gave her couple international fame; Charles Carrois du Réau, his devoted friend who struggled to make him win the Nobel Prize ; Leonore Carrois de Réau, an old woman who still has a great influence on the family; Gerald's son Gaspard, who fled from familial tragedy to Pondichéry.

Along this erudite novel, invoking such writers as Albert Camus or Virginia Woolf, the author describes the reversal of people's path. In a nebulous atmosphere, Aliette Armel progressively unveils secrets that show strong links between European and Indian culture.

Aliette Armel is a writer and literary critic. She published biographies and novels. She was awarded by the Prix Ouest for her novel VOYAGE DE BILQÏS (Autrement, 2002), published in the U.S.A. by Toby Press (2004).

*"Un petit univers"* **Le Magazine littéraire**

**Benameur, Jeanne: *LES INSURRECTIONS SINGULIÈRES***  
(Actes Sud, January 2011, 209 pages)

Threatened by outsourcing, a working-class young man will open his eyes to the world, refuse his condition and take a new start in life.

The son of a blue-collar worker, Antoine is searching for his place in the world. Despite having gone to college, Antoine moves back to his parents' modest home to take a job at the same steel mill as his father. With his job threatened by outsourcing and having been dropped by his fiancée, Antoine's perspectives seem pretty dim until he meets Marcel, an old bookseller who breathes a bit of spunk and ambition into him. This meeting, which lightens his loneliness helps Antoine find the strength and curiosity for a new start in life. When his factory's jobs move to Brazil, he heads off to meet the workers over there.

Through Antoine, Jeanne Benameur gives blue-collar workers a chance to speak, as their singular voices have often been ignored by literature. So doing, she exposes the anxiety caused by restructuring companies and outsourcing jobs. In spare, attentive prose, she transmits a sense of urgency about taking paths, people and things to heart.

Jeanne Benameur was born in Algeria in 1952. She has written several young people's books as well as 7 novels, including: LES DEMEURÉES (Denoël, 2001), LES MAINS LIBRES (Denoël, 2004), and PRÉSENT? (Denoël, 2006). In 2008, she came to Actes Sud with LAVER LES OMBRES.

*"Une histoire singulièrement attachante, pleine de pudeur, de dignité et d'espoir"* **Version Femina**

*"Jeanne Benameur observe la vie, les relations familiales, les amours fragiles, les amitiés porteuses d'espoirs."* **Télérama**

*"C'est une écrivaine généreuse et empathique : elle croit aux rêves d'envol, aux "un jour, je partirai" auxquels il ne faut pas renoncer. Au droit au beau, au pouvoir libérateur des livres."* **Livres Hebdo**

**Hughes, Yves: *EN CHANTIER***  
(Stock, January 2011, 186 pages)

A new building site opening up under his window incites the narrator of On Site to go back to work as a novelist. Writing proves possible once more and now progresses in time with the building work. Day after day, with obstinate regularity, and a fascination that soon borders on obsession. On the one hand, a man who lives alone and sees his teenage son every other weekend, and occasionally a fleeting mistress; on the other, workmen toiling together, exposed to the four winds, using machines, trucks and virile physical energy. With time, the writer begins an imaginary dialogue with the men on the site, a place that becomes his only horizon as he sets up a large blackboard on his balcony and writes all sorts of news on it. And it is this impossible relationship between these men and himself, each in their own world, that builds the book, giving this very original novel its weight and texture.

When the novelist has to give up his observation post to go on vacation with his son the writer then becomes a proper father. Here a quite different relationship is played out, that of a father with his boy, a relationship that invents itself in the great outdoors as they enjoy a way of life that is as simple as it is profound. With its precise, direct, fluid prose, ON SITE is a novel that questions what separates men or brings them together, questions the role of masculinity, and shows how impossible it is to communicate between different worlds in a contemporary society eaten away by seclusion. As well as discreet humour, a genuine feeling of suspense emerges over the course of this deftly constructed narrative, as the end of the building work draws near and the reader wonders how the narrator-writer will cope with the idea of resuming a life of solitude.

Yves Hughes was born in Geneva in 1960. Alongside five novels and a collection of short stories, he has written several radio plays for France Inter and France Culture. He is the author of a television screenplays

and sketches for "Les Guingnols de l'Info". He has also written some thirty novels for young adults, mostly for Gallimard.

**Roze, Pascale: *AUJOUR'HUI LES COEURS SE DESSERRENT*  
(Stock, January 2011, 176 pages)**

Over the course of three generations, the Deslorgeux family – industrialists from Rouen whose glory rests on manufacturing poplin – lose money, conviction and power. All that is left of them is little Lorette, living somewhere in the world. The Second World War and the rise to power of third world countries might explain the family's decline, but there is also a need to escape their destiny, to stay true to principles towards and against everything, to open up a heart so firmly constrained by provincial, Catholic, middle class expectations.

The story revolves around the rivalry between two brothers. One escapes from a prison camp during the war, and refuses to talk about it, while the other flees the hardships of combat and takes refuge in painting. One marries and has children but walls himself in silence his whole life. He will run the family company. The other, who watched the woman he loved marry his brother, has no descendants.

The family's last son is the one to speak out. Reading between the lines, as he reconstitutes past events, vital but painful questions emerge: What is a successful life? How should each of us live "our" life? What exactly do we inherit? With this portrait of a substantial middle class family in decline, Pascale Roze takes the reader through troubled times and weaves together conflicting destinies with acuity and tenderness.

Pascale Roze won the *Prix Goncourt* in 1996 for her first novel, *LE CHASSEUR ZÉRO*. Stock has also published *UN HOMME SANS LARMES* (2005), *L'EAU ROUGE* (2006) and *ITSIK* (2008).

Foreign rights are under option in: Italy, Romania

**Greggio, Simonetta: *L'ODEUR DU FIGUIER*  
(Flammarion, April 2011, 176 pages)**

Three stories linked by the fragrance of wild figs, the aroma of summer, childhood, nostalgia, the perfume of delicious melancholy, like a song taking the listener back to a forgotten era.

The first story is about a couple's inability to communicate. Returning for the holidays to the family's seaside home in southern Italy, both parties are imprisoned by feelings of hurt, incapable of escaping their own wounds. Silence prevents pain and tenderness being expressed and any love is suffocated. Whatever is left unsaid invades the living space like armies of ants, stifling all other possibilities. The second story is a cry of distress narrated in the first person. Here again, compassion is defeated and friendship vanquished, as a couple veers towards disaster by failing to listen, by failing to hope. The path leading from fear to love is not followed to the end. The third story, tracing the thoughts of a stout fellow of retirement age as he stands trapped in a lift, is a summary, in metaphorical terms, of the two previous stories. If any exit is possible, it is elsewhere than in solitude.

And the fragrance of figs, lingering over the lives of these characters, serves as a reminder to them that joy does exist and can be found near to hand; that you just need is to breathe it in and believe in it, to let it drift over and enfold you.

Italian in origin, Simonetta Greggio writes in French. She is the author of four novels published by Stock – *LA DOUCEUR DES HOMMES*, *COL DE L'ANGE*, *LES MAINS NUES*, *DOLCE VITA* (selected for the *Prix Renaudot* 2010) – and *ÉTOILES*, published by Flammarion and translated into German, Italian, Dutch, Korean and Russian (Corpus/AST Group).

**Chevillard, Eric: *DINO EGGER*  
(Editions de Minuit, January 2011, 160 pages)**

In this brilliant novel, Eric Chevillard explores with virtuosity the potential life of a nonexistent character: Dino Egger.

What would the world have been like if Dino Egger, Eric Chevillard's missing character, had ever existed? Sadly, no one has ever heard of Dino Egger. Why? Because he doesn't exist, though he could have accomplished great things. Albert Moindre, an insignificant man, will try to get some importance by exploring what Dino Egger's life could have been. This great man should have highly influenced his time, opened new perspectives, spread harmony in the world. In spite of his favourable dispositions, Dino Egger never came to life. Albert Moindre will devote himself to clarify the mystery of Dino Egger's inexistence.

Only Eric Chevillard is capable of making of this non-story a masterpiece of humor and imagination. In spite of the conditional dimension of the plot, the inimitable style of the author makes it unexpectedly lively and fascinating.

Eric Chevillard (born in 1964) has written more than 15 novels, all funny, odd and enigmatic, among which: *LE VAILLANT PETIT TAILLEUR* (2003), *OREILLE ROUGE* (2005), *DÉMOLIR NISARD* (2006), *SANS L'ORANG-OUTAN* (2007). His novels have been translated in several countries.

*"Autant d'humour, de subtilité, de références, de profondeur et d'intelligence donne le vertige."* **Le Figaro**

*"Chevillard s'est fait, plus que voyant, savant à l'espièglerie délicate et référencée."* **Le Monde**

*"Un étourdissant exercice de nonsense, une fable sublime sur l'absence et la virtualité."* **Le Nouvel Observateur**

### **Chraïbi, Driss: *L'HOMME DU LIVRE* (Denoël, January 2011, 150 pages)**

A fictional evocation of prophet Mahomet that is at once poetic and thought-provoking, by one of the greatest French speaking North African novelists.

The year 610, a stone's throw from Mecca. As he comes out of a cave where he spent several hours meditating, a man suddenly and deeply feels like nothing will ever be the same again, whether within him or in the world around him. As a backdrop: a breathtakingly beautiful Arabia, and its deserts and mountains and fighting tribes. In this fictional tale that stands out for its distinct poetic quality, Driss Chraïbi depicts the earthly adventures and the life of Mahomet, before he became Islam's Prophet.

Driss Chraïbi was born in Morocco in 1926, and died in 2007. He was considered one of the greatest French speaking North African writers. His most important novels *LE PASSÉ SIMPLE* (1955), *L'ANE* (1958) and *LES BOUCS* (1956) are all published by Denoël.

*"Une évocation romancée et à la poésie intense, de la vie de Mohammed."* **Quotidien pharmacien**

*"On n'y trouve rien de polémique. Il a d'ailleurs été lu et approuvé par une commission d'oulémas, les gardiens de la loi coranique, lors de sa publication au Maroc."* **Quotidien du médecin**

*"Dans un récit de fiction très poétique, l'auteur s'aventure sur un terrain des plus sensibles de la religion musulmane."* **L'Est éclair**

### **Kramer, Pascale: *UN HOMME ÉBRANLÉ* (Mercure de France, January 2011, 144 pages)**

The moving reunion of a sick man, waiting for death, and the son he has never seen.

Claude is a proud and austere man, a retired sports coach. Simone is a dental assistant. They didn't have any children, thought they have been living together for over ten years. Ill with cancer, knowing he is about to die, Claude wants to meet his eleven years-old son, Gaël. A child he had with Jovana, a woman much younger than Simone. Communication doesn't come easily between father and son, especially when Claude's health starts deteriorating rapidly. He is unable to be a proper father, even for one week. To Simone, if Gaël's arrival is a breath of fresh air in a house focused on Claude's illness, it also raises many questions about her couple. Pascal Kramer has written a novel of incomparable human intensity. Bound together, his characters confront illness and death without pretence.

*UN HOMME ÉBRANLÉ* is the ninth novel written by Pascale Kramer. Her last novel, *L'IMPLACABLE BRUTALITÉ DU RÉVEIL* (Mercure de France, 2009) was a great success.

*"Un homme malade reprend contact avec un jeune fils qu'il n'a pas élevé. La musique sensible et funèbre de Pascale Kramer."* **Livres Hebdo**

*"Il est l'œuvre de maturité d'une belle écrivaine à l'écriture unique et rare, à la fois très littéraire et très cinématographique, dont les mots simples et concrets, évidents, vous retournent pourtant complètement et violemment. Du grand art."* **L'Hebdo**

*"Pascale Kramer refuse l'empathie, les édulcorants qui sentent la guimauve. Elle écrit frontalement, décrit les gestes, les expressions, en évitant les excroissances stylistiques."* **Télérama**

### **Lindon, Mathieu: *CE QU'AIMER VEUT DIRE***

(P.O.L., January 2011, 350 pages)

30,000 copies already sold in France

Short-listed for *the Prix France Culture / Télérama 2011*

#19 in the Express best-seller list

In this account, Mathieu Lindon pays tribute to Michel Foucault, a marvellous friend and generous mentor who taught how to be free. Foucault often lent him his flat while he was abroad and discreetly guided him, without young Lindon noticing. Through his wonderful evocative talent, Lindon brings back to life six years of his youth, at times disoriented and confused but always illuminated by this friendship.

Many great literary figures appear over the account, such as Robbe-Grillet, Samuel Beckett or his father Jérôme Lindon, founder of prestigious Editions de Minuit. While the historical interest of *CE QU'AIMER VEUT DIRE* is patent, as the reader discovers a moving, humane portrait of Michel Foucault, the author's innocent eyes cast a wonderful light not only on men, their ambitions and passions, but also on friendship and filiation.

Mathieu Lindon is a literary critic working for *Liberation*. Among his numerous novels, all published by P.O.L., are *MON COEUR TOUT SEUL NE SUFFIT PAS* (2008) and *EN ENFANCE* (2009).

*"Ce qui est beau dans ce livre, c'est cette circulation libre des "affections", de l'amour (y compris celui de la littérature qui n'est pas la moindre des choses aimées), cette intimité qui veut du bien (...) On admire la simplicité de la dévotion assumée."* **Livres Hebdo**

*"Le plus remarquable dans ce livre, c'est que la réconciliation avec la scène familiale s'opère à travers un élan de puérité qui s'affirme comme tel. Les amateurs de grande prose en seront agacés. Mais les autres trouveront remarquable ce livre où la quête de sagesse prend la forme d'un enfantillage déchaîné."* **Le Monde**

*"Avec justesse et empathie, il confie tout ce qu'il a appris des hommes de sa vie."* **ELLE**

### **Mauvignier, Laurent: *CE QUE J'APPELLE OUBLI***

(Editions de Minuit, March 2011, 64 pages)

Laurent Mauvignier goes back to an incident in Lyon that briefly made front-page news, in 2009: a man was beaten to death by security agents after he opened a can of beer in a supermarket.

In a long phrase addressed to the victim's brother, the narrator attempts to transcribe the painful last moments in the life of a 25-year-old jobless man, wearing a plain track suit, who became the target of three guards' incomprehensible violence, "for a can of beer, for nothing." They "went haywire" and couldn't stop battering the defenseless, inoffensive body at their mercy, though it would ruin both his life and their own.

Laurent Mauvignier pulls off the difficult gamble of projecting himself into the frame of mind of each of the protagonists – including the brother who loses a close relation both brutally and pointlessly – without sliding into complacency or pathos. A raw, intense reflection on the absurdity and volatility of existence.

Laurent Mauvignier was born in 1967. He received the *Wepler Prize 2000* and *Livre Inter Prize 2001* for *APPRENDRE A FINIR* and the *FNAC Novel Prize 2006* for *DANS LA FOULE*.

*"CE QUE J'APPELLE OUBLIE tire la radicalité de son flux d'écriture une force presque étouffante, paradoxalement amplifiée par la brièveté du texte."* **Lire**

*"Un texte intense, qui laisse un drôle de goût dans la bouche."* **Livres Hebdo**

### **de la Peine, Bertrand: *BANDE-SON***

(Editions de Minuit, January 2011, 128 pages)

Bertrand de la Peine describes with talent and humour the eccentric quest of a specialist of sounds who travels in Ireland in search of "singing stones".

Left by his wife while he was organizing an exhibition to gather famous sound specialists in France, Sven Langhens, a Danish artist, comes to Paris. There, he finds in a suitcase an old book about "singing stones", written by a man called Rudolf Erich Raspe. The author was an eminent German geologist from the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century. This reading leads him to Ireland, where is celebrated, at Mrs Scott's domain. In the house of this old lady, Sven will trail Mr Raspe's memory and find out the real meaning of his quest.

Written with a subtle humour, Bertrand de la Peine's second novel is as puzzling and elegant as his first one.

Bertrand de la Peine is born in 1962. He teaches French literature in Guadeloupe. His debut novel, LES HÉMISPÈRES DE MAGDEBOURG (Minuit, 2009) was a success. BANDE-SON is his second novel.

*"Déroutant sur le fond comme sur la forme, cet imprévisible récit suit avec humour la trace d'un homme qui s'égare pour mieux se trouver."* **Lire**

*"Envoûtante partition minérale."* **Le Matricule des anges**

*"Bertrand de la Peine signe un second roman précis et cohérent, d'où émerge, comme dans le précédant, quête de soi, art, passé trouble et lieux emblématique."* **Page**

### **Rahimi, Atiq: MAUDIT SOIT DOSTOÏEVSKI (P.O.L, March 2011, 318 pages)**

In this new novel, Atiq Rahimi's source of inspiration is Dostoïevski's CRIME AND PUNISHMENT. Rahimi took inspiration from the Russian classic title, regarding the plot and some characters, but he has set the story in today's Afghanistan...

The hero, Rasul, just killed a landlady, not only to punish her for what she did to Souphia his fiancée (she forced Souphia to become a prostitute), but also in order to steal her money and give it to his family and Souphia. His crime committed, he is plagued by remorse and guilt and consequently surrenders to police. In vain, as nobody cares about his case. He is led to wonder about the existence of justice and law enforcement. Thanks to his determination, and then passivity, Rasul will be judged in terms and circumstances almost incredible, but indicative of the decay of Afghan society, and of religion that serves as its cement.

Adventures abound in this novel, and so do twists and *coup de theatre*. Atiq Rahimi masterfully organizes the ballet, not avoiding detours in timeless Persian tales and legends, and not putting aside his humour or beliefs, in particular the status of women in the Muslim world, in an inimitable style flourishing in both poetry and realism, elegance and triviality.

Atiq Rahimi was born in 1962 in Kabul. Following the Soviet invasion, Rahimi fled Afghanistan and received political asylum in France. MAUDIT SOIT DOSTOÏEVSKI is his fifth book. In November 2008, Atiq Rahimi won France's most prestigious literary prize, the *Prix Goncourt*, for SYNGUE SABOUR, published in more than thirty countries.

Foreign Rights sold to: Spain (Sinuela), Germany (Ullstein), Italy (Einaudi) and Brazil (Es. Liberdade). The Russian rights for the previous books are sold to Text Publishers

*"Atiq Rahimi signe là un récit rageur, incandescent, qui dissèque à vif le chaos de sa terre natale et les contradictions de son peuple."* **Lire**

*"On retrouve la langue originale qu'il a forgée, rythmée d'un accent, la musique des mots persans non traduits, ce mélange de crudité et de délicatesse des images, où l'efficacité de la phrase occidentale cohabite avec les circonvolutions, les paraboles orientales."* **Livres Hebdo**

### **Grimbert, Philippe: UN GARÇON SINGULIER (Grasset, March 2011, 240 pages)**

The story takes place in a seaside town on the Channel coast. Three characters share one terrible secret. Philippe Grimbert's latest novel, torn between dreams and lucidity, is a troubling tale of initiation in the style of his previous novel, *La Mauvaise rencontre*.

Louis, a solitary student, finds himself irresistibly drawn by a job offer on the university notice-board. Someone is looking to employ a young man to look after "a special boy" staying with his mother on the Normandy seafront, though the tourist season is long past.

The name of the beach, where Louis spent much of his childhood, wakens a strange feeling that he cannot explain. He decides to apply for the job, and spends the next two months living a deeply unsettling and intense relationship with Iannis, a profoundly disturbed young boy, and his mother Helena, a writer. Louis gradually becomes attached to the mysterious, unpredictable, silent Iannis, who seems to read his thoughts and makes him face up to a part of himself he refuses to acknowledge.

Helena, pained and perverse, is locked into a destructive relationship with her son. She, too, pushes Louis hard, forcing him to look deep inside himself. Meeting Iannis and Helena changes the course of Louis's

life for good. The deserted, windswept beach resort forms the backdrop for a tale of initiation that breaks the chains of everyday life, infecting him with a passion that drives him to commit one wild act of liberation.

Philippe Grimbert is a psychoanalyst. He has published several novels, including *LA PETITE ROBE DE PAUL* (Grasset, 2001), *UN SECRET* (2007), filmed by Claude Miller starring Patrick Bruel, Cécile de France and Ludivine Sagnier, and *LA MAUVAISE RENCONTRE* (2009), currently being filmed for television.

Foreign rights sold for previous titles: Bulgarian (Paradox), Chinese (Shanghai 99 Reader, Ten Points Publishing), Czech (Havran), Dutch (De Geus), English (Portobello Books), German (Suhrkamp), Greek (Plethron), Hebrew (Matar Publishing), Hungarian (Magveto Kiado), Italian (Bompiani), Japanese (Shincho Sha), Korean (DDWorld's, Prunsoop Publishing), Polish (Nasza Ksiegarnia), Portuguese (Brazil: Record, Portugal: Platano), Romanian (Trei), Russian (Phantom-Press), Serbian (Carobna Knjiga), Slovene (Didakta), Spanish (Tusquets), Swedish (Norstedts), Turkish (Merkez Kitapcilik).

### **Védrines, Jean: *LA BELLE ÉTOILE* (Fayard, January 2011, 352 pages)**

Even revolutionaries get tired. Gioachino, a steelworker, fought in the Italian Resistance and waged war on the Italian bourgeoisie in 46 and 47. But then, all of a sudden, he gave up, taking his wife and children to the French countryside, far from everything, far from history.

Five years later, his son Giovan still doesn't understand why. Why they left, why his father broke with the Party, with the legend of the partisans and the militant reformers. Relentlessly, he questions the world around him: the steelworkers, the communist railway workers and the only friend he has managed to make at school; the Bourbon trees, the ancient castle dominating the town... Answers, however, are nowhere to be found. Only new mysteries. His older brother, Pietro, a brilliant student who claims himself French and goes by the name of Pierre, might be of help. But Pierre has demons of his own and is trying to understand the past through the pages of History. One morning in 1968, however, the factory workers take over the mill, forcing the boys' father back into the arena. Will Giovan and his brother get a chance to see the revolutionary of legend in action?

*LA BELLE ÉTOILE* explores the mysterious transmission of revolutionary violence through the red-tinted childhood of its young hero, Giovan.

Interlocutor of Michel Chaillou in a book of interviews about literature, *L'ÉCOUTE INTÉRIEURE* (Fayard, 2007), Jean Védrines is first and foremost the author of four novels of critically-acclaimed stylistic creativity.

### **Mordillat, Gérard: *ROUGE DANS LA BRUME* (Calmann-Levy, January 2011, 462 pages)**

A passionate love story and highly visual portrait of the modern working class.

Thirty-some-odd Carvin is a mechanic at a factory in northern France. His wife, Chantal, has just left him, taking their four-year-old daughter, Océane, with her. She dreams of comfort and sunshine and can no longer bear the hardships of their daily life. Anath, also in her thirties, is the human resources manager of the factory where Carvin works. She is married to a university professor who little by little has chosen books, alcohol and guilty secrets over their relationship. Nothing on the surface seems to indicate that Carvin and Anath would one day get together. They seem to be worlds apart.

Then, a terrible storm breaks out, shaking the trees and houses of the town. Shortly thereafter, the town is stricken by a more metaphorical storm – the factory is abruptly shut down by its American shareholders wiping out 400 jobs in one fell swoop. The storms of outrage and hard times draw Carvin and Anath's destinies together. Meanwhile, the factory workers have risen up and taken over the site, burning the work shops, the stock and even the moving trucks coming to remove the machinery. The fire of the rebellion, fanned by the winds of hope, encourages the strikers to join protesters in a second and then a third factory... What if the entire country followed suit?

In the midst of this revolution, Anath and Carvin fall for each other, their mutual struggle forging the bonds of a surprising and heedless love. Whether crazy, criminal or merely foolish, they have nothing left to lose, and a newfound life to win. In an era of prevailing madness, they will have stood up and said no; they will have made their voices heard.

Gérard Mordillat, writer and film-maker, is the author of several novels among which *L'ATTRACTION UNIVERSELLE* (1990), *RUE DES RIGOLES* (2002), *COMMENT CALMER M. BRACKE* (2003), *LES VIVANTS ET LES MORTS* (2005) and *NOTRE PART DES TÉNÉBRES* (2008).

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**FRANCOPHONE AUTHORS****Dalembert, Louis-Philippe: *NOIRES BLESSURES*  
(Mercure de France, January 2011, 224 pages)**

A violent struggle between two men, in the depth of the African Jungle: Laurent Kala, the white man, is about to kill Mamad, his black servant. Two successive flashbacks show us the fight Mamad has been leading since childhood to build a better future for himself. But his extraordinary efforts have turned out to be in vain. Mamad has stayed in Africa and become a servant. Laurent Kala grew up in Paris, his father soon made a point of developing his awareness of the Black cause. Laurent too, aged just ten, had to face a harsh reality when he loses his father, killed in a protest against assassination of Martin Luther King.

With hindsight, we come to understand how these two destinies have been sealed and the reasons that turned the son of a French humanist into such a violent man. With a touch of humor, this novel paints moving portraits of men and women caught up by their family history and their origins.

Louis-Philippe Dalembert is a journalist, poet and writer born in Haïti in 1962. He published several poetry books, essays, short stories and novels. *NOIRES BLESSURES* is his seventh novel.

*“Le roman laisse ainsi leur temps aux personnages, s’écrit au plus près du corps, des sensations, des odeurs, de la matière.” L’Humanité*

*“L’œuvre de cet écrivain globe-trotter (...) se caractérise par son cosmopolitisme assumé.” Jeune Afrique*

*“Dans une prose sensuelle, pleine de bruit, d’odeurs et de jazz, l’écrivain haïtien Louis-Philippe Dalembert examine, à la loupe, comment la dialectique du maître et de l’esclave peut dégénérer en cauchemar post-colonial” L’Humanité*

**Boubacar Boris Diop: *MURAMBI, LE LIVRE DES OSSEMENTS*  
(Zulma, March 2011, 172 pages)**

Years after the Rwanda genocide, a man has to face the guilty involvement of his father in massacres, revealing the unbearable status quo that remained after the war.

Four years after the genocide, Cornélius comes back to Rwanda after a long exile, to find a country still in ruins: killers and victims live side by side, and the reconstruction of one’s self is difficult. Cornélius soon learns that his own father, Dr. Karekezi, had personally organized the horrific massacre in Murambi. He has to face a totally unexpected situation: not only is he a victim, but also the son of an executioner. Through Cornelius’s story, the author follows other destinies of people going through and out of the genocide.

Told with extraordinary lucidity, constructed like an investigation and an indictment, Boubacar Boris Diop’s novel helps understand the ultimate genocide of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from the inside. He doesn’t take any shortcuts that might turn African tragedies into folklore but makes us face reality, though with sobriety, in the hope of preventing another human disaster of this kind.

Novelist, essayist, playwright and scriptwriter, Boubacar Boris Diop was born in Dakar, Senegal. He published his first novel, *LE TEMPS DE TAMANGO*, in 1981. *MURAMBI, LE LIVRE DES OSSEMENTS* was nominated by a jury at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair one of Africa’s 100 Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Foreign rights sold to: USA (Indiana University Press), Germany (Hamouda), Italy (E/O) and Ivory Coast (Nouvelles éditions ivoiriennes).

**Tchak, Sami: *AL CAPONE LE MALIEN*  
(Mercure de France, February 2011, 250 pages)**

Arriving in Mali to write an article on an ancestral musical instrument near the Guinean Frontier, René finds himself stuck in a luxury hotel in Bamako. Whereas Namane Kouyaté, a man of wisdom and integrity seemed to represent a vision of traditional Africa, the Frenchman discovers in the capital another side of the continent, in which corruption, prostitution and murder reign. Fascinated despite himself by this world of luxury and debauchery, he plunges into a wild life where sex, money and state secrets seem intricately linked. Who is really Princess Sidonie ? What about this Al Capone, alias Prince Edmond VII, a charismatic man that all

## ***NON-FRANCOPHONE AUTHORS***

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women gravitate to ? As the masks start to fall, René must decide how far he is prepared to go in his search for pleasure and truth.

Born in Togo in 1960, Sami Tchak works and lives in Paris. Amongst his books, PLACE DES FÊTES (Gallimard), LE PARADIS DES CHIOTS and FILLES DE MEXICO (Mercure de France)

*“On est frappé par le foisonnement des paroles de sagesse, des proverbes qui soutiennent ici la poésie du fantastique et du fantasque. Grand roman de la maturité d’un auteur singulier, AL CAPONE LE MALIEN est aussi une critique caustique de la littérature francophone contemporaine, et surtout un vibrant hommage aux écrivains [africains contemporains]” Alain Mabanckou*

## **NON-FRANCOPHONE AUTHORS**

### **CANADA**

**Botchorichvili, Elena: *LA TÊTE A MON PÈRE***

**(Boréal, February 2011, 80 pages)**

**Originally written in Russian**

Both poetic and realistic, the surreal letter of a father to his son.

“My father’s head is located on a mountain near Gori in the region of Chachubeti.” So begins the narrator’s letter to his son who lives in Canada. But how is he to explain how people danced and lived in the Soviet Union? How they worked and fought? How is he to describe how his parents met (his irrepressible mother who was a ventriloquist in a circus and his father who churned out speeches for communist leaders)? How is he to tell the story of the war that broke out as people were quietly sunbathing at the beach or shopping, cloth bags in hand?

This novel is a *tour de force* in which the author successfully combines poetic vision and realism. Elena Botchorichvili’s style has been described as part Agota Kristof and part Nina Berberova, with a touch of Gogol’s surrealism.

Elena Botchorichvili was born in Georgia. She was a journalist in the Soviet Union before moving to Montreal. LA TÊTE A MON PÈRE is her fifth novel.

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

**Levison, Iain: *THE CAB DRIVER***

**(Liana Lévi, January 2011, 250 pages)**

**Originally written in English**

Inspired by a true case that occurred in Salt Lake City in 2003: an innocent man is put in jail for a murder he didn’t commit, waiting for an absurd trial that could lead him to death.

Jeff lives a quiet life as a cab driver in Dallas, until the day the police break into his house and take him into custody as the prime suspect in the kidnapping of a little girl. He believes in a huge misunderstanding. But he’s soon discouraged by the doggedness of the not overly scrupulous police, eager to classify the investigation, a spineless court-appointed lawyer and fingerprints found where they shouldn’t be... As he awaits his trial on death row while the media get excited about his “crime,” he starts to crack up. A long descent to hell...

With biting humor, Iain Levison takes down the judicial spiral of one of the most repressive states in America.

Iain Levison was born in 1963 in Scotland. His first novel SINCE THE LAYOFFS (Soho Press; UN PETIT BOULOT in France : 40.000 copies sold) attracted much attention and has been published in Germany (Matthes und Seitz), Italy (Instar Libri) and The Netherlands (De Geus). His second novel UNE CANAILLE ET DEMIE (2006, 15.000 copies sold) has also been published in Germany (Matthes und Seitz), Italy (Feltrinelli), The Netherlands (De Geus) and UK/USA (Bitter Lemon Press).

Rights sold to : Germany (Deuticke).

**SPAIN****Etxenike, Luisa: *VINO*  
(Robert Laffont, Fall 2011, 168 pages)**

A Spanish literary novel that centers around three main characters who are inextricably tied to one another's past and present

Raúl and Isabel have an unusual mother-son relationship; he is a spoiled young man in desperate need of money and the one possible solution he can think of is to blackmail his own mother. But blackmail her with what? He breaks into a secret apartment Isabel keeps in a small French town where he finds a clue; a book of drawings of a vineyard. The drawings were done by Fermín, a boy he had befriended during his holidays as a teen in the small village of La Rioja. Raúl travels there to find Fermín who has now built a winery in the region. Raúl suspects that Isabel financed the winery, suggesting that she would've preferred Fermín to be her son.

What Raúl doesn't realize is that Fermín was madly in love with Isabel, and that she seduced him one fateful summer. When Fermín refuses to help Raúl, he becomes furious and sabotages the vineyard. This destruction unwittingly brings Isabel to the village as she must repair the damage caused by her impetuous child. Fermín, still in love with Isabel after all of these years, seizes this unexpected opportunity to be with her again. Isabel, desperate to unburden herself from her past, reveals a terrible secret she has been carrying with her since childhood. With the literary subtlety of a seasoned author, Luisa Etxenike exquisitely writes about the most basic human relations: hate, passion, love, discretion.

Luisa Etxenike is a journalist for *El País* and *El País vasco*.

**USA****Elkin, Lauren: *FLOATING CITIES*  
(Éditions Héloïse d'Ormesson, to be published in 2010)  
Translated from English (United States)**

When Catherine Parrish goes to Venice on a research fellowship, leaving her fiancé behind in New York, she falls in love with the texture of daily life in her neighborhood, Dorsoduro, the tight-knit, bohemian area of Venice whose name means "hard back", as it is built on the closest thing to *terra firma* in this city on the sea. She falls in with the habitués of the neighborhood café, and against her better judgement gets involved with the rebellious son of generations of *squeraroli*, or traditional boat builders. Marco, undone by his father's death, has lowered himself to the most disdained *métier* in Venice: that of gondolier. Interwoven with Catherine's narrative is that of Neva, a Croatian woman who has come to Venice after the death of her daughter to find out if an old family legend has any truth to it: that there is a synagogue hidden in Dorsoduro, founded by her family as they fled from Portugal at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Neva, Catherine, and Marco negotiate the impossibility of loss and the elusiveness of faith in order to find some kind of redemption in the synagogue.

Part elegy, part meditation on the art of living deliberately, this is a novel of abandonment and of self-discovery, of holding on and of letting go, and above all, a testament to the fact that relationships are, like Venice, floating cities.

Born in New York in 1978, Lauren Elkin teaches at New York University and is a lecturer at Polytechnique. She holds a master's degree in French literature from the Sorbonne. Freelance journalist, she has published in *The Guardian*, *Bookforum*, *Five Dials*, and *The Quarterly Conversation*, among others. She lives in Paris.

"Ce roman d'apprentissage fait revivre une Amérique passionnée de science et de technique sur fond de prohibition. Jubilatoire." **La Tribune**

## ***NON-FRANCOPHONE AUTHORS***

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### ***IRAN***

#### **Zoyâ Pirzâd: *C'EST MOI QUI ÉTEINS LES LUMIÈRES***

**(Zulma, May 2011, 300 pages)**

**Originally written in Persian: first published in Iran in 2001**

**100,000 copies sold in Iran**

Written during the feminine wave of post-revolutionary Persian novels, *C'EST MOI QUI ÉTEINS LES LUMIÈRES* is much more than a testimony on life in Iran in the 70's. It is a writer's vision of a society where women have become the agents at the heart of social change.

A housewife devoted to her three children and her taciturn husband, Clarisse realizes what a failure her marital life really is. Her routine is abruptly disturbed by the arrival of new neighbours: in the Armenian quarter of Abadan, this constitutes a minor revolution. Soon her children make friends with Emilie, the newly arrived girl whose father, a young and attractive widower, promptly awakens Clarisse from her inertia. Although she lives in a bourgeois and Europeanised environment, Clarisse tries to maintain her family equilibrium by all possible means and will not allow herself to cross the line. In *C'EST MOI QUI ÉTEINS LES LUMIÈRES*, Zoyâ Pirzâd brings us a most intimate description of a woman's vision of her entourage and her condition, which she accepts; perhaps not with serenity but at least with a humility that has its own kind of spiritual grandeur.

Zoyâ Pirzâd was born in Abadan in 1952 of a Russian father and an Armenian mother. She first published three books of short stories. *C'EST MOI QUI ÉTEINS LES LUMIÈRES*, her first novel, was published in 2001 and received several prizes. Already published in France : *ON S'Y FERA* (2007), *UN JOUR AVANT PÂQUES* (2008) and *LE GOÛT ÂPRE DES KAKIS* (2009).

Foreign rights sold to: Germany (Insel Verlag), U.K. (Oneworld, world rights), Greece (Livanis), Norway (Solum) and Turkey (Aras).

#### **Fariba Vafi: *UN SECRET DE RUE***

**(Zulma, February 2011, 192 pages)**

**Originally written in Persian: first published in Iran in 2008**

*UN SECRET DE RUE* is a moving portrait of an unknown Iran, through the eyes of a little girl, away from political issues, in the intimacy of an ordinary family.

As her father is dying, Homeyra looks back to her childhood in a poor Iranian quarter. Though her past joys and tragedies, she tries to understand the link that united her family. Her memories, between a jealous father and a resigned mother, cheered up by the complicity shared with the lively Azar, are depicted in a sober and sensitive style. The eyes of childhood reveal the loneliness of each inhabitant, their lack of perspective in a bridled society and the failure of authority to gather people. Thanks to Fariba Varfi's great talent, an exotic society becomes familiar through the elegant telling of its everyday life.

Fariba Vafi was born in Iranian Azerbaijan. Her first novel, *PARANDE-YE MAN*, was published in Iran in 2002 and received many literary prizes, including the *Golchiri* (one of the most prestigious in Iran). Since then, Fariba Vafi has published *UN SECRET DE RUE* and two more novels. All of them have met with equal success.

### ***ASIA***

#### **Kim Thúy: *NAM***

**(Librex, September 2011, approx. 170 pages)**

*NAM* is the second part of the triptych that begins with *RU*. In *NAM* (Vietnamese for both "boy" and "south") the dreamy, childishly candid tone of the first book gives way to a more adolescent world view. It is a novel about identity in which relationships undergo dramatic shifts. Here, unlike in *RU*, the narrator disappears as different characters emerge to take up their tale. These young adults, all new to Quebec, meet one another and make connections as they struggle to reconcile memories from their past with possibilities in their present. Their stories exemplify the difference between clinging to the old and embracing the new, between merely surviving and choosing to live. The tension between feelings of gratitude and the power of desire, the clash between old scars and pointless pleasures and the contrast of being rooted in history and being uprooted are revealed in these stories. The characters embody the conflicting emotions of guilt and independence, love and shame. By giving each of them a voice in turn, the author subtly reveals the structure - tenuous and invisible yet so fundamental - around which relationships are built.

Kim Thúy left Vietnam as a boat people at the age of 10, and arrived in Quebec. She has been living in Montreal for 30 years now, working as a seamstress, interpreter, lawyer, restaurant owner and also as film director before devoting herself to writing.

## **DEBUT NOVEL**

**Chesnel, Fanny: *UNE JEUNE FILLE AUX CHEVEUX BLANCS*  
(Albin Michel, February 2011, 222 pages)**

The hilarious story of Caroline's first steps into retirement and therefore social oldness.

Ah, hitting sixty! The joys of idleness, the fear of emptiness, the little aberrations and the great discoveries. How mischievous adolescence can be at that age... From now on, Caroline can devote all her energy to herself and her family and savour her new-found freedom. But reinventing yourself is not quite as simple as it seems... When she receives an inscription for a senior citizens' leisure club as a birthday present, she knows in her heart that it's the beginning of the end. Caroline cracks up and chooses another course of action that is more perilous, funnier, sensual and above all more nonconformist!

A comedy of manners with a sympathetic and hilarious portrait of a woman who is neither old nor ungracious, *Une jeune fille aux cheveux blancs* is also a searing satire about retirement.

Fanny Chesnel, artistic advisor and scriptwriter, signs her first novel, which is in the course of being made into a film.

**de Miribel, Jacques: *SAIGON LA ROUGE*  
(La Table ronde, January 2011, 240 pages)**

1940, in Vietnam, a man finds the courage to reveal himself in the torment of the war.

When the war begins, Saigon still belongs to France. In the heart of the city, a police superintendent cannot agree to negotiate with the Japanese as Pétain recommends to do so. However, he puts on the mask of submission to protect his wife, Clara. To his bosses, he also hides that he's determined to protect Phung, a young Trotskyite nationalist and her father.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> 1945, the police superintendent is arrested by the Japanese. Confined, humiliated, physically and morally tortured, he almost loses faith in humanity. The disenchanted actor of the end of a world – a beautiful colonial world – he becomes a clear-sighted witness of a nation's birth. Soberly written, Jacques de Miribel's debut novel is an enlightening tribute to his lost world.

Jacques de Miribel lived in Vietnam until he turned 16. He dedicated the major part of his career to teaching the acquisition of language by children. *Saigon la Rouge* is his first novel.

*"Son livre, délicat et suranné comme une photographie sépia de la rue Catinat, à Saigon, est un bel hommage à ce monde révolu."* **L'Express**

**Silber, Antoine: *LE SILENCE DE MA MÈRE*  
(Denoël, January 2011, 230 pages)**

An elegy for a bygone mother. A first novel at once understated and sensitive, which conjures up an era.

A childhood set in the 1950s, a mother who is a painter, equally feared and admired. In the wake of his psychoanalysis, the narrator plunges back into his memories of her and her very presence. A narrative thread appears, which closely follows every moment lived and now gone, zigzagging between the vast and weirdly charming family home in Neauphle-le-Château, and forays into Saint-Germain-des-Près. A post-war childhood, as an emotional jigsaw puzzle, never ending mourning and loving.

Antoine Silber was born in Paris in 1947. After a long and successful career as a journalist for famous paper like of *Paris-Match*, *Le Point*, *le Nouvel Observateur* or *Elle*. *Le Silence de ma mère* is his first novel.

*"C'est un récit autobiographique d'autant plus émouvant que l'écriture en est douce et familière."* **Le Journal du Dimanche**

## **DEBUT NOVEL**

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*“Le tout est écrit avec une simplicité de style, une pureté de langage, une recombinaison autobiographique émerveillée et aussi malheureuse d’une enfance dans le malaise qui font de ce roman une épure réussie.” Réforme*

### **Tilliette, Pierre-Alain: *GAPOS, VIES CHIMERIQUES* (Le Passage, January 2011, 304 pages)**

A very inventive novel telling the second birth of Gapos, an austere civil servant who quit his job to begin a wacky odyssey.

Gapos is wasting his life in a boring ministry service. His only obsession at home is to write his personal encyclopaedia. Changes come to his life with the death of his neighbour’s dog – a canine poet – and the arrival of his friend Augustin. Gapos quits his job and starts looking for real life, encouraged by his new friend Vilmer, a very rich young man who collects the oddest objects. From then on, Gapos’ destiny will soon drift from Sumatra luxurious shores to the western high road way, leading this anti-hero to his true self.

Using several narrative practices, familiarly conversing with “masters” of literature, Pierre-Alain Tilliette signs a very original debut novel, enriched by an atypical rough language and surprising characters.

Pierre-Alain Tilliette lives in Paris. *GAPOS, VIES CHIMERIQUES* is his first novel.

*“Sur l’échelle de la virtuosité langagière et de l’inventivité narrative, nul doute que *GAPOS, VIES CHIMERIQUES* grimpe jusqu’aux derniers barreaux.” Le Monde*

### **Vandamme, Aliocha: *LA CONFESSION DE CHARLEROI* (Flammarion, January 2011, 350 pages)**

A hardened non-believer, Boris enters a church in the Belgian city of Charleroi and starts talking to a priest – a figure he detests – about the town and the ways of the world. There then follows a bitter and strange conversation between the two, alternating with the life story of Boris who lives in Charleroi, a town full of moving characters. In the midst of the slag heaps and industrial wasteland of the town, where the ghosts of Brueghel and Magritte roam, Boris recounts his surreal wanderings. His favourite hobby is to make time come to a standstill. Then he fully relishes the spectacle of those captured as the clock stops, looking stupid and ugly. That is, until Ornella arrives, a teenage girl who breaks through the wall of frozen time, where he thought he could hide.

A first novel displaying an often shadowy truculence – at times fantastic, often poetic, and above all, superbly written.

Aliocha Vandamme teaches history in high school in the Paris area. This is his first novel.

### **Hug, Nathalie: *L’ENFANT-RIEN* (Calmann-Levy, January 2011, 144 pages)**

A lonely child, raised by an emotionally-crippled mother, searches for a father and dreams of another life.

Adrien lives with his loving but elusive mother, his half-sister Isabella, who is lucky enough to have a dad to come and get her every weekend, and a kidney disease that forces him to stay at home. A quiet and thoughtful child, Adrien suffers from the secrecy surrounding his birth, staring blankly out of the living room window and dreaming of another life.

One day, his mother gets hit by a car and is turned into a “heap-of-strawberries-and-cream”. Taken in by his half-sister’s father, Adrien gets a chance at the life he has always dreamed of. Yet adjusting to the normality of family life is not so easy. Adrien, the Nothing-child, returns to his mother’s side, and disappears into a world of shadows, memories and dreams.

Nathalie Hug lives in eastern France (Nancy) and is the author of several books published with Jerome Camut. With *L’ENFANT-RIEN*, her first “solo” novel, she explores a new literary genre.

### **Arcady K.: *KILLING KATE KNIGHT* (Calmann-Levy February 2011, 530 pages)**

During a film shoot, a young actress wakes up and finds herself handcuffed to a bed, abducted by a deranged maniac who informs her that she has to die, for her own good, and for the good of cinema...

Lara Sarah Delilah K, a hit-woman working in secret for the government, is hot on the trail of a mysterious drug organization. Her convictions are thrown for a serious loop, however, when a routine job turns into a bloodbath...

While the former ends up playing along with her kidnapper, the latter realizes that her actions are part of a much bigger picture, with dramatic consequences. Both, ultimately, will end up asking themselves the same question: Who is Kate Knight?

Arkady K(night), born in 1976, divides his time between going to the movies, working at the *Cinématique française* and writing uncompromising online criticism of contemporary creativity. **KILLING KATE KNIGHT** is his first novel.

**Brunet, Gaël: *TOUS LES TROIS***  
**(Le Rouergue, January 2011, 176 pages)**

After a wife and mother passes away, her husband and children gradually learn to come back to life themselves, to exist as a family without the one who was their touchstone. Their lives broke apart one Sunday evening in June. Suddenly the three of them, a father and his two young children, have to reinvent their daily life, despite their mother's absence. Each day brings its share of sadness and of joy. The rituals that reassure the children, the holidays that have to be celebrated anyway.

On the one hand, there is the pain of a man whose cherished wife has disappeared, who lies down each night in a bed that has grown too big. But there is also the strength of the children's life force, that allow him, each day, to go on. A tremendous emotion rises from these scenes of daily life, as well as a comforting tribute to love and to life. You'll also find some lovely thoughts about fatherhood.

Gaël Brunet, born in 1975, has had several short stories published in revues. **TOUS LES TROIS** is his first novel.

**Desvaux, Emilie: *À L'ATTENTION DE LA FEMME DE MÉNAGE***  
**(Stock, January 2011, 192 pages)**

A beautiful country house, set in wooded gardens, all staircases and successions of elegantly furnished rooms. A house populated with memories, ghosts and daydreams. A house where two women live. One was widowed a few months ago. She often likes to sit in the winter drawing room to read, silent and pensive. The other is Marie-Jeanne, a lively, disorganised and infinitely sensual young girl. She has no ties, she turned up one day to be taken care of... and never left.

The two women fell for each other straight away but, with the passing seasons, the widow has more and more trouble tolerating Marie-Jeanne, her long mysterious baths and her unconditional love; and she becomes increasingly cruel. Her dreams are infiltrated by the ghost of her hard harsh mother and her father who used to tell her the bewitching myth of the sirens. She gradually develops a longing to destroy this doomed love or to turn it into something else.

As a backdrop to the story of these two women, and almost inextricable from the house itself, the cleaner goes about her business like a shadow. She is the depository for their secrets, witness to their troubled affections and their peculiar metamorphosis. Like a fairy tale, a legend or a baroque reverie, **A NOTE FOR THE CLEANER** is an unusual first novel with bewitching images and language.

Born in Toulouse in 1983, Emilie Desvaux studies French literature. **A NOTE FOR THE CLEANER** is her first novel.

**Gagnon, Katia: *LA REPARATION***  
**(Boréal, February 2011, 216 pages)**

As a journalist for Montreal daily, Marie Dumais is sent to a small provincial town to relate the story of Sarah Michaud, a teenager who was the victim of bullying at her college before she committed suicide. As part of her investigation, Marie meets teachers and students at the college as well as Sarah's parents who depict the magnitude of the drama the girl experienced before taking her life. Her enquiries also reawaken painful memories she believed to be safely buried, which instead lead to unsuspected consequences in her life.

Katia Gagnon holds our attention till the very end in this highly suspenseful first novel. She lets us in on the fate of deeply wounded characters, but also celebrates kindness, love, and compassion from strangers that life sometimes places on our path.

## CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

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Katia Gagnon is a journalist, She worked as a parliamentary correspondent for La Presse before becoming a columnist and, later, a reporter specializing in social issues. LA REPARATION is her first novel.

## CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

**Delalande, Arnaud: *LE JARDIN DES LARMES***  
(Grasset, March 2011, 352 pages)

What is left when everything is lost? Two people cast adrift in life sign up to volunteer overseas in the hope of bringing meaning back to their empty lives. But the result is not at all what they had anticipated. Arnaud Delalande's latest novel is a striking departure from his usual historical style.

The year is 1994. Lise, a young midwife undergoing profound upheaval in her private life, signs up with an NGO that sends her to Rwanda. She is appalled to discover the tensions reigning between Hutus and Tutsis. Soon, Lise is caught up in the genocide. She is taken hostage; her rescue becomes a major issue for the UN and the French army. Fast-forward ten years. Sébastien is sent to Sri Lanka to head up a major humanitarian mission. Scarcely has he arrived in this new, unfamiliar country when he receives a dawn phone call from one of his members of staff stationed up-country. It seems a tidal wave has devastated much of the Sri Lankan coastline.

In the midst of chaos, Lise falls in love with one of her fellow volunteers. Sébastien has left behind his wife, his family, and his job and now faces the greatest challenge of his life. Will they manage to silence their inner demons and face up to the gigantic, thankless task they have set themselves? Or will they be swept away by the blind forces of history?

Arnaud Delalande is a thirty-nine-year-old screenwriter and author. He has written seven novels, including *LE PIÈGE DE DANTE* (2006), translated into twenty languages, and *LES FABLES DE SANG* (2009).

Foreign rights sold for previous titles: Bulgarian (Uniscorp), Chinese (China Citic Press, Jiaxibooks), Dutch (De Bezige Bij), English (Penguin Books Canada, Weidenfeld & Nicolson), German (Lübbe, Droemer Knaur Verlag), Greek (Harlenic), Hebrew (Kinneret), Hungarian (Gabo), Italian (Ponte Alle Grazie), Korean (Hwang-Mae), Polish (Albatros), Portuguese (Brazil: Record, Portugal: Asa-Leya), Romanian (Rao), Russian (AST), Serbian (Laguna), Spanish (Grijalbo Ediciones).

**Dobrovsky, Serge: *UN HOMME DE PASSAGE***  
(Grasset, February 2011, 544 pages)

Twenty years after *LE LIVRE BRISÉ*, Serge Doubrovsky returns to the literary stage with a powerful, dark novel that retraces the life of one man through the women he has loved, the books he has read, and the treacherous decline of his body. Doubrovsky's style – by turns disjointed and free-flowing – reflects the disorderly nature of life in written form.

*UN HOMME DE PASSAGE* is a powerful, baroque torrent of a novel. Serge Doubrovsky has turned his own life into raw clay to be sculpted. The novel recounts the life of a French Jew who becomes American. He is a man with a weakness for pretty students, by turns cheerful and desperate, an atheist and a believer. He juggles his identities with consummate skill. Serge Doubrovsky lays his soul bare in a style that oscillates between chaos and classicism. The result is by turns hilarious and tragic, underpinned by a deep roar of derision that, for the author, characterises all human life. It leaves the reader shaken and dazzled as he turns the last page.

Serge Doubrovsky is an essayist and novelist. He was awarded the Prix Médicis for *Le Livre brisé* (Grasset) in 1989. He has spent his entire career as a professor in the United States. He is acclaimed as one of the first practitioners and theorists of fictionalised autobiography, in his novel *Un amour de soi*.

*“A fascinating instance of the art of story-telling that challenges taboos – an art which Serge Doubrovsky pioneered and in which he remains unchallenged.”* **Le Monde**

“A great novel on the fading of the light” **Le Point**

“A particular achievement [...] An impressive self-portrait and literary testament”. **Le magazine littéraire**

Foreign rights sold for *LE LIVRE BRISÉ* : Portuguese (Difel), Swedish (Legenda).

**Blondel, Jean-Philippe: G229**  
(Bouchet-Chastel, January 2011, 208 pages)

Education, teaching, the passage of time, relations between teachers, students and parents, teacher Jean-Philippe Blondel paints an optimistic portrait of a profession that feeds his literature.

Not only has “Monsieur Blondel” spent 20 years at the same school, but even the same room: “G229.” The room was assigned to him permanently, although the other teachers change rooms for each class. So you can’t help becoming attached to this classroom, with its tables arranged in a U-shape, like for a banquet, to make it easier to talk to each other, and to create a warmer atmosphere...

A far cry from the catastrophic announcements one usually hears about the state of schools and teaching. Readers will recognize themes dear to the author’s heart: bridging the generation gap, the fact that – willy-nilly – we share living space and make connections.

Jean-Philippe Blondel is an English teacher who was rewarded several times for novels such as THIS IS NOT A LOVE SONG (Prix Charles Exbrayat, 2008) or ACCES DIRECT A LA MER (Prix Marie-Claire Blais, 2005). G229 is his thirteenth novel.

*“Un roman sensible et drôle au cœur de son métier d’enseignant. Jean-Philippe Blondel, l’un des écrivains les plus intéressants de l’époque, à réussi là un bien beau livre.” Livres Hebdo*

*“Derrière la chronique des années lycée de M. Blondel se dessine une réflexion sur le temps qui passe.” Le Figaro*

*“Le savoureux récit romanesque d’un prof qui aime son métier. Abouti, brillant, vivant.” Le Courrier*

**Beigbeder, Géraldine: LARGUÉE EN PÉRIPHÉRIE DE LA ZONE POLITIQUE ET AUTRES PETITS DÉSORDRES ORGANIQUES**

(Albin Michel, January 2011, 320 pages)

Already 6 000 copies sold in France

May 2007, Sarkozy is elected. Lea and Justin trail around Paris all night, from Fouquet’s - the expensive restaurant on the Champs Elysées where the president celebrates his victory, to Bastille. The disenchanted, ‘radical chic’ couple - born consumers and up to their ears in debt - drift aimlessly, realizing that the goose is cooked. Then Justin, a conceptual artist, dumps Lea (who has given up her job). Politics will move on, but Lea’s life has just come to grinding halt. Deciding to spy on Justin, she follows him accompanied by Roll’on, who’s just as clueless as she is and has a thing about girls from the West Indies. Like her, he dreams of love and equality in a world that prefers to read about Paris Hilton’s latest escapade...

A novel that plays on self-derision and existential anguish, blending social analyses, the search for the self, the reluctance to grow up in a world where everyone has ‘been there, done that’ and whose future is spelled out in the Book of Revelation.

The author first novel was SPONSORS (Ramsay, 2007).

The Russian rights for her previous work are sold to Phantom-Press

**Nedjma: TOI, L’ARABE !**  
(Plon, February 2011, 250 pages)

What has become of Badra, the heroine of L’AMANDE, the first great contemporary erotic narrative written by a Muslim woman, and a book on the theme of liberty, that of the body and that of the word ?

In this narrative, Badra comes back down to earth, not to bury herself but to speak out about the ravages committed against the planet, her only home, her unique paradise. On the television screen, the world parades before her eyes, provoking her, moving her, insulting her intelligence. Staring at the computer screen, life is somehow off kilter, distressing in all that is virtual and unreal. She addresses the Arabs, whom she sees as unjust towards the world because of their own self-contempt. She seeks to show them they are still capable of humanity, once and for all. Ironic, naïve, enraged, Badra demands only one thing: her freedom, that of speech and of body. But she still has one last battle awaiting her, the confrontation with the passage of time and the acceptance of her own ageing.

Nedjma is a Muslim woman who lives in the Middle East. She wishes to remain anonymous, for, since the publication of l’Amande, which was enthusiastically received both in France and abroad, she has been the object of threats.

## CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

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The Russian rights for the previous works are sold to Ripol-Classic

### **Suty, Yann: *LES CHAMPS DE PARIS* (Stock, January 2011, 382 pages)**

*Les Champs de Paris* is a bar where Freddy and Cortès – two old friends who are different in every way – meet regularly. Freddy earns a good living, is good-looking and has a gorgeous girlfriend, Anna. Cortès, on the other hand, has no hint of the Don Juan about him and, despite his degree in biology, has a succession of cash-in-hand jobs. To top it all, he is hopelessly in love with Anna. Although he is used to living in Freddy's shadow, he finally decides to take matters in hand.

*Les Champs de Paris* is a bar that Vanessa has just discovered. Ever since a serious car crash that she alone survived, she has developed a passion for body-building. Her brother Cortès and Freddy often tease her on the subject. She now has enough muscle to frighten most men. *Les Champs de Paris* is a bar where men in suits and ties wait quietly in a corner before going through a doorway hidden behind a curtain. No way of knowing what goes on behind the beefcake who guards it, or of being invited in. But that underestimates Freddy's strong will. *Les Champs de Paris* is a bar but it's nothing special according to Anna. She doesn't understand why Freddy spends so much time there. Either way, he would go to the ends of the earth to avoid being with her. During the day he is at work, in the evenings with his friends. Anna is bored. Until she goes for a little walk that opens new horizons for her.

Four protagonists, four points of view. Yann Suty deftly combines their different perceptions of the same facts, subtly weaving the events that turn his characters' lives upside down. After *Cubes*, *Les Champs de Paris* confirms Yann Suty's unique universe and the rhythmic power of his writing.

Yann Suty was born in 1978 in northern France. He works in Paris as an advertising copywriter and as a newspaper headline writer. *LES CHAMPS DE PARIS* is his second novel.

### **Juhel, Fabienne: *DES HOMMES SIRÈNES* (Le Rouergue, January 2011, 304 pages)**

The physical and temporal voyage of a man who abandons everything to rebuild himself and get beyond his traumatic childhood. On a day like any other, Antoine tosses his keys into the dump and walks out on his wife and children. This man who walks to a different drummer sets off on an extensive journey around France. What did he witness in his childhood that makes him need to purge his memory?

Originally from India, Antoine was raised by a brother and sister, "The Dark Ones," who survived the concentration camps. Indelibly marked by their wartime experiences, this strange pair entertains a singular relationship with death. A dry, aridly conditioned childhood that would profoundly disturb Antoine, down to his very soul.

Over the course of this trip back through time, Antoine will have essential encounters that will help him come to terms both with his past and with himself. A novel of liberation, *LES HOMMES SIRÈNES* combines intelligent reflections on the human condition with a powerful narrative.

Born in 1965, Fabienne Juhel teaches literature in the Côtes-d'Armor. Her previous novel, *À L'ANGLE DU RENARD* won the Ouest France / Etonnants Voyageurs Award. *LES HOMMES SIRÈNES* is her fifth novel.

### **Wackenheim, Vincent: *LA GUEULE DE L'EMPLOI* (Le Dilettante, March 2011, 224 pages)**

The important thing is the way you look. No job if you don't look the part. That's the conclusion the seven unemployed heroes come to in Vincent Wackenheim's novel. In their quest for that elusive job, they first meet at an Activation-Motivation workshop organized by employment agency coach Carole. To carve out a lion's share on the swindle market, our seven protagonists found a company, LTP (*Look the Part*), and commence "faking" on all fronts: fake aristocrats at the funeral of a millionaire butcher, fake confessor for sinners at Saint Sulpice, fake Norwegian author at the Brives-encounters print fair in south-west France. They are so successful they need several boilers to store the flood of liquid assets: the breach of trust bubble grows everyday. But not everything is possible you say? "It was weird from the outset", begins Wackenheim, but rest assured, it continues and ends the same. The book received the Mario Monicelli Award and the Jean Pierre Mocky 2011 Trophy. Really? What a question!

Born in Strasbourg in 1959, Vincent Wackenheim lives in Paris, deplores not having been able to take part in the Deluge and met Noah. Insufficiently zoophile, which he regrets, he knows no facts about otters, termites, not even about dinoZoresBut he knows God and the Devil a bit, hence the world we live in. LA GUEULE DE L'EMPLOI is his third novel

**Julliand, Anne-Dauphine: *DEUX PETITS PAS SUR LE SABLE MOUILLÉ*  
(Les Arènes, March 2011, 250 pages)**

**Prepublication as star book by France Loisir bookclub in October 2010**

Thaïs was as ravishing as she was mischievous. Despite illness and suffering, this little girl gave to those who knew her an incredible lesson of courage, generosity and hope. Her mother shares her story with us.

On the very day Thaïs turned two, Anne-Dauphine Julliand learned that her daughter was suffering from an incurable disease. Her heartrending story tells the readers about the struggle of a family and of their relatives and friends, a moving network of solidarity, all united for one magnificent cause: to make Thaïs' short life as beautiful as possible. They were all blessed in return with the most precious gift of all: her unrestrained liveliness, joy and love.

Anne-Dauphine Julliand is a journalist. She lives in Paris with her family.

**Prolongeau, Hubert: *MÉFAITS DIVERS*  
(Flammarion, March 2011, 192 pages)**

The girl on the Paris suburban train who lied about an anti-Semitic attack; Father Perrotin, guilty of religious fanaticism, leading to the drowning of children during a doomed sailing lesson; the ruses of Somali bandits who lock up Western tourists with the aim of claiming ransoms from their governments...

These are some of the notorious human interest stories revisited by Hubert Prolongeau, enabling him to sketch a multifaceted tragedy of modern times, showing the extent to which humans are capable of manipulation, cunning, and madness. Or how reality goes far beyond fiction. Or how the writer sets himself up as a witness of his epoch, without ever taking on the role of judge.

Hubert Prolongeau is a journalist for *Le Nouvel observateur* and *JDD*. Flammarion has notably published his books *Américain américain*, a novel based on Elia Kazan, and an investigation into work-related suicide (*Travailler à en mourir*).

**Loubière, Sophie: *L'ENFANT AUX CAILLOUX*  
(Univers Poche, April 2011, 330 pages)**

When Madam Préau returns home after several weeks of convalescence, she immediately notices that the neighborhood has changed. A new family has moved in next door and, from her window, she can see their every move. She quickly begins to understand that something just isn't right with them. They have two perfectly healthy children who play in the yard after school, but a third child appears from time to time who seems to be calling for help by throwing pebbles at her window in hopes of getting her attention. The police refuse to listen. Cut off from her own grandson, Madam Préau is determined to help this child. But everything changes the day that, after befriending the family, she attempts to poison them...

Who is this Madam Préau? A dangerous paranoiac, as some people claim her to be? An old woman suffering from loneliness if we believe her son? Or a special being, gifted with vision beyond the realm of "normal"?

A stifling and moving atmosphere, a dense psychological novel that speaks of the past, of psychoanalysis and offers another vision of the illness of paranoia. A book packed with surprises, as in titles by Nicci French, where the insane are not always who we expect them to be...

Author of five novels, detective short stories and a children's book, Sophie Loubière also made a name for herself in the publishing community thanks to a unique literary program (*Parking at Night*, France Inter) and her reviews at France Info (*Thriller Info*). Her novels, whether they are literature or thrillers, are treated in the same manner... with sensibility.

## ***HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL***

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### **Collection: *LES AFFRANCHIS***

**(Robert Laffont, March 2011, 20-50 pages each titles)**

LES AFFRANCHIS is a new collection inspired by Kafka's famous LETTER TO HIS FATHER; it's a collection which will unite some of France's best contemporary authors and which offers them the platform to write the letter that they never had the chance to write.

### **Ernaux, Annie: *L'AUTRE FILLE***

Annie Ernaux writes a powerfully moving letter to an older sister who died tragically before she was born, a sister that her parents never told her about. She only learned of her existence by accidentally overhearing a conversation. Annie Ernaux' works: LES ARMOIRES VIDES (Gallimard, 1974), CE QU'ILS DISENT OU RIEN (Gallimard, 1979), LA PLACE (Gallimard, 1986), LA HONTE (Gallimard, 1999), LES ANNÉES (Gallimard, 2008)

### **d'Estienne d'Orves, Nicolas: *JE PARS À L'ENTRACTE***

Nicolas d'Estienne d'Orves's letter is to a childhood friend with whom he formed an inseparable bond, until his friend's suicide. Nicolas d'Estienne d'Orves' works: FIN DE RACE (Flammarion, 2002), OTHON OU L'AURORE IMMOBILE (Les Belles Lettres, 2002), LES ORPHELINS DU MAL (XO, 2007)

### **Tessarech, Bruno: *VINCENNES***

Bruno Tessarech reminisces to an old comrade from 1968 about the experimental Vincennes, France's first open admissions university where students from all walks of life were mixed. Bruno Tessarech's works: *SENTINELLES* (Grasset, 2009), *POUR MALAPARTE: PORTRAIT* (Buchet Chastel, 2007), *LA FEMME DE L'ANALYSTE* (Buchet Chastel, 2005)

## ***HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL***

### **Jacq, Christian: *THE RISE OF EGYPT***

**(Editions XO, 2010-2011, 3 volumes)**

**Volume 1- *WAR OF THE CLANS*, October 11, 2010**

**Volume 2- *NIGHT OF SCORPIO*, November 15, 2010**

**Volume 3 – *THE FALCON'S EYE*, January 20, 2011**

**Partial English translation available**

A stunning trilogy as powerful as *The Stone of Light*. Between history and mythology, Christian Jacq explores the mystery of the Zero Dynasty and the birth of the Egyptian civilisation. Christian Jacq reveals the mystery of the Zero Dynasty: how a country of two lands, plunged into chaos, gave rise to the Egypt of the pharaohs, birthplace of an ageless civilisation...

3500 BC: Egypt is being torn apart by several warring clans. In the Northern swamps, young Narmer's village is under attack. All the inhabitants have been massacred, the Seashell clan has been annihilated. Saved at the last moment by a young seer, who is savagely murdered, Narmer swears revenge and leaves for unknown lands. But first, he must cross the valley of Hindrances, from which no human has ever emerged alive... The Ancestor, messenger from the gods, assigns him seven obstacles to overcome before building a new world.

On his way, Narmer meets a warrior, who is as seductive as he is pitiless: Scorpio. He finds himself in the midst of the war between the clans, between North and South, between the strength of the Ox, the madness of the Eland, the Crocodile's ruse, the Lion's ambition, the Jackal's mystery... If he were to triumph over the obstacles on the long road ahead, Narmer would become the first Pharaoh... And Egypt would awaken for eternity.

Christian JACQ, renowned the world over for his knowledge as an egyptologist and his talent as a writer has written a new trilogy of novels in the same vein as his hugely successful series: *RAMSES*, *THE STONE OF LIGHT*, *THE QUEEN OF FREEDOM*... His books have sold more than 27 million copies in the world and have been translated into 30 languages. The Russian rights for some previous series are sold to Geleos Ltd.

**Vanoyeke, Violaine: *LE PILLEUR DE TOMBES*  
(Le Rocher, January 2011, 256 pages)**

The author, who has traveled extensively in Egypt, leads us into the mysterious world of grave-robbing in a fast-paced thriller. Robbers have plundered the grave of Amenophis II in the Valley of the Kings. When they get together to divvy up the stolen treasure, they realize that one of them is missing. He fell into a well in the royal tomb. But was it an accident? Or murder? The gardener is accused, which forces him to make his own investigation. A breathtaking new thriller from a very popular writer!

Violaine Vanoyeke is a writer, poet, novelist and historian. The author of 76 historical novels, her work is sold in more than 20 countries. She is also a virtuoso pianist. Her books have been published in book club and in paperback editions. Professor of literature and ancient civilizations in France and abroad, she now focuses her work and research in Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Italy, Spain, France, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Israel and Morocco.

**Vanoyeke, Violaine: *A ROMANTIC HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT*  
(Grancher, October, 2010, 250 pages)**

The fascinating account of the great love stories of ancient Egypt.

Ramses II, desired by hundreds of women, will nevertheless lose Nefertari, the only woman he ever loved... Ramses III's harem favorite, the scheming Tiye, will resort to magic to conspire against the Pharaoh, and put her son on Egypt's throne... Cleopatra, ambitious, impulsive and sensual, will conquer Caesar only to fall in love with Anthony...

Antiquity specialist Violaine Vanoyeke is the author of over 80 works translated in fifty countries. A Romantic History of Ancient Egypt gives the reader an inside look at the private lives of the Egyptian kings during the days of the Pharaohs. A highly-detailed and surprising tour of ancient Egypt's royal chambers and harems - love-philters and all!

Classicist, Egyptologist, linguist and professor of ancient civilizations and literature, Violaine Vanoyeke is also a television and radio producer and consultant.

**Teulé, Jean: *CHARLY 9*  
(Robert Laffont, March 2011, 240 pages)  
N#1 in best-selling list**

The tragicomic pen of Jean Teulé strikes again. His subject this time – Charles IX, the French king notorious for the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre of 1572 in which thousands of Huguenots were brutally murdered.

Teulé begins his latest novel portraying Charly 9, 22 years old, as a mere puppet who is pressured to give in to his mother Catherine de Médicis's wishes to go ahead with the massacre. The guilt over these murders will lead to Charly's rapid descent into madness which is at the heart of this darkly entertaining tale. Charly loves to hunt so when winter sets in, he has animals brought into the palace so that he could hunt in the warmth.

The New Year traditionally began on April 1 and was considered a Spring holiday when people would dance half naked. Charly's decision to begin the New Year on January 1 leads to the deaths of many who continued to celebrate without clothing. He even believes that he could simply replenish the Kingdom's treasures by producing false money, with his head engraved on each coin. These are just some of the examples of Charly's madness, at times both absurd and deadly, that will quickly lead to his own death just two years after the massacre.

Jean Teulé has written the following works published by Julliard: RAINBOW POUR RIMBAUD, DARLING (recently adapted for the cinema), LES LOIS DE LA GRAVITÉ, Ô VERLAINE!, JE FRANÇOIS VILLON (130,000 copies sold), LE MAGASIN DES SUICIDES (350,000 copies sold, animated film in production), LE MONTESPAN (prix Maison de la Presse, 550,000 copies sold) and MANGEZ-LE SI VOUS VOULEZ (180,000 copies sold)

The Russian rights for LE MAGASIN DES SUICIDES are sold to Pokolenie

**de Carolis, Patrick: *LA DAME DU PALATIN*  
(Plon, March 2011, 400 pages)**

With the novelized biography of the wife of Seneca, one of the greatest philosophers of Antiquity, Patrick de Carolis takes us to the heart of the violent intrigues of Nero's Rome.

Arelate, ancient Arles, in the year 38 A.D. Paulina, daughter of the wealthy ship builder Pompeius Paulinus, leaves for Rome and, caught in a violent storm at sea, ends up on a Corsican beach. It is there that she meets the Stoic philosopher Seneca, in exile for political reasons. Having interceded for the philosopher's rehabilitation with Agrippina, the fearsome mother of the future Nero, the young Gaul becomes the lady of the Palatine when she marries Seneca. Paulina is confronted with the intrigues of the court, the conspiracies and the assassinations. She will meet some of the most famous personalities of her century, in particular one who will become Saint Paul, fleeing the persecution of the Christians.

Patrick de Carolis paints the sumptuous decors of imperial Rome and brilliantly describes the legendary splendor of its banquets, where the scent of the most precious perfumes of the Empire blends with the brimstone odor of conspiracy.

Patrick de Carolis is a journalist. President of France Télévisions from 2005 to 2010, he co-authored CONVERSATION (Plon, 2003) with Bernadette Chirac and is the author of the very successful LES DEMOISELLES DE PROVENCE (480,000 copies sold in France, Plon, 2005).

**Ceresa, François: *ANTONELLO, LEONARD DE VINCI ET MOI*  
(Plon, January 2011, 160 pages)**

The memoirs of Francesco Gelpi, a 15<sup>th</sup> century mercenary with a gift for painting and his encounters with Antonello de Messine, the man who imposed oil painting in Venice, and Leonardo da Vinci, then just starting out.

Written in the first person, this book is the extraordinary account of an Italian mercenary, Francesco Gelpi, who left Messina to sell his services to the Turks.

His journey leads him to meet several of the artists of his time, and not the least, since he encounters Leonardo da Vinci when the latter is still relatively unknown. Enchanted by both Gelpi and his drawings, da Vinci promises him a great future and gives him a medallion of Donatello's David. Upon his arrival in Messina, our hero runs into the artist Antonello, who brought oil painting to the fore. The artist takes Gelpi into his heart when he saves the lives of his two children and makes him his new disciple. Gelpi's latest inspiration is to paint the portrait of a woman he met, forever anonymous, many years before during a ball in Venice. Her face has haunted his memory since then, until the day when he finds his unknown woman once again, a certain Mona. But he must at once also face his past as a mercenary when an affair of murder comes up, one committed on the very night of his encounter with this mysterious woman....

François Cérésa is a novelist whose favourite period is the 18th and 19th centuries. His historical frescoes are suspenseful and lush, his talents as a storyteller exceptional, as is evident in his latest novel, LA TERRIBLE VENGEANCE DU CHEVALIER D'ANZY. He was awarded *the Prix du Figaro* for his LES TROIS HUSSARDS.

*"C'est à un voyage au cœur du mystère de la création artistique que nous convie l'auteur." Le Figaro*

**de Cortanze, Gérard: *MIROIRS*  
(Plon, January 2011, 252 pages)**

During the Great Century, against the backdrop of the war of techniques between French and Venetian mirror manufacturers, the young glassworker Baron Nicolas de Valognes investigates the disappearance of a beautiful Venetian looking-glass dealer, in whom he has found his soul mate.

1665. Nicolas d'Assan, the young Baron de Valognes, has a passion for mirrors and, despite the risks involved, does not hesitate to import contraband mirrors from Venice. The King's police have him in their sights, and he is, first of all, strongly encouraged to re-open the glass manufacture his father had closed years ago, and then compelled to make several journeys to Venice to recruit master glassworkers to staff the brand new Manufacture Royale des Glaces de Miroir, intended to rival those of the Serenissime.

During his first trip, he encounters the beautiful Azzura, who agrees to come to work in Paris but suddenly and mysteriously disappears on the day of departure. Six months later, returning from his third mission, he convinces the enigmatic Vittorio Dino to work for him. Dino, in fact, will be responsible for the fantastic

success of the Valognes glassworks, an accomplishment that will earn him the ire of Colbert and forced recruitment to the Manufacture Royale.

In the years that follow, Nicolas d'Assan will do everything he can to solve the mystery of Dino's actual identity, apparently somehow linked to the disappearance of both his mother and of another woman he cherishes.

Author of over 60 works translated into 20 languages, including ASSAM, Prix Renaudot 2002, Gérard de Cortanze directs the Folio/Biographies collection at Editions Gallimard and is a contributor to Le Magazine littéraire.

Foreign rights sold to : Serbia (Geopoetika)

**Tirtiaux, Bernard: *PRELUDE DE CRISTAL*  
(JC Lattès, February 2011, 350 pages)**

The tale of Lena, a young harpist, and Lazare, a glassblower, creates a superb saga set in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Late March, 1886 in Belgium: The miners and glassmakers have started a revolution in the Sambre basin, and chaos reigns in the country, while the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra has come to Brussels for a concert of Mozart. Lena, a young harpist meets Lazare, a glassmaker. Through him, she winds up getting involved in hiding secret formulas and being forced to flee to America, where she will become a nomad with a traveling circus, a substitute mother, a bringer of justice and the voice of the Sioux's tragic destiny.

A prelude stretching over 40 seasons, with a harp and a glass harmonica playing in the background, for a captivating story of love and waiting.

Bernard Tirtiaux is a poet, sculptor, master of the art of stained glass and novelist. His first novel, LE PASSEUR DE LUMIERE (Denoel, 1993) attracted a lot of attention, and was followed by two novels published by Editions JC Lattes, AUBERTIN D'AVALON and PITIE POUR LE MAL (20,000 copies in 2006), which were both very well received.

**d'Aillon, Jean: *LE SECRET DE L'ENCLOS DU TEMPLE*  
(Flammarion, March 2011, 608 pages)**

1647, during the Fronde civil war. The wrath of the Parliament and the people of Paris finally explodes against taxes and the impudent fattening of a chosen few. Parliament members, pushed by the Parisian bourgeoisie, wish to force upon the Regent and the Cardinal Mazarin, a constitution to restrict royal power.

It is during this period that the Count of Bussy, a regiment commander under the Prince of Condé, discovers in his house within the Templar Enclosure, a coded message, possibly written by Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar. The cousin of the Count, Marie de Sévigné, then introduces him to Louis Fronsac, reputed for his incisive ability to solve enigmas.

At the same time, Gaston de Tilly, a royal prosecutor and an old friend of Fronsac, is entrusted the task of finding out who has quartered a valet of the favoured Duke of Orléans, and to identify a dualist who kills for thrills. But above all, he must prepare a kidnapping case against Monsieur de Bussy who has inexplicably abducted an attractive widow being courted by Monsieur d'Artagnan.

When he unravels the meaning of Jacques de Molay's message, Louis Fronsac guesses that the matters his friend is investigating are all related to the Templar treasure. But will the outbreak of civil war, the siege of Paris by the Prince of Condé, and the ravages of mercenaries, allow him enough time to save Monsieur de Bussy and unmask whoever in the shadows is seeking to appropriate the Templar gold?

Jean d'Aillon is the author of a number of successful historical detective novels published by Masque and Lattès: LUCIUS GALLUS IN THE ROMAN ERA, GUILHEM D'USSEL in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, OLIVIER HAUTEVILLE during the religious wars, Louis Fronsac under the reigns of Louis XIII and Louis XIV, and the brigand TROIS-SUEURS during the Regency.

**Pécassou-Camebrac, Bernadette: *LA DERNIÈRE BAGNARDE*  
(Flammarion, April 2011, 350 pages)**

Marie Bartête would undeniably have remained an unknown name if she had never been visited, in 1923, by Albert Londres, who related their interview in his book Au bagné. She was nevertheless the last woman convict to die in French Guyana, in the 1930s, after spending half a century in the French penal colony. Following her birth in 1863 in the French southwest region of Pyrénées-Atlantiques, she was abandoned by her

## ***HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL***

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mother, orphaned at age nine, married at fifteen, widowed at twenty. Here ended the chapter in her life as a free woman. Marie was not a criminal: sentenced on a number of occasions to several months of prison for theft, she was sent to the penal colony at the age of twenty-five after being accused of “detestable conduct and morality”. The truth was, the penitentiary administration claiming to purge upstanding French society was suffering from a shortage of vital forces to repopulate the colonies.

It is the figure of this woman relegated to the penal colony in Saint-Laurent du Maroni that Bernadette Pécassou brings to life in her new novel. Readers will discover the tragic destiny of a young woman abandoned by all, and the terrible state of “women convicts” overseen by nuns from the Saint-Laurent du Maroni convent. Soon posted to the quarters of the prison commander, then those of the works engineer, this “beautiful radiant-skinned woman from the Gironde” was initiated – like most of her co-prisoners – to the so-called “booth” ritual, whereby convicts could choose a wife. In 1933, at the age of seventy, Marie Bartête was no longer imprisoned but still living in Guyana, lacking the means to pay her return trip to France.

Bernadette Pécassou is a journalist, and television producer. She has written five novels published by Flammarion: *LA BELLE CHOCOLATIÈRE* (2001, rights sold to Spain), *LE BEL ITALIEN* (2003), *L'IMPÉRATRICE DES ROSES* (2005), *LA VILLA BELZA* (2007), and *LA PASSAGÈRE DU FRANCE* (2009).

### **Guégan, Gérard: *FONTENOY NE REVIENDRA PLUS* (Stock, February 2011, 496 pages)**

“As I come from a time, a world in fact, where everyone swore to stay eternally true to their convictions, I have often wondered why so many energetic figures then rather swiftly turn the page on their youth. This question - what drives a man to change camps, - eventually became an obsession. I would have used it as the material for a pamphlet but I wanted to reach a wider audience than merely preaching to the converted. Which is why I resuscitated a writer from the last century, Jean Fontenoy who, to use Malraux’s words, was always where it mattered most: The Great War, Dada, October, Maiakovski, Lenin and Trotski, Moscow and Shanghai, etc. Now, this man who was born to poverty and whom the Republic brought distinction, whose books seduced everyone from Kessel to Colette and Blanchot to Céline, suddenly turned to Fascism against all expectations (he had denounced the Nazis as early as 1933). A few years later, not without logic, the only option open to him was to commit suicide in a Berlin besieged by the Red Army. Be that as it may, the only reason I wrote Fontenoy will Never Return was to understand what we are made of and what determines our destinies. And our rejections.” Gérard Guégan

Gérard Guégan’s new book is neither factual account nor biography but is carried by such a novelistic central figure with such a tragic fate that it should primarily be compared to and identified with literature. It is Fontenoy’s novel. His commitments and loves, his obsessions and disguises, the story of a man whom people long both to meet and to escape, to love and to leave, just as he never stopped leaving himself.

Gérard Guégan is a writer, journalist, editor and translator and has had some thirty books published, including novels and works about film, but also political essays and the song *Mao Mao* for Jean-Luc Godard’s *La Chinoise*. He most notably set up the review *Subjectif*, has translated Bukowski, set up the publishing company Les éditions Champ Libre and relaunched another, les Editions du Sagittaire. In his day, he was also an actor and director; he directed five films and played opposite Brigitte Fossey in *La Croisée*.

### **Coupon, Henri: *LA JUIVE NOIRE* (Aubéron, October 2010, 400 pages)**

*LA JUIVE NOIRE* is a novel written in “Douglas Kennedy’s style”, which takes place after WWII in different countries and mixes different topics: the Blacks, the Jews, the stalk of former Nazis, the art market... and at the end a trial in the finest tradition of the USA.

Winter 1942. Madeleine, a young Jew from Warsaw, is arrested then deported. The SS officer Weister, who is also a painter, integrates Madeleine into a group of prostitutes in the camp and forces her to pose for him. Their relationship becomes more and more confused. At the end of the war, he kills Madeleine’s friends and leaves her almost dead. But she lives through her injuries.

After the war, the Russians buy “The Black Jew”, a portrait of Madeleine where the artist unites the Jews condition and those of the Black Americans. This portrait becomes an emblem of communism and Madeleine a celebrity. She starts an investigation from Poland to Israel, Vienna and Italy, following her former torturer’s footprints.

Writer and scriptwriter, Henri Coupon was a lawyer. During the Algerian War, he was one of the FLN lawyer. He is the author of many thrillers and historical novels, including *LE GRAND FLEAU* which deals with the plague epidemic of Marseille in 1720.

**Marc, Bernard & Rivière, Maryse: *LE FRACAS DES HOMMES*  
(Calmann-Lévy, February 2011, 400 pages)**

The storm that swept through Europe, bringing the Belle Epoque to an abrupt close and precipitating an entire generation of men into turmoil of the Great War.

Paris, 1909. Coming to Paris to study medicine, Louis Tréhen is about to discover the two faces of the capital : the splendor of the City of lights and the shadows of Belleville, the aristocratic opulence of St. Germain and the dire misery of the slums. In this prewar period of extremes, however, Louis diligently proceeds, making friendships, contacts and a name as a doctor.

Ten years later, Louis has passed through war. Injured, he experiences firsthand the horrors of the war, having worked on the front as a doctor. He begins to write to take his mind out of his condition.

A coming-of-age novel, describing two very different Louis, changed by the war. This picturesque Paris of Apollinaire reveals the unfortunate fate of a sacrificed generation.

Science historian focused on health services, medical expert at the court of appeals, Bernard Marc published in 2009 *PROFESSION: MEDECIN LEGISTE* (Demos) and wrote several essays on the Great War. Eclectic author, Maryse Rivière published many detective novels, historical monographs and short stories.

**Diwo, Jean: *LA CALÈCHE*  
(Flammarion, November 2011, 288 pages)**

“The thing is, while glancing through an old newspaper left behind by a client, I learned that the growing number of carriages is causing permanent traffic jams in Paris and that cabriolets, carts, riders and horses push and shove against one another both on the Champs-Élysées and in the Bois de Boulogne. And above all – and this is my point – there aren’t enough saddles to satisfy the needs of all these horses and carriages.”

The new novel by Jean Diwo is a breathless and passionate account of the Hermès family saga. It is much more than the story of a young saddle maker who heads to Paris at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to found what will become the famous brand, a symbol of French luxury. This is a fascinating novel about a dynasty which always strove for excellence in producing quality goods, in an era of change and progress, synonymous with the speed of production.

From Napoleon’s campaigns to the Second World War, the heart of a flesh-and-leather family beats in this great fresco reminiscent of the work of Zola.

Jean Diwo, a foreign correspondent before he founded *Télé 7 jours*, is the author of numerous best-sellers: *AU TEMPS OÙ LA JOCONDE PARLAIT* (60,000 copies sold), *LES DÎNERS DE CALPURNIA* (45,000 copies sold), *LA FONTAINIÈRE DU ROI* (75,000 copies sold), and *MOI MILANOLLO, FILS DE STRADIVARIUS* (40,000 copies sold), all published by Flammarion. His books have been translated into five languages (Romania, Spain, Germany, China and Estonia).

**Hugon, Philippe: *POUR LES PLAISIRS DU ROI  
LES MÉMOIRES DE DU BARRY, LE COURTIER GALANT DE LOUIS XV*  
(Flammarion, January 2011 496 pages)**

Count Jean du Barry was a country squire from the provinces, born penniless in 1723. Very early on, he also proved himself to be devoid of morals or scruples. After abandoning his wife and child to squander his modest inheritance in Paris, he embarked on a career as a pimp. His reputation led him to the court of Louis XV, where he won powerful allies and clients but also staunch enemies including the secretary of state, Monsieur de Choiseul, and the king’s mistress, Madame de Pompadour. To protect himself from the latter, his ploy was to set up a rival in the king’s bed. Between conspiracies, intrigues and debauchery, this project would occupy him for several years.

At last, he found the ideal candidate: a young twenty-year-old prostitute, Jeanne Bécu, who became first his mistress, then a countess, by marrying Du Barry’s brother. Thus was born Madame du Barry, the last in the line of favoured companions during the reign of Louis XV. Thanks to her, Jean du Barry extracted fortunes from the king before she finally managed to free herself from his influence. But when Louis XV died, the pair fell into

## WOMEN WRITING

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disgrace. Twenty years later, fate took a hand and both Jean and Jeanne died on the guillotine, victims of the Terror and their errors of the past.

Philippe Hugon was a creative writer for an advertising agency before becoming a journalist. He was head of the economics department of a regional daily newspaper, then chief editor of a magazine until 2008. Since 2009, he has been a freelance journalist.

### **Malka, Francis: *LA NOYADE DU MARCHAND DE PARAPLUIE* (Hurtubise, October 2010, 176 pages)**

It is Southern France in the 11th century, and an umbrella merchant makes the gift of a mysterious book to a young cobbler. After reading his own life-story in its pages, the young man decides to write a sequel. To his astonishment, what he has written actually comes true, and he tries rather clumsily to turn the future to his advantage, still managing to bring on centuries of catastrophes instead: floods, the lean in the Tower of Pisa, World War One, and so on. This is a historical novel that also delves into fantasy.

Francis Malka has studied music at the Conservatoire de Montréal and mechanical engineering at the École Polytechnique. He has built specialized research software for Semantix which is used by agencies like the FBI, the CIA or the NASA. He has been nominated for the Prix de la relève littéraire Archambault 2007 and le

Prix France-Québec 2007 for *The Deaf Cellist*. His previous novel *LE VIOLONCELLISTE SOURD* was highly acclaimed by critics.

Praises about *LE VIOLONCELLISTE SOURD*:

*“Francis Malka has given us a book rich in its contemplation of truth and falsehood and audacious in its interweaving of politics, society and music.”* **Le Libraire**

*“An excellent novel.”* **Le Soleil**

## WOMEN WRITING

### **Olmi, Véronique: *CET ÉTÉ-LÀ* (Grasset, January 2011, 288 pages) Already 34 000 copies sold**

Three couples, all on the verge of middle age, return to the seaside house where they spend time together every summer. The trials of early adulthood behind them, they are ready to embrace their hard-won serenity. But their tranquility is threatened when a mysterious stranger arrives with disturbing news. Véronique Olmi's magical, polyphonic novel is a hymn to life in all its complexity.

For the past sixteen years, Denis and Delphine have thrown their beachfront home in Normandy open to their friends, Marie and Nicolas and Lola and Samuel, for the Bastille Day holidays. The long weekend has become a tradition marking the strength of their friendship. Apart from Lola's toyboy Samuel, who is in his twenties, the friends are all in their forties and fifties. Some of them have plenty of money, others none; for one or two, love has given way to companionship; some have brought their children with them. What unites them all, though, is the desire to honour their friendship with long, lazy lunches, games of tennis, and sunny afternoons on the beach.

It is on the beach that Denis and Delphine's teenage daughter Jeanne meets twenty-year-old Dimitri. He is not a local. In fact, he seems to be undefinable – shy, perhaps, attractive yet taciturn, alternating between cheery banter and sombre introspection. What seems at first to be just a teenage flirt takes on a dark significance when Dimitri comes into the garden and announces that the great pine tree is dying. If the tree that has sheltered their picnics and siestas, symbolising the solidity of the ties that bind them together, dies, what might become of their friendship?

Véronique Olmi is a novelist and playwright. Grasset has published four of her novels and a play. Her most recent novel, *LE PREMIER AMOUR*, sold 50,000 copies.

Foreign rights sold : German (A. Kunstmann Verlag). Film rights: under negotiation.

Rights sold to previous works : Arab (Arab Scientific Publishers), Chinese (Taiwan : Asian Culture), Danish (Arvids), Dutch (De Bezige Bij), German (A. Kunstmann Verlag), Italian (Einaudi), Korean (Human Books), Polish (Otwarte), Russian (Mir Knigi, Azbooka-Atticus).

“Subtle, refined, and impeccable in terms of style. [...] *Cet été-là* is a rare novel. [...] *Véronique Olmi’s* readers rediscover the secret of her incredibly lively, feminine pen. No doubt because she writes plays as well as novels and, like Chekhov, knows how to instil the body and dramatic tension of the theatre in her writing.” **Le Point**

“Véronique Olmi’s sharp, poignant style grabs your heart.” **Madame Figaro**

“A book of sound and fury that leaves the reader feeling sucker-punched”. **Madame Figaro**

**Benameur, Jeanne: *LES INSURRECTIONS SINGULIÈRES*  
(Actes Sud, January 2011, 209 pages)**

Threatened by outsourcing, a working-class young man will open his eyes to the world, refuse his condition and take a new start in life.

The son of a blue-collar worker, Antoine is searching for his place in the world. Despite having gone to college, Antoine moves back to his parents’ modest home to take a job at the same steel mill as his father. With his job threatened by outsourcing and having been dropped by his fiancée, “Antoine’s perspectives seem pretty dim until he meets Marcel, an old bookseller who breathes a bit of spunk and ambition into him. This meeting, which lightens his loneliness helps Antoine find the strength and curiosity for a new start in life. When his factory’s jobs move to Brazil, he heads off to meet the workers over there.

Through Antoine, Jeanne Benameur gives blue-collar workers a chance to speak, as their singular voices have often been ignored by literature. So doing, she exposes the anxiety caused by restructuring companies and outsourcing jobs. In spare, attentive prose, she transmits a sense of urgency about taking paths, people and things to heart.

Jeanne Benameur was born in Algeria in 1952. She has written several young people’s books as well as 7 novels, including: *LES DEMEURÉES* (Denoël, 2001), *LES MAINS LIBRES* (Denoël, 2004), and *PRESENT ?* (Denoël, 2006). In 2008, she came to Actes Sud with *LAVER LES OMBRES*.

**Etournaud, Alix: *QUELQU’UN DE BIEN*  
(JC Lattès, March 2011, 200 pages)**

A novel about a wounded woman who hasn’t said her last word. The autopsy of a case of adultery and its consequences. As she is about to give birth to her third child, the narrator sees in the press the pictures of a famous young woman’s latest beau: her husband.

Fight. Fight to get him back, to open his eyes without losing her own soul, and above all, to publicly destroy the evil woman, the media-starved celebrity who has gotten her hands on the man she loves, the woman who, off-the-record, has called her baby a bastard, and who is happy to talk to the gossip mongers to forward her own goals.

Understand, too. Understand what has happened to them. Understood who she has to face down; parry, demolish and anticipate her twisted manipulations, because she won’t be able to win unless she understands her adversary perfectly. She will be the strong one. It will be her turn to learn how to wait, she can tell he still loves her, he even writes to her every day and soon it will be every night, too. She will be strong, but then what?

A print journalist, Alix Etournaud graduated from both Sciences Po (France’s prestigious School of Political Science) and the CFPJ, the School of Journalism. She has contributed to various magazines, including *Marie-Claire*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Marie-France*.

**Boissard, Janine: *N’AYEZ PAS PEUR, NOUS SOMMES LÀ*  
(Flammarion, March 2011, 336 pages)**

“Don’t be afraid, we’re here now.” How many times has Ninon Montoire, a 30-year-old professional fire-fighter, uttered these words to reassure those she helps on an almost daily basis? She’s lost count.

In France, fingers automatically dial the number 18 to call the fire brigade whenever life takes a dramatic turn. A magic number for some, a miracle for others, bringing hope to all. It is well known that fire-fighters never face danger alone. Ninon partners with Thomas Vailly, 36 years old, as handsome a boy as she is a beautiful girl, always ready with a smile, even when things are going badly.

Ninon loves Thomas like a brother. Meanwhile, Thomas makes it no secret that he considers his fire-fighting partner to be the love of his life. But love is far from a priority for our heroine, mother of little 5-year-old Sophie, whose father from Quebec deserted Ninon when he learned that she was pregnant. Not to mention

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the fact that between her two nests, the warm familiarity of the fire station and the tender home where her mother helps her raise Sophie, Ninon is pretty much fulfilled. But when William Launay, writer and journalist bursts into her life, all her good resolutions will be overturned.

Janine Boissard is the author of a number of best-sellers, including the series *UNE FEMME EN BLANC* (adapted for television screens with Sandrine Bonnaire in the title role) and *MARIE-TEMPÊTE*, published by Éditions Robert Laffont. Her previous successes: *LOUP, Y ES-TU ?* (Robert Laffont), 29,000 copies sold; *LA CHALOUPE* (Robert Laffont, 2 vols.), 29,000 copies and 25,000 copies sold; and *BELLE GRAND-MÈRE* (Fayard), 24,000 copies sold.

The Russian rights for LA CHALOUPE are sold to Mir Knigi

### **Caffin, Vanessa: *ROSSMORE AVENUE***

**(Belfond, April 2011, 240 pages)**

**English text available**

**Selected by the Breakfast & Books programme at the Berlin International Film Festival 2011**

The lives and loves of tenants of the same building in Los Angeles, seen through the sharp eyes of Lily, a young French woman.

Rossmore Avenue houses, a small L.A. condo that houses the broken dreams of a motley crew of tenants centered around Lily, a French shiatsu teacher. Jane and Charlie are a young couple overwhelmed by parenting and whose marriage is on the rocks. Luke is a once-successful painter who has lost his inspiration. Georges is a widower, who has left France behind, hoping to catch a glimpse of his lifelong idol who lives in L.A. They all live together under the watchful eye of Cora, their Norwegian-speaking Mexican superintendent.

Lily, despite or maybe because of her Gallic outspokenness is a port in a storm for all the tenants of Rossmore but she also feels very lonely. Will her dates with Tom evolve into something real? Will Jane ever find happiness? Will Luke? And Georges, will his dream of meeting his idol ever come true? In the midst of these daily crises, Pedro, Cora's husband is found dead, in an apparent accident, but is it?

Vanessa Caffin is a journalist who divides her time between writing and screenwriting. Before *ROSSMORE AVENUE*, she has published two novels, *J'AI ME PAS L'AMOUR... OU TROP, PEUT-ÊTRE* (Anne Carrière in 2008) and *MÉMOIRE VIVE* (Belfond in 2010).

### **Conil, Dominique: *UNE FILLE OCCUPEE***

**(Actes Sud, February 2011, 176 pages)**

To distinguish herself from her writer father, whose works set the whole family's schedule, a young woman chooses to live dangerously, and to taste "real life".

In an apartment in an upper-class suburb west of Paris, a father, a successful detective novelist, monopolizes his whole family's attention with his success... and his doubts. The mother, the oeuvre's protective vestal, also scribbles in notebooks all day long. The son's dream is to be just like his father. Ka, the girl with the overactive imagination, identifies with the often mutilated victims of her sire's novels, inspired by real life.

Needing to escape the fiction-based atmosphere and try real life, Ka heads to a vineyard in southern France for the grape harvest. There she meets a man – Manuel, an antiques dealer by trade and cat burglar by passion – who, by a wonderful stroke of luck, doesn't read. Ka will take part in his burglaries, living out the detective novels that others only write.

Dominique Conil is a journalist. Her first novel, *EN ESPERANT LA GUERRE* (Actes Sud, 2008), has won several awards. *UNE FILLE OCCUPÉE* is her second novel.

### **Ruat, Capucine: *J'ATTENDS***

**(Stock, February 2011, 144 pages)**

"There are lots of children who are never born, and adults who have not been brought into this world. Death has closed the eyes of the lost and opened those of the survivors, so that both are now perfectly lucid. I wish I were a little less so."

The first-person narrator here is Angèle Videau, sister of Arielle, daughter of Armelle and Denis, a discreet presence in this novel about women. Three generations of women, from Mané to Armelle, from Armelle to Angèle. Three generations, and not one more. We meet Angèle in the waiting room at a doctor's surgery, sitting with her hands resting over her waist which is swollen with hope. While, before her eyes, future mothers

and young children act out their usual ballet, Angèle speaks to Eric. The princely Eric she so longs for and carries within her, and that she hopes to tame.

Why were neither of her parents loved by their mothers? Why is it so difficult to have a child in this family? Would her life be a failure if she didn't bring life into it? So many questions, and all of Angèle's questions remain unanswered. Because *Expecting* is a feeling of deficiency; a heart beating quietly, ugliness gradually propagating fear, a body that is so dry and soon, if they are not careful, this dwindling family will find the dead have supplanted the living. Angèle wishes she was not so lucid but for Eric's sake she has revealed everything. An unwavering, almost clinical view of those close to her and of herself; one that reveals all the secrets, longings and hopes that could not or would not be expressed. By using one young woman's point of view and the sketched lives of women she meets, EXPECTING succeeds in touching on the universal: motherhood, womanhood, blood ties and life force.

Capucine Ruat was born in 1975. Her first novel, *CELLE QUI NE PARLE PAS*, was published by Stock in 2006.

**Abécassis, Agnès: *LE THÉORÈME DE CUPIDON*  
(Calmann-Levy March 2011, 240 pages)**

Cupid's Theorem: two parallel lines never converge... unless, of course, a well-aimed arrow changes their course!

Some love stories get off to a slow start for one very simple reason: Cupid is short-sighted! Ask any short-sighted person, after all, to land an arrow smack dab in the middle of two auricles and ventricles. Chances are the projectile will go lodge itself elsewhere, serving up a stomachache, a headache or a toothache instead. But sometimes our coquettish Cupid keeps on shooting (there's no denying he's a stubborn fellow), albeit without his glasses. Now, it just so happens he's found a match truly made in heaven: Adelaide, a casting director, and Phil, a filmmaker. For years, however, Cupid has repeatedly misfired, raising not even the slightest of sparks. Yet nothing happens by chance. Indeed, even love has its laws, a mathematical law, in our case: Cupid's theorem, two parallel lines that never converge... Unless, that is, they meet up at an intersection and fall in love.

Take, for example, the trajectories of our lovebirds with seemingly antipodean expectations. Adelaide, exuberant, straight-forward and funny - and fed up with love - and Philéas, awkward, serious and shy - with sex on the brain. Each in turn relates the ins and outs of daily life, revealing, along the way, the failures of one very short-sighted cherub... who finally gets it right!

Novelist, screenwriter and illustrator born in 1972, Agnès Abécassis lives and works in Paris. She is the author of the bestselling *LES TRIBULATIONS D'UNE JEUNE DIVORCÉE*, an abrasively funny look at life after divorce (over 100,000 copies sold); *AU SECOURS, IL VEUT M'ÉPOUSER!*, a hilarious text on the joys of coupledom; as well as *TOUBIB OR NOT TOUBIB*, *CHOUETTE*, *UNE RIDE!*, *SOIRÉE SUSHI* and the comic book (text and drawings), *LES CARNETS D'AGNÈS* (novembre 2009), a lively look at the trials and tribulations of a working mother.

The Russian rights are under Option with Pokolenie

**Bramly, Marine: *MON PETIT BUNKER*  
(JC Lattès, April 2011, 250 pages)**

Why a flamboyant childhood can reduce your chances of having a happy adult life.

All it took was the visit of her husband, Fabien, to her studio for Noah to realize how trapped she felt: stuck in her couple, blocked in her work, ready to burst, and to realize that she is willing to blast the peaceful bubble – the “little bunker” she had thought of as a shelter – of her life to smithereens.

Shut up in her studio one rainy night, Noah remembers. Has anyone ever had a childhood as marvelously free as hers? She, the Little White Girl, used to wander the streets of Dakar as she pleased, with the band of street urchins who took her for one of their own. She was the craftsmen's mascot. She learned her trade as an artist in the stalls of the city's mechanics and tin-workers. Yet since growing up, she has kept Africa at arm's length, like a taboo or a spell, something that must not be mentioned for any reason. What terrible memories buried in her mind are keeping her trapped, preventing her from going forward?

Marine Bramly was born in 1969 in Dakar. She has been a journalist, including for *Elle*. *Mon Petit Bunker* is her second novel. The previous one, *Festin de Miettes*, published by JC Lattès in 2008, was awarded both the *Madame Figaro* Heroine Prize and the Rene Fallet Prize.

*“Joyful, efficient, written with a bazooka”*. **Dominique Bona**

*“Incredibly charming”*. **Alexandre Fillon**

**Gosciny, Anne: *LE BANC DES SOUPIRS***  
**(Grasset February 2011, 176 pages)**

A psychoanalyst kills his wife because he loves her too much and is terrified of falling out of love one day. At least, that is what people believe. Outside his office is a bench where his patients often sit after a session to think things over – and sigh. A powerful novella which owes its originality to the range of unique narrative voices – including a rat.

A woman has been murdered. The police investigation has identified her husband, a psychoanalyst, as the chief suspect. Now his friends, family, and patients are being questioned about his behaviour. Their statements all corroborate the suspicions of the police. From his cleaning lady to his best friend and his mother, everyone has a score to settle with him. But does that mean he must be guilty? For the kaleidoscope of voices includes Jeanne, his last patient, who has recently begun stalking the man she shares all her deepest secrets with three times a week...

Anne Gosciny is a novelist and literary critic. Grasset has previously published three of her novels: *LE BUREAU DES SOLITUDES* (2002), *LE VOLEUR DE MÈRE* (2004), and *LE PÈRE ÉTERNEL* (2006), which was awarded the Women’s International Zionist Organisation Prize.

Foreign rights sold to previous works : Chinese (Shanghai 99 Reader), Korean (Hanulgorae), Portuguese (Asa-Leya).

*“A magnificent novel, by turns funny, surrealist, implacable, and sensitive, on coupledness, psychoanalysis, and being a teenager.”* **La Tribune**

**Fizscher, Christine: *LA DERNIÈRE FEMME DE SA VIE***  
**(Stock, January 2011, 272 pages)**

Their meeting is nothing special. Spring 2000. On the Place Saint-Germain-des-Prés. The love between Sartre and de Beauvoir is being celebrated with a plaque. The first exchange between him and Alma is brief. He gives her a number. She forgets it or thinks she does, one or the other. All it took was a few weeks and a message on an answering machine for the affair to assume its full meaning. Nine years, more than a drop in the ocean.

Alma could have been the last love of André’s life, a man who had lived through almost a century, gave it soul, hugged it close to him, a man who had loved and seduced a great deal, and who confronted the end of his existence with all his strength. He could have died thinking only of her, because they loved each other, passionately, violently, venerating each other to the point of wanting to be each other. Every fragment of their relationship is contaminated by a common quest for the absolute. Meals are feasts, banal conversations are verbal jousting, and sex is played out uninterrupted. Are they trying in vain to cheat death? Nine years have passed. André has published his memoirs and Alma divides her time between writing and directing. She is divorced, makes love with other men, and women too. She has recently moved in with someone she calls “the crab” who pinches her breasts. On 24th October 2009, she received a letter from André, a definitive letter.

This roman à clés deals with love, of course, but also with the world endlessly travelled by the two lovers, with death, inevitably, and with a specific section of French culture, but mostly it is a vibrant homage to a man. An intellectual who enjoyed adulation for the role he played, and still plays, in the collective memory of a particular moment in world history.

Christine Fizscher is the author of *LA NUIT PREND SON TEMPS* (Seuil, 2007) and has directed documentaries about Africa. She directs interviews with artists for *Artnet*.

**Jarry, Isabelle: *LA VOIX DES ÊTRES AIMÉS***  
**(Stock March 2011, 304 pages)**

In early summer, Céleste meets up with Paul whom she has not seen for fifteen years. He was her philosophy teacher, she was his young mistress for three years. Paul is very ill. Knowing he will not survive, he asks Céleste to come and spend a few days with him in the country. He also asks her to tell him a love story. Céleste describes an affair she had in Vietnam, some years earlier, with a fisherman named Hoang. As Céleste gradually reveals this romance, Paul actually relives their passionate love affair. In the idle silence of summer days, the two characters are locked together with the ghosts of their past love.

The relationship between Céleste and Hoang interweaves with Paul and Céleste's, drawing comparisons and confusing similarities in a play of mirrors in which each tries to find his or her lost connections. Amid the tension maintained by the pressures of Paul's illness, and aware both how little time they have and how increasingly intimate they have become, the two characters are caught up in the same intense emotions that first brought them together. Seduction, the language of love, dependence, break-ups, physical passion, danger and excess, age differences, cultural divides... these are the themes around which Céleste and Paul revolve, he as a Spinoza-following philosopher, she as a woman exalted by love.

Isabelle Jarry has written numerous books: novels, factual accounts and biographies. After L'ARCHANGE PERDU, J'AI NOM SANS BRUIT and LA TRAVERSÉE DU DÉSERT, this is her ninth novel.

**Magellan, Murielle: *UN REFRAIN SUR LES MURS*  
(Robert Laffont/Julliard, March 2011, 252 pages)**

When a simple melody changes an entire life!

Isabelle leads a quiet existence as a divorced science teacher with two young children. It's August 1987 and she has the month to herself; her kids are with their re-married father and her mother, who she planned on looking after, is off on an adventure with an old American flame. With nobody to look after, Isabelle has a month with nothing to do, and the thought terrifies her.

But her chance encounter with a street musician who goes by the name "So What" changes everything. In an unusual agreement, Isabelle allows So What to stay in her home in exchange for his painting her daughter's room. She agrees to this in spite of her timidity and closed-off nature. In those few weeks together, So What teaches Isabelle to love her life, as it is, everything about it. In that summer of 1987, So What offered Isabelle imagination, something she never had before.

Over 30 years later, Isabelle's daughter, Romane, remembers her boring and strict mother, now dead from cancer. But a clue to So What's existence will change everything she once thought about her mother. For the better.

Murielle Magellan became a playwright after earning her degree in literature. Her play PIERRE ET PAPILLON OU L'HISTOIRE D'UN AMOUR DÉCALÉ, winner of *the prix Cinéâtre-Beaumarchais*, was a success with both the public and critics. She has also written for film and television. LE LENDEMAIN, GABRIELLE, her first novel, was published by Julliard in 2007.

**Conil, Dominique: *UNE FILLE OCCUPÉE*  
(Actes Sud, February 2011, 176 pages)**

To distinguish herself from her writer father, whose works set the whole family's schedule, a young woman chooses to live dangerously, and to taste "real life".

In an apartment in an upper-class suburb west of Paris, a father, a successful detective novelist, monopolizes the whole family's attention with his success... and his doubts. The mother, the oeuvre's protective vestal, also scribbles in notebooks all day long. The son's dream is to be just like his father. Ka, the girl with the overactive imagination, identifies with the often-mutilated victims of her sire's novels, inspired by real life.

Needing to escape the fiction-based atmosphere and try real life, Ka heads to a vineyard in southern France for the grape harvest. There she meets a man – Manuel, an antiques dealer by trade and cat burglar by passion – who, by a wonderful stroke of luck, doesn't read. Ka will take part in his burglaries, living out the detective novels that others only write.

Dominique Conil is a journalist. Her first novel, EN ESPERANT LA GUERRE (Actes Sud, 2008), has won several awards. UNE FILLE OCCUPÉE is her second novel.

*"Dominique Conil (...) sait évoquer ces années de plomb que sont parfois celles de la jeunesse avec le regard acéré du reporter et la souveraine insouciance de la romancière."* **Livres Hebdo**

**Dyens, Dominique: *INTUITIONS*  
(Héloïse d'Ormesson, March 2011, 189 pages)**

In a biting manner and against the backdrop of an investigation, the author paints the secrets and madness of a middle class family that would do anything to keep up appearances.

Nathalie and Patrice Royer are the paragon of the perfect couple who succeeds in life: two children, a charming house in a residential suburb, good jobs... But beyond appearances, truth is Nathalie dreams of cheating on her husband while Patrice already does cheat on her. When their son Gregory announces his marriage with Gala, the paranoiac Nathalie decides to investigate the young woman. Unexpectedly, this will lift the veil on dark secrets.

Dominique Dyens sketches a picture of a family on the verge of implosion. She excels at portraying the everyday life of the middle class, only in order to highlight the part of illusion and underlying madness in it. Punctuated by a breathless investigation, this novel, halfway between reason and madness, reveals to the readers the secrets of a microcosm that would do anything to keep up appearances.

Dominique Dyens lives in Paris. She is the author of five titles including *LA FEMME ÉCLABOUSSÉE*, *ÉLOGE DE LA CELLULITE ET AUTRES DISGRÂCES*, and most recently *DÉLIT DE FUITE*. She also writes for the cinema and works for the magazine *Service Littéraire*.

### **Deghelt, Frédérique: *LA NONNE ET LE BRIGAND* (Actes Sud, January 2011, 416 pages)**

The story of two women who fall obsessively, dangerously in love: smitten with love for an elusive journalist, Lysange recognizes her own situation in the confessions of Sister Madeleine, a nun tortured by an impossible love.

Early in a passionate affair with Pierre, a journalist she met in an airport, Lysange stumbles across the diary of Sister Madeleine, a missionary in Brazil in the 1950s, torn between her faith and her love for a man called Angel. The ties between these two women will gradually grow tighter. Will passion lead them to renounce themselves or, on the contrary, to rediscover hope in the body of the beloved?

Lysange's monologues are a counterpoint to Sister Madeleine's written "confessions": Frédérique Deghelt's intoxicating, uninhibited language is more sensual than ever, leading her bold heroines to their own limits.

Frederique Deghelt is a television reporter and director. Following on the success of *LA VIE D'UNE AUTRE* and *LA GRAND-MÈRE DE JADE*, this is her third novel published by Actes Sud.

*"Roman tourmenté et magnifique sur la force du désir."* **Madame Figaro**

*"Frédérique Deghelt nous touche une fois encore par la profondeur et la sensualité de ces deux amoureuses magnifiques."* **Page**

*"C'est d'abord l'écriture qui exerce sur le lecteur une vraie séduction"* **Est Républicain**

### **Orban, Christine: *LE PAYS DE L'ABSENCE* (Albin Michel, January 2010, 176 pages) 55,000 copies already sold in France**

After few months' separation, Christine realises that her mother suffers from Alzheimer disease, which reverses suddenly their roles.

For some time now, Christine's mother has been given to strange lapses of memory and weird quirks. Admittedly, her mother has always been the chic and changeable type, flighty and frivolous. She never knew what it was to have responsibilities. When Christine comes to pick her up at the airport, there can be no more doubt : her mother is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. How can she keep calm and show her tenderness and trust when her mother's behaviour is becoming increasingly erratic? The daughter is becoming the mother; the mother is turning into a little girl again. But, in reality, what she is seeing now is simply the end of a long, conflictual path she has been treading all her life.

A discreet and poignant book about the mother/daughter relationship at a phase in life when everything is reversed, when raw emotions revive childhood memories, when the deficit and failings of maternal love are analysed in the light of what mother and daughter have become.

Among the titles Christine Orban has published with Editions Albin Michel are: *PETITES PHRASES POUR TRAVERSER LA VIE EN CAS DE TEMPÊTE ET PAR BEAU TEMPS AUSSI* (2007) and *N'OUBLIE PAS D'ÊTRE HEUREUSE* (2009).

*"LE PAYS DE L'ABSENCE est un très joli témoignage plein d'émotion. Un tableau d'une grande justesse, qui se lit d'une traite."* **Page**

*“Malgré la souffrance, la peur de la déchéance, l’incommunicabilité définitive entre une mère et sa fille, Christine Orban rend au bout du compte un hommage poignant à cette mère qui l’aime et qu’elle aime malgré tout”* **Le Figaro littéraire**

**Renault, Muriel: *OUI*  
(Le Dilettante, January 2011, 288 pages)**

A brilliant love story, not in the least sentimental, but on the contrary, extremely sassy, funny and intelligent.

Juliette asks Benjamin to marry her but he hesitates. The preliminaries of a wedding told chapter after chapter by all the characters concerned. Juliette and Benjamin, a simple marital union is at the epicentre of a psychological earthquake. That simple piece of news sends a destabilising shockwave amidst the fathers, mothers, friends, exes, the exes’ boy/girlfriends, mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law and rivals. That yes is first questioned, then validated. After which, they get together, talk, examine their memories, count the lies, sink into doubt and rivalry, suffer the throes of anguish, contemplate suicide, rekindle quarrels. In the two lovebirds’ family tree and social network flows a sort of bitter sap or charged panic that transforms the wedding ring into a ball and chain, the honour guard into a domino effect. Especially as Murielle Renault has a way of dropping the surnames keeping only the first names, so that each name, throughout the very short chapters, becomes an electron free to drift, a billiard ball electrified from smacking into the others. And it all ends with a mind-blowing wedding party with a cynical photographer roaming about shooting pictures at point blank range like a final blow, each flash a slap in the face. Murielle Renault has invented a new form of light-hearted banter, that of the atomic age. Caution: Wedding, slow down.

Murielle Renault was born on the first day of autumn 1972 under the Libra sign and ever since, she has weighed the pros and cons, constantly indecisive, (normal: she was also born on Saint Constant’s day). As a result, she’s very intrigued by people who manage to make a lifelong commitment, hence her third novel *OUI*.

*“A lively multi-voiced tale, Murielle Renault’s third book is a whacky, extravagant, often side-splitting romantic comedy. A delightful treat.”* **Le Nouvel Observateur**

*“The skilfully orchestrated, apparently light-hearted banter reveals humans with their merits and their faults but the author doesn’t judge them. A hilarious read right down to the cynical finale: bulletproof jackets recommended.”* **Le Soir**

*“Juliette wants to marry her own Romeo, called Benjamin. A J&B couple to be savoured to your heart’s content. And we say yes to this impudent, sexy comedy about what is supposed to be the most beautiful day of your life. It’s funny, caustic...”* **Madame Figaro**

**Saubade, Valérie: *MISS SWEETY*  
(Anne Carrière, January 2011, 340 pages)**

This quiet life of a journalist working feminin press is suddenly disturbed when she is confronted to death threats. She will have to run by herself an untypical and hilarious inquiry.

Samantha Fallow lives a peaceful life near London, working from home for *You and I*, a women’s glossy mag. Problems in your love life, teenage crushes, mid-life libido? Samantha, under the pen-name Miss Sweetie, dishes out advice to the lovelorn in her agony aunt column. But she draws more on her PhD in psychology than her personal experience – because at 36, she’s still single and lives with her grandmother and great-aunt, both octogenarians.

This uneventful existence is shattered one day when Samantha receives a death threat in her readers’ postbag. It proves to be the first of many more to come... The police doesn’t take it seriously. So, she decides to unmask the sender of these missives with the help of her grandmother and great-aunt.

Constructed like detective story, *MISS SWEETY* deploys sparkling humour to recount the lives of three wildly contrasting women all living under the same roof. Valérie Saubade once again takes delight in creating comical or touching characters whose pasts and misdemeanours resurface as the story unfolds.

Valérie Saubade lives in Bordeaux. She has already published three novels with Éditions Anne Carrière: *HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRAND-MÈRE*, *LES PETITES SŒURS* and *MARCHE ARRIÈRE*.

*“MISS SWEETIE a un petit côté comédie romantique entre “Nothing Hill” et Amélie Poulain.”* **Marie-France**

*“Un roman burlesque qui flirte avec le polar.”* **Marie-France**

## **EROTIC NOVELS**

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### **de Rosnay, Tatiana: *ROSE* (Héloïse d'Ormesson, March 2011, 247 pages) Originally written in English**

ROSE tells the story of the fight of an endearing woman to keep her home.

Paris, 1860s. Hundreds of houses are being razed, and neighborhoods are reduced to ashes. Commissioned by Emperor Napoleon III, Baron Haussmann instigates a set of planning reforms that will create a general outcry. Rose Bazelet, a 60-year-old widow, is determined to fight against the destruction of her family home till the very end. Trying to overcome the loneliness of her daily life, she writes letters to Armand, her late and beloved husband. But this ritual soon turns into a kind of redemption. As she reminisces about the past, she is forced to come to terms with a secret that has been buried in her for thirty years.

Rose witnesses an *époque* that shook the city to its very core. In this ode to Paris, houses harbor secrets, and their walls are soaked with the joys and sorrows of its inhabitants. Faithful to her previous successful novels, Tatiana de Rosnay gives a beautiful and haunting exploration of one's past, in a distressful historical background.

Tatiana de Rosnay is a screenwriter, a journalist writing for French ELLE and a literary critic for *Psychologies magazine*. ROSE is her eleventh novel. In 2010, Tatiana de Rosnay was the best selling French author in Europe and in the U.S.A. Five millions copies of SARAH'S KEY (2006) and BOOMERANG (2009) were sold in over 30 countries. A movie based on SARAH'S KEY, starring Kristin Scott-Thomas, was released in 2010.

Foreign rights sold to: the U.S.A. (St. Martin's Press), the U.K. (MacMillan), Germany (Berlin Verlag), Norway (Bazar), the Netherlands (Artemis), Sweden (Sekwa) and Portugal (Objectiva).

The Russian rights for previous works are sold to Family Leisure Club/Hemiro

### **Testud, Sylvie: *CHEVALIER DE L'ORDRE DU MÉRITE* (Fayard, March 2011, 272 pages)**

The hopeless and hilarious struggle of a woman whose obsession for cleaning becomes a threat to her peace of mind and to her happiness.

Though her professional life makes her very busy during the day, the protagonist can't help cleaning up her flat when she comes home. Hair, dirty socks and crumbs make her sick. His companion Adrien suggests they should hire a cleaning woman, to peace her mind. But overcoming an obsession is not that easy, and a cleaning woman cannot stand in for a shriek. The obsessed woman will therefore continue to job compulsively, work hard, and clean until her life becomes a real mess.

Sylvie Testud is a successful actress who awarded two Césars in her career. She published three previous novels: IL N'Y A PAS BEAUCOUP D'ÉTOILES CE SOIR (Pauvert, 2003), LE CIEL T'AIDERA (Fayard, 2005) and GAMINES (Fayard, 2006).

*"Derrière l'humour assumé et porté par un sens acéré de la formule, elle aborde dans son roman des sujets à polémique ou à hypocrisie : la place des sans-papiers, le féminisme, l'avortement, le machisme."* **Le Figaro**

## **EROTIC NOVELS**

### **Becker, Emma: *MR* (Denoël, January 2011, 300 pages)**

In her first novel, Emma Becker puts under scrutiny the erotic vertigo experienced by a modern day Lolita.

Ellie is eighteen and leads a carefree and superficial life until the day she comes across Mister, a married surgeon nearing fifty. At first strictly epistolary, their affair finally takes off in a Parisian hotel room. Ellie will go through several months of feverish waiting, punctuated by clandestine get-togethers and brief phone conversations. An emotional vicious circle she will try to break, unsuccessfully.

Apart from her exceptionally honest writing, filled with intimate descriptions that break the rules of "respectable literature", Emma Becker has renewed the Lolita gender by giving voice to the girl instead of the

mature man. Ellie's point of view brings to light the thoughts, curiosity and needs of a young person who tries to learn about human beings through transgression.

Emma Becker is 22. MR is her first novel.

Foreign rights sold to: the U.K.(Constable & Robinson) and the Netherlands (De Bezige Bij).

*“Mlle Becker énonce dès le début son projet : entendre la voix de Lolita. Excellente initiative : dans les romans d’amour entre un vieux et une jeune, ce n’est jamais la jeune qui parle. Or ne serait-il pas intéressant de savoir enfin pour quelles raisons une nymphelette craque sur un quadra libidineux (à part pour son fric) ? Moi ça me passionne.” Le Figaro*

*“Avec une belle écriture attentive, précieuse et incandescente, elle explore les dangers de la passion, entre brûlures de l’âme et addiction au sexe.” Grazia*

**Lapierre, Alexandra: *LES MENOTTES ET LE RADIATEUR***  
**(Plon, April 2011, 112 pages)**

A humorous and refreshing novel, in the vein of the libertine stories of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century.

In a series of letters, Suzie tells her friend Valentine about her affair with her English lover and about some encounters she made at several dinners in Rome. At one of the dinners, an intriguing man tells the story of a passionate tryst in which handcuffs and a radiator come into play.

Suzie and the other guests are tantalized. Jumping from fantasy to reality, Suzie's lover invites her to spend a torrid night at “La Posta Vecchia”, the most magical of Rome's palatial hotels. A canopy bed, champagne, lacy lingerie, blindfolds, all the ingredients for a sizzling evening are reunited.

But the next day she's not so sure about exactly what transpired. With whom did Suzie really spend the night? Her lover? Some suitors met at a dinner party? Who were the men who had her play this erotic game? Alexandra Lapierre succeeds in making of this writing exercise a delightful moment of humour and sensuality.

Alexandra Lapierre is a writer well-known for novels that revive figures of forgotten great women. Her novel FANNY STEVENSON (Robert Laffont, 1993) awarded the Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle and 250,000 copies were sold. Her novel ARTEMISIA (Robert Laffont, 1998) was elected “Book of the year” by the BBC. She published at Plon TOUT L'HONNEUR DES HOMMES (2008, Prix des romancières) and L'EXCESSIVE (2009). LES MENOTTES ET LE RADIATEUR is her tenth novel.

## **CROSS-OVERS**

**Alberti, Olympia: *DES ETOILES DANS L'ARBRE DE MA FENETRE***  
**(Presses de la Renaissance, May 2011, 240 pages)**

Olympia Alberti imagines a meeting between two spiritually magnificent individuals, Edith Stein and Etty Hillesum. A forceful and moving work.

August 3rd, 1942, at Westerbork transit camp. Edith Stein's gaze furtively crosses that of Etty Hillesum. What goes on in the mind of each, in this silent exchange? August 7th, 1942. Edith, a German philosopher and theologian of Jewish origin who has become a Carmelite, boards a convoy. Two days later, she will be put to death in the gas chamber at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

September 7th, 1943. Etty, a bright young Jewish woman who seeks only to write and to grow closer to God, boards a convoy headed for the death camp with her parents and her brother Misha. One evening in November, Etty hears a voice speaking to her from deep within. It is Edith, telling her, «Don't be afraid, tomorrow you're leaving.” During the night, the two women talk, sharing their inner questionings about life, suffering, injustice, love, and the existence (or not) of God. Hope is omnipresent in their dialogue, and the spiritual dimension of human beings a constant. The next day, Etty is gassed. The young woman left a journal, part of which was recuperated. Olympia Alberti's imagination fills in the missing pages and reconstitutes the moving path of this young woman in love with life.

Olympia Alberti has published more than thirty works (novels, poems, short stories, essays, biographies). She was awarded a prize from the Académie française for the whole of her poetic works, and the Prix Thyde Monnier de la Société des Gens de Lettres for RILKE, SANS DOMICILE FIXE, as well as the Prix Émile Faguet de la critique littéraire de l'Académie française for GIONO, LE GRAND WESTERN (Christian

## **CROSS-OVERS**

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Pirot Editeur). Her latest book, LE ROYAUME DE SA NUIT. MÈRE TERESA, LE RÉCIT D'UNE VIE, was published by Editions First in 2010.

### **Bartelt, Franz: *LA FÉE BENNINKOVA* (Le Dilettante, Janvier 2011, 160 pages)**

Fairy tales are familiar to us all, but a fairy's mishaps are much less common, and extremely heartrending. Witness the story by Franz Bartelt of the fairy, Benninkova, who comes knocking at Clinty Dabot's door at the stroke of midnight! The poor creature reveals she is harried by three misfortunes: the need to go to the toilet, the loss of her wand and the prowling danger of the horribly wicked Great Black Goblins, gourmets of tender fairies they skin and devour in gangs. Taken aback but compassionate, crutched Clinty Dabot, with his bum leg and bad back, offers her hospitality, rewarded, as is only fitting, once the regional magic wand authorities have sent her a replacement, by the traditional granting of a wish. As the fairy and mutual trust settle in, Clinty begins to unfold the intimate details of his life. A life as twisted and painful as his body, haunted by the outrageously priced unveilings of the voluptuous anatomy of the supermarket cashier, Marylène, whose curves, locks, intimate nooks and crannies are Clinty Dabot's sole playground.

Dark, mocking, hilarious and ferocious, this fairy tale, inspired by Tinkerbell and Pichard's luscious Paulette, is skilfully crafted by gifted Franz Bartelt. A real treat!

Franz Bartelt was born by Maupassant's Seine, grew up along René Daumal's Vence and lives on the banks of Arthur Rimbaud's Meuse. Which probably explains his respect for troubled waters, his ensuing taste for literature, and his regret, as he mellows, at not having been born in a winegrowing region.

*"A good fairy, a sort of Tinkerbell avatar, travels across the pages of this dark, irresistible, absolutely hilarious comedy (...) Fée Benninkova is a true delight."* **Le Courrier Français**

*"Mocking and ribald, Bartelt has fun playing around with fairytale codes: Renaud's Black Father Christmas crosses swords with Tinkerbell, while the exegetes of Perrault and Andersen call it a scandal!"* **Standard**

### **de Stabenrath, Bruno: *JE N'AI PAS DE RÔLE POUR VOUS* (Robert Laffont, March 2011, 306 pages)**

Once upon a time a young, unknown boy meets a famous film director...

Bruno is the youngest of seven in an important family from Versailles with an aristocratic air about it. He believes that his short stature is divine punishment and so has dreams of grandeur. At 14, he wants to take his moped and escape to Hollywood, in the tracks of his idol James Dean in order to conquer hearts and discover the world in technicolor... Dreams that seem so far out of his limited reach.

But one day everything changes. He randomly opens the door onto an acting class and secretly indulges in his new vocation. A few months later, he auditions and a man he doesn't know offers him a role in his next film *L'Argent de poche*. Bruno doesn't yet realize that he was hired by one of the most important filmmakers of all time. And François Truffaut is about to change Bruno's life forever. But learning about fame, love and seduction is no easy task and if Bruno attempts to walk in Truffaut's footsteps, he quickly learns that the cinema is as captivating as an elusive woman. Particularly if the woman's name is Ewa and she is the great director's own daughter.

In this poignant work, Bruno de Stabenrath addresses the difficulties of adolescence, sexual awakenings and the difficulty of believing in one's dreams, even after they've come true.

Bruno de Stabenrath, born in 1960, is both an author, actor, screenwriter and musician. In 1996, he was in a car accident that left him tetraplegic. This event is at the heart of his first book *CAVALCADE* (Robert Laffont, 2001) which sold more than 100,000 copies and adapted into a film.

Foreign rights sold for CAVALCADE: Germany (Econ Ullstein), Italy (Mondadori), Japan (Asuka Shinsha), The Netherlands (De Boekerij), Portugal (Contexto), Spain (Grijalbo Mondadori), UK (Little, Brown)

### **Ka, Olivier: *LISA ET L'OISEAU DE SANG* (Lisa and the Blood Bird) (Plon Jeunesse, May 2011, approx. 250 pages) From age 14 +**

Pierre Lefuste has lived with his rebellious teenage daughter, Lisa, since his divorce, in an isolated region of south-western France. Their relations are often tense and will become more so when Pierre discovers

photos of his daughter suggesting that she may have become involved in a gothic sect. When a strange bird attacks and injures Lisa, Pierre and his daughter are suddenly confronted with the inexplicable. There is no bird in existence resembling the one who has disfigured the teenager, whose wound fails to heal. The father and daughter hide the alarming and extraordinary that have invaded their lives from all those who ask for explanations - staff at school, doctors, social workers, even Lisa's mother. But they realize themselves that events seem related to a trip the young girl made to Japan. Pierre talks to neighbours who know the country and suggest he consult someone who may be able to help, a mysterious Japanese scholar, Haruki Okada. Only he can cast some light on the existence of this strange creature.

Lively and slightly disturbing, *LISA ET L'OISEAU DE SANG* is a highly original novel, fascinating in its underlying evocation of a mythical Japan.

Olivier Ka was born in Lebanon in 1967 and began his career writing for "Psikopat" magazine. He is the author of a collection of short stories and a novel for adults, then several youth novels beginning in 2000. He also writes scripts for comic books, including *POURQUOI J'AI TUÉ PIERRE*, with Alfred, which won two awards (the *Prix Essentiel* and the *Prix du Public*) at the Angoulême Comic Strip Festival in 2006.

## COMMERCIAL FICTION

### **Musso, Guillaume: *L'APPEL DE L'ANGE* (Editions XO, March 2011, 350 pages)**

What starts as a romantic comedy turns progressively into a high-flying thriller. A masterful intrigue driven by moving characters. A superbly executed finale. Two whole lives contained in two tiny mobile phones...

New York, JFK Airport. In a packed airport lounge, a man and a woman literally run into each other, spilling their belongings on the floor. After a brief shouting match, they go their separate ways.

Madeline and Jonathan have never met before, and should never have met again. However, as they hurried to collect their things, they switched mobile phones. When they realise their mistake, they are already more than 6,000 miles apart: She is a florist in Paris, and he owns a restaurant in San Francisco. It doesn't take long before they give in to temptation and explore the contents of each other's phones. An indiscretion on both their parts, but which leads to an unexpected revelation: their lives are linked by a secret that both thought would stay buried forever...

Guillaume MUSSO is a phenomenon. Through his seven novels, translated the world over, this 36-year-old has conquered the hearts of millions of readers, and has imposed an original style, where suspense and emotion are closely woven together. More than 8 Million copies in France ! Translated into 33 languages. Rights sold to 4 cinema producers (Fidélité Production, UGC, Christian Fechner)

The Russian rights for the previous works are sold to Geleos Ltd. The Option for the first sight is with Geleos

*"With Musso, emphasis is placed on emotion."* **Le Figaro Magazine**

*"Musso demonstrates he is the master at creating mystery."* **Paris Match**

*"The intrigue is beautifully crafted, and the ending is deftly put together and quite unpredictable"* **Le Figaro Littéraire**

*"Musso is particularly gifted in the art of creating original intrigue, and in keeping us in suspense until the very last page"* **Direct soir**

The Russian rights for the previous novels are sold to Geleos Ltd. Geleos Ltd has an option for the first sight.

### **Maillet, Géraldine: *IL FERAIT QUOI TARANTINO À MA PLACE?* (Flammarion, April 2011, 240 pages)**

"I was quite happy as a novelist, with my blank pages, my ego-free computer, my pampering editor – absolute bliss. And in spite of everything, I was gnawed by a nagging desire to have it out with the cinema: to venture to the other side of the camera, to direct actors, to make my first feature film.

To get into the the closed and alluring world of cinema, I wrote a script, I accepted the merciless judgment of all-powerful financiers, I started self-producing my short films, I cried ‘Action!’ with fear in my belly, I dreamed of dim cinema halls, I looked for the perfect cast, I pleaded with vile agents, I loitered at the Bar du Martinez during the Festival de Cannes, I crossed paths with Benicio del Toro, Guillaume Canet, and Tim Burton, in the hope of finding a place in the same family. What would Tarantino have done in my shoes?

This reality-novel is the ‘making of’ my first feature film. It is a plunge into the cruel universe of the Seventh Art, with its codes, foibles, fads, frenzies, mentors, impostors, and moving sands. I got my full money’s worth, of humiliations and disappointments, of defections and betrayals, of long takes and dud shots...

Come backstage and see this much-envied and little-known milieu, and discover what happens on the other side of the decor, free from special effects and trick photography. Between the glitter of a preview night and dismal box-office takings, after struggling with the financial hurdles and getting a trailer that sells, before the formatted prime-time promotional hype and the fiasco of a film shoot, in the midst of lies and deceptions, will my love for the cinema survive? And what about yours?”

After PRESQUE TOP MODEL (translated into Russian) and FRENCH MANUCURE (translated into Italian and Russian), Géraldine Maillet presents, in the form of a glamorous and satirical novel, the making of her first film and a plunge into the cruel universe of filmmaking.

The Russian rights are under option with Ripol-Classie

### **Piantanida, Thierry & Farges, François: *LE DIAMAND BLUE* (Michel Lafon, October 2010 March 2011, 300 pages)**

Under the name of the Hope Diamond, named after the banker who bought it, this unique gemstone is an icon of American culture, as famous in Washington as the Mona Lisa in the Louvre. But until the recent discoveries of François Farges, nobody knew that it was in fact the Blue Diamond of the Sun King.

This book takes us on an incredible adventure, following the passage of this incredible gemstone. From the epoch of the Maharajas in the mythical kingdom of Golconde to the heart of the kings of France where Louis XIV acquired it, Louis XV had it set into the pendant for the Order of the Golden Fleece and where Louis XVI displayed it before the French States-General – provocation that cost him dearly – the biggest blue diamond in history has incited men’s desires and awoken their worst greed.

Stolen in 1792 by the revolutionaries who made it one of their spoils of war, it disappeared for a while and resurfaced in London, bewitching the American millionaire Evalyn Walsh after the jeweller Pierre Cartier sang the praises of its mysterious and cursed powers, which dazzled André Malraux and Jackie Kennedy both.

Thierry Piantanida, formerly in charge of the Cousteau team’s publications, is a journalist and scriptwriter for science and nature documentaries. François Farges, a specialist in mineralogy, is director of collections at the Museum of Natural History in Paris and a professor at Stanford University. It was he who uncovered the link between the Blue Diamond of Louis XIV and the Hope Diamond in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

### **Fernandez, Dominique: *PISE 1951* (Grasset, January 2011, 304 pages)**

A tale of initiation inspired by Stendhal and Pavese, recounting a love triangle set in 1950s Pisa. Dominique Fernandez’s latest novel is a masterpiece of delicacy, perfectly capturing the confused emotions and tangled web of desires of the young lovers.

It is October 1951. Two young French students, Octave and Robert, arrive in Pisa, where they are to spend the year studying. The novel retraces the events that changed their lives forever. It is a sweeping portrait of post-war Italy – a country that is still largely rural, even backward, and politically dominated by two diametrically opposed parties, the Christian Democrats and the Communists. Octave and Robert discover a country very different from their homeland – more welcoming, more picturesque, and deeply human.

Having been brought up by strict parents, both teachers, Octave is shy and uncommunicative. Robert, whose father runs a garage, is more open and outgoing. The two of them meet a local girl, Ivanka, who lives in the splendid, albeit run-down, family villa, a little way outside the city. The two young men both fall in love with her, each in their own way. At a time when it was unthinkable for an unmarried Italian woman to spend any time alone with a young man, love often blossomed on the slightest acquaintance. Ivanka finds herself torn between her two suitors, unable to choose between them.

Dominique Fernandez was born in Paris in 1929. He contributes regularly to *Le Nouvel Observateur* and has published a number of books, including *L'ART DE RACONTER* (2007), *RAMON* (2009), and *AVEC TOLSTOÏ* (2010).

Foreign rights sold to previous works: Albanian (Dudaj), Brazilian (Bertrand Brasil, Editora Rocco, Record, Sulina), Castilian (Emece, Tecnos), Chinese (Jiling), Czech (Mlada Fronta, Orbis), Dutch (Arena, De Woelrat), English (USA : Algora), French (Presses Nationales d'Haïti), German (Beck & Glucker, Eugen Diederichs, Hitzeroth, Insel Verlag), Greek (Aquarius, Astarti, Electra, Exandas), Hebrew (Nymrod), Hungarian (Europa Konykviado), Italian (Bompiani, Colonnese, Rizzoli, Sellerio, Tullio Pironti), Japanese (Hayakawa), Korean (Jakkajungsin, Susucottari), Polish (Czytelnik, KR), Romanian (Lider, R.A.O, Topaz), Russian (Inapress, Vsiemirnaya Litteratura), Slovenian (Drzavna Založba), Turkish (Sel Yayincilik).

*“An account of a love affair, full of charm and depth”* **Le Nouvel Observateur**

*“A profoundly human, touching novel”* **Point de Vue**

*“His great novel inspired by Dante’s Inferno [...] A delight”* **Le Magazine des Livres**

**Gourio, Jean-Marie: *UN CAFÉ SUR LA LUNE*  
(Robert Laffont, January 2011, 342 pages)**

You can bet on the fact that in one or two centuries a million human beings will inhabit the moon. Rich in rare minerals, precious stones and other unexpected treasures, this gloomy satellite will attract all adventurers, the poverty-stricken and the raving lunatics that ordinary people can't tolerate.

And one day, as it always happens whenever and wherever humans gather, someone will have the idea to open a bistro. This amazingly original novel tells the story of this famous inaugural day, the opening of the first lunar café, and the extravagant night that follows.

The owners, Bob the Irish and his wife Tin Tao, want the event to be unforgettable. That will not be a problem.

Jean-Marie Gourio is most famous for his bestselling *BRÈVES DE COMPTOIR*, with over 500,000 copies sold. But he has also shown that he is a powerful, lyrical and learned novelist with *CHUT!* (1998), *L'EAU DES FLEURS* (1999), *APNÉE* (2004), and *ALICE DANS LES LIVRES* (2006).

**Cohen, Jean-Michel: *IL N'Y A PAS D'ÂGE POUR MAIGRIR*  
(Flammarion, November 2010, 348 pages)**

Following *LE ROMAN DES RÉGIMES*, here are the further adventures of Dr Mathieu Sorin, the famous nutritionist who decides to leave his clinic in order to get closer to his patients.

We rediscover Ralph Farrell, the great fashion designer, carrying a few more kilos than he'd like to. Mathieu advises a radical treatment. Does it work? Liliane Bensimon is also waging a war to lose weight. Could a surprise encounter turn her life upside down? Sarah Fillot, the young anorexic girl who regains her strength after a brush with death, decides to launch a political career. But will she make it?

Two new characters make their appearance. Pierre-André, a riot policeman who aspires to become an osteopath, unwittingly drags around a heavy secret that Dr Sorin will help him to discover. Will he recover? Meanwhile, Betty Danslaer, a very attractive eighty-year-old, sees Mathieu as more than a mere confidant and reveals to him the inside story of her frenetic existence. What will he learn from her?

In this new novel, Dr Jean-Michel Cohen continues his exploration of eating disorders by taking a closer look at the psychological problems triggering them. And along the way, shows that you are never too old to be seductive!

Between reality - the case histories are typical of those a doctor is likely to come across during his career - and fiction - all the characters have been invented, Dr Jean-Michel Cohen, a famous nutritionist and author of numerous books, returns to his passion for story-telling with a difference. Readers learn to eat more healthy and the story is told in an intelligent and entertaining manner. His best-sellers include: *SAVOIR MAIGRIR*, *SAVOIR MANGER* co-written by Dr Patrick Sérog, *MAIGRIR LE GRAND MENSONGE*, and *OBJECTIF MINCEUR*, all published by Flammarion. His first novel, *LE ROMAN DES RÉGIMES*, was a great bookshop success with 15,000 copies sold. It has been translated into four languages (Russian, Polish, Korean and Czech) and film rights have been sold.

## LITERARY CRIME & SUSPENSE NOVELS

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### **Cabanes, Jean-Pierre: *RETOUR A PALERME* (Aubéron, March 2011, 310 pages)**

Cabanes, who has a passion for Italy and the Italian language, is back with a contemporary and poignant novel written in a very fluent style, in which a French academic struggles with the Sicilian mafia for love.

Upon Catherine's request, his editor and mistress, Stéphane Barnier, an historian from a French University, returns to Sicily for a conference, after thirty years of absence. Strolling through the streets of Palermo, he remembers key events of his youth: the school holidays in Sicily with the Pappalardo family, his friendship with the son Pippo and his great love affair with the daughter Sandra. He remembers how he gradually discovered the acquaintances of the father and the son of the Pappalardo family with the local mafia and the obligation in which he found himself to avenge them when they one day are murdered by the Tottoglio clan. Forced to flee, he never comes back to Sicilia and never saw his *fiancée* again. After the death of Catherine, who was killed in an attack meant to murder him, he decides one more time to accomplish the *vendetta*.

Jean-Pierre Cabanes was born in Montpellier in 1949. A lawyer specializing in criminal law, he lives and works in the south of France. Author of numerous bestselling novels, he received the *Grand Prix de Littérature policière* in 1982 for L'AUDIENCE SOLENNELLE. He is also the author of CIAO BELLA (2009).

### **Martin Winckler: *LES INVISIBLES* (Univers Poche, May 2011, 260 pages)**

It's easy to make those who don't count disappear.

Charly Lhombre, Forensic Doctor on sabbatical, arrives in Quebec to take up a position at the University of Montreal. Enchanted by the welcoming atmosphere of this big North American city he is quickly confronted with the clear differences between the self-help associations for the city's homeless and, on the other end of the spectrum, the protected world of the university's professors. Beneath the veneer of professional relationships, however, power struggles and love rivalries slowly begin to spin their web.

He had expected to spend a relaxing six months, but Charly finds himself amidst a series of violent events and rumors of a sordid past: Who brutally attacked three defenseless homeless? Who broke into Owen LaChance's house, the wealthy patron of the Research Center, and attempted to kill him? Are these attacks linked to the assassination of Owen's wife, the beautiful Kathleen Cheechoo, some years earlier?

The complicity of the surprising Rejane Lalumiere, several film-like dreams and a quick initiation into the culture of Cree Indians may just be enough to help Charly elucidate this triple mystery.

Martin Winckler has written over forty books including LA MALADIE DE SACHS (P.O.L., 1998), LE CHOEUR DES FEMMES (P.O.L., 2009). AFTER MORT IN VITRO (2003) and CAMISOLES (2006), *LES INVISIBLES* is his third novel to appear at Fleuve Noir. Martin Winckler previously denounced operational principles and abuse of the medical world in his two last thrillers published by Fleuve Noir.

The Russian rights for his previous works are sold to Ripol-Classic and Geleos Ltd

## LITERARY CRIME & SUSPENSE NOVELS

### **Granotier, Sylvie: *LA RIGOLE DU DIABLE* (Albin Michel, January 2010, 365 pages) More than 15,000 copies already sold in France**

With her first murder case, Catherine, a young lawyer, is unexpectedly brought back to her childhood, broken by a tragedy that has never ceased to haunt her

Catherine is confronted with a murder case for the first time in her career. A visit to the crime scene brings her to Creuse, where she spent her early years before her mother was murdered –. Her client, Myriam, is African illegal immigrant accused of poisoning her husband, an elderly rustic she married six years earlier. As Catherine strives to defend Myriam despite overwhelming evidence against her, she discovers with stupefaction that Cedric, her lover, was also her mother's lover...

A double intrigue, an appealing heroine, finely observed characters, tense dialogues: the psychological suspense is perfectly controlled from the first page to the last.

Scriptwriter and actress, Sylvie Granotier is the author of *DOUBLE JE* (2002), *LE PASSÉ N' OUBLIE JAMAIS* (2003), *CETTE FILLE EST DANGEREUSE* (2004), *BELLE À TUER* (2006) and *TUER N' EST PAS JOUER* (2008), all published by Editions Albin Michel.

*"Le monde du suspense français a trouvé sa reine !"* **Page**

**Bonnot, Xavier-Marie: *LE PAYS OUBLIE DU TEMPS* (The Land that Time Forgot) (Pierre Astier Agency/Actes Sud, February 2011, 336 pages)**

An exotic detective novel puts Le Baron on the path of a collector of Papua skulls, who paid dearly for his obsession with primitive societies.

In 1936, in New Guinea, Robert Ballancourt and Dr. Delorme go up the Sepik River to get to a Papua village called Palembangi, in head-hunter territory. Their goal: to buy both trophy heads (enemies' heads) and initiates' heads (ancestors' heads) to save some vestiges of a culture that has been endangered since Christianity made an appearance in this part of the world.

Seventy years later, the Marseilles cop Michel de Palma, a.k.a. Le Baron, approaching retirement age, finds Dr. Delorme – murdered with a reed arrow right between the eyes, in a villa filled with masks and statuettes from Oceania. Secular mysteries and exoticism feed this exceptionally scholarly detective novel, which, along its way, revisits works on primitive societies by Freud, Levi-Strauss and Margaret Mead.

Xavier-Marie Bonnot writes Marseilles-based detective novels. His books published by Editions L'Ecailler du Sud: *La Première Empreinte* (2002), *La Bête du marais* (2004) and *La Voix du loup* (2006). By Belfond: *Les Ames sans nom* (2009). *LE PAYS OUBLIÉ DU TEMPS* is his fifth novel.

**Lentéric, Bernard: *LA NUIT DES ENFANTS ROIS* (Calmann-Levy, 1992 reprint 2011, 350 pages)**

With the May 25, 2011 French release of the exceptional 3-D animated film, *THE PRODIGES-LA NUIT DES ENFANTS ROIS*, a new edition of Bernard Lenteric's bestselling cult novel.

New York City, nighttime in Central Park. Seven teenagers are brutally attacked, beaten and sexually abused. All seven victims, however, happen to be child prodigies, linked what is more by a single mind, a single spirit. Thus is born their inexorable hatred of the world, a hatred only to be quenched by a series of robberies and perfect crimes. If the rewere eight of them, the world would be theirs – and the long night of the Prodiges would come at last...

Jimbo knows it and is trying desperately to stop them...Unless, of course, he's on their side!

**Dagher, Carole: *LE TESTAMENT SECRET DE MOÏSE* (Calmann-Levy February 2011, 290 pages)**

An explosive crime fiction blend of religion, history and contemporary fiction. The present day. A pair of researchers have uncovered a sensational document: the secret last will and testament, carefully conserved by an order of medieval monks, attributed, according to legend, to Moses himself! Thus begins a whirlwind journey into both the past and the present, in which mystical intrigue, scientific traps, passionate struggles, covert threats and a myriad of discoveries and disclosures will play out against a backdrop of love stories, both new and old.

Professor John de Coussey, ancient manuscripts specialist at Columbia University, little doubts that his encounter with Mariam, a young Egyptian scholar, will put him on the very unlikely trail of the long-kept secret will of Moses – a hypothesis, of course, that raises a host of questions. From the scientific viewpoint, first of all, did the legendary prophet actually exist? And if he did, then why didn't he enter the Promised Land after leading his people out of Egypt and across the desert?

Where would he have been buried? And why hasn't a sepulchral ever been discovered? A thousand years separates John's story from that of his far-off ancestor Arnaud the Crusader. Yet from Carcassonne to Jerusalem by way of Mount Nebo and the Sinai Desert, the two men of common descent will share a similar fate, thanks to the love of a woman. Will they be able to decipher the signs, however, as they make their respective journeys? And how, furthermore, will Moses' revelation change both of their lives?

Tinged with the mysterious aura of the Orient, the sagas of Arnaud the Crusader and his distant descendant John de Coussey lifts the veil surrounding the secret of Moses, the most fascinating of all the biblical prophets.

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Franco-Lebanese journalist and novelist Carole Dagher writes for the largest French-language paper in Lebanon, *L'Orient le Jour*. She has published several historical novels with Editions Plon, including *LE COUVEN DE LA LUNE*, a historical fresco set in 19<sup>th</sup> century Lebanon, *LE SEIGNEUR DE LA SOIE* and *LA PRINCESSE DES BATIGNOLLES*, all of which take place in her favorite stomping grounds from Mount Lebanon to Istanbul by way of Damascus, Saint Jean D'Acre and her present day home of Paris.

### **Vatnel, Pascal: *PARCE QUE LE SANG N'OUBLIE PAS* (Le Rouergue, January 2011, 352 pages)**

This thrilling tale of hunting down a Japanese criminal of war will plunge us into the heart of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Japan, where modern samurais live in the shadow of ancient traditions.

Beijing, April 2009. As journalist Thomas Kessler settles into his usual hotel, he hasn't got a clue that he will soon be plunged into a history of pure horror. His friend Donald Wu, from *China Daily*, is on a merciless quest to track down a Japanese criminal of wars who was present at the 1937 Nanking massacre. Wu doesn't have a lot of information to use to identify him. But the patiently accumulated testimony confirms that this particular officer took advantage of his rank to indulge in acts of sadism, as well as getting rich by stealing invaluable collections.

To find him, Kessler gets precious assistance in Tokyo from fellow journalist Mizuno, and Wada Miyoko, a brilliant academic. Avec their help, he will enter into Japan's blood memory, where criminals of war are still honored as heroes.

Born in 1957, Pascal Vatnel continues to study Sinology. He has written introductions to Chinese culture as well as two other novels published by Rouergue: *L'AFFAIRE DU CUISINIER CHINOIS* (2007) and *LES LARMES DU PHENIX* (2010).

### **Sakka, Jean-Michel: *JE SUIS HEUREUSE SANS TOI, N'ESSAYE PAS DE ME RETROUVER* (Plon, March 2011, 300 pages)**

Somewhere between legend and police investigation, the story of Saï, the little Thai girl, looking for her mother.

Thailand. Anna and her daughter Emilie visit the zoo, where they see an elephant presented as the saddest elephant in the world. Later on, looking at a photo taken then, they discern a shadow, not far from the elephant. It is the shadow of Saï, a little girl who has no family, who took refuge in a monastery one day and met a blind and enigmatic monk who urged her to go and look for her mother. On the road, Saï made friends with an elephant, the one now in the zoo. They escaped a tsunami, but Saï was obliged to abandon the animal to continue her search.

During her journey, Saï repeatedly has visions. She sees, in particular, a karaoke bar where her mother worked. In a photo, found there, Saï distinguishes a book, *The Red Clearing*, which recounts a 16th century massacre that took place in a cursed pagoda. According to the law of karma, this massacre will be repeated. Saï is convinced that her mother is trapped in the cursed pagoda. To trace the path of Saï, Anna and Emilie start off on a dangerous adventure on a road between magic and legend...

Behind the pseudonym Jean-Michel Sakka is a successful author, winner of the *Grand prix RTL/Lire*. Among his many works: *A LA POURSUITE DE L'ARCHE SACRÉE* (2007), *DIEU LE VEUT !* (2008) and, more recently, *N'Y VA PAS* (2010).

### **Kiner, Aline: *LE JEU DU PENDU* (Liana Lévi, January 2011, 240 pages)**

The revenge against 1940 collaborators doesn't seem over in this Moselle village where a young girl is murdered in symbolic circumstances.

As soon Simon Dreemer arrives in the regional crime unit of Metz, a seventeen-year-old girl is found dead at the bottom of a crevice, in a nearby village, choked by a rope around her body. The next day, a curious assemblage of twigs is discovered in the village cemetery at the foot of the 'God of Pity', a crucifixion of a bound Christ, exactly where a group of Resistance fighters had hung an alleged collaborator in 1944. Soon, another young woman disappears. Assisted by Lieutenant Jeanne Madover, Simon Dreemer will have to determine which one of the phantoms of war has come back to murder these young people.

Through this investigation, Aline Kiner paints with great talent the history of an entire region and the oppressive atmosphere of a small Moselle village that has buried its secrets.

A miner's daughter, Aline Kiner grew up in the Moselle. She works as a journalist for Press and television. She published an essay about cathedrals. *LE JEU DU PENDU* is her first novel.

*"Aline Kiner, tout en décrivant avec empathie les maux d'une région aujourd'hui sinistrée, distille le suspense avec art et efficacité."* **Le Nouvel Observateur**

*"L'écriture est parfaite, précise et évocatrice, dévoilant toutefois avec une grande délicatesse les secrets entremêlés du passé et du présent. Une vraie révélation!"* **Le Dauphiné libéré**

*"Efficace pour tenir le lecteur en haleine jusqu'à la fin"* **La Semaine**

Foreign rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein).

**de Lucovich, Jean-Pierre: *OCCUPE-TOI D'ARLETTY!*  
(Plon, April 2011, 250 pages)**

With his insolent charm and a distinct taste for boxing, will Jerome Dracéna manage to corner the killer threatening Arletty, French film star of the 1930's and 40's and her German officer boyfriend and put him out of business?

1942. Who is sending miniature coffins and threatening letters to Arletty? The Resistance? The star of *Hôtel du Nord* and *Le Jour se lève* is involved in a love affair with a German officer, Captain Karl von Sperlich, and she makes no secret of it. Is he the target? Or is she?

A former crime squad detective who has become a private investigator, Jerome Dracéna looks into the matter and discovers the source of the threats is not at all what he had expected. Assisted by his father, a Vice Squad police commissioner who has just retired, Jerome plunges into occupied Paris, where poverty and misfortune co-exist with the craze of the zazous (jazz-swingers) and the arrogance of the collaborators. A world where one runs into small-time thugs, famous actors, informers, cops who have been cashiered, depraved aristocrats and...cadavers. A retro detective novel steeped in the ambivalent but titillating atmosphere of occupied Paris.

Jean-Pierre de Lucovich was a journalist at *Paris Match*. *OCCUPE-TOI D'ARLETTY!* is his first novel.

**Capron Julien: *MATCH RETOUR*  
(Flammarion, January 2011, 592 pages)**

Covering the rugby return match season, *MATCH RETOUR* can be read entirely independently of the first novel, *MATCH ALLER*. In *Volmeneur*, detective Fénimore Garamande is confronted by dead bodies which turn up at rugby matches as the season progresses, planted by assassins who manipulate public opinion, the media, and the players.

One of the work's major preoccupations of the book is organised crime, complete with gang warfare, prostitution, rigged betting, racketeering and drugs, giving the story a decidedly contemporary ring. Focus is also placed on analysing human passions, presented with both depth and humour. Julien Capron is back with his ever masterful sparkle and suspense.

*MATCH ALLER* was winner of the *2009 Prix du Meilleur Livre de Sport* (a prize for the best book on sport) and was selected by *Espaces Cultura* as a "Talent to Discover". This second novel, following *AMENDE HONORABLE*, has also been hailed by critics.

Julien Capron teaches at Sciences-Po and writes screenplays for television series.

**Nozière, Jean-Paul: *DERNIER TOUR DE MANÈGE*  
(Rivages/noir, April 2011, 208 pages)**

Bocagna, a small town on the border of the French Regions of Burgundy and Franche-Comté. In a disused hotel lives an unlikely couple: Louise Brocoin, a luscious, long-haired beauty and Sakun Sen, known as "the Vietnamese", who works illegally (but non-violently) as a debt-collector.

When Louise and Sakun go to visit Angeline Poirin to collect the 5,000 euros she owes on an appaloosa mare, they discover to their horror the animal mutilated and disembowelled in its paddock, and Angeline tied up on the sofa. The police believe the incident is linked to other similar attacks which had not much concerned

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them. This time, however, a woman has been attacked and Inspector Gannori must suspend writing his novel to lead the enquiry.

Jean-Paul Nozière continues his amusing and terrifying exploration of a neurotic region of France with his novels set in the heart of remote countryside or in towns where industry has given way to unemployment and inactivity. This universe is populated with unusual characters whose singularity, misanthropy and preoccupations are often coupled with madness. Thus *DERNIER TOUR DE MANÈGE* is a subtly structured crime novel, combining a caustic behavioural portrait with a dive into a world of anguished neuroses.

Jean-Paul Nozière was first known in the sphere of youth literature. Over the years, he has also established himself as a writer of crime novels. He has already published, with Rivages, *LE SILENCE DES MORTS* (Rivages/Noir, 2006), *JE VAIS TUER MON PAPA* (2007) and *COCKTAIL MOLOTOV* (2010), which describe a community of Roma in France.

### **Sanders, Louis: *LA LECTURE DU FEU* (Rivages/noir, January 2011, 240 pages)**

At 42, Louis Blondel is training to become a fireman in Saint-Romain, in the Périgord region of France. He watches enviously as his qualified colleagues set off on a call. These volunteer firemen are regularly confronted with tragedy: accidents, elderly people living and dying alone, brutal death.

And yet, so they can walk with death, they end up discovering suspicious things. So says Yvon Lescure, who asks himself why his chief stopped him from going into a certain house during a call to the hamlet of La Chabroussie. This place seems cursed: the scene of a number of suicides where people have driven knives into their own hearts; and then there's the old teacher and her strange notebooks...

Louis Sanders is back with his amusing and cutting tales set in the Périgord countryside. As in *FÉVRIER* (Rivages, 1999), he has the skill to create a climate of mystery and anguish, to capture the lives of people through their joys, their sadness, and their hatred.

### **Chalmet, Véronique: *LES ÉCORCHÉS* (Flammarion, February 2011, 370 pages)**

Rebecca Volconte is a New-York based foreign correspondent exploring organ trafficking in China. She meets Darwin, a young American journalist of Chinese origin who decides to undertake an on-the-spot investigation. Upon his arrival in Beijing, Darwin manages to infiltrate a prison hospital where strange cargo loads are received and delivered every day. Rebecca, on the other hand, makes the acquaintance of Josef Farkas, an internationally admired artist who produces controversial works: flayed cadavers that he orchestrates and displays.

Between Brazil, the United States and Southeast Asia, Rebecca and Darwin will need to face all risks to locate the Factory where Farkas practices his art and stocks his "models". Where do they come from? Is this artist with countless fans in fact a predator? To find out, Rebecca will need to come dangerously close to this undeniably bewitching man, possibly at the head of the most monstrous traffic imaginable on a global scale.

Véronique Chalmet, a writer and journalist specialising in criminology and psychology, is the author of a number of investigative books, essays, and three collections of detective stories, published by Flammarion, Payot and Le Pré aux Clercs.

### **Kleinmann, Philippe & Vinson, Sigolene: *DOUBLE HELICE* (JC Lattès, April 2011, 340 pages)**

A race against time spanning five centuries to save a discovery that will revolutionize medicine!

The day after he turns 23, Samuel, a biotechnology student, receives a strange envelope from an Italian notary public. Inside, a letter from his father, Dr Joshua Adam Lenostre, invites him to an appointment in the offices of Ricci, Esq., in Venice, Italy.

This is the first sign of life the surgeon has given since his death, 11 years earlier, witnessed by his young son, when there was a fire in his research lab at the Curie Institute in Paris. At the time, the lab had been about to announce a major medical breakthrough. Samuel Lenostre is sufficiently intrigued by the letter to travel to Venice, where Ricci hands him a tiny book entitled "The Voyage to Genoa". It would seem that his father is the author of this diary which describes the daily life of a 21<sup>st</sup>-century doctor projected into the late Middle Ages, at the time of Ambroise Pare and Paracelsus. Samuel Lenostre, with the help of his sister Julie and the police

officer Hugo Gottlieb, will follow the trail that leads to his father, to a revolutionary treatment for cancer and to the criminal who caused all the trouble.

Philippe Kleinmann is a surgeon and a jazz fan. Sigolene Vinson is an actress and a lawyer. This “odd couple” has been writing together since *Bistouri Blues* (Editions Le Masque, France 2007). With the daring Kleinmann/Vinson duo, science and imagination take charge!

**Rodriguez, Cristina: *L'APHRODITE PROFANEE*  
(JC Lattès, March 2011, 320 pages)**

A new investigation for Kaeso that puts him up against a dark tale of kidnapping.

One evening the young soldier is assigned to protecting the Imperial Family during a banquet organized by Claudius, the uncle of Caligula. The good man wants to show off his latest acquisition, a statue of Praxitelus acquired for a steep price.

During the banquet the guests manage to hear a servant's screams over the roar of a huge thunderstorm. The sculpture has disappeared, and three bodies lie in the room where it stood: Claudius's faithful old secretary, with a bloody blade in his hand, and two strangers. All three have been stabbed to death, but how did the frail old man manage to overwhelm two men in their prime? And if he killed the two thieves, who killed him?

Kaeso, with the help of his frivolous cousin Concordia will have to face down a dreadful enemy, the seemingly untouchable courtesan Pylalis

Cristina Rodriguez is a novelist and a historian. Specialized in Ancient Greece and Rome, she has written numerous novels and biographies (*Moi, Sporus*, Calmann-Levy 2001. *Le Cesar aux pieds nus*, Flammarion 2001. *Thya de Sparte*, Flammarion, 2004.) She is also specialized in ancient coins and has contributed to several publications in this field.

**Moore, Viviane: *AINSI PUIS-JE MOURIR...*  
(Univers Poche, June 2011, 360 pages)**

After marrying Philip Sedley, the young romance novelist Gabrielle Dancel moves into the Chateau de Tourlaville. Her rural childhood was filled with stories of the dramas that unfolded in this castle, which she now yearns to make her own. She finds the society disconcerting, with all the codes, unspoken rules, and a husband who is infinitely more mysterious than he initially seemed.

A world from which she draws the subject of her next novel, inspired by the true story of Julien and Marguerite, a brother and sister who, in the 16th century, lived a love story until their death which may have been not only tragic but also incestuous. Inhabited by her novel in progress, Gabrielle seems to straddle the past and the present and Philip's sister's arrival to the castle leads to further confusion. Is history repeating itself?

Madness, tragic love affairs, murder... Perhaps it is the castle itself that, throughout the centuries, relentlessly besieges its inhabitants? The Russian rights are also available for The saga of TANCRÈDE D'ANAOR

Of Irish-Italian origin, Viviane Moore is completely French, although her name certainly wouldn't tell you so. Her writing knows no borders, neither geographic nor temporal. At 19 years old she became a photographer, then a journalist and then worked for the Cartier Foundation. Her first novels were published in 1997, to immediate success. After the saga of Tancrede d'Anaor, whose 7 volumes sold close to 180,000 copies at 10/18 Editions this unique and anachronistic author of historical fiction, adventure novels, thrillers and detective novels, comes back to us with a spellbinding tale. Her books have been translated into English, Italian, Polish and Korean.

**DETECTIVE SERIES**

**Lecaye, Alexis: *DAME DE CARREAU, DAME DE COEUR, DAME DE PIQUE, DAME DE TREFLE*  
(JC Lattès, 2009-2011, 375 pages)**

This series features Commissioner Martin – a detective who, despite feeling burned out, can't help trying to bring criminals to justice – and his trusty sidekick, Jeannette. Each volume pits the heroes against dastardly criminals, who torture women, kill them with a crossbow, abduct children under the auspices of a sect, and more!

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The plots are thickened with Martin's personal troubles -- including an accusation of murder -- but he can usually count on the help of several women, from his police partner to his ex-wife to a stripper. Exciting, suspenseful page-turners!

Known to a wide audience thanks to his heroine Julie Lescaut, Alexis Lecaye has written numerous novels, screenplays and children's books. He is also a film and TV producer, and a director. TV station France 2 has already made the first two volumes in the series into popular telefilms starring Thierry Godard, and a third film is in the works.

### **Sigaud, Dominique: *CONTE D'EXPLOITATION* (Actes Sud, February 2011, 222 pages)**

In this second volume of Commissioner Régine Partouche's investigations, Dominique Sigaud's heroine has to face a hostile hierarchy, which leads her to investigate two murders without her supervisors' knowledge.

The atmosphere at the police station is awful because of new statistics-based management policies being imposed over the whole organization. Although Partouche is working on the murder of a Brazilian transvestite found in front of her husband's bookstore, her supervisor, Pucheu, puts her to work investigating a different murder instead: the case of an assassinated artist. So Partouche decides to work on both investigations at once. The first one leads her to a lupanar attended by politicians, and the second, to Germany, on the trail of an incinerator producer.

The heroine of *L'Inconfort des ordures* is going to try to face down her hierarchy thanks to the precepts of Sun Tzu's *THE ART OF WARFARE* and her psychoanalyst's excellent advice, which crops up through out the tale. A brainy detective novel, written in a masterful style.

Dominique Sigaud has written many novels, narratives and poem collections, at Calmann-Levy and Gallimard. At Actes sud, she is also the author of *The dark side of the moon* (2004), *Aime* (2006) and *L'Inconfort des ordures* (2007). *CONTE D'EXPLOITATION* is her seventh novel.

### **Andrea H. Japp: *TEMPLAMENTIS* *LES MYSTÈRES DE DRUON DE BRÉVAUX, T.3* (Flammarion, February 2011, 478 pages)**

Héluse is still roving under the alias of Druon de Brévaux, hounded by the Inquisition and Monsieur de Nogaret, the bishop of Alençon. Her aim is to discover why the illustrious Jehan Fauvel, her father, was tortured. And to find out what he knew about the powers of the red stone which the Vatican and the King of France are itching to possess. In this new adventure, following the advice of the sage Igraine, she approaches the town of Brou-la-Noble, where a clue is hidden. The young *mire* (doctor) then heads to Alençon where she wants to confront the bishop who betrayed her father. Next stop, Nocé, where indignation and anger flare up: the priest of Saint-Martin's church and his sexton are impaled, precious religious objects are stolen, and the church vandalised.

Apparently none of the villagers have seen or heard a thing. This does not however stop them from persecuting a man whose sole defects are laziness and drunkenness. Will Druon manage to save him? And why, then, is a notary found murdered in the same detestable manner? Why do some believe that the solution to the enigma lies in the stained glass? And what if the secret to the stone were lodged in the stained glass representing the martyr St Eustache of Rome?

Druon is both enthralled and moved to hold in her hands thousands of years of human knowledge that Church powers are attempting to cover up. And what if her father's quest aimed at restoring knowledge to humanity?

Andrea H. Japp is one of the queens of the French detective novel. She has already published 28 works and is translated into 5 languages English, German, Spanish, Russian (Geleos and Family Leisure Club/Hemiro) and Portuguese. This is the third volume of a highly acclaimed and successful series *Druon de Brévaux*: already published *AESCULAPIUS* and *LACRIMAE*.

**Aubenque, Alexis: *COLLECTION OF SUSPENSE NOVELS*  
*7 JOURS À RIVER FALLS*  
(Calmann-Levy, June 2008, 374 pages)**

Sarah Kent is a model student who leads a peaceful life among the elite of the prestigious River Falls College, located in a small town of the same name in the heart of the Rockies. Yet one spring morning, all of this will change. Sarah's world becomes one of terror.

Emy Paich and Lucy Barton, Sarah's two best friends back in high school, are found brutally mutilated on the side of a lake next to the nearby forest. Though they had lost touch since high school, Sarah received a strange letter two days before the girls' bodies were found and seems to be hiding a big secret. Perhaps there's some invisible bond that ties these young women together... Will she be the murderer's next victim?

Sheriff Mike Logan has many mysteries to solve along with his on-again/off-again girlfriend and expert profiler, Jessica Hurley. They decide a bit too quickly that they're on the right path, giving the perpetrator the chance to manipulate them in a most perverse way...

***UN AUTOMNE À RIVER FALLS*  
(Calmann-Levy, June 2009, 464 pages)**

Early fall. Mike Logan and Jessica Hurley take on two back-to-back murders that have once again shaken up the relative quiet of River Falls. Robert Gordon, brilliant lawyer and philanthropist, is discovered electrocuted in the Jacuzzi of his luxurious villa. The murderer's attempts at leaving evidence pointing to suicide are hardly plausible. That same day a homeless man, beaten to death and thrown into the river, shows up at the morgue without causing much of a stir.

Hard-pressed by the mayor's office to get quick results, the duo soon uncovers compromising documents implicating several upstanding community figures in a property scandal... A simple settling of scores? As tension mounts in River Falls, a new murder is committed, corroborating the hypothesis. Yet simple appearances sometimes hide gruesome truths; and the past, terrible secrets...

***UN NOËL À RIVER FALLS*  
(Calmann-Levy, November 2010, 512 pages)**

A Mike Logan-Jessica Hurley crime thriller.

Things are back to normal in River Falls. As the small town gets ready for Christmas, however, a brutal killing revives memories of a horrific past: an adolescent has been found dead, another barely managing to escape. Were they the target of a sexual pervert? Could it be an act of revenge against one of the two boys accused of assault and battery on a transvestite?

It turns out that a young survivor belongs to a religious community living in the former manor house of a serial killer. Is this a mere coincidence, or is it somehow related to the boys' abduction? Sheriff Mike Logan will have to be on his toes to elucidate of the affair. Luckily his girlfriend, profiler Jessica Hurley, is there to help him avoid the traps of our preconceived ideas about the "monsters" in our midst. Free from bias, the truth, in fact, is easier to find.

A bookseller at the Fnac (France's largest chain of bookstores) for 8 years, Alexis Aubenque specializes in Science Fiction and Detective His previous works include *LA CHUTE DES MONDES* (Pocket, 2004), which is Pocket's bestselling French SF title, as well as the bestselling *EMPIRE DES ÉTOILES* series (Fleuve noir). Alexis Aubenque, former bookseller hooked on genre literature, made his crime fiction debut in 2008 with *SEPT JOURS À RIVER FALLS*. Volume two of the present trilogy, *UN AUTOMNE À RIVER FALLS*, was awarded the Cognac Prix POLAR in 2009.

**Bourland, Fabrice: *LE DIABLE DU CRYSTAL PALACE*  
*The Detectives of Strange*  
(Univers Poche, 2008-2010, 200 pages each title)  
Over 60 000 copies sold in France!**

An incredible trip into the spiritual realm. Since the birth of spiritualism, at the end of the 19th century, infatuation for the occult has not stopped growing. Spiritualists and scholars form circles of enthusiasts and groups of the initiated sometimes attract intellectuals such as Victor Hugo or Arthur Conan Doyle to participate in séance tables and séances of psychography. In Europe, throughout the 1930's, Fabrice Bourland's two detective heroes based in London carry out their investigations guided by the numerous mysteries that surrounded the milieu of the psychic scientists.

## **THRILLERS**

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Taking a malicious pleasure in mixing historical facts and fiction, Fabrice Bourland invites the reader to let go and be guided with delight and terror into the world of spirits, there where the imagination isn't confined to any laws.

In November 1936, Singleton and Trelawney are commissioned to find a missing entomologist from the British Museum. While the Loch Ness Monster case is in full swing, our detectives find themselves face to face with a feline belonging to a species that has been extinct for over 20,000 years. A copy of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* in hand, they will have to fight hard to prevent the 20th century from being plunged into chaos.

Fabrice Bourland works and lives in Paris. He highly admires Edgar Allan Poe, Jean Ray, Robert Louis Stevenson and E.T.A. Hoffmann, and his texts have been published in a great number of reviews, collections and anthologies.

Foreign rights sold: UK (Gallic Books), translation available in English language

## **THRILLERS**

**Van Cauweleart, Didier: *THE DIARY OF A TREE*  
(Michel Lafon, september 2011, appr 300 pages)**

What if the day you die you start a double life? One that goes backwards, into your memories and back to your origins and the other forwards, following the emotions and inspiration that you continue to feel. That is what happens to the narrator of this tale, a four hundred year old pear-tree who has been uprooted in a storm. Henceforth his conscience is shared between his new way of seeing the world – as logs, as the work of art that was carved into his trunk – and the human destiny to which he found himself linked during his active life: lovers with names carved into his bark, someone who hanged themselves from one of his branches, a young girl accused of being a witch burned with his wood, the rebel adventurer whose ashes were scattered on his roots, the illegitimate royal upon whose birth he was planted...

How does a tree "work"? What makes up its conscience and what is the secret of its interaction with the environment? The tree's posthumous 'diary' makes us see the world, nature and man in a whole new light, through a vegetal way of thinking that develops as it tells a tale full of suspense: will the emotions and memories disappear once the sap is dry? The pear-tree itself, with its own survival instinct, does not know if it should replant its roots in the past or point them towards the future, whether to explore ancient history or leap into the unknown...

Captivating, funny and stirring, *THE DIARY OF A TREE* brings an original answer to the universal question: what is, for a tree as much as a man, the best way of avoiding death?

Winner of the Prix Goncourt in 1994 for *UN ALLER SIMPLE*, Didier van Cauwelaert is a French writer of novels and plays. Inspired by the themes of family and social achievement, Didier is also interested in the paranormal and mad science. In film, following *UN ALLER SIMPLE* and *L'ÉDUCATION D'UNE FÉE*, his books *HORS DE MOI* and *L'ÉVANGILE DE JIMMY* are being adapted in the USA. The novels of Didier van Cauwelaert have been translated into more than 20 languages.

The Russian rights for the previous works are sold to Fluide and AST Publishers

**Bannel, Cédric: *L'HOMME DE KABOUL*  
(Robert Laffont, March 2011, 400 pages)**

In Cédric Bannel's fast-paced and exciting new thriller, sexy, green-eyed Commissioner Oussama Kandar turns the routine investigation surrounding a businessman's apparent suicide in Kabul into an explosive case that has international implications.

As Kandar's investigation over Wali Wadi's death quickly evolves into one for murder, the Minister of Security attempts to foil his every move, motivating him even more to solve the alleged crime. At the same time, a Swiss-based secret organization, The Entity, uses everything in its power to terminate Kandar's investigation, even if it means putting an end to his life and murdering civilians in order to find one man with dangerous information: Leonard Mandrake.

Nick Snee, an analyst for The Entity, searches for Mandrake by investigating a love affair he had with a beautiful Afghan woman. Nick discovers that Mandrake has information related to Wali Wadi's death, but he doesn't know how. This leads him to question The Entity's motivations for wanting to stop Kandar. After

breathhtaking chases, Nick joins forces with Kandar to find Mandrake which leads to an action-packed and riveting final confrontation in the Hindu Kush mountains. What Nick and Kandar discover ends up being far bigger than they could have possibly imagined.

Cédric Bannel, 44, began his career as a foreign diplomat and as a high public official working with the financial sanctions against Iraq. Today he is the founder and CEO of one of France's biggest Internet companies. His previous novels published by Robert Laffont are *LE HUITIÈME FLÉAU* (1999), *LA MENACE MERCURE* (2000), and *ELIXIR* (2004).

Foreign rights sold: UK/ANZ (Scribe), Germany (Aufbau), Italy (Sperling & Kupfer)

**Alexis, Isabelle: *COMME DANS UN FILM NOIR***  
**(Flammarion, March 2011, 396 pages)**

The capital is struck by a series of knife attacks on women, each time taking place on a Monday in December at 6 pm. Two victims, Karen and Ludivine, are already dead. The third, Carole, falls into a coma on New Year's Eve. In a critical state, and with the help of her guardian angel Michelle, the most traumatic episodes in her life flash before her.

The hallucinations allow her to lead her own investigation into the circumstances behind the attempted murder. She observes her love affair with Patrick, the husband of Paola, her former chief editor and boss, and remembers her brutal separation from her husband Quentin. She also retraces the plot she concocted with her sister Sofia and former brother-in-law, to send to prison William, the new companion of her other sister Agnès, a failed artist and notorious drunk. She also relives the tragic break-in that cost the life of Henri, one of her lovers.

Meanwhile, Gastier, commander of the Criminal Brigade, and his men try to track down the killer...

A page-turning thriller with plenty of humour, *COMME DANS UN FILM NOIR* borrows from – while deliberately hijacking – the plot of an original detective story in which psychopaths, gangsters, culprits and innocents are not always what they seem to be.

Isabelle Alexis has already published five novels including *DÈS LE PREMIER SOIR* and *TOUS À MES PIEDS*, published by Éditions Albin Michel. Two of her novels have been adapted for the screen.

**Chagnaud, Thomas: *L'AUTRE***  
**(Michel Lafon, march 2011, 300 pages)**

Cécile is 37. When she was 18 she ran away from her family, her home and a youthful experience that scarred her badly, to come and live in Paris. But the distance did not help her. She was alone, a recluse, wrapped up in the unremitting tedium of her daily life. Cécile is unable to feel like a woman, a woman who is desired, a woman who is loved. She has never, could never, open up to others, to love, so she abandons herself into a double life of sex, violence and submission, like a woman possessed. It was a secret that would only be revealed by the sight of her battered body in her own bedroom. That night, Cécile's dangerous game took her to the edge of the precipice. Savagely beaten by three men, she lay on her bed, nearly dead, her face torn to shreds.

From then on invisible, horribly disfigured, a casualty of her own existence, Cécile comes to the decision to end it all until a gruesome stroke of luck – the accidental death of a young woman her own age – offers her a second chance.

Thomas Chagnaud, 38, is a journalist and producer of the show *50 Minutes Inside* on TF1. *SOMEONE ELSE* is his second novel. His first novel, *THE ASSASSIN* was published in 2006.

**Prévost, Guillaume: *LE BAL DE L'EQUARRISSEUR***  
**(Robert Laffont, April 2011, appr. 250 pages)**

Paris 1919. The world anxiously awaits for the conclusion of the Treaty of Versailles. However, the Germans think it is too severe and just may reject it. Will war break out again?

It's in this context that Guillaume Prévost sets his second entry in his trilogy of historical thrillers featuring François-Claudius Simon. The cadaver of a woman is found in a slaughterhouse at the Villette, hung among the animal carcasses. A message is left on her body – "To each his turn". Next a leg is found in the Minister of War's kitchens, with a label on it: "Some meat for the Tiger". The murders continue one after the other, and the notes as well, all signed by the Slaughterer.

François-Claudius Simon, on the heels of solving the case of the "gueules cassées", leads this investigation with two good reasons to worry. First, the government is tense because each crime is a message for

Clemenceau. Second, he realizes that the same group that was responsible for Elsa's kidnapping and torture a few years back has ties to the Slaughterer. The woman he loves decides to seek revenge. Alone...

Guillaume Prévost is a history teacher in a high school outside of Paris. He wrote LIVRE DU TEMPS, a successful trilogy published by Gallimard Jeunesse and with NiL, three historical thrillers: LES SEPT CRIMES DE ROMES, L'ASSASSIN ET LE PROPHÈTE and LE MYSTÈRE DE LA CHAMBRE OBSCURE. LA VALSE DES GUEULES CASSÉES, the first book in the François-Claudius Simon trilogy, was published in 2010.

Foreign rights sold for LA VALSE DES GUEULES CASSÉES: Italy (Leone Editore)

### **Camut, Jérôme & Hug, Nathalie: *PRÉDATION* (Télémaque, June 2004, 500 pages)**

In Camut and Hug's thrilling novel, the 1<sup>st</sup> volume of a series of 4 ending with RÉMANENCE (October 2010) a new breed of psycho is at work. A monstrous and unpredictable predator. His macabre hunt has only begun.

A naked body is found dumped in a ditch, its right hand blown apart. A screaming man shoots himself in the head, right in the middle of a crowded shopping mall. A young father, trained like a dog, is tortured mercilessly in a pit without door or window. No trail, no link and no motive ... Who are these men? Why have they been chosen? For what grotesque execution?

Jérôme Camut, 38, has worked in the movies industry before becoming a fulltime writer. After his cult fantasy cycle MALHORNE, Jérôme Camut brings a new power and energy to the French thriller. He also inovates by choosing a writing «à quatre mains” (four hands writing) with his wife Nathalie Hug. Together they wrote several crime novels.

### **Covin, Alec: *LE GÉNÉRAL ENFER* (Plon, February 2011, 384 pages)**

Created in the aftermath of the Civil War, the brotherhood of General Fenryder threatens the entire American continent with terror. His weapon? Bringing our most secret fears to life.

It's been four years since the dreadful events at Tusitala, when a secret fraternity, borne of the Civil War and possessed of diabolical powers, brought terror to a sleepy little Louisiana town (as told in Covin's LES LOUPS DE FENRYDER, 2005). Two years have gone by since the Wolves of Fenryder went on a killing spree at the Walter Skoll Foundation, in the heart of New York City (ETATS PRIMITIFS, 2006).

But a few characters from the last two works escaped safe and sound. The little gathering of fugitives, including journalist Sarah Widar and private detective Tim Modin, join Lorine and her son Scotty, whose father was horrifically assassinated by the men of the brotherhood. Hunted by the Wolves, they must wipe out the secret society of Fenryder before it takes over and succeeds in establishing the reign of the Great Night.

Born in 1970, Alec Covin studied literature and cinema before working in the field of modern art. LES LOUPS DE FENRYDER, ETATS PRIMITIFS, and DEUX ET DEMI OU LE ROMAN DU DIABLE met with critical acclaim and established him as one of France's finest authors of the fantastic.

### **Mazeau, Jacques: *LA VENGEANCE DU LOUP* (JC Lattès/Le Masque, February 2011, 320 pages)**

An eerie thriller set in Mende, in the heart of France's Lozere region, a setting as sublime as it is hostile.

In Mende, Eugene, the municipal employee, is doing his nightly round at the cemetery. Imagine his surprise when he comes across the Leforts' - well-respected couple - grave: their tomb has been opened! There is an investigation, and a few days later, after a wolf has been seen near the cemetery, Eugene is found dead, with his throat slashed.

Muriel Lacan, a parapsychologist from Toulouse, is called in, and gets a hand from her old sidekick, Michel Fabre, police detective. Eugene's death awakens old family feuds, and focuses attention on Dr. Merlieux. A figure in town – and one who is much appreciated by the ladies – Merlieux is a psychologist and psychoanalyst, but the occult arts hold no secrets for him. As time goes by, the plot thickens. Muriel and Michel will have to struggle to resist the forces of evil that seem to have come out in force in the region.

Born in Paris in 1949, Jacques Mazeau earned fame as a novelist in 1986 with LA FERME D'EN BAS, which was a best-seller. Best known for his regional novels, in recent years he has devoted himself to writing

fantasy thrillers. In addition to his writing, he has pursued a career as a communications consultant for international corporations.

**Descott, Régis: *L'ANNÉE DU RAT***  
**(JC Lattès, March 2011, 380 pages)**

The year of the Rat could well mean the end of Man.

It's Chinese New Year in Paris, the year of the Rat. Lieutenant Chim is sent to a crime scene in Normandy where a farmer and his family were savagely murdered. The evidence left behind points to multiple killers that may have been acting under the influence of a new drug.

But the results of the laboratory analysis are even more terrifying and Chim becomes swept up in the very troubling world of the latest advances in genetic manipulation. His investigation first brings him to the pharmaceutical laboratory that manufactures the famous "Jouv X", a miracle drug that promises eternal youth. Then, from Paris to Scandinavia, from the Defense towers to the seabed beneath the English Channel, Chim perilously follows the killers' tracks. What awaits him at the end is ultimate, diabolical horror that will threaten his mental health and the survival of humanity.

Régis Descott has published with Lattès the critically acclaimed PAVILLON 38 (a film adaptation is in process) and OBSCURA (40,000 copies sold).

The Russian rights for previous works are sold to Eksmo and Ripol-Classic

*"Brillant et glaçant thriller d'anticipation qui empoigne la question des manipulations génétique, L'ANNÉE DU RAT confirme la place de Régis Descott dans le paysage du polar français."* **Livres Hebdo**

**Mars, Frederic: *LE SANG DU CHRIST***  
**(Michel Lafon, June 2011, 340 pages)**

It is 6 days before Pass over in the year 30 AD. On a farm near Jerusalem, a man is sacrificed according to the ritual of the paschal lamb. Branded on his fore head is an isosceles triangle. A piece of Egyptian pottery lies next to the charred body. The dead man is John of Gamala, rightful heir to the throne of David, usurped by Herod with the backing of Rome. Suspected of the crime, James the Scribe attempts to track down his brother's murderer himself. Helped by his niece Sara, he follows the trail of the killer as he leaves the bodies of fresh victims strewn over Judea. Meanwhile, another contender for the title of King of the Jews infuriates the Roman authorities: Jesus of Nazareth.

From Qumran to Magdala, from initiation to revelations, James and Sara search for the man who will prove to be humanity's first serial killer. Their man hunt takes them right to the foot of the Cross...

*The Blood of the Christ is a breath taking historical thriller, brilliantly combining scholarship and controversy*

Born in May 1968 and raised in a Catholic school, Fred Mars has several novels to his name. Now he has taken on an ambitious challenge: to write an iconoclastic history of the origins of Christianity, based on recent, little-known archaeological sources and discoveries. THE BLOOD OF THE CHRIST is the first part of a trilogy.

**Garnier, Romain: *L'HÉRITAGE DE GLACE***  
**(Plon, April 2011, 360 pages)**

On the track of an old nazi expedition in the North Pole, a young linguist tries to discover the truth about Hitler occult adviser: a Tibetan monk who kept the secret of immortal life.

A nazi submarin is discovered in the North Pole, after an ice smelting. In Berlin, old professor Manstein is terrified by this discovery: this submarin was carrying a secret nazi agency in search of a magical way to insure Hitler's victory. With one of his student, John Ackroyd, a Sanskrit teacher, he will try to decipher a mysterious journal describing the Nazis' terrible journey to Thule and the curse that led them to death. John is sent to Thule to explore the submarin mystery, with the help of Daphnée, a young scientific. Together, they will follow the track of the sinister "green gloves' man" who was supposed to give Hitler the immortality recipe.

A fascinating historical and esoteric thriller in a dark period, filled with mysteries.

Professor in Limoges University, Romain Garnier is a indo-european languages specialist. He awarded a prestigious linguistic prize and published his thesis in Autria. L'HÉRITAGE DE GLACE is his first novel.

**Lemaître, Pierre: *ALEX***  
(Albin Michel, February 2011, 392 pages)

The struggle of a captive woman to survive, the revenge of a tormented torturer, an investigator trying to understand a serie of wicked murders... Pierre Lemaître multiplies points of view to distil a brilliant plot, sidestepping the main question : who is really Alex ? Alex, a beautiful and alluring young woman of 35, is kidnapped by a stranger who imprisoned in a disused warehouse where he installed a torture chamber whose terrors she will endure to the very limits of horror.

The enigma of Alex and her past will keep readers enthralled right up to the unpredictable and fatal conclusion. To reveal any more would be to give away a plot whose diabolically clever construction borders on perfection. Pierre Lemaître's talent is to make us doubt about the true meaning of guilt.

Pierre Lemaître is a scriptwriter for televisions and cinema. His first novel, TRAVAIL SOIGNE (Editions du Masque) received in 2006 the Prix du Festival de Cognac and his second novel, ROBE DE MARIE the Prix du meilleur polar francophone 2009. They will soon be adapted to cinema. 15 000 copies of his third book, CADRES NOIRS (2010) have been sold and the book awarded the Prix du Polar Européen-Le Pont 2010. The rights of his previous novels were sold to: Germany (Ullstein), the Netherlands (House of Books), Italy (Fazi Editore), Turkey (Yayinlari) and Poland (Muza), Russia (Pokolenie).

Foreign rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein), the Russian rights are under Option

*"Le génie de Lemaître tient notamment à sa faculté de multiplier les fausses pistes et les retournements spectaculaires. D'une écriture sèche qui lui est propre, ce styliste qui emprunte à Proust, Balzac et Dostoïevski hisse le genre noir à une hauteur rarissime chez les écrivains français : celle où se tient la littérature."* **Le Figaro magazine**

*"Particulièrement riche et soignée, l'écriture se double d'emprunts revendiqués aux plus grands auteurs. Cela confère une légèreté jubilatoire à l'horreur dépeinte. Du travail d'artiste"* **Carrefour savoirs**

**Dessaint, Pascal: *LE BAL DES FRELONS***  
(Rivages/Thriller, February 2011, 208 pages)

Mountains, the great outdoors, it is not always as healthy and bucolic as it appears. Somewhere in the valley can be seen the remains of an old tungsten factory. But above all, there is the village and its inhabitants. These are the worst, starting with the scheming mayor, Michel, who does not really set a good example to his constituents. So why should we be surprised when those that are not sex-obsessed think of nothing but money, when they are not thinking of both at once? The end always justifies the means: threats, blackmail, murder.

But Rémi is a bit different; he speaks to no one but his hens, Sten and Dhal, and his wife who, sadly, gets a little uglier every day, and for good reason: she is dead. In the middle of this mad swarm of hornets, Maxime the beekeeper has only one option: to put on his beekeeping suit. In this village in the French Pyrenees, the bear is not the most dangerous animal.

A lover of nature, Pascal Dessaint shows us, in this book, a whole other side to the life of animals in this hilarious and cruel farce that brings to mind Siniac or the Charles Williams of *The Diamond Bikini*. Written in an alert and impeccably structured style, *Le Bal des Frelons* reminds us of that essential truth: it's a dog eat dog world, but man is also gifted with a capacity for tenderness, so the species need not despair.

*"I was born in 1964 in a working class family from the North of France. I thought it was good. I went to Paris and went round all the publishers. I had to wait ten years to be published. In the meantime, I moved to Toulouse, which became the setting for most of my books. I finished my studies in 1989. After several lean years when I worked as a night watchman, a museum guard and a radio presenter, I published LES PAUPIÈRES DE LOU. I was then lucky enough to meet Francois Guérif, my publisher since 1995. I like to change genre and tone. After a very dark period, in 2003 I began a new cycle on the theme of nature. Most of my work is published by Rivages, who also publish my "green and meandering" columns".* Pascal Dessaint

**Lenoir, Frédéric & Cabelos, Violette: *LA PAROLE PERDUE***  
(Albin Michel, May 2011, 544 pages)

Six years after a tragic experience on Mont-Saint-Michel, Johanna, an archaeologist, is hoping to recover her sense of the magic of stones, as well as her inner peace, on an excavation site, the basilica in Vézelay. But as soon as she arrives, her young daughter starts having violent nightmares, where she finds herself in Pompeii when the Vesuvio erupted. Meanwhile on the excavation site, archaeologists are being killed by a murderer who signs his crimes with quotations from the Gospels...

Convinced there's a connection between her daughter's illness and the murders, Johanna starts her own investigation in which past and present blend into one. The key to the murders? One of humanity's greatest secrets, those mysterious words Jesus traced in the sand as he confronted the woman adultery and her accusers. The forgotten words...

Editor-in-chief of *Le Monde des religions*, Frédéric Lenoir has written many successful essays and novels. Violette Cabesos is co-author of *LA PROMESSE DE L'ANGE* (Maisons de la presse prize in 2004), a best-seller in France (100,000 copies were sold) and in other countries: it was published in 13 countries including Germany (Piper), the U.S.A. (Pegasus) and Spain (Mondadori).

*"An excellent thriller with an excellent sense of pace, suspense and the world seen from different angles."* **Liberation**

*"A captivating thriller that gives the keys to understand the workings of international terrorism. Certainly his best novel in a long time."* **Express**

*"A gripping geopolitical thriller, sharp and effective, strikingly authentic. [ .. ] Nothing is simply black or white in this fiction but human flaws and qualities are depicted with a keen eye, certainly acquired by the author through his multiples lives."* **Le Figaro Littéraire**

*"A fascinating geopolitical thriller on Saharan Islamism. [ . . ] Fully in line with a John Le Carre, J-C Rufin has written one of the best novels this spring."* **France Soir**

### **Brussolo, Serge: CEUX D'EN BAS (Fleuve Noir, September 2010, 288 pages)**

Excerpt available in English language The mayor of a small village in Montana would like Mickie to draw up plans for an amusement park to attract tourists. The chosen spot, however, hides a Native American cemetery, victims of colonial barbarianism several centuries before. To bring her task to fruition, Mickie will have to sort through legends, lies and misleading appearances in order to discover the village's real secret.

Serge Brussolo was born in 1951 and is a prolific writer. Gifted with a surprising imagination, he is considered by the critics to be an exceptional storyteller and the best in his genre - somewhere between Stephen King and Mary Higgins Clark.

Russian rights for Brussol's famous collection for childer PEGGY SUE are sold to Eksmo

### **Chattam, Maxime: LE CENACLE DES SERAPHINS (Albin Michel, October 2010, 450 pages)**

Paris, 1900. Guy de Timée is a successful novelist, yet he lives in the creaky attic of a house of ill-repute. From one day to the next, he ran away from it all: wife, child, friends, success. He just couldn't take the pressure of succeeding at all costs, of writing what was expected of him, any more.

Now he has decided to write a detective novel set in the darkest, most uncivilized corners of Paris, which the world admiringly calls the City of Lights. He wants to confront blood and violence. And death, which he calls out to from the depths of his soul. And it will appear in the middle of the night, in the guise of Milaine, a young prostitute from the brothel who was assassinated under particularly strange circumstances. But what if she weren't the first?

Who is prowling the streets of the capital in the shadow of the Exposition Universelle? What dark purpose is this evil killer of women, who will soon leave behind nothing but cloaks of skin, really pursuing? Along with the mysterious Faustine; Inspector Perotti and Yoshito, an impressive, dishonored Japanese sumo, Guy is going to try to find out. From Paris's esoteric circles to the delights of the Exposition Universelle, they will gradually bring a terrifying secret to light, one that has fascinated humanity since the dawn of civilization: controlling time.

Published around the world, Maxime Chattam is an acknowledged master of the French thriller whose boundless imagination is regularly hailed by the press. His books' popularity is constantly growing (more than 350,000 copies for the AUTRE-MONDE series, 120,000 copies for *LA PROMESSE DES TÉNÉBRES*).

### SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY

#### **Réjault, William & Latorre, Laurent: *LE CHEMIN QUI MENAIT VERS VOUS* (Robert Laffont, February 2011, 342 pages)**

It's just before the 2017 presidential election and on the heels of the latest oil crisis France has fallen into chaos. On top of gas shortages, food has become scarce, there is practically no electricity, no Internet or telephone. All of our modern comforts have collapsed one after the other, and people have no idea what's going on in the outside world.

Guillaume is neither a hero nor impetuous but he sees that life in Paris has become unmanageable. He and his girlfriend Laure travel on foot towards the Basque Country where his parents live. On their journey, they are joined by Cécile, Laure's pampered and pregnant sister-in-law, Clément, a tough man who claims to be a doctor, and Cyril, a teenager with a heart of gold who came out of nowhere.

Nobody is prepared for the violence and mayhem they'll be faced with day after day on their journey. They not only face threats from other ordinary people they meet along the way but from a faction of the military that has become fascist and deadly.

Réjault and Latorre have written an entertaining and disturbingly realistic thriller about what happens to human nature when confronted with impossible conditions. *LE CHEMIN QUI MENAIT VERS VOUS* first began as an Internet sensation in February 2010. Réjault and Latorre wrote three chapters at a time that over 20,000 readers downloaded to their iPhones.

William Réjault is an influential blogger. Laurent Latorre works in the IT department for a large Parisian bank.

#### **Covin, Alec: *LE GENERAL ENFER* (Plon, February 2011, 384 pages)**

Created in the aftermath of the Civil War, the brotherhood of General Fenryder threatens the entire American continent with terror. His weapon? Bringing our most secret fears to life.

It's been four years since the dreadful events at Tusitala, when a secret fraternity, borne of the Civil War and possessed of diabolical powers, brought terror to a sleepy little Louisiana town (as told in Covin's *LES LOUPS DE FENRYDER*, 2005). Two years have gone by since the Wolves of Fenryder went on a killing spree at the Walter Skoll Foundation, in the heart of New York City (*ETATS PRIMITIFS*, 2006).

But a few characters from the last two works escaped safe and sound. The little gathering of fugitives, including journalist Sarah Widar and private detective Tim Modin, join Lorine and her son Scotty, whose father was horrifically assassinated by the men of the brotherhood. Hunted by the Wolves, they must wipe out the secret society of Fenryder before it takes over and succeeds in establishing the reign of the Great Night.

Born in 1970, Alec Covin studied literature and cinema before working in the field of modern art. *LES LOUPS DE FENRYDER*, *ETATS PRIMITIFS*, and *DEUX ET DEMI OU LE ROMAN DU DIABLE* met with critical acclaim and established him as one of France's finest authors of the fantastic.

#### **Lessard, Martin: *TERRE SANS MAL* (Denoel, January 2011, 350 pages)**

A great cross-over novel (for young adults as well as for adults), in which the arrival of ETs puts into question geopolitics, progress and humanism.

In the 14th century in South America, U'tal, a fourteen-year-old Guarani, rejects the tradition of torture of his clan and decides to leave to find the "Earth without Evil" in which he believes. During his quest, he comes across a reclusive man who soon becomes his friend. The two of them create a territory where violence does not belong. But blood is soon to stain this utopia, and U'tal's destiny will lie elsewhere...

750 years later, as the humans have colonised Mars, a huge spaceship appears in the sky. U'tal is back, and in the name of the Guides, he has a proposal for humanity: trade 100,000 people against the extraterrestrial technology of their choice. The UN refuse, but the President of the USA is about to come to a secret agreement. Who could stop him?

Starting like an initiatory trip, the novel takes a sudden turn to become more futuristic. Geopolitical conflicts, technological progress, ethics... Everything in the human world is put into question. Who can stop the

most powerful president of the world? Is the technology of interstellar travelling worth 100,000 criminals' lives? This novel meant for a broad audience describes in a very realistic way, with optimism and something of touching naivety, the impact of a first ET contact on the higher echelons of world power.

Born in 1971, Martin Lessard is Canadian. He lives in Trois-Rivières, Québec. He gave up teaching a couple of years ago to fully dedicate himself to writing and to his family. TERRE SANS MAL is his first novel.

**Merle, Claude: *L'AIGLE DES BRUMES*  
(Le Nouveau monde-jeunesse, March 2011, 154 pages)**

This youth novel (from 12 years old) is inspired by the true story of the Varagians.

North of the Carpathians, the kingdom of Beryl fuels all desires because of its mines in the mountains of the Mists. Since the death of her husband, the queen Alys is struggling to protect her country from its powerful neighbours. On a stormy night, a mysterious knight arrives in Beryl. His name is War and he is a member of the "Eagles of Angara", a merciless group of assassins. War came to kill the queen and her daughter Lena, but he sees in the princess the reincarnation of his daughter Aurelia, and decides to devote himself to protect the two of them. Impossible mission, since the "Eagles of Angara" have ordered their death...

This story is inspired by the saga of the Varagians, also known as Rus. They were mostly Danes and Swedes who traveled from Scandinavia to the East. They lived from trade, piracy and sometimes as mercenaries, all over the rivers of the lands that will later be Russia.

Historian, novelist and screenwriter, Claude Merle is the author of a hundred books, mostly for youth, including LES GUERRIERS DE FER.

**Pevel, Pierre: *L'ALCHIMIE DES OMBRES* (Les Lames du Cardinal, vol. 2)  
(Bragelonne, June 2009, 304 pages)  
Continuation of the first book *LES LAMES DU CARDINAL*:  
David Gemmell Legend Award 2010 !!!**

The book got a Starred Review in Publishers Weekly for its US publication in September 2010: "[A] breathless, swashbuckling tale of intrigue, spying, and swordfights. (...) A mostly straightforward adventure plot leaves plenty of room for character development, drama, and excitement." Publishers Weekly

A great historical adventure of fantasy, full of suspense and new developments.

Paris, 1633. In the one hand, dragons under a human appearance are using witchcraft in order to reign supreme over Europe. In the other hand, Cardinal Richelieu who created a unit of elites with the bravest, the strongest and the cleverest men he could find. Six men and one woman who are ready to risk their own lives for the King: they are the Cardinal's Blades. They just cannot imagine the dangers that are awaiting them and that will force them to fight their most dangerous enemy: the Alchemist in the Shadows...

Pierre Pevel, born in 1968, is one of the foremost writers of French fantasy today. The author of seven novels, he was awarded the Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire in 2002 and the Prix Imaginales in 2005, both for best novel. He is the French translator for the James Bond series and an expert on TV series scriptwriting.

Foreign rights for the first volume sold to: World English rights (Orion Gollancz), Germany (Heyne), Netherlands (Mynx), Spain (Edhasa), Czech Republic (Albatros), Russia (Geleos), Estonian (Varrak) and Finland (Gummerus) – Offer from Poland

**Michael Moorcock & Fabrice Colin: *LES BUVEURS D'ÂMES*  
(Univers Poche, May 2011, 310 pages)**

**A world premiere: a new Elric to appear for the first time in French!  
THE ELRIC SAGA is one of the most popular Fantasy series today**

This episode takes place after the fall of Menilboné, more precisely between WHILE THE GODS LAUGH and THE SINGING CITADEL in THE WEIRD OF THE WHITE WOLF.

Imrryr la Belle has fallen. The deposed prince Elrich of Melniboné, devastated by the death of his beloved, haunts the Young Kingdoms accompanied by Tristelune, his only companion. At his side is Stormbringer, the cursed sword: the Albino cannot part with it, but he has sworn never to use it again. To survive he is thus forced to use potions and drugs.

## **SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY**

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In Nassea-Tiki, the opulent city in the south, hope is reborn in his heart: The Black Anemone, a magical plant that flowers only once per century, may just be able to lavish upon him the strength he now lacks. To find it he must reach the ruins of Soom, a city lost deep in the heart of the inhospitable jungle. Chance of fate: two princesses from the kingdom of Uyt, in search of their father, initiate an expedition to Soom. Elric is recruited. The princesses are quite obviously counting on his sword. The Albino, however, neglects to tell them that it has been stolen... Will he be able, while being pursued by his former subjects, to conceal this lie to the princesses? And who foresees the horrors awaiting the voyagers in the cursed ruins of Soom?

Michael Moorcock was born in London in 1939. German bombardments punctuated his childhood which may explain his somber and apocalyptic vision of the world. In 1961 the first adventures of Elrich appeared, followed by those of Corum, Hawkmoon, and Jerry Cornelius who would make Moorcock the king of *heroic fantasy*. Michael Moorcock was also in charge of *New Worlds* revue and modern authors (1964-1969).

Fabrice Colin was born in 1972. He has written over thirty novels for both adults and teenagers and throughout the past decade has explored numerous different territories. Awarded on many occasions, his works include comic book scenarios as well as radio plays. He has given us, among others, LA MALÉDICTION D'OLD HAVEN, PROJET OXATAN, DREAMAMERICA and, recently, BAL DE GIVRE À NEW YORK.

### **Gaborit, Mathieu: *LES CHRONIQUES DU SOUPIR* (Le Pré aux Clercs, November 2010, 320 pages)**

The incredible journey of a group of misfits rebelling against a divine authority.

Lilas, a flamboyant redheaded dwarf has decided to leave her position as chief of the guards of the Palace of the High Fairy. She opens an inn with her lover. One day, her son, Saule, arrives at the inn with a very ill little girl. He's being pursued by a group of militia who work with the High Fairy. Despite feeling the danger that radiates from the little girl, Lilas decides to help her and Saule...

Mathieu Gaborit has written several fantasy novels for Mnemos Editions. He is also a videogame editor.

### **Sire Cédric: *DECHIRURES* (Le Pré aux Clercs, November 2010, 252 pages)**

Nine short stories that artfully blend fantasy and horror. This collection is full of evil twin sisters, romantic ghosts, demons and strange hybrid creatures on deserted highways...

Sire Cédric mixes beauty and horror, fears and dreams in these mesmerizing and chilling tales. Sire Cédric has written two collection of short stories and two novels for Le Pré aux Clercs.

### **Sire Cédric: *DE FIÈVRE ET DE SANG* (Le Pré aux Clercs, March 2010, 456 pages)**

A race against time to defeat a deadly force in this fast paced supernatural thriller. At the term of an investigation led by inspector Vauvert and Svärta, an albino profiler, the Salaville brothers are killed. The twosome had perpetrated sadistic ritual murders on young women. One year later however, the killings start again, but in Paris this time. All forensic evidence point to the brothers, but how can that be? Their investigation leads Svärta and Vauvert to Judith Saint-Clair, the deathly ill patient of a mental institution that also housed the Salavilles. They discover the incredible truth: Saint-Clair had manipulated the Salavilles into killing young women in order for her to accomplish magic rituals to stave off death. Nothing and no one will stop her from reaching her goal...

### **Sire Cédric: *DREAMWORLD* (Le Pré aux Clercs, November 2009, 288 pages)**

A selection of nine short stories in which Sire Cédric explores the world of dreams and nightmares.

Sire Cédric is a figure in the French Goth world. He is the singer in a rock band, a translator and a novelist. He has already published four novels, DÉCHIRURES, ANGEMORT, L'ENFANT DES CIMETIÈRES (2009) and DREAMWORLD (2009) by *Le Pré aux Clercs*.

### **THE LITTLE TREATISES COLLECTION**

Designed like ancient books of spells, this collection revisits the worlds of vampires, fairies, angels and werewolves.

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