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FICTION

BEST-SELLERS 2012

Chandernagor, Françoise: *LES ENFANTS D'ALEXANDRIE*

(Albin Michel, April 2011, 400 pages)

130,000 copies sold in France!!

Awarded the *Grand Prix Palatine du Roman Historique* and the *Prix Audiberti*

At the heart of her narrative, Françoise Chandernagor investigates the enigma of these exceptional figures whose legend has survived through the centuries, to bring us a superb panorama of one of the greatest Greek towns in Roman times.

Who are these three children in the narrator's vision, hunted down by soldiers then put in chains? Those of Cleopatra: Caesarion, son of Caesar, and the twins Alexander and Selene, children of Mark Antony. After Caesar's death, Cleopatra reigned supreme. Cloistered in their palace in Alexandria, the twins, who were sheltered from these events, found themselves facing the fall of the town and the collapse of a whole world.

A dazzling novel that tells of strokes of fate, loves, ambitions, the conquest of Asia and the fall of Alexandria; drawing from Tacitus, Plutarch and Suetonius while filling in the blanks – for who can claim to know the historical truth of what happened more than two thousand years ago? Who can summon the characters into our presence, if not the novelist?

Member of the Goncourt Academy, Françoise Chandernagor has written many successful novels including *L'ALLÉE DU ROI*, which won her international recognition.

Rights sold to: Portugal (Sextante), Poland (Sonia Draga) and Korea (Dasan Books)

Fontanel, Sophie: *L'ENVIE*

(Robert Laffont, September 2011, 162 pages)

65,000 copies sold in France !!

Like a Bridget Jones for the middle-aged set, Fontanel shares real-life situations that are absolutely relatable, and at times bittersweet and hilarious. From the very first sentence, she embarks on a taboo subject -- her decision not to have sex for a certain period of time – and takes the reader along for a great ride.

This decision puts Fontanel in unique situations that she daringly expresses in a series of heartening vignettes.

Both men and women are sure to see a bit of themselves in Sophie Fontanel's reality.

Sophie Fontanel is a novelist and journalist for *Elle*. Following the critical and commercial success of 2010's *GRANDIR* (50,000 copies sold), Sophie Fontanel confirms her voice and style with *L'ENVIE*.

Rights sold to: Germany (Goldmann), Spain (Lumen), Italy (Rizolli), Netherland (Artemis/Ambo Anthos), Turkey (Once Kitap), USA (Scribner)

Marchal, Eric: *LE SOLEIL SOUS LA SOIE*

(Anne Carrière, November 2011, 600 pages)

60,000 copies sold in France

Here is the epic tale of a land, an era and a profession, based on actual documented cases from those times. In the closing years of the 17th century, one of the smallest states in Europe, the Duchy of Lorraine, is recovering from French occupation and various wars, hoping to enjoy a generation of peace. Nicolas Déruet is a travelling surgeon. His life takes a turn the day he meets Marianne Pajot, a midwife in the city of Nancy.

Imprisoned after an operation that the patient did not survive, Nicolas is forced into the coalition forces, which are fighting a war against the Turks. From the Lorraine countryside to the Hungarian steppes, from

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abandoned hovels to gilded palaces, Nicolas's extraordinary destiny is driven by both love and a fierce ambition to revolutionise medicine.

Eric Marchal is 45 years old. He is the author of INFLUENZA (PRIX CARREFOUR SAVOIRS 2009), a historical series paced like a spy / adventure story, in which a young doctor is called up during the Second World War to investigate the secret causes of the 1918 Spanish flu.

Rights sold to: Spain (Grijalbo/Random House). Paperback rights and Club rights sold (France Loisirs et Grand Livre du Mois)

"Eric Marchal signe avec ce livre un grand roman d'aventure parcourant toute l'Europe de l'époque. L'un des meilleurs livres historiques depuis LES PILIERS DE LA TERRE de Ken Follet." **Le Mutaliste**

"Ce roman d'aventure est également placé sous le signe de l'amour." **Le Figaro Littéraire**

"Une fantastique fresque sur les balbutiements de la médecine moderne." **Pleine Vie**

"Le considérable travail de recherches mené ici par Eric Marchal débouche sur un copieux roman, au souffle généreux." **Le Républicain Lorrain**

"Un roman divertissant, aux allures de feuilleton chirurgical et sentimental." **L'Estrade**

Darrieusecq, Marie: *CLÈVES*

(P.O.L, August 2011, 352 pages)

60,000 copies sold in France already!

Short-listed for the Prix France Culture Télérama

English sample translation available

CLÈVES tells the awakening of a little girl's love life and sexuality in a small town of France about thirty years ago. The story takes place in the south of France, not far from the ocean. The young heroine of the novel, Solange, an observant and intelligent ten year old girl, is torn between "school where everyone is obsessed with sex" and absent parents. From the day she has her period, "making it" (love) becomes the major issue. Strategy, tactics, seduction. Girlfriends and intimate confidence. The village becomes a Court, with its intrigues and reversals of alliances.

A few years later, Solange is now sixteen and she is obsessed by "it". The girls are prey to boys, some of them are submissive and others brutal. It will thus be Solange's turn to find her own victim: Bihotz, her nice and booby neighbour. Despite the fact that Bihotz is trying to resist, she is going to become, by his side, an unscrupulous Lolita.

CLÈVES is an extremely disturbing text in which a rare literary inventiveness is a mean to express a radical realism. Marie Darrieusecq describes a changing children world away from adults who don't see anything. It is violent, beautiful, funny and cruel.

Marie Darrieusecq was born in 1969. In 1996, at the age of 27, she published her first novel, TRUISMES (Pig Tales), which became an overnight sensation and bestseller. It has been translated throughout the world, published in 34 countries, and is currently being adapted to the screen by filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard. The New Yorker featured her as France's "best young novelist". She has strongly established herself as one of the leading voices of contemporary literature.

Rights sold to: Germany (Carl Hanser Verlag), Italy (Ugo Guanda Editore), Sweden (Norstedts), Denmark (Tiderne Skifter), UK and Australia (Text Publishing), the Netherlands (Meulenhoff) and Korea (The Open Books).

"Suivant le passage de l'enfance à l'adolescence, Marie Darrieusecq décrit une initiation frontale à la sexualité" **Lire**

"A rebours de tous les clichés du genre, CLÈVES décrit les écueils de la puberté et d'une sexualité balbutiante. Une chronique de la jeunesse à l'aube des années 80. Une merveille" **Les Inrockuptibles**

"Rarement les rêves, les émois et les mœurs d'une bande de jeunes Français moyens auront été aussi finement dépeints." **L'Express**

"En termes crus et denses, c'est un périple très sensible au pays du désir et des doutes." **Madame Figaro**

"Drôle, inspiré, radical, Clèves, le nouveau roman de Marie Darrieusecq égratigne le mythe d'une adolescence sentimentale et futile. Notre coup de cœur de la rentrée." **Grazia**

"L'héroïne Solange, c'est nous ! Un roman cru, crucial et tellement juste." **Elle**

"Toujours préoccupé par l'étrange et pourtant bizarrement familier, ce texte subtil s'avère l'un de ses plus personnels et universels à la fois, un roman particulièrement touchant sans la moindre mièvrerie."
Libération

de Vigan, Delphine: *RIEN NE S'OPPOSE À LA NUIT*

(JC Lattès, August 2011, 400 pages)

300,000 copies sold in France

5th on the bestsellers lists in France !

Awarded the Prix Roman Fnac 2011

Long-listed for the *Prix Goncourt*, the *Prix Renaudot*, the *Prix Médicis* and the *Prix Fémina*

"I don't remember when the idea surfaced to write about my mother, around my mother or beginning with my mother. My mother, Lucille's despair was part of our childhood and, later on, part of our adulthood. We are no doubt made of Lucille's pain, my sister and I, but any attempt to explain this is destined to fail. Writing will only barely allow me to ask questions and search my memory but is powerless to do anything else.

Lucille's family, our family, has been the object of many suppositions and commentaries throughout the years. My family can be defined as joy at its loudest and most spectacular, as the relentless echo of the dead and as the reverberation of disaster. Today, I know that like so many others, my family possesses the power to destroy the Verb, and the power of silence. Perhaps the book would be nothing but the account of this inquiry. It would contain, in itself, its own genesis, narrative wanderings and unfinished attempts. But it would be that impulse, that momentum towards her, raw and hesitant."

In this brilliant investigation into the heart of family memory, where the most luminous images juxtapose the deepest darkest secrets, Delphine de Vigan speaks powerfully of all our lives, our weaknesses and personal suffering.

Delphine de Vigan is the author of bestseller *NO ET MOI* - more than 400 000 copies sold, winner of the Prix des Libraires 2008, translated into 25 languages, and made into a film. She has also written, among others, *LES HEURES SOUTERRAINES* (2009) - first edition sold over 100 000 copies. She was short-listed for the Goncourt Prize. She lives in Paris.

Rights sold to: UK (Bloomsbury), Italy (Mondadori), Germany (Droemer), Sweden (Sekwa), Poland (Sonia Draga), Czech Republic (Euromedia), Korea (Joongang Books) and China (Shanghai 99). Offers from Denmark and Norway!

"Un récit sensible et fascinant, qui fait écho aux blessures de chacun" **Lire**

"Dans ce roman dense et sidérant se dessine un long chemin d'écriture, empli de doutes, d'hésitations et d'errances narratives. Un chemin sinueux mais tendu par la force d'un amour, d'un élan vital" **Le Monde**

"Elle peut être sereine Delphine de Vigan, car non seulement elle vient d'écrire un superbe et bouleversant texte, un de ceux qu'on referme le cœur serré et la main tremblante, mais avec noblesse et délicatesse, elle a rendu le plus beau des hommages à sa mère et à sa famille" **Page**

Sportès, Morgan: *TOUT, TOUT DE SUITE*

(Fayard, August 2011, 384 pages)

Total print-run 64,000 copies!

Short-listed for the *Prix Roman Fnac* and the *Prix Renaudot*.

Long-listed for the *Prix Goncourt* and the *Prix Goncourt des lycéens*.

Film rights sold to Alain Goldman / Legende

In 2006, a small gang from the suburbs kidnaps a young man. The ransom they demand is totally out of proportion with his family's lower middle-class resources. Yet his captors chose him because he is a Jew and is supposed to be rich. After 24 days of captivity, during which time he is repeatedly brutalized, he is finally murdered.

The authors of the crime are pizza delivery boys, high school students, delinquents or jobless young men... But the gang is united by a morbid obsession: "We want it all, right now." In this literary true-crime novel, Morgan Sportès has painstakingly pieced together their insane act. Without passing judgement, he attempts to reconstruct their stupefyingly unthinking dialogues and to retrace their movements.

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Born in Algiers in 1947, Morgan Sportès has written more than fifteen books translated into many languages, notably *Fresh Bait*, whose cinematographic adaptation by Bertrand Tavernier won the Golden Bear in Berlin.

“*Au terme d’une enquête maniaque et périlleuse, où il a soulevé nombre de questions dérangeantes, Morgan Sportès signe un roman-vérité d’une sobriété exemplaire*” **Livres Hebdo**

“*Sans jugement ni commentaires, Sportès donne un fascinant et effrayant décryptage social. Le résultat est tout simplement extraordinaire*” **Le Figaro**

“*(...) un grand roman social et politique, effrayant et fascinant*” **Le Figaro**

“*C’est le livre choc de la rentrée*” **Aujourd’hui en France**

“*(...) la fiction-réalité de Morgan Sportès hypnotise le lecteur*” **L’Express**

“*(...) un roman puissant à la Truman Capote*” **Marianne**

“*Le livre est passionnant, froidement terrifiant*” **Le Point**

“Un roman envoûtant qu’on dévore comme le meilleur des polars. Sauf que cette histoire s’est réellement passée, et que l’on n’oublie jamais cette donnée du problème à la lecture” **Page**

Rights sold to: Italian (Edizioni E/O), Korean (Seedpaper)

**Ruiz, Agnes: *MA VIE ASSASSINÉE*
(Cherche-Midi, May 2011, 230 pages)
Over 170 000 copies sold!**

21 years after the death of her baby, is it possible that Mady Lestrey found her daughter which she believed to have lost forever? Is Marianne really this daughter which she claims to be? Lost love In Pincourt, when she was 16 years old, Mady fall in love with Guillaume, an Inhabitant of Canada come to seek peace in this small village of Normandy. Despite of her father, Mady continues to see the young man. Both are dreaming of a life together, sometimes in Canada, sometimes in Europe.

However, Guillaume must return to Canada to help his young sister, seriously sick. Lovers promise to write and to expect each other... Guillaume’s sister recovers painfully. The life of Mady, remained in France, upsets by distances...and the secrecy of her pregnancy.

Agnes Ruiz, a French Canadian, gracefully transports readers to Normandy, through the romantic torments of two young persons, who vowed to love and protect them, and the machinations of a cunning person determined to keep them apart.

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**Némirovsky, Irène: *LA SYMPHONIE DE PARIS ET AUTRES HISTOIRES*
(Denoel, June 7th, 2012, 180 pages)**

In these five stories originally written for the big screen, Irène Némirovsky reaches her maturity as a writer. Her highly visual writing offers a travel into the 1930s, and brushes five fine portraits of women.

In the early 1930s, as speaking movies coming from the USA are conquering French moviegoers, Irène Némirovsky turns to the world of movie making. Her novel *David Golder* was previously adapted into a feature film by Julien Duvivier in 1930. In 1931, she writes three love stories, with the intention of bringing them to the silver screen: *La symphonie de Paris* (*The Paris Symphony*), wherein the sounds of Paris are carefully described, *Noël* (*Christmas*) and *Le carnaval de Nice* (*The Carnival of Nice*) (the most ambitious one, which explores the onirical dimension of a carnival). *La comédie bourgeoise* (*The Comedy of Bourgeoisie*) is a screenplay written in 1932 that deals with a dramatic adultery, and draws a wonderful portrait of a woman, just like *Ida* (1934), which is the story of a Music-Hall star whose glory days are over. Finally, *Les fumées du vin* (*The Fumes of Wine*) tells Bolshevik revolutionaries break into a Finnish upper-class home in a distinctly cinematic manner.

None of them reached the screen in the end. They demonstrate an impressive visual technique and a bold sense of editing, and as such they play an essential role in Irène Némirovsky’s writing career.

Irène Némirovsky was born in Kiev in 1903 in a Jewish family. She became famous as soon as her very first novel, *DAVID GOLDBER* (1929), whose success was quickly followed by that of her second novel, *LE BAL*

(1930). During WWII, she fled Paris to find refuge in a small village, but was eventually arrested by the French police, and then sent to Auschwitz, where she was killed during the summer of 1942. Her last novel, SUITE FRANÇAISE, was posthumously awarded *the Renaudot Prize* in 2004. Translated in 41 languages, it became an international best-seller (more than 3 millions of copies sold worldwide).

Schmitt, Eric-Emmanuel: *LES DIX ENFANTS QUE MADAME MING N'A JAMAIS EUS*

(Albin Michel, April 2012, 130 pages)

A new colourful and thought-provoking novel by worldwide known author Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt.

Set in China this is the story of Madame Ming and her ten children, but it also tells about Chinese philosophy, in particular the thought of Confucius.

Madame Ming likes nothing better than talking about her ten children who are scattered over China. But in the land of the one-child policy, is she making it all up? Did she break the law ? What if her offspring were not a figment of her imagination? Madame Ming's incredible secret is recounted against the backdrop of past and present China, enlightened by the eternal wisdom of Confucius.

LES DIX ENFANTS QUE MADAME MING N'A JAMAIS EUS is the sixth story in *the Cycle de l'Invisible*.

Playwright, novelist, short story writer, essayist and film-maker, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's works are translated in more than 40 languages and played in as many countries; he is one of the most frequently read and performed authors in the world.

The Russian rights are under Option with Azbooka.

Fargues, Nicolas: *LA LIGNE DE COURTOISIE*

(P.O.L, January 2012, 167 pages)

20.000 copies already sold in France!

In Nicolas Fargues' new novel, a man leaves his conventional life in France behind and starts all over again in India.

The main character, a divorced author in Paris, incapable of interpreting human relationships from any other angle than indifference or self-interest, remains nevertheless polite and helpful to everyone. Fed up by his ordinary life he decides to go to India. He has no reason to get back to France; his departure is permanent. But nothing seems to turn out like he wants in India. The protagonist, an artistic soul who refuses to grow up and continues to date women much younger than himself, searches desperately for love and inspiration to write.

With a lucidity that borders to cruelty Nicolas Fargues performs brilliantly in this sarcastic novel.

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. He is the author of numerous novels among which TU VERRAS was awarded the *Prix France Culture- Têlêrama*.

"Autour d'une existence dans l'impasse, Nicolas Fargues réussit un bel exercice de style en forme de petit précis de solitude." **Le Monde**

"Aussi féroce que jubilatoire, le nouveau roman de Nicolas Fargues sonde les mœurs de ses contemporains" **Le Figaro**

"Nicolas Fargues, on le sait, écrit des romans inconfortables et grinçants où il porte un regard ironique sur le monde moderne. Drôle et désagréable, LA LIGNE DE COURTOISIE brosse le terrible portrait d'un homme au bord de la crise de nerfs." **Livres Hebdo**

"Moins roman que fable grinçante sur la solitude et la désobéissance, LA LIGNE DE COURTOISIE met à nu les relations entre les êtres." **Technikart**

"Fargues sait observer et restituer avec précision la bêtise de ses contemporains." Frédéric Beigbeder, **le Figaro Magazine**

Castillon, Claire: *LES MERVEILLES*

(Grasset, January 2012, 240 pages)

15 000 copies sold in France!

"Suddenly: love. Men, bumper-to-bumper, putting gas in my tank. I like it girly, silly Lily, rosy-cheek Rose. Boy it's unfair, having to preen for males, preen like peacocks. Not used to smiling at just anyone. Scared my teeth'll drop out."

Evelyne is a cynic, funny and mean. Thirteen years old, parents she despises, a brother under torture and a dog, Lulu, she dotes on. One day, her Dad maims Lulu before her very eyes and nothing is ever the same again. First of May it was. In France that means lily-of-the-valley, pretty bells. Now, the bells ring inside Evelyne's head. Sometimes, they speak for her. Self-defence she calls it. Then she hits her Mum with a mallet, sleeps with Joe Vandaire, one of her parents' friends, is expelled from schools, becomes a stripper and Lulu dies. That's when Evelyne leaves. She moves in with Luigi, the pizza guy, who gets her pregnant. Life goes on. Only now, on weekdays, instead of working as a cleaner at the local factory, Evelyne takes a job as an *escort-girl*. In secret, of course.

Meeting all that "better class of clientele", she begins to get a feel for "*possible dimensions*" in people. Which is when Daniel comes into her life. "*More ideas than two-headed genie. He shares them, which makes me strong.*" Hanging out with someone intelligent is a kick, but Daniel just talks too much, much too much, he's vain and selfish. Evelyne gets fed up. She leaves him. He pleads. He goes all whiny. She stabs him. "*It's not easy, getting used to your cell isn't.*"

A novel based on a true story, written in powerful voice that is both sharply accurate and unique.

Claire Castillon was born in 1975. She is the author of several novels and volumes of short stories, including *LE GRENIER* (Anne Carrière, 2000) and *INSECTE* (Fayard), sold into twenty territories, as well as *ON N'EMPÊCHE PAS UN PETIT COEUR D'AIMER*, *DESSOUS C'EST L'ENFER* and *LES CRIS*.

Coulon, Cécile: *LE ROI N'A PAS SOMMEIL*

(Viviane Hamy, January 2012, 120 pages)

10,000 copies sold in France already!

Short-listed for the Prix France Culture - Télérama

LE ROI N'A PAS SOMMEIL is the gripping story of a cursed child's tragic destiny.

After squandering his fortune, William Hogan works relentlessly: by day at the village sawmill and by night at the police station, where he files the most sordid cases. At the village ball he seduces the beautiful Mary and marries her. From this union Thomas, a delightful child, is born. Unlike his, sombre, doleful and violent father, Thomas is fragile and vulnerable. But his life is overturned the day William gets a gash on his hand at the sawmill. The wound becomes gangrenous and kills him. From that moment on, like a bad omen, the accident will cast a shadow over Thomas's destiny. As he grows up, and his evil fate catches up with him, Thomas will become known to everyone as Mary's "cursed son."

In a direct but imaginative style, Céline Coulon leads us into a universe of emotion, blending tranquillity with unspeakable melancholy.

Born in 1990, Cécile Coulon studied Law and Literature, this is her third novel.

"Rare are the writers who impose themselves as such from their very first book. Cécile Coulon is certainly one of them [...] an extraordinary universe [...] This is a novel with biblical strains, finely cut into the beauty of a landscape bewitched by mystery, legends and muffled tragedies." **Le Monde des Livres**

"Cécile Coulon steers the ship of her novel with great authority." **Figaro Magazine**

"Ce qui frappe dans ce quatrième livre de Cécile Coulon, c'est la manière dont elle arrive à surgir des éclats de beauté dans la brutalité." **Elle**

"Cécile Coulon revient avec un livre sombre, puissant et émouvant. Une maîtrise et une écriture qui forcent le respect." **Femina**

"Entre western à la Steinbeck et tragédie sociale, l'histoire d'une déchéance masculine par une romancière française surdouée (...) un grand roman sur la virilité" **Les Inrockuptibles**

"Un diamant noir, coupant et fragile, dont il émane une puissance magnétique (...) Magnifique"
L'Express

“Des fêlés magnifiques irradiants d’une lumière noire” **Le Journal du Dimanche**

**Bassignac, Sophie: *UN JARDIN EXTRAORDINAIRE*
(JC Lattès, March 2012, 250 pages)**

Whether travelling to the ends of the earth or simply working in her extraordinary garden, Maud provokes chaos everywhere she goes. Nothing can resist the tyranny of her incredible energy, certainly not the good sense and cheerful lethargy of the small French town where she lives.

Her chance encounter in a train with a tall, thin man named Fox, who reminds her of a bishop, awakens a flame of desire she thought had long gone out. Tightly ensconced in her colourful flowered dresses, Maud begins to wonder if her sexual fantasies are perhaps somewhat inappropriate to her age. On top of that, she has to deal with her Medievalist husband’s existential ruminations, her son’s problems, and her younger brother’s moods – not to mention appointments with her future sister-in-law’s naturopath, and her precious gardener’s grumpiness.

Drunk on the heady scent of her sweet peas and hollyhocks, Maud is a whirlwind, determined to knock asunder any and all outrageous impediments to happiness – like age, boredom, violence and stupidity.

Sophie Bassignac has written several novels, all warmly praised by both critics and the public.

The Russian rights for the previous novels are sold to Azbooka-Atticus Group.

“A novel that is eccentric, humorous and profound – all at once.” **Livres Hebdo**

“Fine mouche, la romancière n’a pas sa pareille pour saisir la complexité des sentiments, de la vie et des êtres. Personne ne devrait résister bien longtemps au bagout unique de Maud Ritter. Encore moins à celui de Sophie Bassignac, dont le pétillant JARDIN EXTRAORDINAIRE constitue un remède idéal contre la morosité.” **Le Journal du Dimanche**

**Orban, Christine: *VIRGINIA ET VITA*
(Albin Michel, January 2012, 240 pages)**

Here Virginia Woolf as a private person is visible through the frustration, jealousy and love tormenting of two female artists.

In the year of 1927, author Virginia Woolf, who is married to the publisher Léonard, finds herself in a love affair with Vita Sackville-West, also a novelist. Vita, an eccentric English Lady, divides her time between her father’s castle and the home of her spouse Harold. It is this deep admiration for Vita, who truly lives for the moment, which will inspire Virginia to write one of her most famous novels. Virginia turns her relation with Vita into what becomes a classic literature piece, transforming two equally exceptional beings at their time into the dandy Orlando. Both man and woman at once, the character lives the environments of them both, blending the fascinating opposites of the bohemian Bloomsbury and the old English aristocracy.

VIRGINIA ET VITA is a reissue of the novel UNE ANNÉE AMOUREUSE DE VIRGINIA WOOLF by the same author, published twenty years ago under the name of Christine Duhon.

Christine Orban has successfully published all of her novels at Albin Michel, LES PETITES PHRASES POUR TRAVERSER LA VIE EN CAS DE TEMPÊTE ET PAR BEAU TEMPS AUSSI and N’OUBLIE PAS D’ÊTRE HEUREUSE sold over 100 000 copies. Her latest novel LE PAYS DE L’ABSENCE was published in January 2011.

“On y sent à chaque page, la saveur véhémence et perverse qui fit le climat d’une tribu unique en son genre.” **Le Nouvel Observateur**

“Un des meilleurs romans de l’année.” **Librairie La Griffes Noire**

“Style fiévreux et passionné.” **Madame**

**Delacourt, Grégoire: *LA LISTE DE MES ENVIES*
(JC Lattès, February 2012, 200 pages)**

Number 4 on bestsellers list in France! 60,000 copies sold in France already !!!

The amazing destiny of a humble sewing shop owner of Arras whose life is transformed by chance.

Jocelyne, nicknamed Jo, works in a sewing shop in the small town of Arras but dreams of being a fashion designer in Paris. She admires women with sleek figures but does not quite have a model’s figure

herself. She enjoys reading and has a blog on lace making. She misses her mother and her father who suffers from Alzheimer's and has to be reminded every six minutes who he is. "Prince charming" arrives in the form of Jocelyn whose nickname is also Jo.

Together they have two children and lose another baby at birth. This tragedy shakes the foundations of their marriage. Mr. Jo becomes cruel and Mrs. Jo submits to his abuse in silence. Her love and patience soon get the better of her husband's animosity.

Until one day, thanks to the pretty twins who work at the hairdresser's next door, she wins 18.547.301 euros at the lottery. That day, she wins big. Or does she?

Born in Valenciennes in 1960, Grégoire Delacourt works in advertising. L'ECRIVAIN DE LA FAMILLE, his first novel, sold 10 000 copies and won several awards, among which the *Prix Marcel Pagnol* and the *Prix Rive Gauche*.

Rights sold to: UK (Orion), Germany (Hoffman & Campe), Norway (Aschehoug), Denmark (Hr Ferdinand), Finland (WSOY), Iceland (Bjartur), the Netherlands (Orlando), Italy (Salani), Spain (Maeva), Poland (Drzewo Babel), Israel (Kinneret), Korea (ChungRim), Brazil (Alfaguerra) and China (Yilin). Offer from Russia.

"Delacourt brosse l'histoire attachante d'un couple oscillant entre rêves et envies. Une jolie fable"

Psychologies

"L'auteur assume jusqu'au mot fin l'inclinaison féminine très affirmé de son roman. L'art de toucher sa cible." **Le Figaro littéraire**

"Ce roman est un magnifique hommage aux femmes, un roman d'une sensibilité aussi vibrante que belle. Plus qu'un coup de cœur, ce roman est un véritable coup de foudre." **Blog koryfree**

"C'est remarquablement écrit, drôle et cruel." **La Dernière Heure**

"C'est une écriture d'une grande beauté, grave et délicate, qui ne cache rien de la trivialité des choses." **Blog**

"Si le livre est léger et reste un divertissement, l'auteur le veut également profond et touchant à des valeurs." **L'Echo Republicain**

Constantine, Barbara: ET PUIS, PAULETTE

Calmann-Lévy, January 2012, 313 pages

80,000 copies sold in France. On top of French bestsellers lists !

After the best-selling TOM, PETIT TOM, TOUT PETIT HOMME, TOM, Barbara Constantine succeeds once again in creating a real gem that carries the reader away with its moving tale, full of life, humour and hope.

Since his son, daughter and grandchildren moved away, Ferdinand has been living by himself on a big old farm. But the situation doesn't last long: Ferdinand is quickly joined by a host of lost souls. First his neighbour, Marceline, shows up after a terrible storm. Since the roof of her house seems to be on the verge of collapse, Ferdinand invites her to stay. Then his best friend, the recently widowed Guy, moves in as well. Last but not least, the Lumière sisters show up. Thus a strange quintet is formed. When health issues become overwhelming, the clan decides to recruit Muriel, a nursing-school student who is offered room and board in exchange for a few hours of work a week. Then, Kim, from the local agricultural school, is enlisted to help out with the garden. To everyone's surprise, Muriel gives birth to a little girl one night. The child is an unwelcome addition in her mother's eyes... but our newly formed community doesn't see things that way at all. Baby Paulette will be well looked after indeed!

Ceramic artist, screenplay writer and novelist, Barbara Constantine's previous books are ALLUMER LE CHAT; A MÉLIE, SANS MÉLO and TOM, PETIT TOM, TOUT PETIT HOMME, TOM, which has been translated into 8 languages (Germany (Blanvalet), Italy (Fazi Editore), Spain (Seix Barral / Grup 62), Korea (Munhakdongne), Russia (Pokolenie) and Hungary (Könyvmolyképző Kiadó); Offer from Vietnam.

Rights sold to: Germany (Rowohlt), the Netherlands (Meulenhoff/Boekerij), Italy (Einaudi Stile Libero), UK (Maclehose), Spain (Seix Barral), Israel (Kinneret), Turkey (Can Yayinlari) and Brazil (Intrinseca).

Offers from Korea and China!!

"Rires, émotions et tendresse sont les maître-mots des romans de cet auteur." **Le journal du Centre**

“Servie par une plume rayonnante et épurée, cette histoire irrésistible est un bonheur de lecture”
Femme Actuelle

“Le quatrième roman de Barbara Constantine est rempli d’espoir, et c’est un magnifique exemple de solidarité.” **Le Nouvelliste**

“Tous les ingrédients ne sont-ils pas réunis pour l’adaptation cinématographique de ce conte antidéprime, aux allures d’ENSEMBLE C’EST TOUT, d’Anna Gavalda?” **L’Express**

Bertholon, Delphine: GRÂCE
(JC Lattès, April 2012, 360 pages)

Grâce Marie Bataille is a beautiful 33-year-old housewife in France’s Beaujolais region. Her simple life is centred around her husband’s comings and goings as a travelling salesman of household appliances. The foundations of what promises to be an ordinary existence are shaken with the appearance of a young Polish au pair. Thirty years later, Grâce’s son, Nathan, comes home for Christmas, but this year, everything is different. Nathan learns that his father, who disappeared without a trace thirty years earlier, has suddenly reappeared. Simultaneously, some very strange phenomena have begun to take place in the family home.

Through the voices of mother and son, GRÂCE unearths skeletons and chilling family secrets, releasing long suppressed feelings.

Delphine Bertholon is a critically praised novelist and screenwriter. Her previous novels include CABINE COMMUNE, TWIST (awarded the *Prix Ciné Roman Carte Noire*) and L’EFFET LARSEN.

Rights sold to: Germany (Limes/Random House), Spain (Grjalbo/Random House) and the Netherlands (De Bezige Bij)

“Un roman sur l’amour, le désamour, le “mal-amour”, sur ce qui épanouit et ce qui peut détruire, au sein du couple comme dans les relations familiales.” **Page**

“In this intelligent and compassionate psychological novel, Delphine Bertholon deftly combines all the elements of a thrilling mystery.” **Elle**

Sperling, Sacha: LES COEURS EN SKAI MAUVE
(Fayard, August 2011, 256 pages)

Jim works in a video rental store. Lou dreams of dancing in music videos. They live near the industrial zone, among Pizza Huts and American-style steakhouses. Or could it be California? Among desert cactuses and sunfilled streets?

Because Jim is a cowboy. He likes to live like he’s in the movies. A good thing, too, because Lou likes boys who are larger than life. The ones who can turn Renaults into Cadillacs, and the highways of Normandy into Route 66s. That’s why she decides to follow him. But what happens when the movie starts to wind to an end? Once upon a summer, a boy and a girl try to escape the world around them. For a few short days, they think their love will see them through. But ignoring the emptiness of one’s existence never makes it fuller. The palm trees eventually turn back into sycamores.

After MES ILLUSIONS DONNENT SUR LA COUR (2009), his debut novel, a best-seller in both France and abroad, Sacha Sperling invents an alternate lyricism, an ode to the poetry of chain restaurants and suburban avenues. Yet the novelist knows that beauty, especially that of youth, is often a lie. Sacha Sperling is 20 years old.

Rights sold to: Germany (Piper) Czechie (Euromedia), Italy (Einaudi), China (Jiling), Netherland (Meulenhoff), Korea (Munhakdongne), Portugal (Companhia das Letras), Vietnam (IPM)

“With his second novel, Sacha Sperling aims for the heart and hits. Bang-bang.” **Madame Figaro**

“Technically very well achieved, with a subtle game played out between the narrative and the two narrators, it’s hard to tell whether Les coeurs en skai mauve is spitefully romantic, or gently cynical” **Livres Hebdo**

Sperling “excels once again in the art of creating a magnetic prose, as precise as a movie-still” **Grazia**

“A sensual ballad, overwhelming, inevitable, at once blinding, wild and blessed: such is adolescence. In his pared-down style, Sperling’s evocation is arresting” **Citizen K**

“The writer skilfully manipulates his reader as he does his characters, playing with appearances like an expert shadow-puppeteer” **Elle**

Fottorino, Eric: *LE DOS CRAWLÉ*
(Gallimard, September 2011, 208 pages)
20 800 copies sold in France

It is the summer of 1976 on the Atlantic coast. Two children dream of faraway lands. Parents are so disappointing. Marin is thirteen, Lisa is ten. Marin talks of the burning sand and other things that he is not able to express when watching Lisa and her mother, a former Miss Pontailiac. Hearts are tormented, childhood pines away.

Fortunately, there is Uncle Abel quietly watching over all, as well as Mister Archibouleau with his big muscles, Mister Maxence who listens to the shipping forecast, and father July who pedals his bike like a young man. Fortunately, there are the fishing expeditions, fish couscous, the smell of lemon trees and mint, the gentleness of Grizzly the cat and Plouff the dog. Fortunately, there is doctor Malik and his bouquets of jasmine, the Corniche, the Casino, the beaches of the Cote Sauvage, the ice cream from chez Judici. Fortunately, there is the kitchen garden, the beautiful villas, the lights of Cordouan across the bay. One day, Marin and Lisa run away swimming the backstroke, and who cares that death is lurking in the sea.

Fottorino, Eric Fottorino is very famous French author. His previous novels CARESSE DE ROUGE and BAISER DE CINEMA were highly appreciated by critics.

Enthoven, Jean-Paul: *L'HYPOTHÈSE DES SENTIMENTS*
(Grasset, January 2012, 380 pages)
12 000 copies sold in France!

A wonderful, surprising novel of love and passion. And a superb homage to literature.

The story opens in Rome, one June 23rd, with a trivial episode straight out of Hitchcock. A bellboy from a hotel slips a red suitcase into the trunk of the cab. Inside the cab is Max, a screenwriter, on his way to the airport at Fiumicino. And the suitcase is the case he left for collection in his room that morning.

Only it isn't. The bellboy made a mistake. He switched the case for an identical case belonging to a lady guest, also on her way out. Max doesn't discover the problem till he reaches his Paris home. And when he opens the case that isn't his, he discovers a series of objects that will, each in turn, play a decisive role in the events of the following 300 pages. What are they? Silk underwear, two pairs of high-heeled shoes, a picture of Audrey Hepburn, a copy of Anna Karenina, the private diary of woman named Marion, clearly beautiful and sad and sexually fallow.

Here begins a long, eventful story of love and falling out of love, of pleasure and mysticism and fantasy. It will include a crazy Protestant banker, a perverse psychoanalyst, an upmarket pimp, a clairvoyant, a private detective, two ghosts, the Blessed Virgin, an Armenian of doubtful habits and a bevy of sensuous Italian women.

The novel is set against a backdrop of Cinecittà in its glory-days. It contains a meditation on chance, on Stendhal, on Russia, on the luxury hotels of Monte-Carlo, on happiness. On the erotic, on horoscopes, on "besotted atheism", on feelings that vary so often that in the end one never knows whether they are sincere or hypothetical.

Jean-Paul Enthoven works as a publisher and as critic for *Le Point*, a weekly news magazine. He is the author of two books of essays, LES ENFANTS DE SATURNE and LA DERNIÈRE FEMME, as well as two novels, AURORA and CE QUE NOUS AVONS EU DE MEILLEUR, all published by Grasset.

Marc, Myrielle: *PETITE FILLE ROUGE AVEC UN COUTEAU*
(Editions XO, Published on 26 January 2012, 230 pages)
A Literary Jewel!!

“Over there, that's my secret notebook, anyone that finds it better watch out because whoever reads my secrets inside, I'll knock their brains out. So watch out. My secrets are the Empire.”

This book is the profound, moving and funny secret diary of a young girl of about 10 years old living in western France in the 1950s. She is rebellious, and rowdy. She likes being foolish and she carries a knife. Day after day, she jots down the story of her Empire, a world for her friends and herself parallel to the grownup

world. This Empire, this childhood remind us of our own: our dreams, hopes, our strengths and our simple happiness...these characteristics of childhood, so quickly under threat, bitten away as time passes by and which one day collapse, as all childhood dreams must.

Though the story is solemn, the novel is humorous, the little girl remains sassy, and full of life, right up to the end, in spite of any difficulties in her path.

Myrielle Marc began writing *LITTLE GIRL WITH RED KNIFE* at age 15. It was successfully published in 1977 and was awarded a prestigious literary prize by the *Académie française* that same year but has been out of print for over 10 years until XO Editions decided to make it available to the public once again. Myrielle Marc lives in the Loire Valley and this is her fourth novel.

On Myrielle Marc's previous novels:

"Myrielle Marc is one of those rare, singular authors...whose writing is extremely elegant." **Le Figaro**

"We were captivated by the mysterious atmosphere in this novel which we gobbled up in one sitting."

Elle

"The characters, as enlightening as they are mysterious, hit you right where it counts –straight in the heart." **Cosmopolitan**

LITERARY FICTION

Roger, Marie-Sabine: *BON RÉTABLISSEMENT*

(Rouergue/Actes Sud, March, 2012, 208 pages)

Short-listed for *the Prix de la Closerie des Lilas*

"Since I've been here, the whole world sends me 'get well' wishes, by phone, email, the post, intermediaries. I'm sure carrier pigeons will be next. Get well soon. What a stupid expression!"

"Widower, without children or dog", Jean-Pierre is an old, gruff bear, seven years into his retirement. Following a very strange accident, he finds himself immobilized in a hospital for several weeks. He cannot imagine a worse fate. And yet, from his bed, he will face unexpected encounters which will shake his egoism....

With her usual vivacity and humanism, Marie-Sabine Roger once again offers a gallery of brilliantly hued portraits. It is a bittersweet picture that she paints of the hospital, with the same characteristic humor and understanding that have made her earlier two novels, *La tête en friche* and *Vivement l'avenir*, such successes.

Born near Bordeaux in 1957, Marie-Sabine Roger has been a full-time writer for the last fifteen years. A significant young-adult author, with more than a hundred books to her name, she first achieved literary acclaim with her novel *LA TÊTE EN FRICHE* (2008), adapted for film by Jean Becker with Gérard Depardieu in the starring role (70,000 copies sold), followed by *VIVEMENT L'AVENIR* (2010). Both titles have been translated in several countries, notably Germany, where they have met with great success. *LA TÊTE EN FRICHE* was awarded the *Young German Students prize* and has sold close to 250.000 copies in paperback.

Rights sold to: Hoffmann & Campe. Film and theater rights optioned by Jean Becker, who directed the film *La Tête en friche*, starring Gérard Depardieu.

"Marie-Sabine Roger parvient une nouvelle fois à faire rire des travers de l'humanité." **Page des Libraires**

"Les libraires l'adorent, tout comme ses lecteurs. Pourquoi ? Parce qu'elle a un talent fou. Sa dernière histoire est simple et délicieuse. (...) Le ton est juste, savoureux, jamais nié. Du grand art." **Express Style**

"Hilarant jusqu'au bout. (...) Une galerie de personnages truculents." **Psychologies Magazine**

"On tombe sous le charme du style alerte de la romancière, de son humour décapant, de ses contrepieds, de son langage fleuri. (...) Un hymne tendre aux échanges humains en milieu apparemment hostile. Exquis." **La Vie**

Benoit, Pierre: *MADemoiselle de la Ferté*

(Albin Michel, March 2012, 298 pages)

A tremendous story of love and friendship written by the great French novelist Pierre Benoit.

Jacques de Saint-Selve and Anne de la Ferté love each other. The young man leaves for Haiti to secure his fortune, having promised to return one year later to marry Anne. But across the seas, he meets and marries a beautiful creole woman. When he suddenly dies, his rich widow settles into the family house, very near Mademoiselle de la Ferté's own home. An ambiguous friendship is born between the two young women. But Anne's resentment runs deep: she has forgotten nothing, and is now plotting her vengeance...

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of Pierre Benoit's death, Editions Albin Michel are paying a tribute to him by publishing an exhaustive biography and reprinting several of his novels.

Born in 1886, Pierre Benoit published *L'ATLANTIDE* in 1919, which won the *Grand Prix du Roman* awarded by the *Académie Française*. A prolific writer and a great traveller, he went on to write almost one book a year (several of which were adapted for the cinema), until his death in 1962. Adventures, eroticism, suspense, exoticism... In Pierre Benoit's novels, women – whom this great seducer adored – always have the leading roles. He was elected to the *Académie Française* in 1931.

Bauchau, Henry: *TEMPS DU RÊVE* (Actes sud April 2012, 96 pages)

TEMPS DU RÊVE recounts a love which is as dazzling as it is insidiously damaging for a young boy whose reaction to it goes from spellbound to disenchanted to doomed to search for other such sources of light in his imaginary world...

This splendid portrait of the “vibration” between the real and the imaginary that is peculiar to childhood exaltation, with all that it can contain of the painfully ephemeral, prefigures the close attention that the author would later bring to children, physical suffering, manifestations of the subconscious and, in a larger sense, to his own dreams, in his work as a psychoanalyst.

Eighty years after he first wrote this novel, Henry Bauchau rereads and prefaces his first work, which was originally published under a pseudonym. Henry Bauchau, a psychoanalyst, poet, playwright, essayist, and novelist, is the author of one of the most remarkable bodies of work of our time. In 2008, his novel *LE BOULEVARD PÉRIPHÉRIQUE* won the *Prix du Livre Inter*.

Boukhobza, Chochana: *FUREUR* (Denoël, January 2012, 350 pages)

An investigation into family secrets, including ones dating from the dark years of WWII and the Nazi occupation of France. A powerful novel depicting the devastating resurgence of long forgotten memories.

Upon the seemingly accidental death of Francis, an old friend of her grandfather, Alexis; Stella, a TV reporter, will be confronted with her grandfather's dark past. Alexis, it turns out, had many lives. Along with Jo, a former security guard and friend of Francis's family, Stella will delve into the secrets of Francis, Alexis and their friends... secrets that date back to the darkest hours of the Nazi Occupation and continue right up to the present day.

Like a ball of mercury, constantly breaking apart and coming back together, while each episode in this book is devoted to a specific character – revealing his story, goals and remorse – all of the episodes interact with each other. A brilliant historical novel dealing with the recollection of lost memory, and the many silenced truths that spring from the past to question the present.

Chochana Boukhobza won the *Prix Méditerranée* in 1986 for her novel *UN ÉTÉ À JÉRUSALEM* and was short-listed for the prestigious *Prix Fémina* for *LE CRI*. She is also the author of *SOUS LES ÉTOILES*. Rights of *LE TROISIÈME JOUR* have been sold to UK (World English MacLehose) and Italy (Einaudi), was published in 2010, received the *Wizo Prize*.

“Un livre qui balance en permanence entre sentiments et action.” Le Figaro

“Un hommage fait à l'engagement.» La Cause littéraire

*“Dans *FUREUR*, Chochana Boukhobza tisse un fil entre la Résistance française et la menace nucléaire iranienne. Une réflexion sur la technologie, ses bienfaits et ses risques, sur le courage de ceux qui sont prêts à aller jusqu'au bout pour une certaine idée de l'homme, sur l'amitié et sur la trahison.” L'Est Républicain*

“L'auteur entraîne le lecteur dans un véritable tourbillon où présent et passé s'emmêlent sur fond d'héroïsme ou de trahison, sans oublier l'amour, et distille un suspense qui tient en haleine jusqu'à la fin. Un roman passionnant traversé par le souffle de l'Histoire.” L'Est-Éclair

“FUREUR pourrait être juste un thriller (mais quel thriller ...) avec son énigme noire, ses complications, ses rebondissements inattendus. Mais le livre ouvre aussi à des douloureux ressentis.” **Le Monde**

**Pavloff, Franck: *L'HOMME À LA CARRURE D'OURS*
(Albin Michel, January 2012, 208 pages)**

After the tremendous success of *MATIN BRUN* (translated worldwide), Franck Pavloff continues with his celebrated realistic approach, telling a claustrophobic story in which materialism is valued more highly than people's lives.

In a prohibited zone somewhere in Lapland, nuclear reactors have replaced the old mines. For over 30 years, the survivors of the demolished town have been united in hopes of one day being able to escape the radioactive area. Among them is Kolya, a huge, lonely man who carves ivory. Unlike the other people on the Arctic tundra, he has accepted his fate, and is therefore the last man still carrying the ancestors' spirits and heritage. Twenty year-old Lyouba is the only female in the area, which makes her tempting prey. She has no experience whatsoever of the world outside the prohibited zone. Kolya makes it his mission to help her flee this godforsaken place where fear and hatred control the survivors' minds...

Franck Pavloff, is a cult author who has written a dozen noir novels, including: *LE PONT DE RAN-MOSITAR*, which won the *Prix France Télévision 2005* and the *Prix Lettres Frontière 2006*, also short-listed for several prizes: *Interallié*, *Giono*, *Goncourt* and *Goncourt des lycéens*.

“Polaire, barbare, halluciné, Frank Pavloff est de retour” **Livres Hebdo**

“Dans une langue rude et poétique, Franck Pavloff évoque le quotidien d'hommes confrontés à une nature hostile sans omettre sa beauté sauvage, dans une parabole écologiste qui est aussi une ode à la liberté.”
Page

“L'écriture est dense, belle et poétique.” **Le Télégramme**

**Brau, Jean-Louis: *LE SINGE APPLIQUÉ*
(Le Dilettante, Avril 2012, 544 pages)**

A story, sapped from within, that explodes and scatters into thousands of anecdotes, in a long divagation across the globe to such places as Indochina or a swimming pool in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Algeria or a pop festival in Amougies, Jordan or squalid brothels in London, Biafra or Parisian left-bank literary cocktails, such is the plot, or plots, of this novel.

But first and foremost, more than a literary game, it is about thugs engaged in a brawl in which words serve as boxing gloves to smash clocks and all time and space-measuring machines which tend to turn men into polished monkeys, according to Stevenson's definition.

And so the crowds cheer to see them domesticated, clap their hands and snap their fingers, a few snaps that add to the sixty-three billion snaps or seconds that make up our two thousand years of Judeo-Christian civilization.

LE SINGE APPLIQUÉ is Jean-Louis Brau's only novel, it is the novel about his life, a portrayal of what's wrong with the world, published 40 years ago by Grasset (1972). In April 2012, forty years after its initial release, Le Dilettante republishes this powerful novel. It is a brilliant, a wonderful, inventive, unique novel, worthy of the best Kerouac.

**Ségur, Philippe: *LE RÊVE DE L'HOMME LUCIDE*
(Buche-Chastel, January 2012, 288 pages)
English sample available**

Simon Perse has just left his wife and children to live alone in a tiny apartment. He has never been able to sleep much, and, following the advice of his psychoanalyst, he decides to use this talent of his to give up sleeping entirely. The first few days, he feels euphoric and powerful. But gradually, he begins to suffer hallucinations. In each one, Perse finds himself in an unknown world, at a different historical era. In these fluctuating worlds, there are just two constants: a woman and a rival. But things get more complicated when a doctor informs Perse that he has a fatal neurological disorder and has only a month to live... and the woman who has been haunting him suddenly shows up in the real world...

LITERARY FICTION

This somewhat autobiographical novel by Philippe Ségur offers a humorous, lucid, but also bitter portrait of our society. Refreshing!

Philippe Ségur is a professor of constitutional law and political philosophy at the University of Perpignan. Among his earlier works are: *MÉTAPHYSIQUE DU CHIEN*, *SEULEMENT L'AMOUR* and *VACANCE AU PAYS PERDU*.

"Philippe Ségur entraîne le lecteur dans une odyssée sans sommeil grave et comique à la fois." **Le Courrier**

"On suit cette singulière aventure avec intérêt, d'autant plus qu'elle se double d'une critique perspicace de notre univers contemporain." **Le Progrès**

"Le flot de la langue, la sincérité du propos, le choix de la syntaxe, les monologues, les dialogues... tout se savoure pour faire de ce RÊVE DE L'HOMME LUCIDE le roman le plus accompli de Philippe Ségur." **Page**

"Ségur tisse un roman malin sur l'art de vivre, d'aimer, de se disperser, de s'égarer, de se chercher comme on cherche les clés de soi-même. Bref, il nous tient en éveil." **Le Parisien**

Sizun, Marie: *UN LÉGER DÉPLACEMENT* (Arléa, January 2012, 281 pages)

Ellen has been living in Manhattan for over thirty years. She and her husband, Norman, run a small French bookstore. But one day, Ellen gets a startling phone call offering her a golden opportunity to return to her native Paris... Her stepmother has died, and Ellen's father has named her as sole heir to her stunning childhood home, in Paris. The offer is overwhelming, and flattering, too. Norman, however, does not understand why Ellen would want to go back after all these years. Ellen herself feels torn. She begins to wonder about her relationship to their daughter, Elizabeth; when did things become so awkward between them? Is it her own fault? Has she in fact been wanting to be somewhere else for all these years? So she accepts the tempting offer, and heads to Paris to claim her inheritance. After all, the property is hers for the taking. But perhaps the real reason is a desperate wish to return to her own youth, and re-experience the captivating city of her early days.

With a passionate yet sensitive tone, Marie Sizun tells the story of a few key days in a woman's life. A life-changing event allows her to re-discover and relive the memories and secrets of her youth. As she rediscovers her Parisian roots, it seems like a story is waiting for her on every boulevard corner. A novel about the importance of origins.

Marie Sizun was born in Paris in 1940, and is also a painter. This is her sixth novel published at Arléa.

"Ce qui est captivant et mystérieux dans ce livre, c'est le sentiment que, derrière ce récit singulier, il y a toute la nature humaine qui se déploie, il y a un conte universel que Marie Sizun réussit à mettre en place avec peu de personnages." **Figaro**

Suel, Lucien: *BLANCHE ÉTINCELLE* (La Table Ronde, January 2012, 240 pages)

Having just moved to a small town in Flanders, Mauricette Beaussart's life is now made up of contemplating her garden and her cat, visiting the bookshop in the neighbouring town, and arguing with the computer she's using to write her diary. Her soul-mates have all passed away. While she is doing her utmost to escape the solitude and sad memories that haunt her, she meets Blanche, a singing teacher who, like her, is an avid reader. The words and music they share gradually form a strong bond between the childless woman in her 70s and the woman in her 40s who lost her parents in an accident. Blanche and her family will supply all the warmth and comfort that has been missing from Mauricette's life.

Lucien Suel was born in 1948 in the French Flanders where he still lives. Editor of the magazine *The Starscrew*, devoted to the Beat Generation poetry, then of the "dada punk" magazine *La Moue du Veau*, he runs today the blog *Silo*. He is the author of numerous works of poetry. Published at La Table Ronde, his two previous novels, *MORT D'UN JARDINIER* (published in Norway by SOLUM) and *LA PATIENCE DE MAURICETTE*, were hailed by the critics.

"Un bijou de 232 pages qui se laisse dévorer d'une traite." **L'Écho de la Lys**

"Pour la sagesse du monde, pour un bonheur simple. Là, à portée de coeur." **Des Auteurs et des Livres**

"C'est une musique originale et entêtante que fait entendre Lucien Suel dans BLANCHE ÉTINCELLE [...] une pure merveille. Vive Lucien Suel !" **Le Dauphiné libéré**

Didier Van Cauwelaert: *LE JOURNAL INTIME D'UN ARBRE*

(Michel Lafon, October 2011, 300 pages)

English sample available

What if the day you die you started a double life? One that goes backwards into your memories and 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 400-year-old pear tree that has been uprooted in a storm. His consciousness is now divided 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 he was related to during his former life: lovers who carved their names into his bark, someone who hanged himself from one of his branches, a young woman accused of witchcraft burned with wood from his branches, the rebel adventurer whose ashes were scattered over his roots, the illegitimate royal whose birth he was planted to honour...

The tree's posthumous 'diary' makes us see the world, nature and mankind in a whole new light, through a botanical mindset that unfolds through the suspenseful tale it tells: will the emotions and memories disappear when the sap runs dry?

Captivating, funny and moving, *LE JOURNAL INTIME D'UN ARBRE* brings an unusual answer to the universal question: for a tree or a human being, what is the best way of cheating death?

Winner of the *Prix Goncourt* in 1994 for *UN ALLER SIMPLE*, Didier van Cauwelaert is the author of many novels and plays. He has been translated into more than 20 languages.

Rights sold to: Korea

"Un séduisant voyage dans la conscience d'un arbre. Un roman fantastique." **L'Express**

"Un roman étonnant qui mélange la grande histoire, l'écologie et le fantastique." **Metro**

"Brillant !" **VSD**

"À la fois grave et légère, empreinte de poésie et d'espoir, cette aventure végétale dessine le portrait d'une humanité sur le point de perdre la sienne." **Le Figaro Magazine**

"En se mettant dans la peau d'un poirier de 300 ans, le lauréat du Prix Goncourt 1994 prouve une nouvelle fois ses talents de conteur hors pair." **Carrefour Savoirs**

Cheng, François: *QUAND REVIENNENT LES ÂMES ERRANTES*

(Albin Michel, April 2012, 155 pages)

End of the 3rd century BC, the only remaining independent kingdom collapses in the face of the first Emperor. Amid the chaos, two men are in love with the same woman. Between them and with them, the woman who is loved without jealousy incarnates the very force of life, a generous desire for purity that raises man to the highest possible dimension. After trying to gain access to the Emperor in order to kill him, they perish. Yet even beyond death, she continues to converse with her two loves whose wandering souls return to her.

A historical narrative, in the spirit of Greek tragedy, this book includes classical themes that make the success of François' Cheng: women, spiritualism and pure love.

Elected member of the *Académie française*, academic, poet, calligrapher, translator of Baudelaire, Rimbaud, the Surrealists etc. into Chinese, François Cheng is also a prolific author whose books include *LE DIT DE TIANYI* (*Prix Femina*). He has received the *Grand Prix* de la Francophonie for all his work.

Fontenaille, Elise: *MA VIE PRÉCAIRE*

(Calmann-Lévy, April 2012, 224 pages)

A sublime novel reflecting the vulnerability of life.

When Élise is forced out of her lodgings in Paris, she gets rid of everything she owns, including her books. Unencumbered by material possessions, she lives from day to day, letting her desires, her natural curiosity and the kindness of strangers decide her fate, a happy or a tragic ending hanging in the balance at each new step. From a shack in Saint-Nazaire to a beach in Guyana, Élise will make friends, both real and virtual, will encounter a slumlord and a cop-cum-writer, will experience heartbreak and exchange love money. She will sleep

LITERARY FICTION

out in the open and be confined to the walls of a convent. She will be jostled by chance, overwhelmed by choices and shaken up by encounters... She will live life on the edge, that is, balancing urgency, necessity and a certain taste for risk.

Born in Nancy in 1960, Élise Fontenaille has worked as a journalist in both Canada and France. She now devotes herself to writing fiction and has published numerous novels, including *LE PALAIS DE MÉMOIRE*, short-listed for the *Prix des Libraires* (Booksellers Prize).

Besson, Philippe: *UNE BONNE RAISON DE SE TUER* (Robert Laffont, January 2012, 336 pages)

Laura has decided to kill herself today. At 45, she's a divorced waitress with two sons who seem to pay her no attention except when they need something from her, which isn't often. Samuel's day is not much brighter. His seventeen year-old son Paul recently committed suicide and the funeral is to take place today. It is November 4, 2008. While the rest of America is teeming with the excitement of change in the air at the prospect of an Obama presidency, Laura and Samuel lead their quite lives in desperation.

How can they both escape the merciless unraveling of the day? Will Samuel be able to overcome his sadness, if only just to make it through the memorial service? Does he have the right to survive the absence of his own son? And what can he make of his son's action, one as revolting as it is inexplicable?

As for Laura, nobody will mourn her death, not her ex-husband who moved on with his life or her indifferent sons. Samuel and Laura are complete strangers but have so much in common. Their paths will cross incidentally, at dusk, but their destinies have already been written.

Besson's *UNE BONNE RAISON DE SE TUER* is a novel of modern melancholy that explores the emptiness contemporary society can make us feel.

Philippe Besson has published with Julliard *Son Frère* which was adapted for the cinema by director Patrice Chéreau, *UN HOMME ACCIDENTEL*, *EN L'ABSENCE DES HOMMES*, *UN GARÇON D'ITALIE*, *LES JOURS FRAGILES*, *L'ARRIÈRE-SAISON* (Grand prize, RTL-Lire), *UN INSTANT D'ABANDON*, *SE RÉSOUDRE AUX ADIEUX*, *LA TRAHISON DE THOMAS SPENCER* and *RETOUR PARMIS LES HOMMES*.

"Portée par un style implacable tant il est dépouillé de tout apitoiement et de tout pathos, l'intrigue a des airs de tragédie grecque, où chacun est en marche vers son destin sans que rien ne puisse l'arrêter. On est touchés en plein cœur." **Figaro Madame**

"Philippe Besson écrit brillamment des histoires désespérées... (Il) analyse le mécanisme de la machine à broyer. Sa lucidité et sa cruauté sont terribles. Il dit beaucoup sur le vide de sens de notre époque." **La Vie**

"Philippe Besson explore l'envers du rêve américain dans un de ses plus forts romans." **Le Parisien**

"Oui, Une bonne raison de se tuer est une tragédie. Unité de temps, de lieu et d'action : les personnages marchent vers leur destin sans baisser les yeux, sans ciller. C'est aussi un des plus beaux portraits de femme qu'il nous ait été donné de lire. Parce que la littérature oublie trop dernièrement qu'elle est la voix de ceux qui en sont privés. Une bonne raison de lire Besson." **Le Magazine Littéraire**

Léger, Nathalie: *SUPPLÉMENT A LA VIE DE BARBARA LODEN* (POL, January 2012, 160 pages)

Long-listed for the Prix RTL/Lire 2012

Short-listed for the Prix France Culture-Télérama

Barbara Loden, an exceptional actress and inspired filmmaker, a woman secretly wounded, seeks the reality of her own existence through her film, *Wanda*. Barbara Loden was born in 1932. She was 38 years old when she directed and starred in *Wanda*, in 1970. She was Elia Kazan's second wife. She had roles in *The Wild River* and *Splendor in the Grass*. She died young, at the age of 48. *Wanda* was the first and the last film she made and she based it upon a news item: the disastrous path of a young woman who gets caught in a hold-up, and who thanks the judge for sentencing her.

What else? How to describe her, how to describe an unknown body and presence? Nathalie Léger tries to reconstitute a life from fragments in order to bring Barbara Loden back from oblivion and answers the question *Wanda/Barbara*: what are they searching for through each other, and what is the narrator seeking through them?

Born in 1960, Nathalie Léger is head of the *Institut Mémoires de l'édition contemporaine*, she has written the novels *LES VIES SILENCIEUSES DE SAMUEL BECKETT* (2006) and *L'EXPOSITION* (2008).

"Ce livre bref détonne par sa mélancolie gracieuse. C'est un livre magnifique sur la tentation de s'enfuir, pour mieux revenir dans le monde" **Elle**

"Un subtil jeu de miroirs au centre duquel évolue la femme – sous tension, entre ses élans et son rôle social imposé, ses désirs et ses abandons, ses craintes et ses consentements mêlés." **Télérama**

"Subtil et brutal" **Journal du Dimanche**

"Une narration séduisante, doucement entêtée, fragmentée et pourtant fluide qui se construit par intuitions, corrélations et ruptures. Une forme souple pour une quête oblique." **Livres Hebdo**

"Élégant et subtil récit, supplément à une biographie que personne n'écrivit jamais." **La Croix**

"Nathalie Léger tente à nouveau une mosaïque de solitudes féminines marquée par une mélancolie profonde." **Les inrockuptibles**

"Nathalie Léger a écrit un livre sur l'absence à soi et aux autres, sur les années 1970, sur l'inaccomplissement et l'insatisfaction chevillés au corps, sur l'auto-ironie, sur la littérature." **Le Journal du Dimanche**

Moreau-Sainz, Philippe: MAZURKA
(Mercure de France, February 2012, 198 pages)

As she is about to board a plane back to Paris after four days in Warsaw, Agnès realises that she has lost her passport. At the Embassy, they tell her it has been found in a hotel. When she finally gets it back, the document still has her photo, but the name on it is a certain Wioletta Wlodarska, a Polish citizen. Agnès finds herself without an identity, lost in a city that is utterly foreign to her. She meets Bénédykt, a handsome young man, and Olga, a photographer, who offer to help her. But the more they attempt to unravel the mystery, the deeper it gets, and Agnès begins to wonder about her companions' true intentions. Little by little, instilling doubt and fear, the story unfolds into a thriller with Hitchcockian undertones.

Philippe Moreau-Sainz was born in Paris in 1976. MAZURKA is his third novel.

"Un récit qui peu à peu se transforme en un thriller aux accents hitchcockiens" **La Quinzaine Littéraire**

Naudin, Pierre: RIEN NE SERT DE COURIR
(Aubéron, March 2012, 384 pages)

1936 - Marc Bongrain, a metalworker, is also a promising young bike racer. Injured during Army training, Marc has to work hard to get his athletic level back. But in the meantime, he has married Denise, a silly young woman. She is jealous of Marc's devotion to cycling, because he spends most of his free time training. But Marc is ready to sacrifice practically everything to his sport: in the midst of the Popular Front occupation of the steel mill, he even goes so far as to mutilate himself in order to be able to keep training, with an eye on the Olympics in Berlin! Marc is getting fed up with his wife's demands. Suddenly, things take a dramatic turn: Bongrain is convicted of taking money to race and deprived of his titles and records: he takes the blame for all the crooked amateurs in his sport. To make matters worse, Denise leaves him...

Pierre Naudin was born into a working-class family in 1923 and took up writing in 1948. The author of a hugely successful saga about the Hundred Years' War (over 600,000 copies sold in paperback alone), he had started out writing essays and novels about sports, including *LA FEMME DU BOXEUR*, *LES QUATRE FERS EN L'AIR* and especially *LES MAUVAISES ROUTES* (1959, new edition 1989, last edition 2007), a novel about cycling that was a unanimous critical success. His essay about sport, *LA FOIRE AU MUSCLE*, caused a scandal. Pierre Naudin's earlier writing has already proven his intimate knowledge of the world of sport.

"RIEN NE SERT DE COURIR ressuscite sous nos yeux un climat agité et délétère qui rappelle par certains aspects celui de l'époque actuelle." **Cultura**

Weyergans, François: MÉMOIRE PLEINE
(Robert Laffont, February 2012, 310 pages)

The newest novel from the Goncourt prize winning author of *TROIS JOURS CHEZ MA MÈRE*

LITERARY FICTION

Daniel Flamm, 50s, lives in Paris with his wife and two children. While on a trip to Montreal, he unexpectedly falls in love with a fledgling actress named Justine. The attraction is immediate and reciprocal. In other words, love at first sight. So begins an affair that is as passionate as it is fleeting. How can one fight against what is fleeting? Justine is funny, insolent and inventive. It's her narcissism that seduces Daniel. When he leaves Montreal, they both know that their affair will not soon be forgotten.

As the years pass, they write, phone and even see each other from time to time, reinforcing the fragile bond that unites them. Their constant communication allows them to think that their love does not weaken even as they lead separate lives.

In an unexpected turn of events, Justine moves to Paris and Daniel leaves for Strasbourg to stay with his sister. Justine and Daniel love each other but avoid one another. Is it because they lack the courage or is the reality of their love weaker than the fantasy?

They understand that as time passes, their joy turns to melancholy. Like in all great love stories, unhappiness reigns. They learn that love only survives in this strange place we call memory.

François Weyergans is the only author to have won the *prix Renaudot* and the *prix Goncourt*. He was elected into the *Académie française* in March 2009. Some of his other works include *LE PITRE* (1973), *MACAIRE LE COPTE* (1981), *LA VIE D'UN BÉBÉ* (1986), *LA DÉMENCE DU BOXEUR* (*prix Renaudot*, 1992) and *FRANZ ET FRANÇOIS* (1997).

Mordillat, Gérard: *CE QUE SAVAIT JENNIE* (Calmann-Levy, August 2012, 220 pages)

After his three-volume social epic, including *Les Vivants et les morts*, *Notre part des ténèbres* and *Rouge dans la brume*, Gérard Mordillat gives us a powerful short novel recounting the quest of a tragic yet sublime heroine inspired by hope and justice. A brilliant account of hope and madness, inextricably intertwined.

Thirteen-year-old Jennie hates Sundays, the worst day of the week, and this one is going to be really bad. Her mother's boyfriend, Mike, is celebrating his birthday. It's going to be the worst Sunday ever. The party is marked by tragedy: Mike is killed on his motorcycle before their very eyes. Olga finds herself on her own, raising two daughters, Jennie and Jennie's half-sister, Malorie.

Three years later, Slimane and two babies enter the picture, bringing a semblance of peace to the blended family. But just when fate seems to be giving them a break, a second accident brings the happy interlude to an abrupt end. Jennie and her sisters and brother are separated and placed in different foster homes. Jennie, the eldest, is transformed over night into a Mother Courage. She is determined to reunite her siblings and to take them to see the ocean, as Olga had promised. While traveling to the four corners of France, Jennie meets Quincy, an actor who wants to stop acting. For better or worse, their fates are joined together, all the way to the cliffs of Etretat...

Gérard Mordillat is a writer and a filmmaker. He has published numerous novels, including *L'Attraction universelle*, *Les Vivants et les Morts*, *Notre part des ténèbres*... He and Jérôme Prieur are the coauthors of *Corpus Christi*, a three-part documentary film on the origins of Christianity. He has made over twenty films, including *LA VOIX DE SON MAÎTRE*, *VIVE LA SOCIALE!*, *En compagnie d'Antonin Artaud* and *LES CINQ PARTIES DU MONDE*, and wrote the film adaptation of his novel, *LES VIVANTS ET LES MORTS*, for France 2 and Arte television.

Josse, Gaëlle: *NOS VIES DÉSAFFORDÉES* (Autrement, March 2012, 144 pages)

A famous pianist, François Vallier discovers that Sophie, his former partner, abandoned a few years earlier in dramatic circumstances, has been committed to a psychiatric hospital. To the dismay of his agent, he decides to give up everything and crosses France to be closer to Sophie. Once there, François finds that he is not allowed to visit her.

He must wait, and this suspended time leads him to reflect upon the past: when he met Sophie at an old stringed-instrument maker in *rue de Rome*, the conception of their child between two trips – a child that would not be born. And eventually Sophie's intense fit of madness, of which François had not wished to see the real extent. But he wasn't the only one responsible... Little by little, he uncovers the hidden role played by Sophie's brother in her hospitalisation.

This does not leave François unscathed. He bares his soul, loses his splendour, and accepts coming face to face with his own weaknesses. When he is finally allowed to see Sophie again, a “repair” may no longer be possible. All he can offer is that he is by her side.

Gaëlle Josse burst into the literary world with her debut novel, *LES HEURES SILENCIEUSES* (Autrement, 2011; *prix Lavinal-Mollat* and finalist for the *prix Orange*). A novel of crazy love, tense and impassioned. Gaëlle Josse has elegant, sensitive and luminous writing style.

**Laurain, Antoine: *LE CHAPEAU DE MITTERRAND*
(Flammarion, January 2012, 224 pages)**

One evening in Paris, Daniel Mercier, an accountant, goes out for dinner alone in a *brasserie* to cheer himself up in the absence of his wife and son. His life, trivial in every way, restricted even, is turned upside down when an illustrious guest sits the next table: François Mitterrand has come to eat oysters in the company of two friends. After his meal, the President forgets his hat, which our average Frenchman decides to keep as a souvenir. But the famous black felt hat is not a mere trophy: like a talisman, it changes our little employee into a genuine strategist within his company...

Did Daniel unravel the mystery of ultimate power without knowing it?

Alas, the precious hat is interested in more than a single head and, once again, finds itself a new owner, thus pursuing an original journey through the heart of French society in the 1980s. For two years, the fetish-like object moves around and seems to play with the life of those who wear it, men and women alike, revealing them to themselves and to others. Throughout this carefully orchestrated roundelay, Antoine Laurain wittily depicts a wide-ranging cast of characters. Halfway between fairy tale and novel, and imbued with a delightful sense of mischief, *Le Chapeau de Mitterrand* recreates the daily life of a particular era.

Born in Paris in the mid-70s, Antoine Laurain is the author of four novels, including *AILLEURS SI J'Y SUIS* (éd. Le Passage, 2007), *FUME ET TUE* (éd. Le Passage, 2008) and *CARREFOUR DES NOSTALGIES* (éd. Le Passage, 2009).

“[...] une fiction réjouissante qui nous replonge dans les années 1980.” **L’Express**

“[...] une perle rafraîchissante dans la grisaille actuelle.” **Version Femina**

“Un conte aussi drôle qu’original à savourer comme un chocolat avec une surprise à l’intérieur.”

Marie France

**Laferrière, Dany: *CHRONIQUES DE LA DÉRIVE DOUCE*
(Grasset, March 2012, 208 pages)**

Dany Laferrière returns with an outstanding reflection on his first expatriation and his discovery of the Other World, incarnated by the city of Montréal. Once more, he has created a unique literary work.

“While *L’Énigme du retour* was a novel about the return to one’s homeland, *CHRONIQUES DE LA DÉRIVE DOUCE* is about the arrival in a new city and a new life. It was in 1976, I was 23 and I had just left ‘a mad tropical dictatorship.’ For me, it wasn’t so much an exile as a trip that provided, above all else, an escape from insular neurosis. Living on a rock in the middle of the ocean can produce some uncontrollable anxieties. And so one day I moved to Montréal. I was homeless, but happy to find the solitude that was so rare in the overcrowded city of Port-au-Prince. The summer was easy. Fall, possible. Winter, completely unknown. I discovered everything in a single year: women, wine, reading in the bathtub, the little key to my room that I had to carry in my pocket everywhere I went, work at a factory, strolls in the calming night (the nights in Port-au-Prince were far more nerve-racking), and the pleasure of puzzling out a new city, neighborhood by neighborhood. I was frightened by the winter and its bare trees, and I was stunned to discover that, in spring, the grass could come alive again from beneath the ice. And it was especially surprising to find that I was still the same person, even if I had changed in certain aspects. The slow solitude of the Montréal winter forced me to confront the individual, whereas I was constantly living in a group when I was in Port-au-Prince. The change was so abrupt and violent. And my joy was secret. One morning in the summer that followed, I bought an old Remington to take down these impressions before they diluted in my body. And that first year, so saturated with sensations and new emotions, I’ll never be able to live it a second time.” D.L.

Dany Laferrière has published many novels with Grasset, including *VERS LE SUD* (2006), adapted for the cinema by Laurent Cantet, and *L’ENIGME DU RETOUR* (*prix Médicis* 2009). His most recent book, *TOUT BOUGE AUTOUR DE MOI*, was published in 2010.

LITERARY FICTION

Rights sold to previous works: Castillian (Alianza), Chinese (simplified: Shanghai 99 Reader), English (UK: MacLehose Press, Canada: Douglas and McIntyre), Japanese: (Fujiwara Shoten), Korean (Thinking Tree, The Open Books), Polish (Swiat Ksiazki), Romanian (Echinox), Serbian (Laguna).

Coatalem, Jean-Luc: *LE GOUVERNEUR D'ANTIPODIA* (Le Dilettante, January 2012, 188 pages)

In the background, travel writer Jean-Luc Coatalem seeks the key to life. In his latest novel, *Le Gouverneur d'Antipodia* (*The Governor of Antipodia*), he lures his characters onto a remote island in the Antarctic Ocean, two men sent on a mission. Will they survive?

A remote island in the South Seas, on the opposite side of the globe, Antipodia. Open to the winds. Far from all fishing zones. On the island, between two gales, a chief officer who has himself called 'governor', a mechanic who keeps to himself, and a few goats. If the first man paces round in circles brooding over his disgrace within the confines of the island, the second one races about like a hare, happy, thrilled. His secret? A mysterious plant: the reva-reva. All those who take it inject their dreams into reality. But along comes winter, and with it, ice, followed by a castaway, on a piece of wood, pushed by the waves. The survivor, a Mauritian, is called Moïse. He thinks he has been saved from the ice-cold waters. He sets a naked foot on a desolate beach. That's when it all begins, that everything explodes. And all of Antipodia resonates.

With LE GOUVERNEUR D'ANTIPODIA, Jean-Luc Coatalem delivers his most beautiful novel through the tense narrative of an astonishing contemporary Robinson Crusoe, a cross between Jules Verne and Stephen King.

"The tale is written under high tension. As if the author had made himself, via his characters, an ultimatum of life or death. We can read the story, written by a great poet, as a metaphysical or psychoanalytical thriller. Jodic and Gov personify two powers of the human mind, imagination and reason. Will one prevail over the other in the struggle against dereliction?" **Le Figaro littéraire**

"Coatalem invites us to a "poisoned" confrontation between the dreams of one and the broodings of the other. This open air huis clos full of suspense is an entrancing account, sometimes to the point of somnambulism." **Le Matricule des Anges**

Gardel, Louis: *LE SCÉNARISTE* (Stock, January 2012, 208 pages)

François is a novelist. He goes on to become a scriptwriter following a series of circumstances which he views as fate. He is not someone who steers his life. He makes do with what comes along. Literary circles and the world of film form the setting for this book. The country-raised girl who François falls in love with works in Paris, in publishing. In order to live with François she brings a brutally quick end to her relationship with an ageing writer who is driven almost mad by this abandonment. But François is to ignore all blackmail and threats.

François has never known who his father was. His mother never revealed his identity. She was someone who spoke little. François has taken his own stance on this secret. He has a huge appetite for happiness. He puts the things that torment him in the stories he writes. They are just transpositions of real life, more a quest for what may have happened or what could have happened, a sort of parallel world. François makes no calculations in everyday life. He lets chance and his own whims carry him: life isn't serious. What is serious is what he invents.

From FORT SAGANNE to BEAU RÔLE, from L'AUORE DES BIEN-AIMÉES to LA BAIE D'ALGER, Louis Gardel has built a unique, diverse and particularly novelistic body of work. With THE SCRIPTWRITER, Louis Gardel's own character as a writer, publisher and screenwriter takes centre stage, notably in Régis Wargnier's INDOCHINE.

Rozier, Gilles: *D'UN PAYS SANS AMOUR* (Grasset, September 2011, 443 pages)

Following the success of *UN AMOUR SANS RÉSISTANCE*, *D'UN PAYS SANS AMOUR* is a fascinating blend of fiction and non-, a magnificent novel that is also a truthful portrait of a wantonly destroyed facet of Europe's cultural past – the Yiddish heritage.

"I was born in a Jewish kingdom, in a city where you could spend your whole life speaking a language that sprang up a thousand years ago on the banks of the Rhine and that felt very much at home by the Vistula. It was a kingdom complete with (...) its own territory: language."

D'un pays sans amour seeks inspiration in the fates of three poets – the Ukrainian Peretz Markish and his Galician friends, Uri Zvi Grinberg and Melekh Ravitch, who founded the literary journal *Khaliastra*, which Chagall contributed to – after they fled Poland. One went to Israel, the second finally settled in Montreal, while the third moved to the USSR and fell victim to Stalin's purges. All three survived the destruction of the Yiddish heritage which they embodied so powerfully. So did their poetry, for "that which does not kill us makes us stronger", as Nietzsche's famous aphorism has it.

Gilles Rozier is a novelist and translator, working from Yiddish and Hebrew into French.

Rights sold: Dutch (Ambo Anthos): Allemagne (Die Andere Bibliothek), Pays-Bas (Ambo/Anthos), Espagne (Alianza), Pologne (Noir sur Blanc), Bulgarie (Paradox), Israël (Xargol).

Foreign publishers of *LOVE WITHOUT RESISTANCE*: USA (Little, Brown), UK (Little, Brown), Germany (Dumont), Spain (Salamandra), Italy (Einaudi), Portugal (Dom Quixote), Brazil (A Girafa), Netherlands (Ambo/Anthos), Denmark (Gyldendal), Sweden (Bonniers), Japan (Hayakawa), Israel (Schocken), Bulgaria (Colibri), Czech Republic (Fraktura), Croatia (Host).

Faye, Éric: *LE GÉNÉRAL SOLITUDE*
(Stock, reprint March 2012, 160 pages)

Somewhere in the depths of the central American tropical rainforest, a thousand men are preparing to head out and join the rest of their unit in Iquita – until they see fascinating fires burning on the horizon and the General Soledad makes a key decision that will doom them all.

Faye, Éric: *LE MYSTÈRE DES TROIS FRONTIÈRES*
(Stock, reprint March 2012, 224 pages)

The Mystery of the Three Frontiers, the novel that opens and lends its name to this collection, demonstrates a liking for rereading ancient myths, those "black boxes of humankind" that Éric Faye submits to analysis.

Faye, Éric: *PARIJ*
(Stock, reprint March 2012, 272 pages)

In a divided post-war Paris – whose story mirrors that of Berlin – a spy from the East has to survey a novelist suspected of working on a regime-ridiculing novel. In this voyeuristic activity, he eventually loses sight of his own position and neglects his duties to the Party, sliding towards dissidence...

Éric Faye has had a number of novels and travelogues published at Stock, including *MES TRAINS DE NUIT* (2005), *L'HOMME SANS EMPREINTES* (2008), *NAGASAKI* (2010, *Grand Prix du roman de l'Académie française*, translated into 13 languages); and a collection of factual accounts published by José Corti, *JE SUIS LE GARDIEN DU PHARE*, which won the 1998 *Prix des Deux-Magots*.

The Russian rights for NAGASAKI are sold to Corpus

NON-FRANCOPHONE AUTHORS

SERBIA

Popovic, Mira: *D'UNE TERRASSE À L'AUTRE*
(Viviane Hamy, February 2012, 150 pages)

Mira Popovic tells us stories of her childhood, love stories, and pure fantasies which take a different view of the everyday. This collection vigorously unites burlesque, tenderness and humour.

Childhood memories float to the surface during a meeting or a situation. Such as the deaf-mute boy from her village in Serbia who was run over because he did not hear the horn of a truck going hell for leather towards him; or the woman who, on a drive through Paris, is fixated by the back of the taxi driver's neck because it reminds her of her lover. Mira Popovic latches onto the beings and objects spawned by our existences. She pulls surprisingly bright and enigmatic stories out of their apparent banality.

DEBUT NOVEL

Mira Popovic was born in Belgrade. She has worked for many years as a Paris correspondent for the Yugoslav and Serb press. Alongside her journalistic work, Mira Popovic's work as a short story writer spans many years. She is published by the best Serbian literary magazines.

"Une voix joliment tordue nous est née; soyez parmi les premiers à l'entendre et la défendre" **Livres Hebdo**

"Lire la Serbe Mira Popovic, c'est voyager entre Belgrade et Paris, mais aussi au pays des contes ou au cœur d'un réalisme fantastique" **Marie-France**

"Une écriture simple et fluide, qui ne cède pas à la tentation d'appuyer l'effet tant du cocasse, de l'absurde que de mélancolique." **froggydelight.com**

"D'UNE TERRASSE À L'AUTRE est un recueil de nouvelles d'une rare finesse, où les chutes inattendues, portées par une écriture délicate et précis, sont sobres et belles." **Page**

UNITED KINGDOM/UNITED STATES

Levison, Iain: *THE CAB DRIVER*
(Liana Lévi, January 2011, 246 pages)
Originally written in English.

Inspired by a true case that occurred in Salt Lake City in 2003: an innocent man is enjoined 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 breaks into his house and takes him into custody as the prime suspect in the abduction 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 humour, 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* sold 40,000 copies in France 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).

"Iain Levison signe avec ARRÊTEZ-MOI LÀ un roman coup de poing, violent, âpre, inoubliable (...)
Iain Levison, l'un des observateurs les plus justes de la société américaine, et au-delà, de nos systèmes contemporains" **Mediapart**

DEBUT NOVEL

Bied-Charreton, Solange: *ENJOY*
(Stock, January 2012, 214 pages)

Charles Valérien is a young man of today. For him and the people he knows it's on ShowYou – the social network with the most hits in the world – that you actually live and show yourself in your best light. Better yet, it's there that you earn the respect of those above you in the hierarchy.

It is at this point that he meets Anne-Laure, also known as AI, a student at the Sorbonne, along with the hare-brained members of her rock band. Not one of them has a ShowYou account. So there can be a world outside the internet. It is with that world, as well as Anne-Laure herself, that the narrator falls in love. An androgynous dancer, an angry blogger, an antisocial old woman and an obese writer – distorted reflections of the young man and his loneliness – also populate this contemporary fable in which entertainment at any price doesn't get the better of boredom, where someone who witnesses other people's lives isn't necessarily in control of their own, where the enemy is not who we think.

Enjoy is a portrait of the "Y Generation", the internet generation, never far from their screens but losing control of their lives, sincere if not downright cynical, and consumed by feelings of pointlessness in the hell of their voyeurism.

Solange Bied-Charreton is 29, she lives and works in Paris. *ENJOY* is her *first novel*.

**David, Sonia: *LES PETITS SUCCÈS SONT UN DÉSASTRE*
(Robert Laffont, January 2012, 418 pages)**

Sonia David's first novel is *Amélie Poulain meets Anna Gavalda*

When she doesn't translate (it's her job), Rose's favorite pastime is to invent stories about everyone she knows. She prefers doing this with "Team Pap", the group of friends and neighbors she sees regularly at Papillon, her hangout in Montmartre. Her drawers are filled with dozens of beginnings but Rose has never managed to finish writing a novel. Everything changes the day she wins 60,000€ from an Internet game. Rose decides to take off an entire year to consecrate her first real novel to her friends. While the book is meant to express the importance of friendship and pay homage to something so ordinary and essential, it has the opposite effect. Rose learns the hard way that her friends would rather she didn't use their personal lives to nourish her stories.

Between friends and characters, you have to choose. Writing about them can only lead to betrayal.

Sonia David is passionate about two things, besides her husband and cigarettes - reading and writing. She is a journalist, notably for *Vogue*, and co-author of *Monde de M.* (a biography of the singer, Editions Seuil) with Marianne Chedid. This is her *first novel*.

"Tying together friends and writing is at the heart of this funny and touching book which strings together tender and comical scenes." **Vogue**

**Dumortier, David: *TRAVESTI*
(Le Dilettante, March 2012, 256 pages)**

By dressing as a woman, David Dumortier explores the hidden side of hundreds of men. What does a man say when he is naked? What do his clothes and other masks conceal? His life as a transvestite shows him that his stolen childhood and his dissident minority are nothing compared to his clients' dark secrets.

He too endures this duality for he writes children's books during the day and works as a prostitute by night. This autobiographical account invites us to face up to our humanity.

It all started violently, one day, at the family farm. The father weighs, hits, sees his son as a pork butcher, then ends up leaving; the mother, beaten then abandoned, suffers. As for the child, he glussied himself up among the pigs and takes possession, in his dreams, of the day labourers who work on the farm. A high school pensioner, then briefly a waiter, he goes to Paris where he finally blossoms on discovering the art of transvestism, "*his whole body calls out to men*", an art David learned from Michel who dies of AIDS, the art of make-up and love that he practices with intense bodies, those of Mourad, Ali, Adib, Karim. An infatuated deliveryman, a prisoner under parole to the heavy halberd, students, bus drivers, security guards, illegal workers, Frenchmen, Africans and Syrians. A waltz of names, rough rounds for violent or tender passers-by, but always in total freedom. At times, the tale is spiced up with humour: David becomes the public letter writer for the Saint Valentine's Day lovers, an Emirati literary critic and a school speaker.

David Dumortier was born in 1967. An Arabist with a degree from the French Institute of Oriental languages and civilisations, he travelled to the Near East. He lives in Paris. Many publications: poetry, children's books, tales.

**Belskis, Martin: *DANS LE SQUARE*
(Bouchet-Chastel, January 2012, 213 pages)**

An epistolary novel written in an elegantly classical style, and fraught with real suspense.

Sarah, who is majoring in literature, writes to a famous author to express her admiration of his work. Flattered by her enthusiasm, he replies. And so begins a correspondence that will occupy an ever-larger place in our protagonists' lives. Starting out with literary topics, their dialogue gradually grows more intimate. Sarah is naively idealistic, angry about injustice and society's mercantilism. Marked by the deportation of her Jewish relatives during the war, she aspires to express her indignation freely, and change the world. The older, more lucid man encourages her to choose life rather than books. His own existence has taught him that there is more complexity and reality in the self-contained world of the little park near his apartment than in the complete works of Shakespeare...

But this bildungsroman, which sees Sarah gradually temper her fiery, radical instincts and transform her vision of the world thanks to her contact with the writer, isn't as linear as it seems at first glance. Disillusion is sometimes the price you have to pay to grow up. But will she ever know what she really owes him?

DEBUT NOVEL

Martin Belskis is a researcher and a teacher. *DANS LE SQUARE* is his *first novel*.

"Beaucoup de charme, d'élégance stylistique et de pudeur poétique." **Le Figaro littéraire**

Bigio, Maurice: L'IRANIENNE (Calmann-Lévy, May 2012, 220 pages)

The story of a sacrifice, of one woman's determination to forge a new destiny for both her son and her country. Shirine is an Iranian, a mother and a lawyer. A fighter. A staunch defender of freedom of thought, of women's rights, of hope... She finds strength in the unwavering support of Anouch, a French journalist who has repeatedly denounced human rights violations in Iran. Shirine too begins actively opposing the regime. Despite the anonymous threats and her husband's increasingly dire warnings, she continues braving the arbitrary decrees of Iranian society: she refuses to obey her husband. Her indomitable spirit soon lands her in jail, however. After months of solitary confinement, she is released, only to find her son has been placed with a "new mother" and her husband has repudiated her. She has nothing left to lose and is determined to save her son, Shantia. Together they attempt fleeing to Turkey, but Shantia is too weak to make the journey. Shirine is forced to turn back, to throw herself into the lion's mouth, at the cost of her life...

Maurice Bigio was born in Cairo and lives in France. He is a radiologist. Over the course of his medical career, he has never lost sight of mankind's greatest disease, responsible for millions of deaths the world over: oppression. *L'IRANIENNE* is his *first novel*.

Bourdillon, Yves: DU TRAPÈZE AU-DESSUS DES PIRANHAS (Anne Carrière, January 2012, 325 pages)

A 38-year-old journalist writing for a regional daily decides to realise all his teenage dreams in one go: become self-employed, seek out one of his young loves, and climb a mountain in the Himalayas.

But things get complicated when he arrives in Paris without his wife – who is continuing her career in the countryside – and finds himself obliged to deal with Chloé, his dunce of a daughter. Swinging from the downright hilarious to the absolutely absurd, Fred has to deal with his closest friends' scepticism, his competitors' hostility and his clients' whims... in addition to an exceptionally peevish bureaucracy. But Fred does his best to face everything from unexpected setbacks to outlandish situations with stolid determination. He eventually realises that, with Chloé's complicity, he's up to the challenge... The humorous, no-holds-barred dialogues give rise to a caustic analysis of the contradictions of modern society, which both exhort us to run the risk of following our dreams and confine us to inaction.

Yves Bourdillon is journalist at *Les Échos*. *DU TRAPÈZE AU-DESSUS DES PIRANHAS* is his *first novel*.

"On rit de bout en bout jusqu'au feu d'artifice final- un moment d'anthologie. Si la plume est alerte, elle n'empêche pas de poser un regard aigu sur l'économie, la société, la famille; ni de développer, l'air de rien, une certaine philosophie de vie. Laquelle vient démentir celle de Hobbes pour qui l'existence était «courte, laide et brutale». Bourdillon démontre qu'elle peut être excitante, cocasse et généreuse." **Les Echos**

"C'est vite lu, souvent drôle et ça sent le vécu !" **Le Télégramme**

Cabiro, Olivier: ARLETTE (Arléa, January 2012, 228 pages)

The heartbreaking story of a man and a woman living a passionate love for six months. It will take 20 years to get over it.

Olivier works in Pakistan where he meets Arlette, a young beautiful Danish girl. Both of them are already married, however they fall in love. After six intense months together, Oliver moves to Bangladesh. But it is not the end of their deep love. Olivier and Arlette can't forget each other. They live separated lives, yet related to each other forever. Many years later, when Arlette moves to Paris with her new husband, they meet again. And their story resumes.

With accuracy and sensibility Olivier Cabiro delivers a touching and melancholic story of an impossible, but eternal, love, proving that the deep connection between two people can never be ignored, not even if we try.

Olivier Cabiro worked as a banker in Asia, the Middle East and Northern Europe for twelve years. Since 2002 he works as a librarian in Paris. *ARLETTE* is his *first novel*.

Chapiro, Florence: *LES FAVORITES***(Fayard, January 2012, 272 pages)****English sample available**

A wife as despotic as she is irreplaceable, an elusive muse, a student on the brink of overtaking her master and an artless young mistress: Pierre, celebrated painter, had them all, and was never able to choose between them. Will his death be the deciding stroke?

The inheritance he leaves behind is better endowed with artistic and sentimental than actual monetary value, but it does oblige the four women to come together to sort it all out and try to establish what rightfully belongs to each of them. Mounting tension is exacerbated by a potent combination of grief, regret and jealousy. Yet on the day of the funeral, the dreaded settling of scores fails to materialise. Instead, a strange sort of complicity between the women begins to grow – a truce that is both soothing and unsettling for all concerned. Can the love they once felt for the same man be turned into a four-way friendship?

A reflection on inheritance and what it entails when it involves art, talent and aesthetic sensibility. This debut novel upends readers' expectations by avoiding a typical confrontation scene; Florence Chapiro makes full use of a rich and carefully nuanced psychological palette.

Professor of literature, and graduate of the prestigious *Ecole Normale Supérieure*, Florence Chapiro wrote her doctoral thesis on passions in the classical age. *LES FAVORITES* is her *first novel*.

"Dans ce roman vif, caustique parfois, les femmes, amoureuses flouées ou blessées ont repris le premier rôle. Pour vivre désormais au présent." **Page**

"Un premier roman très maîtrisé, tout en nuances et d'une grande maturité psychologique." **Prima**

"Très vivant." **Notes Bibliographiques**

Jerusalmy, Raphaël: *SAUVER MOZART. LE JOURNAL D'OTTO J. STEINER***(Actes Sud, Mars 2012, 144 pages)**

Dating from July 1939 to August 1940, this is the journal of Otto J. Steiner, a Salzburg music critic cloistered in a sanatorium at the heart of a world that is falling to pieces. In orchestrating the vengeance of music against history, Raphaël Jerusalmy composes the irresistibly cruel and comic story of a fate that comes within a hair's breath of changing the fate of the century.

Raphaël Jerusalmy holds a degree from the *École Normale Supérieure* and from the Sorbonne. He made his career in the Israeli military information services before moving on to work in the humanitarian and educational fields. He is now an antiquarian bookseller in Tel-Aviv. *SAUVER MOZART* (Saving Mozart) is his *first novel*.

de Bayser, Patrick: *NU FÉMININ***(Le Passage, January 2012, 272 pages)**

Arnaud Ducamp is an international art dealer, constantly searching for one lost masterpiece or another, and on a downhill slide since his divorce. One morning, after another night of heavy drinking, he sets off on yet another improbable hunt. This time he's looking for a mysterious Modigliani nude, completed in 1916 and mentioned in the memoirs of the art dealer Maurice Rheims. The case is complicated; the trail is chaotic and dotted with unanswered questions. Yet everything seems to point to a family secret that has something to do with Modigliani's own complicated life. Along with Ilona, a teasingly sensual young Polish researcher, Arnaud devotes all his time to the investigation. Diving into the artist's past allows Ducamp to rediscover his own capacity for love.

Patrick de Bayser is an art dealer in Paris. *NU FÉMININ* is his *first novel*.

"Quête amoureuse, enquête passionnée : NU FÉMININ, premier roman de Patrick de Bayser, mêle habilement deux intrigues au point de les faire fusionner. (...) Peu à peu, ce tableau à l'histoire mystérieuse devient le « talisman » d'une histoire d'amour." **Le Monde**

"Sa plume érudite cultive un vrai suspense." **L'Express**

"Patrick de Bayser signe ici un premier roman très réussi." **Tribune de Genève**

Tassel, Fabrice: *DÉRAISON D'ÉTAT* (Denoël, May 2012, 200 pages)

How far can one go when drunk with power?

At 42 Paul is a high-ranking civil servant working for a Right-wing administration, although he is a leftist himself. His political beliefs make him stand out a bit, but he is nevertheless respected by his peers. He is also a loving father and husband. Hard-working, dedicated and ethical, he is well regarded in the highest circles of power. Yet recently, in spite of his many responsibilities, and the workloads and honours that go with, he is becoming increasingly bored. Paul is disgusted with the vacuity of power, and tries to escape a deep sense of inadequacy and unrest. He wants to live and feel again.

When his daughter is vehemently told off by a stranger in a children's park, he experiences a major outburst of anger. To his surprise, he is mesmerised by the feeling of being reborn and the sense of power the incident triggered in him. He slowly starts to push the limits of the impunity his status gives him. Can he really get away with anything? How far can he go without being caught? Could he get away with violent, gratuitous acts, or even murder? When he decides to push a stranger under a metro train, he gets trapped in a spiral that will not necessarily prove lethal for him.

In this skilfully written psychological novel, Fabrice Tassel investigates with finesse and subtlety the mechanisms of political world that slowly devours its servants.

Fabrice Tassel has worked for Libération for 15 years and ran the society pages for 6 years. *DÉRAISON D'ÉTAT* is his first novel.

Trautmann, Mathieu: *SIX MOIS, DIX ANS ET UN JOUR* (Denoël, March 2012, 180 pages)

This disturbing debut novel deals with notions of duality, forgetfulness and female desire, while creating a hypnotic atmosphere.

David lives in a nearly empty part of Berlin. He works as a translator and spends his nights of insomnia dreaming about other people's lives. These people become characters that he brings to life. He describes their past, their loves and their future, as though he were an eyewitness, or perhaps their creator. Among other characters, he introduces us to Elena, a Swedish woman who falls in love with the same man, ten years after falling for him for the first time... only he doesn't recognize her. We also travel through the mind of her forgetful lover, Benjamin, who is suffering from amnesia.

Other destinies also intertwine in the lobby of Arte Luise Kunst Hotel, whether in real life or in the imaginary characters' lives. But being the instrument of other people's fates comes at a cost, as these people are bound to suddenly step into your own life sooner or later.

Mathieu Trautmann was born in 1968. He grew up in Paris, where he still resides and works as an artistic director for luxury brands, design companies and fine-art publishers. He is a lover of cities, and especially Berlin.

"Le premier roman de Mathieu Trautman degage une atmosphère [...] d'un étrange magnétisme, SIX MOIS, DIX ANS ET UN JOUR est une jolie topographie de l'intime où se dessine la fêlure des idéalistes déçus."
Livres Hebdo

Pilote, Brigitte: *MEMOIRES D'UNE ENFANT MANQUEE* (Librex, February 2012, 160 pages)

Jeanne is an uncannily articulate and mercilessly perceptive girl who refuses to be a child, the word she claims grown-ups use to "lower" their offspring instead of "raise" them. Her ambition is to become a great man like Jesus Christ or Jacques Cartier, both of whom share her initials. Cast into a community where adults and children lead separate lives, Jeanne must learn to look beyond herself and find a way to cope with the insanity of everyday life and the reckless adults who inhabit her world.

This is the story of a remarkably sensitive and intuitive 10-year-old girl living in Quebec in the 1970s—a compelling tale, written in a fiercely powerful style that will leave a lasting impression.

Brigitte Pilote is a television content producer. *MEMOIRES D'UNE ENFANT MANQUEE* is her first novel.

Gagnon, Katia: *LA REPARATION*
(Boréal, April 2011, 220 pages)

As a journalist for a 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.

La Reparation pays tribute to the survivors and to the people whose help allows them to carry on.

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*.

Gestern, Hélène: *EUX SUR LA PHOTO*
(Arléa, Août 2011, 288 pages)
Short-listed for the *Prix du Roman Fnac*

A magnificent reflection about family secrets and the specific memories that photography preserves.

A small ad in a newspaper – like a message in a bottle. Hélène is trying to find out the truth about her mother, who died when she was three. Her only clues: two names and a photograph found among some family documents that shows a happy, carefree young woman, with two men that Hélène doesn't know. An answer arrives: Stéphane, a French scientist who lives in England, has recognized his own father.

So begins a long correspondence studded with clues. Hélène and Stéphane patiently work backwards through time, digging into family archives, gazing at photographs, searching through their own memories. Their stories gradually begin to call out and respond to each other and to overlap at times, generating a tale that is not like the one they had always been told. Their unexpected discoveries lead them to reexamine their own points of view about their families, their childhoods and their own lives.

This is a captivating novel and the plot is revealed with great craft.

Hélène Gestern is 40 years old. She lives and works in the city of Nancy. *EUX SUR LA PHOTO* is her first novel.

“*C'est à découvrir absolument et j'envie votre chance de ne pas l'avoir encore lu*”. **Page**

“*Une histoire d'amour peu banale et véritablement captivante, un délicieux moment de lecture*”.
L'Express

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

Girard, Eliane: *UN CADEAU*
(Bouchet-Chastel, April 2012, 152 pages)

Lucien finds the perfect- but far too expensive- birthday present for his girlfriend's 30th birthday. He doesn't know is that this present will change his life completely.

Despite his tight budget, Félicien wants to get Laure a sumptuous present for her 30th birthday. But as always, he waits until the last minute to deal with it. A morning off should be enough to find a present for her. But after several failed attempts, Félicien is starting to worry. He has to find something fast. Then he sees the perfect present; a splendid pair of boots. The price tag makes him dizzy: 869.95 euros. A month's rent. Time is flying and soon he has to get to work. In a trance, he gives in, buys the boots... and regrets it instantly. Overwhelmed with guilt for what he's done, he starts to feel paranoid; the expensive logo on the present's packaging marks him out as a wealthy man and everyone can see it– or that's what he thinks anyway. This new situation as a rich man leads him to do the most crazy and unexpected things...

Reflections on our consumer society, UN CADEAU pokes fun at the world's obsession with money. As the genre dictates, this crazy day will be filled with pitfalls and ends badly!

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

Eliane Girard is a radio journalist and the author of a number of books among which *MAIS QUI VA GARDER LE CHAT ?*, *QUI M'AIMERA ENCORE QUAND JE SERAI MORT ?*, *MAGALI*, *YOURCENAR ET MOI*. *UN CADEAU* is her fourth novel.

Lévy, Aurélie: *MA VIE POUR UN OSCAR* (Plon, June 2012, 150 pages)

A young Parisian, caustic-witted and self-absorbed, becomes the personal assistant of a Hollywood star. Little by little, her thoughts about the true meaning of success evolve.

Camille, a young, middle class French girl who dreams of fame and far away places, lands in Los Angeles at 22, hoping to work in Hollywood. She manages to get an interview with John C., an American film star who hires her as his personal assistant. She soon discovers his caprices, the insane luxury that surrounds him, the world of the studios and what goes on backstage at the Oscars. Little by little she loses her distance from the larger-than-life intensity of the star's daily existence, gently sliding into a kind of servility she ultimately no longer even questions. And yet, Camille and John C., find they share a kind of common solitude, omnipresent in Hollywood.

Born in Paris, Aurélie Lévy left France at 18 to study abroad, first in Japan, then in Los Angeles where she was the personal assistant of a Hollywood star. Her first documentary, *LOST AND FOUND*, shows the dark side of fame and fortune in America by tracing the tragic destiny of Casey Johnson, heiress to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical empire.

Loustalot, Arthur: *LÀ OÙ COMMENCE LE SECRET* (JC Lattès, January 2012, 190 pages)

In this book we meet a wide range of people: Nino, the ex-flamenco star, lives alone in an Andalusian village, accompanied only by his memories, his cane and a donkey. An accident shattered both his dreams and his dance career. Wu, an elderly Chinese man, pays touching tribute to his dead son. And George, age 76, pedals energetically around Paris on his bicycle.

In this cosmopolitan collection of stories, Arthur Loustalot portrays both the violence and the sensitivity found within men who have found the strength to overcome life's misery. Their solitude resonates through harsh landscapes, speaking of love, sacrifice and grief. But also of imagination and the miracle of hope, of "where the secret begins"...

Arthur Loustalot is 23. After studying literature at the Lycée Louis le Grand, he published his first novel, *NOS FILS AIMÉS*, which was well received by the press, in 2010.

"Cinq portraits d'hommes hantés par leurs faillites intimes donnent à ce recueil de nouvelles plus qu'une unité, une couleur, un timbre, une harmonie capable d'assourdir le malheur." **Le Monde**

"Arthur Loustalot poursuit son chemin précoce dans l'écriture, avec des nouvelles au camaïeu de tristesse et de regrets. [...] Chaque fois, le nouvelliste réussit à nous tenir en haleine." **Livres Hebdo**

"À seulement 23 ans, Arthur Loustalot est un écrivain prometteur. Son écriture est magnifique. Il excelle à décrire les personnages et leurs sentiments [...] chaque histoire est bouleversante et étonnante." **Le Télégramme**

Mansour, Ali: *LE PORTE-MONNAIE* (Fayard, March 2012, 256 pages)

LE PORTE-MONNAIE is a story of a heroic teenager with an unfit mother but also an unsparing portrait of a society crushed by poverty, tyranny and traditionalism.

His father's absence has made Souleymane the man of the house. Not that his mother is the least bit grateful. Men? There are enough of them in Tunisia already, she says. Her rebellious nature and dreams of liberation make her feel angry about all men, including her own son. This latter is arrested on the bus one day. He is taken in to the police station for questioning, but doesn't understand why. He is innocent! The Commissioner keeps talking about a stolen wallet. Could it be the one his mother had taken out on the bus to pay for the tickets? He'd never seen it before. Meanwhile Souleymane's grandmother, Lella Aziza, is worried about her grandson's disappearance. This relentless old woman, with sharp eye and furrowed brow, wanders the city alone, day after day, looking for him...

Born in Tunisia, Ali Mansour now lives in France.

Tadger, Akli: LA MEILLEURE FAÇON DE S'AIMER**(JC Lattès, January 2012, 290 pages)****English sample available**

In hospital after a stroke, a woman silently revisits her past, a life filled with secrets, disappointing love affairs, violence and betrayal.

From deep within the folds of her memory emerges the vision of a shining star, a little girl in a yellow dress, her one true love, who she left behind in Algeria a lifetime before... At her bedside, her son Saïd, born in France, wonders why his mother has never been able to tell him she loves him, while he is overwhelmed with love for her. Between his job as an insurance salesman and his erratic relationships with women, Saïd feels helpless in the face of his mother's illness. Words of love are meaningless, he tells himself, only acts of love are real. Saïd decides to prove his love by delivering his mother from her suffering.

Akli Tadger's unique blend of affection and humour shines through every page of this moving and very personal novel.

Akli Tadger was born in Paris and is the author of seven novels. Three of them have been adapted for television: LE PASSAGER DE TASSILI, LE PORTEUR DE CARTABLE and soon on France 3 IL ÉTAIT UNE FOIS... PEUT-ÊTRE PAS.

"Mené avec beaucoup de délicatesse par un écrivain qui possède le sens de la narration, la justesse des dialogues, le roman se charge en émotion, sans se dérober devant le réalisme qu'exigent certaines situations."

Livres Hebdo

"Sans jamais basculer dans l'apitoiement, Akli Tadger mêle humour, tendresse et cruauté, et révèle la clé d'une vie meilleure d'arriver à s'aimer. Un roman délicat, drôle et grave à la fois." **Page**

"On rit, on a les yeux qui piquent, l'envie d'avalier le texte d'un bloc, un vrai petit bonheur!" **Femina**

"Clotilde et Saïd, c'est un couple moderne. C'est la confrontation de deux solitudes. S'engueuler, s'accrocher, c'est leur façon de s'aimer." **Le Courrier d'Atlas**

Brami, Alma: C'EST POUR TON BIEN**(Mercure de France, February 2012, 200 pages)**

Charlotte lives with her mother, Lili, in a cocoon of love and tenderness. Lili was only 18 when she had Charlotte, and her family kicked her out. To compensate for that rejection, she has built an exclusive bond with the little girl, turning Charlotte into both the source of her own strength, and her defence against the world. Lili's motto is, "Make your own happiness so it will never be in short supply." She never denies Charlotte anything, to the entire satisfaction of the little girl, who loves having her endlessly attentive mother all to herself. But can a cotton-candy existence satisfy her indefinitely? A borderline incestuous portrait of a mother-daughter relationship in which the love is more overwhelming than nourishing.

After SANS ELLE, ILS L'ONT LAISSÉ LÀ and TANT QUE TU ES HEUREUSE, Alma Brami delves even deeper into the complexities of family life, with her trademark varied and accurate palette of emotions.

"Opérant un subtil changement de narration, l'auteur propulse le lecteur dans la peau de Zaza, coincée dans une éducation d'une autre siècle, et aux prises avec un mariage arrangé." **Page**

"Avec une belle sensibilité et une écriture ciselée, l'auteur, qui est également comédienne, nous fait entrer dans l'univers d'une famille troublée. Un beau livre." **Prima**

"Un roman très attachant." **Télé 7 Jours**

"Une exploration de la complexité des relations familiales." **La Quinzaine Littéraire**

Cobert, Harold: DIEU SURFE AU PAYS BASQUE**(Éditions Héloïse d'Ormesson, March 2012, 158 pages)**

A moving and accurate insight into a father's pain following a miscarriage.

Two thirty-year olds meet on the beach on a summer day. What might have been nothing more than a summer fling develops into a much deeper relationship. Yet their idyllic love story will be put to the test of harsh reality when the woman suffers a miscarriage. Will the love between them be strong enough to overcome this wound? With tenderness and a delicate touch, Harold Cobert describes a father's pain and mourning for his unborn child.

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

Harold Cobert was born in Bordeaux. He is the author of three novels, including UN HIVER AVEC BAUDELAIRE rights sold to Germany (Piper), Italy (Elliot) and Taiwan (Rye Field) and L'ENTREVUE DE SAINT-CLOUD (*Prix du Style* 2010 and *Jeunes talents Cultura*).

Rights already sold to : Germany (Piper)

"Un très beau texte. Un hymne à l'amour et à la vie." **Page**

"Tendre est aimant. Un récit inoubliable." **Marie-Claire**

"Un récit sincère, beau comme un roman." **Livres Hebdo**

"D'une plume sensible et futée qui joue avec son sujet, Harold Cobert montre que, contrairement aux idées reçues, on peut se sentir pleinement père avant la naissance d'un enfant. (...) Un beau roman d'amour."
Marianne

de Turckheim, Émilie: *HÉLOÏSE EST CHAUVE* (Éditions Héloïse d'Ormesson, February 2012, 220 pages)

HÉLOÏSE EST CHAUVE is an extravagant and surreal story of eternal love.

Heloise has loved Lawrence since she was a little girl. She doesn't mind the fact that three generations of women in her family have already slept with him. She is crazy about him. As an energetic child, a provocative teenager, a young mother and a successful photographer, Heloise remains blinded by this girlish love into her 50s.

This senseless and entertaining story is a stunning portrait of a woman who is both fragile and indomitable. Behind the fine writing and incredible humour lurk situations of eroticism and transgression.

Born in 1980, Emilie de Turckheim is the author of LES AMANTS TERRESTRES, LES PENDUS, LE JOLI MOIS DE MAI and more. She was awarded the *Vocation Prize* for her 2007 novel CHUTE LIBRE.

"Une véritable pépite littéraire." **L'Express**

"L'auteur transforme un postulat surprenant en une formidable histoire d'amour qui se déguste comme une douceur inédite, fourrée d'heureux grains de folie qui craquent délicieusement sous la dent [...] un texte souvent cru mais toujours transfiguré par une écriture allègre et gourmande [...] singulière et impertinente." **Le Point**

"Derrière l'écriture raffinée et l'incroyable drôlerie des situations se cachent érotisme et transgression." **Blog cultura**

Blondel, Jean-Philippe: *ET RESTER VIVANT* (Buchen Chastel, August 2011, 242 pages) Shortlisted for the *Prix Roman Fnac*

ET RESTER VIVANT tells this coming-of-age story, full of laughter and pain, discoveries, encounters and looks back at the past.

The narrator is twenty-two. He has lost his mother and his brother in a car accident. The story begins just as he loses his father in a car accident too. On his own from then on, he decides to sell the family apartment and leave with his two closest friends: Laure and Samuel. Destination: Morro Bay, California. Morro Bay: an obsession fed by the Lloyd Cole song for years. California: the mythical country that influenced an entire generation.

For the first time, Jean-Philippe Blondel tells his story. We remember his gentleness, and discover his incredible resilience. And this text, which finalizes mourning, celebrates life above all.

Jean-Philippe Blondel is 43 and has been teaching English at Lycée Sainte-Savine (Aube France) for twenty years. His first novel, ACCÈS DIRECT À LA PLAGES (2003), won the *Prix des librairies Initiales* award. After several books published Robert Laffont, he joined Editions Buchet/Chastel with LE BABY-SITTER, which published his book G229 in 2011.

"Une ode à la vie". **Page**

"Un poignant roman autobiographique". **Livres Hebdo**

"Un déchirant cri du cœur: "Je voulais vivre. Putain, comme j'ai voulu vivre". **La Vie**

“Road-movie intense, fuite en avant dont on lit le récit d’une traite. Prenant et revigorant”. **Point de Vue**

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

Benzoni, Juliette: *LA COLLECTION KLEDERMANN*
(Plon, March 2012, 450 pages)

As soon as he discovers the ties of his wife’s family to the alleged descendants of the Borgias, catastrophes and disasters come one after another to Aldo Morosini. The reason: someone covets the fabulous Kledermann jewellery collection.

Wounded by a gunshot in the head before the Château de la Croix-Haute, Aldo Morosini has narrowly escaped death thanks to the deftness of a young surgeon who managed to extract the mortal bullet.

Lying in hospital, he is haunted by the last image he glimpsed before the terrible shot rang out, that of his wife, Lisa, running to throw herself into the arms of an unknown man, the two then bolting away. As his wound gradually heals at Mme de Sommières’s home and he contemplates his marriage circling the drain, Aldo discovers the ties that unite Lisa’s family with the alleged descendants of the Borgias.

But his ordeal has just begun, and Aldo watches as one catastrophe follows the next. The evil that has invaded the Château de la Croix-Haute seems now to be concentrated in a stately home on the banks of Lac de Tessin - that is, unless it actually resides in a simple villa in Nogent-sur-Marne.

Will those who have sworn to wipe it out be able to do so without coming to harm themselves?

Juliette Benzoni is the author of several successful historical series, including *LA FLORENTINE*, *LE BOITEUX DE VARSOVIE* and *SECRET D’ETAT* which have sold over 900,000 copies and have been translated into nine languages. Her latest titles, *LES “LARMES” DE MARIE ANTOINETTE* (2006), *LE COLLIER SACRÉ DE MONTEZUMA* (2007), *L’ANNEAU D’ATLANTIDE* (2009), and the series *LE TEMPS DES POISONS* (2008 & 2009) have sold over 100,000 copies each.

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Perez, Sylvie: *LA SCANDALEUSE DE PÉRICLÈS* (Robert Laffont, April 2012 approx. 320 pages)

Athens. 5th century BC. Democracy has just been introduced. The city has become the center for culture and the arts. Pericles is its leader.

This most powerful man in Athens falls desperately in love with Aspasia, a beautiful woman from the island of Miletus. He can't bear to be apart from her ravishing body or her brilliant mind. Going against societal norms, Pericles casts his wife out of their home in order to welcome Aspasia under his roof. Their faith in the future, their actions in helping the city of Athens to shine won't matter. Athens will not forgive this moral deviance. And soon the war against Sparta and the plague that decimates the population will stifle the city's splendor.

La Scandaleuse de Périclès is a novel inspired by historical facts. Aspasia was a brilliant woman who had great influence on Pericles and his politics. She was a muse and inspiration and at the heart of an historical scandal that is not widely known.

Sylvie Perez delivers an exquisitely written novel about sex, power, and politics.

Sylvie Perez was a journalist for *L'Express*. After seven years on France Inter, she hosted an archaeology program on Europe 1. She is the author of *Un couple infernal, l'écrivain et son éditeur* published by Editions Bartillat, and several books of interviews notably with Claude Lellouche and Georges Wilson, published by Fayard. This is her first novel.

Dicker, Joël: *LES DERNIERS JOURS DE NOS PÈRES* (Faliois, January 2012, 300 pages)

This page-turner – a tale of adventure and a love story rolled into one – will appeal to both female and male readers. The action takes place during World War II, within the ranks one of the most secretive spy organizations in the world : the Special Operation Executive (SOE). Readers will identify with the young recruits and share their fears over the course of their missions

The hero, an admirable role model for his fellow spies, will nevertheless be the one whose weaknesses almost make the mission fail. The action takes place during World War II, within the ranks of one of the most secretive spy organizations in the world.

Paris, 1940: Young Paul-Émile leaves for London in hopes of joining the Resistance. He is soon recruited by the SOE, a top-secret organization founded by Churchill, whose mission is to use natives of occupied countries to perform dangerous intelligence and sabotage operations behind enemy lines. He joins a group of French men and women who will become his comrades in arms... and much more. Meanwhile, on the continent, German counter-espionage is in a state of red alert... This is a real page-turner – a tale of adventure and a love story rolled into one.

Joël Dicker was born in Geneva in 1985. After studying law, one of his first short stories won the International Young Authors' Prize for 2005 and was subsequently published. *LES DERNIERS JOURS DE NOS PÈRES* is his first novel. The manuscript won the Prix des écrivains genevois for 2010.

Riou, Jean-Michel: *UN JOUR, JE SERAI ROI* *VERSAILLES, LE PALAIS DE TOUTES LES PROMESSES - T1* (Flammarion, November 2011, 624 pages) 13 000 copies sold in France

Versailles: 3,000 rooms decorated by an army of artists, 8,000 hectares of reclaimed swampland, 6,000 servants to assist the Sun King. Fifty years of perseverant labour, and tens of thousands of men and women thronging to this new Eldorado. Architects, masons, adventurers, soldiers, workers, prostitutes... here is their story. And the story of the Palace of All Promises, from 1638, the day when the future Louis XIV was born, to his death in 1715.

Through the destinies of three clans – that of the Marquis de La Place, that of Pontgallet, the king's mason, and that of the illegitimate Toussaint Delaforge –, from Paris to Versailles, we follow the saga of the most fabulous of palaces where the sun never sets.

Who is the father of the orphan Toussaint Delaforge? Convinced that the truth is being concealed from him, Delaforge escapes from the terrible Montcler College to discover the secret of his origins. Finding himself on the street, he is taken in by Pontgallet, the king's builder who offers him a new life. Ten years later, Delaforge

has made a success of himself: he constructs Versailles before taking on other prestigious projects such as the inns to house the workers appearing en masse. Cheating, lying and stealing to meet his ends, he aims to one day be powerful enough to force the Marquis de La Place to recognise him as his son. But is the truth always located where we believe it to be found? How is vengeance to be wreaked on the king's own construction site?

Jean-Michel Riou has published a number of best-sellers with Flammarion, including LE SECRET DE CHAMPOLLION, L'INSOUMISE DU ROI-SOLEIL, 1630, LA VENGEANCE DE RICHELIEU, and 1658, L'ECLIPSE DU ROI-SOLEIL.

**Fedorovski, Vladimir: *LE ROMAN DE RASPOUTINE*
(Le Rocher, December 2011, 224 pages)**

Raspoutine is an enigmatic personality with a controversial reputation. He lived in Russia at the beginning of XXth century, and the author reveals us the four facets of his life : first, an ardent and impetuous lover ; a mystic ; a prophet ; a myth. And finally, over the years he became a "legend". He was a personal adviser for political leaders "une éminence grise" who played an essential part among them. Raspoutine was a cunning and crafty adviser with a great influence : what we call now "la raspoutinerie". Later on, many russian and european Government leaders have used the Raspoutine "way to behave" in order to be exempted from liability in tragic events, treasons and fatal errors ! Vladimir Fedorovski describes the details of this out-of-common life, and many years of research were necessary to work on precious archives and evidences.

The talented author reveals us a new Raspoutine. And finally he rehabilitates the great russian adventurer, Grigori Iefimovitch Novykh.

**Bonneau, Renée: *REQUIEM POUR UN JEUNE SOLDAT*
(Nouveau Monde, January 2011, 175 pages)**

A profoundly moving meditation on the meaning of brotherhood and of compassion above and beyond the notion of "friend or enemy": this novel describes both the absurdity of war and the dignity of people who must cope with the most extreme events.

Italy, 1944. After intense and violent battles around Monte Cassino, the German army withdraws northward and, despite the partigiani's efforts to prevent it, SS battalions commit abominable massacres of civilians in the villages of Tuscany and Liguria.

In the German hospital of a Cistercian monastery, the Italian monks look after wounded German soldiers. Among them, a monk who speaks German and a young Austrian, fatally wounded. Day after day, they recount their youthful memories to each other, in order to forget about the horrors, suffering and fear of dying that surround them. The Vienna Music Conservatory, the cello, Schubert's music, the beauty of the Tuscan countryside and cities... all these combine to conceal for as long as possible the terrible path that lies ahead.

Written like the Italian monk's memoirs, REQUIEM POUR UN JEUNE SOLDAT is the very intimist story of the unlikely but keen relationship between two enemies.

Author of historical novels, Renée Bonneau has already published DANCE MACABRE AU MOULIN ROUGE (2007) and SANGUINE SUR LA BUTTE (2010).

"Un roman intimiste" **Actualité Juive Hebdo**

"Tous les grands sujets de la vie et de la mort sont abordés: la souffrance, la haine, la musique, l'amour, ils ne peuvent laisser le lecteur indifférent." **Historia**

**Boussinot, Roger: *LES GUICHETS DU LOUVRE*
(Gaïa, April 2012 (new edition), 117 pages)**

The sober account of a young man drawn into the trials of the Occupation.

Paris, July 1942. A Provincial student prepares to leave the capital for his native Gironde. With his suitcase packed and bedroom tidied, the visit of a classmate he barely knows changes everything. A roundup of Jews is imminent. The pair must act fast. The classmate gives the young man an apparently straightforward mission he cannot refuse. The student knows he has to help resistance to the roundup, commanded by occupying forces and French police. His holidays can wait a few hours more, just as long as the famous "Vel d'Hiv Roundup" lasts.

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Roger Boussinot waited over twenty years to share his story, before piecing back together the “shattered mirror” that his memory had become after 16 July 1942. This poignant account denounces with great humility one of the most shameful and long hushed-up episodes in the history of occupied France.

Roger Boussinot was born in Tunis in 1921. Journalist and anarchist, he produced a varied literary oeuvre from *VIE ET MORT DE JEAN CHALOSSE* to *VIOLONS DU BAL* and *LES ENFANTS DANS LES ARBRES*. Author of the monumental *ENCYCLOPEDIE DU CINÉMA* and founder of *L'Écran français* journal, he was involved in a number of films as a screenplay writer, scriptwriter, adapter and director. *LES GUICHETS DU LOUVRE*, was adapted for cinema in 1974, giving rise to polemic and censure. Roger Boussinot died in 2001.

“A work invaluable to history teachers everywhere. Its straightforward style and the sense of humanity and lived experience it exudes will have a longer lasting affect on children than their textbook lessons.” Bulletin critique du livre en français

“LES GUICHETS DU LOUVRE denounced, well before many others, the role of the French police and the hypocrisy of the Vel'd'hiv Roundup.” Panoramiques

“This poignant account denounces with great humility one of the most shameful and long hushed-up episodes in the history of occupied France.” Sud Ouest

Chandernagor, Françoise: *LES DAMES DE ROME* (Albin Michel, March 2012, 448 pages)

The sequel to *LES ENFANTS D'ALEXANDRIE*, *LES DAMES DE ROME* is an impressive reminiscence about Rome in the midst of evolution, with its powerful families and their liaisons, treason and conspiracies.

In this adventure-filled saga, we encounter a range of powerful women. First among them is Octavia, the older sister of Octavius. As the First Lady of Rome, she wields considerable influence. A dozen children – some of her own blood – live in her residence; she also care for the three children of Queen Cleopatra and Mark Antony, including Princess Selene. When Selene's brothers suspiciously disappear, she is on her own in Rome, where she is expected to marry a nobleman. But Octavia has her own ideas: Selene should marry the King of Mauretania, on the other side of the Mediterranean Sea, a liaison that will threaten the Ptolemy dynasty...

A member of France's highly respected Goncourt Academy, Françoise Chandernagor's work has been continuously acclaimed since her first novel, *L'ALLÉE DU ROI*.

“Jamais l'Égypte ancienne n'a paru aussi réaliste sous la plume d'un auteur.” Livres Hebdo

“Historienne de formation, Françoise Chandernagor maîtrise impeccablement ses sources. On sent à chaque page sa passion et son plaisir.” Livres Hebdo

“Françoise Chandernagor écrit dans un style direct, parfois cru, mais inventif et littéraire. Elle porte son Égypte à bras-le-corps avec cette aisance, ce brio que confère une passion intelligente.” Le Figaro littéraire

“Place aux sensations, aux gestes et aux sentiments. Le fantôme de Séléné et tous les spectres qu'elle traîne après elle y retrouvent des couleurs. On attend avec impatience la suite de cette magie.” Le Point

Morillot, Juliette: *LES SACRIFIÉS* (Belfond, April 2012, 264 pages)

Set in the US and in the British colonies in the early and mid-20th century, *LES SACRIFIÉS* is a tale of five interlocked destinies. Fraught with treachery, deception and murder, it is based on an infamous trial, the Proudlock case.

In 1954, the elderly Jasper Proudlock was run over by a car on a quiet neighbourhood street in Connecticut. After the funeral, Ethel, his widow, and his two daughters begin to pierce the manifold mysteries that shroud his brutal death. Day after day, the two young women unravel the thread of their parents' lives and confront their mother with her devastating past of passion and betrayal. Who is Ethel really? On 23 April 1911, the eccentric young English socialite attended evensong at St Mary's Church in Kuala Lumpur. Three hours later, she walked home and shot her lover. Sentenced to death by the Sultan of Selangor, she was eventually pardoned after a highly publicised trial.

Partly set in Malaysia and based on a true story that rocked the British Empire in the early 20th century, *LES SACRIFIÉS* is a spellbinding novel that takes us into a manipulative woman's notorious realm of vibrant intrigue.

Novelist, historian and journalist, Juliette Morillot is a recognised specialist in Korea, where she has lived for many years. She has written several books about that country, including *LE PALAIS DE LA COLLINE AUX NUAGES* (Plon, 1993), *LES ORCHIDÉES ROUGES DE SHANGHAI* has been translated in: Germany (Goldmann) Spain (Grijalbo / Circulo De lectores), Netherlands (De Arbeiderspers), Slovenia (Učila International Zalozba).

WOMEN WRITING

Hug, Nathalie: *LA DEMOISELLE DES TIC-TAC*

(Calmann-Lévy, March 2012, 208 pages)

English sample available

A touching story set in Germany and France before and during the Second World War.

Rosy and her mother, Mutti, left the German town Ludwigshafen in 1937 for a better life in France. But in this little village no one has forgotten the annexation of 1871. Few people reach out to them. It is true that Mutti admires Hitler, despises priests, Jews and civil servants, and that *Mein Kampf* is her bedside book ... But for Rosy, aged ten, everyday life is not much fun. When war breaks out and Hitler takes over this part of Lorraine once again, things change. But not for long. Between November 1944 and March 1945, while the Allies pound the region, Rosy and her mother take refuge in the cellar. To survive, Rosy clings to her memories. She has scant provisions and for sole company a little hen and funny spiders with very fine legs which her uncle Edy, whom she loved like a father, called "the tick-tacks".

Nathalie Hug, together with her husband Jérôme Camut, has written seven thrillers among which *LES YEUX D'HARRY* and *LES MURS DE SANG*. *LA DEMOISELLE DE TIC-TAC* is her second solo novel, after the press acclaimed *L'ENFANT RIEN*.

"Le nouveau roman de Nathalie Hug rappelle LA PETITE FILLE AUX ALLUMETTES." **Page**

"Un livre qu'on ne peut que conseiller et qu'il faut se procurer au plus vite!" **Anamour.fr**

"Avec beaucoup de justesse, ce livre nous parle de la guerre, de la haine, de la différence!"
Fibromaman.blogspot.fr

Nakamura, Eriko: *NAAANDE!?* *LES TRIBULATIONS D'UNE JAPONAISE EN FRANCE*

(Robert Laffont, March 2012, 180 pages)

How can these people act this way? This is the question that Eriko Nakamura, a Japanese journalist settled in France, tries to both understand and explain about Parisians. She has been living in Paris for 10 years and still asks herself this question every day. With humor and awe, she paints a picture of typical Parisian behavior to exemplify the differences with the Japanese culture.

Whether using public transportation, at the doctor's office, out to dinner, in the countryside, by the sea, at a wedding ceremony, confronted with a policeman or a babysitter, at the market, in public restrooms or in an upscale store... Eriko Nakamura covers everything there is to know about French behavior in all kinds of situations and then demonstrates how things are different in Japan.

Despite her jabs at the French, it is clear that Eriko has a love of the people and their culture and the extraordinary advantage given to everyone, especially women, to make dreams come true.

Eriko Nakamura is a television personality in Japan, first known as a baseball announcer. She is married to a Frenchman and has two young children, and divides her time between Paris and Tokyo. In Japan, she has become a specialist on French customs which she describes on TV programs or at conferences. She is also the spokeswoman of several Japanese fashion designers.

Germain, Rafaële: *VOLTE-FACE ET MALAISES* (Librex/ Libre Expression, March 2012, 528 pages)

Geneviève Creighan, a thirty-two-year-old ghostwriter, is a hypersensitive woman who tries to hide her emotions... with little success. Her boyfriend Florian, a handsome 37-year-old architect with whom she had been living for four years, has just left her. To make matters more humiliating, he dropped her for a much younger woman. Devastated, Geneviève gets back on her feet with the support of her friends, a ridiculous but effective therapy, a sense of humour and the arrival of a young writer, Maxime, who seduces her in spite of her reticence.

Tired of his young chick, Florian returns to Geneviève's arms. Convinced her destiny is to be with Florian, Geneviève explains to Maxime that she can no longer see him. Ultimately, she realizes her mistake and decides to win Maxime back—and finally take charge of her happiness.

In this third novel, Rafaële Germain sketches a convincing portrait of her generation, with a young thirtysomething heroine in the lead role, inspired by events in her workplace.

Rafaële Germain is a bestselling author and regular contributor to Radio-Canada. She is also currently working on the screenplay of her first novel, *SOUTIEN-GORGE ROSE ET VESTON NOIR*. Her previous title *GIN TONIC ET CONCOMBRE* was the best-seller in Canada: Over 85,000 copies sold

Rights for previous titles sold to: Canada (McArthur & Company), Canada book club (Québec Loisirs), France (Les Presses de la Cité), Poland (Proszynsky), Russia (Eksmo), Slovakia (Mlade Leta), Turkey (Epsilon)

Praise for *SOUTIEN-GORGE ROSE ET VESTON NOIR*:

“Rafaële Germain brosse ici un tableau des plus justes et intéressants des jeunes de 30 ans ou autour de la trentaine.» Le Journal de Québec

“Rafaële Germain prend le pouls de sa génération avec empathie, humour et un brin de sagesse. » Châtelaine

“Pétillant, frais, léger, punché. » Elle Québec

Praise for *GIN TONIC ET CONCOMBRE*:

“De la très bonne chick lit!” Moi & cie

“Du souffle, du rythme et beaucoup d'humour.” Le Soleil

“Quel sens de la réplique. Quel sens du rythme, surtout. [...] Une jeune écrivaine [...] qui a du souffle, du bagout, du cran.” Le Devoir

Bourdin, Françoise: *SERMENT D'AUTOMNE* (Belfond, March 2012, 308 pages,)

A sensitive and touching novel about the complex relationship between twin brothers by one of France's foremost writers of commercial women's fiction.

Guillaume, a brilliant architect, runs a successful company in Versailles. When his twin brother Robin, a wine grower in Burgundy, asks for his help, Guillaume joins him for a few days. Robin is gravely ill, suffering from a cancer, and can't manage the grape harvest alone. Moreover, his wife is pregnant and will soon give birth... Once there, Guillaume finally decides to stay even if he has to put aside his thriving professional career and renounce to his former Parisian life...

A best-selling author in France, Françoise Bourdin has published more than thirty novels at Belfond and is renown in the realm of French commercial women's fiction. Her novels have been translated into eleven languages. The Russian rights for several previous books are sold to Hemiro/Family Leisure Cub.

Atlas, Corinne: *LES SŒURS RIBELLI* (Fayard, March 2012, 432 pages)

Through the eyes of three sisters, this novel recounts the last years of the 20th century and highlights the feminist movement that transformed family life – and life in general – in western society.

The exhilarating 1970s. The three Ribelli sisters range in age from 15 to 21. Jeanne, the oldest, is swept up in the women's liberation movement. She is convinced her future will be found in Paris, far from the provincial town where she was born. Brigitte, the middle sister, refuses to conform to the emerging feminist

ideology. She is determined to marry a man who will make her a happy housewife. Elsa, the youngest sister, is sure she'll be a famous writer someday...

But fate has a knack for getting in the way. The Ribelli sisters' lives don't live up to their youthful dreams. Jeanne becomes a midwife, falls into the arms of a young Italian revolutionary, and winds up as a single mom. Brigitte sees her dream of conjugal bliss dashed by her philandering husband's repeated infidelities. She becomes, almost in spite of herself, the businesswoman of the family. And Elsa's literary aspirations are sacrificed to an adulterous passion, followed by a devastating depression...

Screenwriter and playwright, Corinne Atlas has also written many films, including *Une Famille Formidable*, *Le Triporteur de Belleville* and *Les Inséparables*.

**Chocas, Viviane: *JE VAIS BEAUCOUP MIEUX QUE MES COPAINS MORTS*
(Éditions Héloïse d'Ormesson, January 2012, 176 pages)**

Blanche runs a creative writing workshop in a nursing home. During the classes, her elderly pupils start to open up, telling tales and memories from their youth. The stories seem to help the old-age pensioners recover some of their lost spirit and energy, while Blanche herself is unable to do that. She lives in the moment and is reluctant to reminisce. But unexpected events will force Blanche to confront her past, too.

Viviane Chocas gives us both laughter and serious ideas in this refined and witty novel about old age.

The author was born in Paris in 1962. She has been a journalist for the last twenty years. Her first novel, *BAZAR MAGYAR*, a search into family secrets, was published by Héloïse d'Ormesson in 2006.

"Un roman plein de sensibilité et de sensualité qui confirme le talent de Viviane Chocas pour raconter la vie et ses soubresauts, la famille et ses secrets, l'amour, ses délices et ses blessures." **Page**

"Un livre qui sent la jeunesse, la fantaisie, la vie. Un détonant mélange de générations, plein d'ardeurs et de désirs, dans un style gai, cru, enlevé." **Figaro Madame**

**de Bodinat, Caroline: *LES ENFANTS D'EUGÈNE*
(Fayard, Mai 2012, 250 pages)**

32 years old Mathilde can fend for herself. She always has a ready reply, to the point of insolence.

Emotionally, she doesn't like to tie herself down. And motherhood is not her thing; she likes going out and sleeping late. Then she meets Jean-Jacques. He's forty-five, divorced and lives in the suburbs with his two teenage kids, Vincent, sixteen, and Chloe, almost twelve. When the two adolescents enter the picture, the previously smooth-sailing romance hits choppy waters: weekends, last minute changes of schedule, vacations together...

Vincent and Chloe are tough; they've made mincemeat of their father's previous girlfriends, but Mathilde is a fighter. She is determined not to give in, and bends over backwards to please her "stepchildren", planning elaborate seduction campaigns to win them over – unsuccessfully. The fact is, all her efforts ever get her are slammed doors, mixed feelings, jealousy and rivalry. Every so often a small victory is won, in extremis. Will our apprentice stepmother manage to make a place for herself in her new-found mily? Or will she forfeit the match?

Caroline de Bodinat is a freelance journalist and works for, among others, *Libération* and *Madame Figaro*.

**Girod de l'Ain, Alix: *UN BON COUP DE JEUNE*
(Anne Carrière, March 2012, 302 pages)**

A conjugal comedy, in which she poses a real question for our society: can we – indeed must we – struggle to look young forever?

It happens to all of us – or it will one day: you look at a photo and you barely recognise yourself. 'Can that really be me? When 45-year-old Alice Mignan-Bertin suddenly realizes that she and her husband, Nicolas, have aged, she's frantic: they will have to fight it Nicolas isn't thrilled about this prospect, but then it dawns on him that he too ought to do all he can to push back the years: in his business, advertising, letting signs of age show is like signing your own death warrant. So the couple sets their metamorphosis in motion. Their friends and colleagues are going through their own dramas, which all have one thing in common: none of them are happy with the number of candles on their birthday cake.

WOMEN WRITING

For the last fifteen years Alix Girod de l'Ain has been an outspoken journalist for ELLE magazine, She lives in Paris and is the author of DE L'AUTRE CÔTÉ DU LIT which was adapted for the screen.

"Un roman pétillant. On se gondole, on s'émeut, on s'attache." **Elle**

"Nous, lecteurs conquis, on rit à peu près toutes les dix secondes." **Télé 7 jours**

Avril, Nicole: BRUNE – MOI, FLORA TRISTAN

(Plon, January 2012, 276 pages)

In this intimate novel told in the first person, Nicole Avril traces the life of Flora Tristan, world traveller and adventurer whose singular destiny led her to become a passionate defender of liberty and of women's rights.

On her thirtieth birthday, Flora sailed for Peru - the only woman on board ship - to establish her ties to her relatives, and, she returned a changed woman. Upon her return, she wrote LE PÉRÉGRINATIONS D'UNE PARIJA. Jealous of her success, her husband shot her in the back, where it would remain until the end of her life. Years before Marx and Engels began writing about the class struggle, Nicole Avril saw in the English industrial revolution the future of France. Her thoughts and ideals were inseparable from her actions, and she took off on a tour of France to organize the working class and promote feminine suffrage. In Bordeaux, she died of exhaustion. She was only 41.

Nicole Avril is the author of several works, including L'IMPÉRATRICE, (translated into nine languages), LE ROMAN DU VISAGE, MOI DORA MAAR (60 000 copies sold, translated into 11 languages) and VOYAGE EN AVRIL among others.

"Nicole Avril, de sa plume passionnée, nous fait voyager avec une héroïne qui a existé loin des clichés." **Elle**

"On plonge avec plaisir dans le destin de cette femme hors du commun et terriblement moderne."

Femme Actuelle

"Nicole Avril rend hommage à la pionnière du féminisme, Flora Tristan. Le portrait tendre d'une fatigue rebelle." **Transfuge**

"La romancière-biographie laisse ici la fiction prendre le relais de la réalité pour imaginer et ressentir de Flora Tristan- et notamment la douleur d'être une "bâtarde"- donnent un visage très humain à cette "drôle de bonne femme." **Femina**

"On aime parce que Flora Tristan est l'incarnation de la femme romantique qui n'a pas froid aux yeux." **Télé2**

"L'émancipation de la femme est l'objet principal de mes études et la cause à laquelle je me suis vouée." écrit Flora Tristan. Il en résulte une vie amoureuse ratée oscillant entre hommes et femmes. Une vie à rechercher la gloire que Nicole Avril contribue à lui rendre." **Paris Match**

"L'auteure, qui ne cache pas son admiration pour "cette incomparable pionnière", morte prématurément de la typhoïde, mêle l'art avec art roman et biographie." **Le Nouvel Observateur**

"Nicole Avril signe une flamboyante trajectoire, marquée, jusqu'au dernier souffle de son héroïne, par le courage, la rage et la volonté." **Aujourd'hui en France**

Becker, Emma: MR

(Denoel, January, 2011, 300 pages)

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

"Sometimes one extracts a splinter. Sometimes one is extracted from a splinter. The rest matters very little. The rest is nothing but this slow process of unloving that brings all the little girls back to shores where they unlearn pain and compromise and abnegation and angst, where sorrows are more harrowing and pleasure less enthralling."

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.

A confession taking the form of a novel. The cruel deconstruction of a fantasy. The disenchantment of a contemporary Lolita.

"Bewitching cruelty." **Tatiana de Rosnay, Journal du dimanche**

"A raw and delicate, Colette meets Catherine Millet type of novel." **Frédéric Beigbeder, Le Figaro Magazine**

Rights sold to: Germany (Piper), Italy (Baldini Castoldi Dalai), Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta), United Kingdom (Constable & Robinson, world English rights), Ukraine (Folio), Turkey (Ceres), Taiwan (Ecus, complex Chinese)

Rigoulot, Johanne: *BÂTI POUR DURER*

(Fayard, March 2012, 240 pages)

Film rights sold

Three destinies come together in a Parisian apartment building. Sonia earns a little extra money by letting her sometime lover, Aurélien, hide his stash at her place.

Recently she's been getting anonymous phone calls, however. Are they somehow related to the drugs she's harbouring? Or could there be a voyeur in one of the hundreds of windows across the way? Clément had always wanted an academic career, but he never imagined he'd have to be the care assistant for an elderly blind man in order to pay for his studies. If only he had a little money, maybe he'd be able to score a few more girls. In the meantime he's renting a room at Muriel's place. Muriel is a stewardess who'd always hoped to meet the man of her dreams while flying, only to fall in love with a cigarette-smoking gas station attendant from Bolivia, twenty years younger than her. An unexpected and almost unbelievable story, to say the least...

Blinded by their dreams and fantasies, Sonia, Clément and Muriel are oblivious to the opportunities that life has in store for them. Will they realize that fate may be offering them one last chance? Johanne Rigoulot's darkly compelling, quasi-behaviorist novel brings together the solitude of urban life, the downward spiral of bad choices and the self-delusion of desire.

Johanne Rigoulot is a producer and a screenwriter. Her first novel, ET À LA FINE TOUT LE MONDE MEURT was awarded the *Prix Marie-Claire*.

Gans, Valérie: *LE CHEF EST UNE FEMME*

Elle a des recettes pour tout... sauf pour l'amour !

(Flammarion, February 2012, 216 pages)

Graciane has recipes for everything... except for love. Her profession: a Michelin-starred chef. She is divorced, with two teenagers, a boy and a girl, who she raises alone in Paris. She comes from Sarre, a little village in the Pyrenees above Saint-Jean-de-Luz. In her early forties, she is a good-looking redhead, a little plump, with a personality that breathes her love for food. She enjoys life, food, flowers, wine, she has a dazzling smile. Perfectly content with her size 12 and generous bosom, she couldn't care less about her first wrinkles. She carries her age with dignity, not trying to look younger, quite the opposite in fact: in her opinion, the body is like wine, it improves with age! She is sensual, generous both in her body and mind. She has a scathing, sometimes disconcerting, sense of humour. She cannot resist one-liners or stinging banter, she has a sharp tongue and says what she thinks.

When comedy and comedy intermingle, it produces Graciane, a love-infused, good-humoured and gastronomic intrigue.

Valérie Gans is a novelist and journalist at *Madame Figaro*.

"Un cocktail revigorant, enlevé et savoureux." **Marie Claire**

"Un roman aussi délicieux que gourmand, où l'on savoure à la fois l'histoire d'amour, les inventions culinaires et l'humour omniprésent, sans oublier le carnet de recettes." **Force Ouvrière**

"[...] un délicieux roman qui met le lecteur en appétit." **Figaro Madame**

"[...] un petit chef d'œuvre d'humour, de légèreté et de gastronomie. Cela fait un bien fou en ces temps perturbés." **Valeurs actuelles**

"[...] un roman de bouche. Une lecture qui fait saliver, une prose qui fait gronder l'estomac." **Le Point**

**Duplessy-Rousée, Carole: *MARRE DE COMPTER POUR DES PRUNES!*
(Flammarion, April 2012, 360 pages)**

With her cheating husband and wild and unruly children, Juliette is losing the plot! She snaps, throws down the gauntlet and finally says no to being the obedient wife, perfect mother and housekeeper of a madhouse. She decides to set up camp in the guest room!

Her colleague and friend Marie-Jeanne hardly has any more of an amusing life but her capacity to find humour in dramatic situations makes her stronger. She supports Juliette in her quest for independence and encourages her to think about herself first. Florentin spends most of his time in the library where both women work. Discreet, withdrawn, he only lives for his research: unravelling the mystery of a more than six-century-old secret.

Juliette often watches this man, who tries to hide the horrible scar which disfigures him behind a long strand of brown hair. Little by little, he falls in love with the librarian, not daring to make a move.

And what if the GPS that governs the map of each heart finally allowed their eyes to meet?

Carole Duplessy-Rousée is a professor of French near Rouen. *MARRE DE COMPTER POUR DES PRUNES!* is her third novel.

**Petitjean-Cerf, Cypora: *LA BELLE ANNÉE*
(Stock, February 2012, 320 pages)**

Eleven-year-old Tracey lives in Saint-Denis, between two housing estates: the “Four Thousand” and the “Cosmonauts”. She hates her Japanese stepfather, Takashi, who is trying to learn French, and she has a complicated relationship with her mother, Elisabeth. Things could go on like this unchanged forever.

Then, in September, Tracey goes to secondary school and things change. For a start, she finds her own religion, the Cult of the Number Eight. Then she has a little sister, Saïa, who she enjoys taking care of. But more importantly, her relationships with other people – her father, her mother, Takashi, her grandmother, and her best friend Cosimo – change. She even gets friendly with a boy called Rabah whom she used to loathe. For months on end the two of them explore Saint-Denis, their home town full of tower blocks, regimented streets and parks. In the space of four seasons, one wonderful year, Tracey’s life undergoes a metamorphosis.

Narrated by an eleven-year-old girl, *One Wonderful Year* unfolds a sequence of amusing scenes, with searingly real dialogue, colourful characters and irresistible situations. It is also a tender book, revealing all the complexities of a child turning into an adolescent, her loneliness, disillusion, hopes, and difficult relationships with those around her.

Cypora Petitjean-Cerf was born in 1974. Her first book, *L'ÉCOLE DE LA DERNIÈRE CHANCE*, was published in 2005. She is the author of three previous novels, *LE MUSÉE DE LA SIRÈNE* (2005), *LE CORPS DE LIANE* (2007) and *LE FILM* (2009), all published by Stock.

**Barillé, Elisabeth: *UNE LÉGENDE RUSSE*
(Grasset, March 2012, 260 pages)**

“I hadn’t undertaken this trip to learn or to unlearn, or to rid myself of an easy, reassuring knowledge. My true goal was to forget the analyst, the thinker, to no longer take cover behind reasonings, but first to brush up against the world, to explore, to feel it and smell it in the air – it was, deep down, to forget the writer and find the child once again and, gently, to kill it.”

Looking to unearth the whole story of her roots, the book’s narrator decides to undertake a trip to Russia, where her maternal grandfather, Georges Feodorovitch Sapounoff, was born. It is also where, in 1861, the essayist and muse to Nietzsche and Rilke, Lou Andreas-Salomé, was born. Over several weeks, the narrator follows in the footsteps of her two mentors, exploring the country her grandfather left in 1919 during the turmoil of the Bolshevik Revolution. Inspired by Lou, the narrator remakes a part of the voyage that this freedom lover once took with Rilke, from the sumptuous Saint Petersburg, city of the Tsars, to the excesses of Moscow, and from the infinities of the Volga all the way to Koursk, the austere guardian of intimate secrets. Following a long investigation, she will finally unravel her tangled family legend.

Between literature and reality, disenchanted present and dreamed past, memory and nostalgia, *Une légende russe* tells the story of an intriguing itinerary, punctuated with charismatic and mysterious characters. It is all this, but it remains just as much a story of the indispensable voyage to the “sources” of oneself...

Elisabeth Barillé was born in Paris to a father from Angers and a mother of Russian descent. She is the author of several novels, novellas and biographies, including *CORPS DE JEUNE FILLE* (1986), *EXAUCEZ-NOUS* (1999, *Prix de la Fondation de France*), *A SES PIEDS* (2006) and *HEUREUX PARMIS LES MORTS* (2009)

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Cohen, Thierry: *SI TU EXISTES AILLEURS*
(Flammarion, May 2012, 380 pages)

“You will die from the heart at the same time as five other people.”

These were the strange words uttered by Anna, the niece of Noam Beaumont, while they were playing together. Strange words to come from the mouth of a three-year-old child. Terrible, incongruous and scary ones for a thirty-five-year old single man, overwhelmed by his work, obsessed by death, prone to anxieties, which may be linked to a premature mid-life crisis or to a drama that he experienced himself as a child. He doesn't know.

From that moment on, Noam is obsessed by one single question: when will he die? A psychologist with unusual methods assures him that his niece's statement contains a truth based on a known theory: the prophecy of the innocent. According to this mystical approach, prophets have disappeared from the world because the forces that govern it can no longer find beings that are sufficiently pure to convey their sayings; only children and the mentally disabled do sometimes possess this gift. Therefore, Noam is faced with an incredible race against time: finding the five other people programmed to die at the same time as he is. But only the discovery-revelation of the fifth name, at the end of his quest, will point to the meaning of Anna's prophecy.

Thierry Cohen has already signed *J'aurai préféré vivre* (Plon et Pocket), *Je le ferai pour toi* and *Longtemps j'ai rêvé d'elle* (Flammarion). The Russian rights for the previous titles are sold to Azbooka-Atticus group.

Kaufmann, Jean-Claude: *LA FILLE QUI RÊVE*
(JC Lattès, May 2012, approx. 360 pages)

One rendez-vous, two stories. A charming romantic comedy that relates the parallel, contrasting lives of Sami and Charlene who meet through the internet. Charlene is the modern cynic, Sami the sensitive, romantic artist. A reversal of roles? Not quite...

Sociologist Jean-Claude Kaufman's detailed analysis of the lives of couples through the objects they use has earned him a wide reputation. In *The dreaming girl*, his first novel, the sociologist's eye is clearly evident in his meticulous observations but we also discover his rare talent for storytelling. An exceptional performance that will certainly gain this author an even wider following.

Jean-Claude Kaufman is a sociologist and director of research at the CNRS. His previous book *Le Sac* (Lattès, 2011) was sold in Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, Korea and Turkey.

Boris, André: *MANGEZ DU LION*
(Flammarion, May 2012, 272 pages)

Well-known TV-producer, redhead beauty-like lioness, Amber Deschanel has everything to be happy. But, after three divorces, the ambitious young woman begins to ask questions about her sentimental future... Until she meets Paul Martin-Duval, a brilliant journalist with multiple identities, pushing by her ex-husband to become a candidate for her new TV show. This fool's game between trips and flakes will prove ultimately the most skilled player. Perhaps behind the misunderstandings, betrayals and masks, could hid a true love story?

André Boris is a Virgo with Leo rising. Following *MÉFIEZ-VOUS DE LA VIERGE*, *ATTENTION AU SCORPION* is his second novel. The start of a cycle of twelve works to match the twelve signs of the zodiac.

Cauchy, Emmanuel: *LES CHRONIQUES DU DOCTEUR VERTICAL* series

Episode 2: *MORTE ET BLANCHE*

(Glénat, February 2012, 224 pages)

Volume 1: *FRISSON FATAL* was published May 2011

The name of this series, *LES CHRONIQUES DU DOCTEUR VERTICAL* (Doctor Vertical's Chronicles) refers to the author's nickname, Doctor Vertical.

That nickname was given to him when he worked for Vertical magazine, the first European mountaineering magazine. Cauchy wrote for Vertical in his roles both as a guide and as an emergency mountain-rescue doctor on Mont Blanc. Although these tales have been fictionalised, they are directly inspired by Cauchy's experience as a mountain doctor. Each tale also has ingredients worthy of such popular TV series as ER or House: love, sex, rivalry and more. They are funny, high-spirited, suspenseful and as addictive as soap operas.

The flamboyant and endearing staff of a small mountain hospital has to face all kinds of extreme situations, from making the coffee machine work after a long night on duty to saving lives at high altitude.

In this second episode, Doctor Shalone and the skier she is trying to save have been caught out on a glacier by a huge storm, which is making it impossible to evacuate them by helicopter. Aline, who was out skiing with her boyfriend when she fell into a crevasse, has been taken out, but her prognosis is uncertain: her body temperature has dropped to just 13.7° C. (56.6° F.)! No one can save her... except maybe Austin, alias Doctor Vertical, who loves nothing better than a challenge! But he probably wouldn't be as enthusiastic if he only knew that the pretty nurse, Jamila, who has had a bike accident with no helmet, is now suffering from traumatic brain injury and is about to be transferred to Geneva to have her skull opened. By the end, almost everything is running smoothly at Chamonix Hospital... except that Rohypnol, a powerful sleeping medication, has gone missing from the hospital's supply... and a Swedish girl has just been found dead in a ravine...

Emmanuel Cauchy was born in 1960. He has worked both as a staff doctor at hospitals and as an Alpine mountain guide. He is very fond of exciting adventures, and is always willing to risk his own life in order to save someone else's. He is the author of the hugely successful *DOCTOR VERTICAL* (2006), as well as of *MÉDECIN D'EXPÉ* (2009) and *FRISSON FATAL* (2011).

Rights to Cauchy's previous title, *DOCTEUR VERTICAL* (2006), sold in: Germany, the UK and Spain

Halter, Marek: *L'INCONNUE DE BIROBIDJAN*

(Robert Laffont, January 2012, 440 pages)

52 000 copies sold in France

Marek Halter has created a dramatic and thrilling saga set against the Jewish republic of Birobidzhan. Founded by Stalin, Birobidzhan is a lost city in the far southeastern corner of the Soviet Union bordering China, originally populated by those escaping the growing Nazi movement in the 1930s.

Halter begins his novel in the US at the height of the Red Scare in the 1950s. The House Un-American Activities Committee questions Marina, a Russian actress who has been passing herself off as an American for the past several years. Marina is accused of being a spy and for having murdered Michael Apron, an OSS agent. But they have it all wrong and Marina desperately tries to make them see the truth.

Having found success on the Moscow stage at an early age, Marina had the honor of being invited to a party at the Kremlin where she let herself be seduced by Stalin. His wife's subsequent suicide put Marina's own life at risk forcing her to keep a low profile in order to avoid being sent to the gulag. After a few years of hiding in the shadows of Moscow, she decided to settle in Birobidzhan where she would be out of reach from Stalin's men.

Marina became Jewish and thrived in the Yiddish theater community there but an ambitious playwright, Metvei Emiot, developed a dangerous crush on her. When he realized that Marina was in love with Michael Apron, the town doctor, Emiot slung around accusations that Apron was a spy.

And he wasn't wrong. Birobidzhan's proximity to China made it an interesting geographical position for the Allied forces who wanted to observe Japan's movements in Manchuria. That's exactly what Apron was doing there.

With his life in danger, Apron revealed to Marina that he was indeed an OSS agent and that the two needed to flee to the US before they were arrested by the Soviets. Together they attempted a harrowing escape

to the US, but only Marina made it...which is why she must prove to the incredulous men questioning her that she is not a spy. Her life depends on it.

Fernandez, Dominique: *TRANSSIBÉRIEN*
(Grasset, January 2012, 304 pages)

Dominique Fernandez writes sharply but fondly and with tactful expertise of the Russia he knows. Literature, art, history and politics all combine in this gloriously fertile and learned account.

May 28th, 2010. Dominique Fernandez is about to set off from Moscow on the Trans-Siberian railway, accompanied by some twenty French and Russian writers, photographers, reporters and actors. They will travel all the way to Vladivostok, capital of the Russian Far East – three weeks journey to the end of the world. From discovery to reflection, Fernandez charts all the Russias, speckling his account with literary references all the way. As landscape follows landscape, the writer muses, jots, examines, tells, marvels. The transport is physical but also spiritual and the journey east morphs into an intellectual quest.

From Red Square to Chekhov, from Stalinism to the terrible beauty of the tundra, via Nizhny-Novgorod, the Volga and Novossibirsk, this is a journey from writer to writer, from thinker to thinker, by way of Théophile Gautier, Alexandre Dumas, Maxim Gorky, Lev Tolstoy, haunted by a Soviet past.

Dominique Fernandez was born in Paris in 1929. He is a regular contributor to the weekly news magazine, *Le Nouvel Observateur* and a winner of the *Medicis Prize* in 1974 for his novel, *PORPORINO OU LES MYSTÈRES DE NAPLES*. He is the author of, among other works, *JÉRÉMIE ! JÉRÉMIE !* (2006), *L'ART DE RACONTER* (2007) and *PLACE ROUGE* (2008).

Rights sold for previous titles to: Albanese, German, English, Casitian, Chinese, Korean, Greek, Hebrew, Deutsch, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian, Czech, Turkish.

Brunel, Philippe: *LA NUIT DE SAN REMO*
(Grasset, February 2012, 208 pages)

January 1967. San Remo Music Festival. A star named Dalida. Luigi Tenco, a dark and handsome young man with a voice to die for, sings "Ciao, amore, ciao." Brief encounter. Tragedy. A true story.

Luigi Tenco was found dead in his room at the Hotel Savoy. Investigators called it suicide. The bullet was never found. The police fetched the body from the morgue and laid it out in the room "just like they found it", at the foot of the bed, on its back. Why? Was Dalida there when Tenco died? Were they lovers? Consenting adults acting out a scenario written for them by the press? Why did Dalida skip town that night, after perfunctory interrogation? What was she afraid of? Why did she not attend Tenco's funeral, even though she wore mourning for him across the border in France? What was her ex-husband and impresario, Lucien Morise, doing there? Morise killed himself three years later in Paris, using a weapon identical to Tenco's, a Walther PPK? Was there a message in that choice of weapon?

Years later, the narrator returns to the scene of the tragedy, interrogates the few surviving witnesses and pieces together a tale redolent of the Italy of the 1960s and also of his own past. What is fame? Just another form of persecution. A novel based on a true story. A love story. A portrait of a giant star named Dalida.

Philippe Brunel is a reporter born in 1956. His first novel, *Les Reporters*, was published in 2000. It was followed by an investigative book, *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF MARCO PANTANI*, (Grasset, 2009), which did well in France and became a bestseller in Italy.

Rights sold to: Italy (Rizzoli)

Goetz, Adrien: *INTRIGUE À VENISE*
(Grasset, February 2012, 288 pages)
15 000 copies sold in France

Do you love Penelope? Do you love Venice? If so, don't miss out on the latest adventures of our newly famous investigator, heroine of the "Intrigue" series, as she discovers the hidden paths of Venice, *La Serenissima*.

Invited to attend a conference, young curator Penelope finds herself in Venice for the first time in her life. Then one day an old French writer who loved to write about Venice, Achille Novéant, is found murdered at the Villa Médicis in Florence, where his old friend and diplomat, Lambel, serves as director. From this day on,

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all French writers who have written on La Serenissima start receiving death threats. Will Jean d'Ormesson survive?

As Penelope investigates the matter, accompanied by her fiancé Wandrille, she discovers the existence of a secret society that unites French authors who have written about Venice since the time of Paul Morand. The group owns an unknown Rembrandt that, before being given to them by an extraordinarily rich aristocrat after the war, passed through the hands of Napoleon, André Malraux, and Adolf Hitler. The painting is the subject of malevolent envy and Penelope must find the man, or woman, who has ordered the murders in order – God knows how – to obtain it.

INTRIGUE À VENISE transports its readers to the palazzi, the parties, and the forgotten islands of the most beautiful city in the world. With a huge store of authentic anecdotes at his command, Adrien Goetz marshals his erudition and his sense of intrigue to create a vivacious, spirited thriller.

Adrien Goetz, born in 1966, is an art historian and lecturer at the Sorbonne University, and writes a weekly column for *Le Figaro*. He has published four novels with Grasset: A BAS LA NUIT (2006), INTRIGUE À L'ANGLAISE (2007), INTRIGUE À VERSAILLES (2009) and LE COIFFEUR DE CHATEAUBRIAND (2010).

Rights sold to previous works: Chinese (complex characters: Azoth Books), Danish (Arvids Forlag), Czech (Host).

Bourdin, Françoise: *DANS LES PAS D'ARIANE – TOME 2* (Belfond, October 2011, 340 pages)

Continuation of the 1st volume LE TESTAMENT D'ARIANE. A diary lifts the veil from Ariane's family secrets...

Only heir of her Aunt Ariane, Anne Nougaro decides, despite her family's opinion, to keep the property she has inherited, in south-west France. With the help of her brother Jérôme, she will turn it into a guesthouse, giving it a new lease on life. Her husband, Paul, unable to understand this choice, refuses to live in the house he hates. He will wind up asking for divorce.

But Anne's family will reunite and support her. One day, as she is reading Ariane's diary, Anne discovers she was probably an illegitimate child. Is that why her mother was so upset about the inheritance? Will Anne confront her, and try to find her real father?

With over 3 million copies of her books sold, Françoise Bourdin is one of France's foremost writers of women's fiction. Her novels have been translated into 8 languages. Russian rights are under option with Family Leisure Club.

Révay, Theresa: *DERNIER ÉTÉ À MAYFAIR* (Belfond/Place des editeurs, October 2011, 450 pages)

From the glittering ballrooms of Edwardian high society to the fields of the Valley of the Somme, through a decade of delight and disaster, the promising young heirs of two patrician families discover the shocking truths behind family secrets, and search for the true meaning of their lives.

1911. The Rotherfields are a prominent English aristocratic family. Since the eldest son died after an accident caused by his youngest brother, Edward, who has become a dashing aviator, womanizer and gambler, it is Julian who must carry on the family name. But he is known as the "reluctant heir". Evangeline, the eldest daughter, has joined the Suffragettes. Only Victoria is looking for an eligible young man. Along with their German cousins and French friends, their lives are shattered by the war. Personal challenges run head-on into the historical cataclysm...

Theresa Révay is a novelist and translator. Her best-sellers, LA LOUVE BLANCHE and its sequel, TOUS LES RÊVES DU MONDE have been translated into 8 languages: Der Club Bertelsmann / Goldmann (Germany), Circulo de Lectores / Plaza y Janés (Spain), Athenaeum (Hungary), Circulo de Leitores (Portugal), Swiat Ksiazski (Poland), Alnari (Serbia), Euromedia (Czech Republic) and Family Leisure Club (Ukraine). She has also published two previous novels with Belfond: Valentine ou le temps des adieux, sold to Fischer Verlag (Germany) and Family Leisure Club (Ukraine) and Livia Grandi ou le souffle du destin, sold to Fischer Verlag (Germany), RCS Sonzogno (Italy), Athenaeum (Hungary) and Family Leisure Club (Ukraine).

Rights sold to Der Club Bertelsmann in Germany; Russian rights are under option with Family Leisure Club

**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-Classic

LITERARY CRIME & SUSPENSE NOVELS

**Barde Cabuçon, Olivier: *CASANOVA ET LA FEMME SANS VISAGE*
(Actes Sud February 2012, 328 pages)**

In 1759 a faceless woman is found dead in Paris. Volnay, the Inspector in charge of the suspicious deaths, is to deal with the inquiry. Overseen by Sartine, who has a dim view of this unorthodox investigator, and assisted by both a strange monk and by Casanova himself, Volnay follows the trail of a crime that could implicate Louis XV and his mistress, Madame de Pompadour.

This is the first exhilarating instalment of a promising set of historical detective novels starring Volnay, the Inspector of the Suspicious Deaths.

Olivier Barde-Cabuçon, passionate about literature, art, and history, is the author of ADIEUX A L’EMPIRE and of DÉTECTIVE DE FREUD. His partiality for detective novels and his interest in the 18th century have led him to create the “Inspector of the Suspicious Deaths.”

**Couture, Xavier: *ET POURTANT J’ÉTAIS MORT*
(JC Lattès, April 2012, 300 pages)**

When Paul Andriau wakes up inside a closed coffin, he assumes he’s in the midst of a nightmare. But when he finds a flashlight and a hand-drawn map showing how to escape, he doesn’t waste a minute in extricating himself from the family tomb – on which he sees his name freshly engraved in stone.

At the gates of the cemetery, a luxurious car is waiting for him, as well as a beautiful woman who is apparently his wife. The problem is that Paul has no idea who he is. When the car enters the gates to a sumptuous home, he certainly doesn’t recognize it as his own. Nor does he recognize his supposed best friend, Dr. Soustelle, with whom he devised a Machiavellian plan to inherit a large sum of money. Thus Paul Andriau begins a dizzying search for his true identity and a race against time to escape the traps set by his so-called friends. But how can he find his way through the chilling darkness of amnesia?

Xavier Couture’s first novel, COMA, was published in 2002. He has also written a critical television essay entitled LA DICTATURE DE L’ÉMOTION. ET POURTANT J’ÉTAIS MORT is his first crime novel.

LITERARY CRIME & SUSPENSE NOVELS

Erre, J.M.: *LE MYSTÈRE SHERLOCK* (Buchet-Chastel, February 2012, 336 pages)

An offbeat tribute to both Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie, this “locked room” mystery will entertainingly lead readers to consider the impact of fiction on real life, *LE MYSTÈRE SHERLOCK* is an ideal antidote to the doldrums.

Meiringen, Switzerland. The fire-fighters are clearing the rubble to get into the Baker Street Hotel. Charming and isolated, it had been cut off from the world for three days because of an avalanche. Still, no one was expecting what they found when they finally got inside: behind the blocked door, the bodies of 10 academics have been neatly placed inside the hotel’s refrigerators. They had all been invited by the eminent Professor Bobo to a conference about Sherlock Holmes. More than just a conference, at the end of it, Professor Bobo was supposed to designate one of the participants as the first holder of the Holmeseology Chair at the Sorbonne. The kind of job academics would die – or kill? – for.

J.M. Erre is a professor in Sète and lives in Montpellier. He has had three previous novels published by Buchet Chastel: *PRENEZ SOIN DU CHIEN* (2006), *MADE IN CHINA* (2008) and *SÉRIE Z* (2010).

[The Russian rights are sold to](#) Azbooka-Atticus Group.

“Une ébouriffante variation sur le canevas de DIX PETITS NÈGRES. Un désopilant roman à suspense.” Livres Hebdo

“Un désopilant roman à suspense.” Livres Hebdo

“A tous les lecteurs souffrant de dépression, on recommandera ce roman jubilatoire.” Le Monde

“J.M Erre publie un roman policier drôle et savant. Un hommage décalé à Sherlock et Agatha Christie.” La Gazette

“Surtout, l’humour potache de l’auteur habille en creux une réflexion plus maline qu’il n’y paraît sur les pouvoirs de la fiction et des faux-semblants.” Roman Français

Leblanc, Maurice: *LE DERNIER AMOUR D’ARSÈNE LUPIN* (J-C Gawsewitch, May 2012, approx. 310 pages)

Twists and turns, wrong tracks, treachery, wild chases and... passionate love: the ingredients of the best Lupin are gathered in this never published before *LE DERNIER AMOUR D’ARSÈNE LUPIN*.

For the past 70 years, the Arsène Lupin stories have been hailed as some of the best of popular crime / whodunit literature. This new adventure of the gentleman-thief was written in the summer of 1936. As he was working on this novel, Maurice Leblanc suddenly had a stroke. *LE DERNIER AMOUR D’ARSÈNE LUPIN* has remained as it was at that moment and has not been published, until now. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the famous writer’s death, his family eventually agreed to offer this previously unpublished work to the public, a work in which the readers will enjoy the magic and elegance of one of the greatest heroes of detective stories, a gentleman who is often a force for good, while operating on the wrong side of the law.

A contemporary of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Maurice Leblanc (1864–1941) was the creator of the character of gentleman-thief Arsène Lupin who, in Francophone countries, has enjoyed a popularity as long-lasting and considerable as Sherlock Holmes in the English-speaking world. Lupin’s adventures are published under the title *ARSÈNE LUPIN, GENTLEMAN-THIEF* by Penguin Classics in the UK.

Lécas, Gérard: *LE CORPS DE LA VILLE ENDORMIE* (Rivages, April 2012, 290 pages)

This novel addresses issues of identity, cultural and religious differences with great humanity and empathy.

Two diametrically opposed cops: Danny Perez, a Jewish man, and Yasmina, an Arab woman. Not only do they work together, but they’re in love. In both this investigation and in their private lives, they will have to confront religious intolerance. One night, they get a call about a graffiti tagger in Paris. On the wall of the Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, a man is scrawling “SISTERS = MURDERERS” in huge red letters. He doesn’t put up any resistance when they cuff him; he just says that the nuns “killed his daughter.” He goes on to explain that his daughter Marjorie had spent some time at “L’Auberge,” a home for troubled girls set up by the Sisters. And that shortly after her stay with them, she threw herself out a window. Is the father just crazy with grief, or do his accusations make any sense? Over the course of a long night, Danny and Yasmina will close in

on the appalling truth. But they will also learn a lot about themselves and each other – both what they have in common and what their differences are.

The author of several novels, and a professional translator and screenplay writer, Gérard Lecas is a compelling story-teller with a fine ear for realistic dialogue.

Miské, Karim: *ARAB JAZZ*
(Viviane Hamy, March 2012, 320 pages)
English sample available

Paris: in the cosmopolitan 19th arrondissement, Ahmed, a daydreamer addicted to thrillers, is horrified to discover his neighbour's body hanging from her balcony. The crime scene has been laid out for gruesome effect: alongside the corpse, with its savagely mutilated genitals, someone has placed a bloodstained joint of pork. Symbols that label her, in the eyes of the local residents, as a 'woman tainted by impurity'.

Rachel Kupferstein and Jean Hamelot – she, a fiery Jewish woman, he the son of a rationalist communist – are put in charge of the investigation. Are they dealing with a religious crime, carried out by a fanatic from the Lubavitch or Salafist communities? Should they listen to idle tittle-tattle from a neighbourhood barber who points the finger at Ahmed? And what about Laura's strange family, Jehovah's Witnesses whose influence extends as far as New York? Is this act connected with the appearance of a particularly powerful drug in the area?

Laura's closest friends – Rebecca, who is Jewish and has left to marry a Jew in Brooklyn, and Bintou and Aïcha, sisters of the local Muslim leaders – will be key to solving a gigantic puzzle linking drug traffickers and religion all the way from Paris to New York.

Born in 1964 in Abidjan to a Mauritanian father and French mother, Karim Miské grew up in Paris before leaving to study journalism in Dakar. He now lives in France, and has been making documentary films since 1990. *ARAB JAZZ* is his first novel.

"Une entrée remarquée dans le genre. (...) deux flics qui pourraient être inventés par Fred Vargas. Plus le récit avance, plus Karim Miské maîtrise le tempo et trouve sa propre voix (...) Un auteur est né."
L'Express

Molay, Frédérique: *DÉJEUNER SOUS L'HERBE*
(Fayard, March 2012, 330 pages)

Twenty-seven years after burying the remains of a feast under the lawn of the Parc de la Villette, amid great ceremony, Samuel Cassian inaugurates an archaeological dig to uncover the buried work. Aired live on television around the world, nobody expects to discover a human skeleton among the excavator's first shovelfuls. Nico Sirsky, head of France's famous criminal investigation division 36, Quai des Orfèvres, is on the spot. However, the Parisian park, built on the old site of the huge Parisian abattoirs (slaughterhouses), soon offers up another victim: a young man is brutally murdered in the park that very night. The following day, another man falls victim to the murderous frenzy of the killer already being called the "butcher of the Villette"... Convinced the cases are connected and that he is dealing with a Homophobic killer, Nico Sirsky finds himself swept up in a race against the clock.

Frédérique Molay skillfully explores essential questions of human existence. Her subtle character portrayal and attention to detail rivaling the works of Mary Higgins Clark. *DÉJEUNER SOUS L'HERBE* is the sequel to *DENT POUR DENT* and *LA 7^È FEMME*, translated into seven languages.

Nahapétian, Nairi: *DERNIER REFRAIN À ISPAHAN*
(Liana Levi, February 2012, 200 pages)
Swedish rights under option

Roxana, a famous singer of popular music, fled Iran after the fall of the Shah when the Islamic Republic bans women from singing in public. Having returned to her hometown of Isfahan to give a clandestine performance, she is found murdered in a disused theater. Silk tulips, the symbol of the martyrs of the Revolution, have been conspicuously left at the scene of the crime. Twenty-four hours after her death, another young Isfahani singer is killed, this time in the parking lot of a clinic, the workplace of Mona, a militant midwife and Roxana's childhood friend. A bouquet of tulips is found near her body. Who could have wished to reduce these women to permanent silence? And could the staging of the murders, suggestive of a serial killer, have been designed to cover up political crimes? These are the questions Mona asks herself. It's at this point that Narek, the young

LITERARY CRIME & SUSPENSE NOVELS

journalist hero of *QUI A TUÉ L'AYATOLLAH KANUNI?*, is called in by the Minister of Islamic Guidance to cover the story. It's clearly a pretext to get him away from the demonstrations in Tehran against the electoral fraud... but how can he refuse...?

Nâiri Nahapétian was born in 1970 in Iran, a country she left following the Islamic revolution. During a few years as a free-lance journalist, she undertook many reporting assignments in Iran. She currently works for Alternatives économiques, and in 2006 published an essay entitled *L'USINE À VINGT ANS*.

Her first novel, *QUI A TUÉ L'AYATOLLAH KANUNI?* has already been published in Sweden (Sekwa), The Netherlands (Querido), Spain (Alianza) and Ukraine (ECM media).

“Ce roman policier pétillant comme un grand verre de Persi Cola jongle d'un bout à l'autre avec les paradoxes d'une nation plus complexe qu'in croit.” **Le Figaro**

Piersanti, Gilda: *WONDERLAND* (Le Passage, March 2012, 320 pages)

After an art exhibition in Oxford Cristina brings some of the paintings back to Italy. In the truck she falls asleep. And wakes up in one of her worst nightmares.

The chief inspector Mariella De Luca is called to rescue and faces the weirdest crime scene: The truck with the paintings is found stranded at the edge of the wood and the two drivers have been murdered. But no painting is stolen and Cristina has disappeared. Mariella De Luca has to go back to Rome quickly to solve another case. A twelve years old girl, called “the little Barbie”, has disappeared just a few steps from her home. Mariella is quickly plunged into the world of social networks of teenagers. And she knows that she must act fast in this “wonderful world” where there is no limit between real and virtual life...

Born in Italy Gilda Piersanti lives and works in Paris. *WONDERLAND* is the seventh book in her *Les Saison meutrières* series about the young police officer Mariella De Luca. Gilda Piersanti has previously published *ROUGE ABATTOIR* (adapted for television), *VERT PALATINO* (*prix du Polar dans la ville* 2006), *BLEU CATACOMBES* (*Prix SNCF du polar européen* 2008 and *Prix du polar méditerranéen* 2008), *JAUNE CARAVAGE*, *VENGEANCE ROMAINES* and *ROMA ENIGMA*.

Sterman, Ludo: *DERNIER SHOOT POUR L'ENFER* (Fayard, April 2012, 350 pages)

A thrilling detective story set in the world of sports.

Julian Milner, a rising star of sports journalism, has just published a biography on Angel Novella, the 1998 World Cup hero and international icon who met an accidental death two years earlier. Dazzled by the myth, Julian had accepted the official version of the facts, just like everyone else. A seemingly minor piece of news, however, is going to shake his convictions. Novella's former teammate, Sébastien Peyron, has committed suicide. While writing his obituary for the magazine *Le Sport*, Milner receives a visit from an odd inspector who gives him disturbing news: his biography of Novella was found next of Peyron's body. But the initial shock is soon over and Milner's instincts kick in...

Ludo Sterman sheds light on the morbid rules of the “sports business” to which a long list of players comply: doctors, politicians, institutions, journalists and sponsors. And of course the athletes who will do anything for fame and fortune, even if it means destroying themselves physically and psychologically.

Ludo Sterman (pseudonym) is an accomplished athlete and a former contributor to the magazine *L'Equipe*. *DERNIER SHOOT POUR L'ENFER* is his first novel and drawn from numerous documented facts and actual events.

Van Cauwelaert, Didier: *DOUBLE IDENTITÉ* (Albin Michel, April 2012, 245 pages)

In this tremendous adventure story we meet once again the hero of *HORS DE MOI*, the CIA agent Stephen Lutz. Stephen Lutz's cover name is Martin Harris, a famous botanist who fights against multinational firms, guilty of despoiling the Amazonian Indians by exploiting their sacred plants for profit. After a traumatic brain injury, Stephen suffers from identity problems and sometimes thinks he really is the scientist. When the real Harris dies, Stephen decides to continue his battle and sets off to Ecuador with Harris' widow to lead an investigation. They find themselves caught up in a cascade of extraordinary adventures before falling in love with one another...

DOUBLE IDENTITÉ is a thriller as well as a romantic novel. With a great sense of humour, in the style of Indiana Jones, this book evokes scientific questions about earth and environment but also about hypnosis, coma and the healing effect of plants.

A novelist, Didier Van Cauwelaert is also successful with playwriting, screenwriting or even writing a libretto for a musical. Having conquered the French audience, Didier Van Cauwelaert now reaches to the whole world with translations into 25 languages and worldwide sales of 4 300 000 copies. His first book gathered praise from readers, critics and literary prizes, the most prestigious of which, the *Prix Goncourt*, was awarded to him in 1994 for UN ALLER SIMPLE. The American movie Unknown, based on HORS DE MOI, came out in 2011, starring Liam Neeson and Diane Kruger.

**Vindy, Marie: *UNE FEMME SEULE*
(Fayard, March 2012, 400 pages)**

A spellbinding thriller placing emphasis on the characters' inner-lives.

One January morning, in the part of the Saint-Farge forest known locally as the “hermitage,” Marianne Gil awakes to the sound of fists pounding on her door. It is her friend Joe, terrified. He has just made a gruesome discovery near the old barn towards the back of her property: a young girl's lifeless body. They immediately alert the authorities. Inspector Francis Humbert is put in charge of the investigation. The initial findings confirm that the victim had been strangled. But nothing is discovered to establish her identity. Or why she was in the woods near the hermitage in the dead of winter. Or who killed her...

The mysterious Marianne is a recluse, a famous writer with a deeply-buried secret. Inspector Humbert finds himself under the spell of her beauty, her disconcerting vulnerability and charm. They soon form an unspoken symbiotic pact. Humbert is divorced, and tired of life at the barracks. He will do anything to protect Marianne from her past, which has just resurfaced. Twenty years earlier Marianne had been forced to make a painful choice: to abandon motherhood and put her newborn child up for adoption.

Legal columnist Marie Vindy gives us the first volume of a crime series marked by the influence of Henning Mankell. The timeliness of her subject add a touch of hard-boiled realism to her eloquent writing style. An original new voice in the world of French crime fiction.

“Fascinée par les grands paysages, Marie Vindy révèle un territoire traversé d’ombres, animés de personnages partagés entre désir d’ordre et tentation des limites.” **Passion-polar.over-blog.com**

**Moore, Viviane: *AINSI PUIS-JE MOURIR*
(Fleuve Noir, February 2012, 312 pages)
Sample English translation available**

In present days haunted by tragedies of the past, History and passion intertwine 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 strong relationship 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?

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 the age of 19 she became a photographer, then a journalist and then worked for the Cartier Foundation. Her first novels were published in 1997, to immediate success. She has already published the series “MYSTERIES IN 12TH CENTURY EUROPE” that sold nearly 180.000 copies at Éditions 10/18. Her books have been translated into English, Italian, Polish and Korean.

Gattégno, Jean-Pierre: *AUTOROUTE* (Calmann-Levy, Autumn 2011, 350 pages)

This highly-visual novel, constructed like both a road movie and a thriller, deftly alternates humor and suspense, in a surprising fable of sorts whose moral could be: No matter how far you run, you cannot escape either self or destiny.

Pierre Raustampon is a man who is tired. Tired of his job as a professor and his married life, tired of his students who disrespect him and his colleagues who despise him... Not to mention his wife who recurrently cheats on him. Then one day he's had enough. He takes off in the costly Mercedes of his wife's latest lover, pocketing, to boot, the man's ID, credit cards and cell phone as well as a large sum of money. Carried away by his new-found wealth, Pierre thinks he can burn the bridges to his depressing past. He drives around aimlessly, drifting in and out of episodes both comical and distressing.

His travels will take him to the four corners of France and will force him to take up another more intimate journey: a journey within, leading him, ultimately, to question his very being.

The police hot on his trail, he will make some strange and dangerous acquaintances –taking up, in particular, with the wife of his wife's lover – discovering, along the way, a little-suspected truth. A brutal awakening that will place his adventures in a very particular light.

Renowned author of psychological novels, Jean-Pierre Gattégno has written numerous books that have been adapted to film: *Neutralité malveillante*, directed by Francis Girod, *Mortel transfert*, by Jean-Jacques Beineix, and *Une place parmi les vivants*, by Raoul Ruiz. The Russian rights for *Mortel transfert* sold to Geleos Ltd.

Japp, André H.: *EN CE SANG VERSÉ* (Flammarion, May 2012, 408 pages)

The Kingdom of France, in the early 14th century. Hardouin cadet-Venelle is Mr. Justice de Mortagne, the town's executioner. He is cultivated, handsome and has amassed a substantial fortune. Torturing and killing do not bother him particularly, even though he draws no "satisfaction" from them. But one day, everything changes as he executes an innocent woman. Feeling complicit in a murder, he decides to take justice into his own hands.

In this, the second episode of Hardouin's adventures, Agnes, the daughter of Deputy Bailiff Arnaud de Tisans, who has become a nun in the Abbey of Clairets, is found strangled. Is it a heinous crime? Most probably, as her pittance was stolen. In charge of the investigation, Hardouin suspects the Abbess, Mme de Gausbert. In spite of her sorrow at the death and her own flawless reputation, she seems unwilling to see them search the place. Will this murder lead to others? And what does Mahaut de Vigonrin – accused of poisoning – have to do with it all?

Hardouin will have to threaten, bully and blackmail to ensure that justice is served. Unfortunately, justice is merciless and those who want it must never expect to be rewarded.

Andrea H. Japp has already published numerous novels; crime and historical fiction. EN CE SANG VERSÉ is the second volume of the series "M. DE MORTAGNE, BOURREAU".

Japp, André H.: *LE BRASIER DE JUSTICE* (Flammarion, October 2011, 416 pages) Copies sold in France: 13 000 copies

We are in the kingdom of France at the start of the 14th century. Monsieur Justice de Mortagne, also known as Hardouin cadet Venelle, is the youngest in a family of executioners. But this is not the typical executioner you might imagine. This is a handsome and cultivated man in his early thirties who has amassed a sizeable fortune. When his elder brother dies, he is nevertheless forced to take over the executioner's role, carrying on tradition as Monsieur Justice de Mortagne. While he is not especially bothered by the task of torturing or killing, neither does it bring him any particular "satisfaction". After all, he's not the one to hand down the sentences... All this changes when one day, in the public square, Monsieur Justice de Mortagne ties to the stake a young woman, Marie, sentenced for slandering a nobleman whom she has accused of rape. That Marie is guilty seems incontestable in Hardouin's mind. But when he learns that she had indeed been raped, he feels himself to be an accomplice to murder for the first time. How many murders has he committed in the past by wilfully blinding himself?

Re-establishing justice thus becomes a necessity. A desire for redemption, as well as a burgeoning exclusive and confidential link with God, urge Hardouin to investigate previous executions – including that of Marie – and to pay attention to every new person sentenced. His new mission: to clarify the truth and to sentence those who are truly guilty.

Andrea H. Japp is one of the queens of French detective novels. She has already published around thirty works. This is a first volume in the new series by Andréa H. Japp. The success of the previous series *Les MYSTÈRES DE DRUON DE BRÉVAUX* published by Flammarion. A few titles by Japp are published by Hemiro/Family Leisure Club

DETECTIVE SERIES

Japp, Andrea H.: *LES MYSTÈRES DE DRUON DE BRÉVAUX* (Flammarion, 2010-2011)

Through lively, poignant and effective stories, Andrea H. Japp brings together the art of breathtaking, twist-filled stories and the universe of the historic novel. The breathless plots of her novels are set off by a formidable writing style.

Jehan Fauvel, reputed *mire* (doctor), is sentenced to death during the Inquisition (14th century), because of his unusual medical practices. But the real reason for his arrest is no other than a red stone, which has already caused much blood to flow, and whose mystery he seeks to penetrate. When Jehan understands that he has been betrayed, he is dogged by only one fear: that the Inquisition will encroach on his daughter Héluise, his passion and his most brilliant student. The young woman has no choice but to escape. Disguised as a young doctor named Druon, she is determined to solve the deadly enigma of the stone. On the way, Druon meets Huguelin, and he takes her along with him.

Andrea H. Japp is one of the queens of French detective novels. Her works include a successful historical detective series, called *LA DAME SANS TERRE* (150,000 copies sold in France and rights sold in 5 countries: the UK, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Russia).

T. 1 *AESCULAPIUS*

(Flammarion, February 2010, 448 pages)

**Shortlisted for the Grand Prix Palatine du Roman Historique
Over 11,000 copies sold through the GLM book club**

Druon and Hugelin cross paths with the imperious and imposing Countess Béatrice, who governs her domain with an iron fist. While it would be within her power to kill Druon and Huguelin, she decides to spare their lives. On one condition: that the young *mire* rids her of a monstrous creature that has already brutally massacred half a dozen peasants and a priest. A superstitious terror has infiltrated all of the Countess' underlings; some believe that the devil himself is at work. Relying on science and reasoning, and after a series of twists, Druon will gradually undo the nefarious web woven around the Countess. And unravel the mystery.

“With this rich and suggestive novel, Andrea H. Japp makes us shake with fear but also entertains us cleverly.” Le Figaro Littéraire

“A brilliant toxicologist, Andrea H. Japp renews the usual recipe for the medieval thriller – politico religious plots, millenarian atmosphere – with her investigator of a brand new genre; she has concocted a diabolical cocktail for which there is no antidote.” Le Point

T. 2 *LACRIMAE*

(Flammarion, October 2010, 457 pages)

Over 11,000 copies sold through the GLM book club

Druon is back on the road, accompanied by the young Huguelin. Practising medicine along the journey, She arrives at the wealthy and renowned Abbey of the Holy Trinity, whose monks are scathingly criticised, accused of lacking charity and exploiting the common folk to get rich. A miserly well-to-do haberdasher is found, and a little while after, a young monk is discovered dead in the forest, executed in the same manner. During the stay of Druon and Huguelin in the neighborhood, five murders occur: the victims are stabbed in the back with their right hands cut off – the punishment inflicted on thieves. The head abbot has no intention of allowing the forces of secular justice to investigate, but the bailiff of Nogent-le-Rotrou requests Druon's help to solve this mystery.

THRILLERS

The young doctor wonders what the five murdered men had in common and, as always, he relies on science and reasoning.

T.3 *TEMPLA MENTIS*

(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.

THRILLERS

Claret, Alain: *EDEN*

(Robert Laffont, February 2012, 336 pages)

The men from the Sinaloa Mexican drug cartel have come to Paris to take over the drug market. They are remorseless and inhuman, and need to recover the billions of dollars sent to be laundered by financiers who claim that the money has disappeared.

Along with the men, there are also two women: Juana, the daughter of a wealthy senator and illiterate peasant, and Madeleine, her lover, her double, a Frenchwoman that Juana saved from a painful suicide. They want Eden - the man responsible for investing the missing money. While the men from the cartel turn Paris into a war zone, the French can do nothing but watch despairingly on television the terrifying spectacle that their devastated suburbs have become. While chaos reigns in Paris, Juana and Madeleine want only one thing - to take revenge on the world they were born into.

Alain Claret is the author of *SI LE DIABLE M'ÉTREINT* (2002), *L'ANGE AU VISAGE SALE* (2003), *TOUT TERRIBLEMENT* (2005), *QUE SAVEZ-VOUS DES MORTS?* (2007) and *PAYSAGE SOMBRE AVEC FOUDRE* (2009), all published by Editions Robert Laffont.

Cavalier, Philippe: *HOBOES*

(Anne Carrière, April 2012, 320 pages)

HOBOES blends genres to paint an epic fresco of a world gone askew. For many people, it's the end of a plentiful, easy life. With no work and no future, millions of the newly poor are thrown onto the road in search of new hope or something to guide them.

On the Canadian coast, the inhabitants of a small fishing village plunge into the ocean from the top of a cliff. In Mexican shantytowns, the illiterate start speaking a language nobody knows or can identify. In the mountains of the Dakota, a wretched army gathers around a stranger: some say he's a God, others fear he might be the Devil. Far from the cities, where people still refuse to understand that nothing will ever be the same again,

saints and agents of corruption are desperately searching for the child prophet who will bring sense to people's lives.

Although he doesn't know it yet, these events will soon affect Professor Raphaël Banes's fate – a fate that will demand sacrifices he can barely imagine in his current passive and over-protected life...

A road book, an adventure novel, a dash of terror, a reflection on the future of society, a personal drama and a path to salvation all rolled into one.

Philippe Cavalier's strength lies in leaving his hero torn between two goals, right to the last page... Cavalier has also written *LE SIÈCLE DES CHIMÈRES* (4 volumes), *UNE PROMENADE MAGIQUE DANS PARIS* (2010) and *LES AVENTURES DU MARQUIS D'ORGÈVES* (2011).

Monfils, Nadine: *LA PETITE FÊLEE AUX ALLUMETTES*

(Belfond, February 2012, 264 pages)

A new thriller, full of black humour and poetry, by one of the most comical writers of crime novels.

One night, in the streets of Pandore, Nake, a young woman, meets a crazy man who abducted her. She manages to escape and takes refuge at her grandmother's place. Her grandmother raised her since her mother died when she was only a child. But Nake finds her grandmother dead, with a box of matches in her hand, which reminds our heroine of the famous *Little Match Girl's* story... She soon realises that each time she strikes a match, she can see a dreadful crime scene, one that really does take place only a few hours later...

Born in Belgium, Nadine Monfils is renown in the realm of crime novels. She has published several and has made her mark with her original writing style. Her last novel *LES VACANCES D'UN SERIAL KILLER* (Belfond, 2011) was a great success and has been translated into Italian (Neri Pozza).

"Really poignant, colourful, joyful!" Jean-Pierre Jeunet (film maker)

Routier, Philippe: *NOCES DE VERRE*

(Stock, January 2012, 224 pages)

Khadija grew up in the small grocery shop her parents ran in Puteaux. At twenty, the young woman lives a simple, solitary life until the day she meets Virgile, who is far from sophisticated but is sociable and has his own charm. Two years later, as the parents of a little boy, Virgile and Khadija move into an old farmhouse near Cahors, where they soon decide to marry. The young wife hopes for quiet happiness, but her life soon topples into a terrifying flipside. Virgile is selfish and domineering, and submits her to regular humiliations and then to brutality. Isolated and defenceless, Khadija descends into the hell of domestic violence. She struggles constantly to protect her son, but very soon another nightmarish trap closes in on her.

Hitchcock-style, *Glass Wedding* combines psychological tension with dramatic suspense to evoke domestic violence subtly through his beautifully crafted central character, a fragile, deserving, courageous woman. The premise of the book may be dark, but the story is shot through with light. As with his previous books, Philippe Routier invests tenderness and acuity into his account of a vulnerable individual's journey as she confronts a life of injustices, and he confirms his talent for describing the lives of ordinary people with powerful stories.

Philippe Routier was born in Germany in 1958. He has been living in Paris since 1974. He is the author of three previous novels, published by Stock: *LE PASSAGE À NIVEAU* (2006), *LE VEILLEUR DU BRITANNIA* (2008) and *POUR UNE VIE PLUS DOUCE* (2009). The latter was the inspiration for Cédric Kahn's latest film *Une vie meilleure* with Guillaume Canet and Leïla Bekhti (released in France in January 2012).

Bussi, Michel: *UN AVION SANS ELLE*

(Presses de la Cité, January 2012, 540 pages)

UN AVION SANS ELLE is a contemporary thriller about the quest for a child's identity before the era of DNA analysis.

After a tragic plane crash in the mountains, rescue crews find only one survivor, a three-month-old girl. But there were two babies on the plane, two little girls, both the same age, both with blond hair and blue eyes. Which one is she? Emilie or Lyse-Rose? The two families fight for custody of the baby. It is up to the authorities to choose which family to place the child with.

THRILLERS

Eighteen years later, a private detective claims to have gotten to the bottom of this tragic affair. A short time later, he is murdered. But he has left behind is a notebook in which his entire investigation is recorded...

Michel Bussi has written several crime novels including *LES NYMPHEAS NOIRS*, which was the most lavishly awarded French crime-fiction novel of 2011 (*Prix Polar méditerranéen, Prix Polar Michel Lebrun de la 25e Heure du Livre du Mans, Prix des lecteurs du Festival Polar de Cognac, Grand Prix Gustave Flaubert, Prix Gouette de Sang d'encre de Vienne*).

"Un roman d'atmosphère. Mais l'action et les rebondissements ne manquent pas dans ce roman." **Le Progrès**

"Un thriller plein de rebondissements." **France Dimanche**

Sire Cédric: *LE PREMIER SANG* (Le Pré aux Clercs, March 2012, 458 pages)

The greatest terrors are born in our childhood, and take root in our inner depths. Are we capable of overcoming them? With the help of Commissioner Vauvert, Eva tries to resolve this strange murder case, linked to sorcery and black magic...and her dark past. A captivating investigation — which takes the reader into a singular world, somewhere between nightmare and reality...As Eva Svärta - assists her colleague Erwan Leroy with a murky drug affair, they discover that the case is more sordid than expected...They find the carbonized body of a cocaine dealer, with tongue and heart torn out, in a procedure echoing the punishment reserved for witches in the Middle Ages. But even worse, when seeking clues in the victim's apartment, they discover the dead body of a newborn baby...This dark investigation reminds Eva of her own tragic past – witnessing the murder of her twin sister as a child – she becomes fully involved in this new case. She discovers quickly that there are similar cases in other French towns, all the victims have one point in common: they all studied at the same university in Southern France...

Sire Cédric is an already established author in the French Gothic world. Born in 1974, he has been writing since an early age, claiming the generational author Stephen King an inspirational source. Cédric also figures as a singer in a metal band called Mandragore, as well as doing translational bywork.

"La détermination et le sens de l'anticipation qui caractérisent l'enquêtrice suffiront-ils à la protéger des autres d'elle-même? La réponse dans ce PREMIER SANG tout simplement glaçant!" **Le Marseillaise**

"Un style narratif, proche d'un scénariste de film d'action." **20 Minutes**

Chattam, Maxime: *LA CONJURATION PRIMITIVE* (Albin Michel, May 2012, approx 400 pages)

A horrific thriller set in Canada, Poland and Spain. The famous hero, Josh Brolin of the *Autre-Monde* series is finally back.

All over the world, women, men and teenagers are being tortured and massacred according to unique rituals. There is a link between all these crimes, however different they may seem. Throughout France, Poland, Spain and Quebec, a special investigation unit is striving to put a stop to the series of murders carried out by ruthless killers who appear not to know each other, yet whose aim is identical.

Maxime Chattam is a master of the French thriller. His *Autre-Monde* series has been published in Germany (Droemer Knaur Verlagsgruppe Gm), Korea (Sodam & Teil Publishing House), Italy (Fazi Editore), Turkey (Dogan Egmont Publishing), Poland (Sonia Draga Wydawnictwo) and Russia (Ripol) and has sold more than 1 million copies!!

Molas, Aurélien: *LES FANTÔMES DU DELTA* (Albin Michel, March 2012, 516 pages)

An original thriller evoking current political and economic themes.

Nigeria, 2004-2010. The country is devastated by oil companies, the corruption of the elite and guerilla warfare. Benjamin Dufrais and his colleague Megan, both working for Doctors Without Borders, try to fight malnutrition and help the refugees. But they are caught up in the labyrinth of geopolitical interests and civil wars which are beyond their comprehension. The stakes are high: a little girl whose DNA could change the world. Everyone wants to get hold of this child-talisman, so how can they protect her? And how can they avoid sinking with her into the bloody chaos that has overtaken the country?

Aurélien Molas is 26. His first novel, *LA ONZIÈME PLAIE*, was greeted with fine reviews from the critics and enthusiasm by booksellers. With *LES FANTÔMES DU DELTA*, he brings us an original thriller, intense and contemporary.

“LES FANTÔMES DU DELTA confirme l’habileté narrative du jeune romancier. Aurélien Molas s’est affirmé d’entrée de jeu comme un auteur de polars à suivre. (...) L’art de camper des personnages incarnés, de faire avancer une intrigue à rebondissement parfaitement maîtrisée.” Livres Hebdo

“Un thriller original dont les thèmes rejoignent ceux de nombreux essais politiques et économiques actuels.” Passion-polar.over-blog.com

**Pierrat, Emmanuel et Jérôme: *CONTREBANDE*
(Denoël, June 2012, 350 pages)**

A page turning thriller that investigates the new mafias in a disenchanted Africa that lies somewhere in between the landscapes of *Out of Africa* and the dark atmosphere of classic film noir. The story is set in a game reserve, run by a white woman in South Africa, where rhino carcasses have been found...

A black police officer from Cape Town, who works as an investigator for the Nature Protection department, is dispatched to the Reserve. A former anti-gang squad member, he ended up deeply discouraged by the overwhelming urban violence and chose to focus on poaching, a speciality that took him far from the ghettos. Yet this new assignment will bring him back to the city in order to reconnect with the criminal underworld. A former contact gives him a tip, and despite their many differences, the black male detective and the white female park manager will form an effective team on the poachers' trail.

Emmanuel and Jérôme Pierrat, respectively a barrister and writer, and an investigative journalist specialized in organized crime, are brothers, aged 37 and 35. Their parents currently reside in Namibia. Emmanuel has written a great number of essays, art books and law books. Jérôme contributes to a range of European magazines and TV stations, and also lectures at the Paris Institute of Criminology.

**Salamé, Barouk: *UNE GUERRE DE GÉNIES, DE HÉROS ET DE LÂCHES*
(Rivages, March 2012, 320 pages)**

A spellbinding thriller set during the Algerian War.

A French child whose family has been living in Algeria for many years fights in the War on the rebels' side. After his initial idealism fades, he discovers the conflict's endless cycle of violence, and the "war within the war" that is decimating Algerian nationalist forces. From Djelfa, a tiny town on the high Saharan plateaus, controlled by a third force, to the Oran massacre on Independence Day, Serge is unwittingly involved in a plot to reduce the FLN-ALN soldiers' influence. But isn't it already too late for Algeria to become the non-secular, cosmopolitan nation that the original anti-colonialists dreamed of?

Barouk Salamé, who has Algerian roots, uses the investigator from *TESTAMENT SYRIAQUE'S* youth to reveal a particularly dark side of the Algerian War.

*“La sensibilité philosophique, l’émotion et l’humanisme érudit qui imprègnent ces pages dessinent en effet la silhouette d’un corps social mort-né, disent la disparition d’un Etat laïc, le deuil du multiculturalisme...”
Librairie L’Étoile Polar*

**Giébel, Karine: *JUSTE UNE OMBRE*
(Fleuve Noir, March 2012, 512 pages)**

Sample English translation and Reader's report available

The perfect crime exists. It is deceitful, it takes its time and, most of all, it doesn't appear to anyone... but the victim. Cloé Beauchamp is a young woman who seems to have it all; she is beautiful, intelligent, about to be named head of a prestigious advertising agency and she has recently fallen in love with a charming man.

But her life slowly transforms into a nightmare. She becomes convinced that a shadow is constantly watching her, that it follows her on the street and sneaks into her apartment when she is not there or while she is sleeping. Though no one takes her seriously. Alexander, a marginalized cop, is the only one who decides to help her. Who wants to destroy her? Who wants to push her over the edge to the point of suicide? By the time he figures things out it may just be too late...

THRILLERS

A complex, multi-layered thriller that takes the reader on an intense, sometimes shocking, often frightening voyage of one woman's struggle against one man's dangerous and inescapable psychosis. Vivid, strongly portrayed characters will draw us into their drama.

Karine Giébel was born in 1971. Her first novel, *TERMINUS ELICIUS* (*LA VIE DU RAIL*, 2004) won the *Marseille Detective Novel Award* in 2005. It was followed by *Meurtres pour rédemption* (republished by Fleuve Noir in 2010), which was nominated for the *Cognac Detective Novel Award*.

Rights for previous titles sold to: Italy (BUR), The Netherlands (The House of Books), Spain (Circulo de Lectores), Ukraine/Russia (Family Leisure Club)

Loevenbruck, Henri: *L'APOTHICAIRE* (Flammarion, October 2011, 608 pages)

Following a childhood as an orphan raised by Abbot Baudoin, Andrea de Saint-Loup becomes a renowned apothecary who employs all his might to giving logical meaning to the irrational events surrounding him. He attracts the attention of the Inquisition that wishes to interrogate him about a small empty room recently discovered in his home, the existence of which he had been completely unaware. The Inquisition's emissaries also issue threats to perform the most elaborate tortures on Juan Hernandez Manau, a man of letters to whom Andrea recently paid a visit, and a member of the enigmatic Schola Gnosticos society.

Andrea asks Abbot Baudoin to protect two female prostitute friends when the Pope envisages rounding up ladies of pleasure in warehouses supervised by the Church. But he is forced to flee when he discovers that the police has set fire to his house and killed his valets...

Henri Loevenbruck is 36 years old. A journalist and author, he also writes screenplays for films. He has published more than ten novels with Flammarion and Bragelonne. Translated in thirteen countries, the novels of Henri Loevenbruck are also enormously successful in bookshops.

The previous novels are published in Russia by Azbooka-Atticus

Prévost, Guillaume: *LE QUADRILLE DES MAUDITS* (Robert Laffont, April 2012, 350 pages)

Les maudits, a popular thriller, brings crowds of movie-goers into the Parisian cinemas. Each new episode of this cinematographic series draws in more and more people, and a killer decides to mix fiction with reality. A murderer stabs young, blond women in the middle of the projection imitating the actors on the screen and their ways for committing the murders. The police quickly turn their suspicions towards the animated world of the Vincennes studios where crimes keep taking place one after the other.

Detective François-Claudius Simon leads the investigation. He understands that in order to flush out the killer he'll have to create some of his own movie magic. But with his personal life in shambles, he has neither the heart nor head for that.

His girlfriend, the sublime Elsa, has disappeared overnight, his past as an orphan brutally comes back to haunt him, and his ex-fiancée, who he may not be completely over, has come back into his life in the worst possible way - at the top of his list of suspects...

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*. The first two books in the trilogy featuring François-Claudius Simon were *LA VALSE DES GUEULES CASSÉES* (2010) and *LE BAL DE L'ÉQUARRISSEUR* (2011).

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**

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Lebeau, Guillaume & Rébéna, Frédéric: *STIEG LARSSON BEFORE MILLENIUM*
(Denoël Graphic, January 2012, 64 pages)

Size : 175 x 240 mm – Black and white illustrations

STIEG LARSSON BEFORE MILLENIUM is the first ever attempt to bring Swedish literary phenomenon into the realm of graphic novel.

Little Stieg's awakening, with the white forests of Sweden as a background; his initiation as a young journalist in Eritrea, where many dogmatic amazons were to be found and in Stockholm, where took place his crusade against fascism with the creation of *Expo*, a magazine that will become known as *Millenium* by his many future readers. All the things that shaped his enigmatic personality, and that his uncomfortably accurate insights into Northern Europe, where the seed of totalitarianism discreetly but steadily grows, proved right. Written by Guillaume Lebeau and illustrated by noted cartoonist, Frédéric Rébéna, this outstanding tale tells the simultaneous birth of a fiction hero and that of a heroic writer, who died before even knowing that he had reinvented the Crime Novel Genre.

Guillaume Lebeau, writer specialized in Thrillers, is the author of two essays dedicated to Fred Vargas and Stieg Larsson. He is the author of a green thriller called *THE THIRD POLE* (released in November 2011) and a documentary film for TV dedicated to the new wave in Scandinavian thrillers, *ICE CRIME*.

Frédéric Rébéna is the author of *MARILYN LA DINGUE*, *LE CORBUSIER*, *ARCHITECTE PARMIL LES HOMMES* and *L'ATTRAPE-LIVRE*. He also designed the front covers for the San Antonio series published in the "Bouquins" collection.

Rights sold to : Spain (Norma Comics) and Turkey (Pegasus)

"A fascinating biography that takes the form of a comic book" **20 Minutes**

"A well-documented graphic novel upon the life of the ever-elusive Stieg Larsson" **L'Express**

"A goldmine for fans" **Elle**

"La genèse de l'œuvre de Stieg Larsson, depuis son enfance en Suède, jusqu'au voyage en Erythrée et son retour à Stockholm, où il crée le magazine antifasciste Expo" **Livres Hebdo**

"Guillaume Lebeau signe un roman graphique documenté sur la vie de l'énigmatique Stieg Larsson, avant qu'il n'écrive la saga qui le fera entrer dans la légende à titre posthume." **Le journal**

SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY

Nuncq, Emmanuelle: *BORDEMARGE*
(Bragebonne, April 2012, 320 pages)

A cloak-and-dagger novel, packed with action as well as subtle literary allusions.

In the imaginary kingdom of Bordemarge (Borderedge literally), the rules of fiction reign supreme and swashbuckling characters abound. Violette, a bored librarian who would love reading about just this kind of extravagant universe, is fed up with the tedium of her own life. That isn't the case with Roxane, heiress to the throne of Bordemarge, now pursued by pirates working for the usurper Duke Silas. Escaping into a magic painting found in a goldsmith's caravan, she emerges in the real world, literally tumbling down on top of Violette. Roxane switches clothing with her, fooling the pirates who abduct the librarian instead and take unconscious Violette back to Bordemarge. But while Roxane frantically seeks to rescue her, Violette grows attached to the pirate holding her captive and starts knocking some realism into him. All of these fine characters will come together at Bordemarge Castle for an epic final battle, where the good guys will triumph over the villains with a display of immense courage, allowing Violette to recover her taste for life, and Roxane, her rightful throne.

An easy read, with a lively pace and a healthy dose of humour

Emmanuelle Nuncq was born in 1984. She studied modern and classical literature and was a librarian for three years. Today she is a novelist who has created a highly original and coherent universe that young readers will love.

Rouaud, Antoine: *LE LIVRE ET L'ÉPÉE*
(Bragebonne, to be published in 2013, Volume 1 of a series of 3)

A stunning narrative, admirably constructed in a fashion seldom seen in a work of fantasy.

Year 10 of the new Republic, in the remote port city of Masalia. Dun-Cadal, once the greatest general of the Empire, has been drinking his life away for years. Betrayed by his friends and grief-stricken at the loss of his apprentice, he's done with politics, adventure, and people. But people aren't finished with him – not yet. Viola is a young historian looking for the last Emperor's sword. Her search not only leads her to the former general, but embroils them both in a series of assassinations. Because someone is murdering Dun-Cadal's turncoat friends one by one... Dun-Cadal learns the identity of the culprit... and decides to help him prevent the ruling People's Councillors – the very men who betrayed the Empire – from gaining possession of the Book of Destiny, whose powers are terrible. As the fates of all human beings are inscribed in its pages, whoever is able to alter the text of this book will become the master of their lives. And the only weapon capable of destroying it is... the Imperial sword.

This tale of loyalty, revenge, grief and hope, is set against a backdrop of political intrigue. Packed with masterful twists and revelations, it sustains a high level of suspense, while depicting mortal characters thrown into the maelstrom of History, who ultimately become figures of legend. *THE BOOK AND THE SWORD* is the ideal epic saga for fans of George R.R. Martin's *SONG OF ICE AND FIRE*.

Antoine Rouaud, born in 1979, works as a copywriter in advertising, and composes, writes and acts in audio drama series, which have already earned him two awards.

Rights sold to: UK (Gollancz), Germany (Heyne Verlag), the Netherlands (Boekerij) and Spain (Planeta)

Ségura, Magali: *ÉTERNITÉ*
(Bragebonne, June 2012, approx. 350 pages)

A simple family drama, but which takes place against the backdrop of a richly imagined and plausible universe. As their past returns to haunt them, young Jelis' parents set aside their pride and rancour to resume their quest for the seed of Eternity, confronting their most terrifying memories in the hope of saving their son.

In the Saltearth archipelago, a seed containing a gift is received from the gods every 500 years, and an individual is elected to decide how it will be used. When several minor sorceresses are murdered, Naslie, a descendant of those endowed with the gift of Magic, flees from the Ancient One, whose menacing shadow she has sensed pursuing her over the years.

Her eight-year-old son Jelis goes off to his father, a powerful warrior of the Steel, determined to force his parents to reconcile. But Jelis remains unaware that he represents the impossible fruit of an alliance between Magic and Steel, a combination whose powers are dreaded. Threatened by the devious tricks of a sorcerer and the ghost of a demonic queen, he must place his trust in the counsels of the strange “luminis” who watches over his family. An engaging tale with a feminine touch, presenting well-constructed characters with psychological depth.

Magali Ségura was born in 1972. Her first publication, a short story called *AGAINST FATE*, was nominated for the Grand Prix de l’Imaginaire, and won the Prix Bob Morane - Imaginaire 2000. Readers had impatiently awaited Ségura’s first novel, and with the *LEÏLAN* trilogy, she has fulfilled both her initial promise and her reader’s hopes. *ÉTERNITÉ* is her new novel.

**Audouin-Mamikonian, Sophie: *LA COULEUR DE L’ÂME DES ANGES*
(Robert Laffont, January 2012, 456 pages)**

The exciting new series from France’s #1 best-selling author of YA novels

At 23, Jeremy is violently murdered. Now an Angel, he quickly realizes that the struggle for survival is hardly over, and that he still risks death. Because the afterlife and Angels are nothing like he imagined...

In order to survive all Angels must feed off of human emotions. For that to work, Jeremy soon discovers with horror that he must provoke these emotions: hatred, love, joy, sadness, fear, compassion... Only the strongest of emotions can satiate the Angels and give their skin a blue tone when emotions and a red tone when negative.

Since Angels are invisible, untouchable and immaterial, they can influence humans without them every being aware of it. As Jeremy tries to find out why he was killed, he follows Allison, a beautiful 20 year old who was the unwitting witness to his execution. By following her day and night, Jeremy falls madly in love.

But Jeremy’s killer is also on Allison’s tail. Followed by three Red Angels who feed off of his extreme, negative emotions, the killer will do anything to eliminate the unwanted witness to his crime...

Sophie Audouin-Mamikonian, the crown princess of Armenia, is France’s number 1 bestselling author of YA novels. Her *TARA DUNCAN* series has 1 million followers in France and 7 million around the world. The first book in her most recent best-selling series *Indiana Teller* was published in March 2011. Russian rights for *TARA DUNCAN* series sold to Ripol-Classic.

**Colin, Fabrice: *WINTERHEIM*
(Pygmalion, October 2011, 608 pages)**

Unavailable for several years and gathered here for the first time in a single volume, the *Winterheim* trilogy remains to this day one of the most thorough and bewitching works on Nordic mythology

A long, long time ago, the Faeders and the Dragons decided that they would no longer get involved in mortal affairs. Having withdrawn far from Midgard, they have nevertheless entrusted to the Lady of Dreams and her three half-sisters, the Darkness trio, the task of watching over humans. Today, in the kingdom of Walroek, the young woodman Janes Oelsen, whose parents have never understood his dreaminess and juvenile impetuosity, acquires, following a wager, a mysterious map. Accompanied by his faithful owl Snowflake, he sets off for the forsaken Château of Nartchreck where, according to legend, a fabulous treasure lies hidden.

Fabrice Colin was born in 1972. He quickly became one of the leading figures amongst a generation of writers exploring imaginary worlds to hatch in France at the end of the 1990s. Through his texts such as *DREAMERICANA*, *OR NOT TO BE*, and later, *SAYONARA BABY*, *LA MÉMOIRE DU VAUTOUR*, *VENGEANCE* (published in Russia and Croatia), *A VOS SOUHAITS* (published in Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic) and the recent *BIG FAN*, he has confirmed his position, over the last decade, as an unconventional author with no qualms about mixing up genres and trying out literary experiments.

**Brasey, Edouard & Stéphanie: *TRAITÉ DE SORCELLERIE*
(Place des edituers, October 2011, 432 pages)**

A companion to the magical world of witchcraft

Designed like ancient books of spells, this book revisits the magical world of spells, witchcraft and magical potions. The beautifully illustrated and laid-out books of this collection are practical and theoretical companions to the otherworldly.

SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY

Edouard Brasey is a reference in the realm of French fantasy. He has written over fifty works on the subject.

Brasey, Edouard & Stéphanie: *LES ENQUÊTEURS DE L'ÉTRANGE*

LES MAISONS HANTÉES

(Place des edituers, September 2011, 288 pages)

From Paris to Switzerland, Ohio and California, thrilling and terrifying-but-true stories about ghosts and haunted places, told by the investigators of the strange.

Edouard Brasey has written more than sixty books about the fairy and the fantasy world.

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.

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*.

Pevel, Pierre: *HAUT ROYAUME trilogy - Book 1: THE KNIGHT*

(Bragelonne, Text available in spring 2012, 50,000 words per title)

- **Rights already sold to Orion Gollancz in the UK !**
- **Dynastic power struggle and intrigues**
- **Perfect for fans of George R.R. Martin and David Gemmell**
- **A series to publish as separate volumes or in omnibus editions**
- **Winner of the David Gemmell Morningstar Award for best newcomer**

Pierre Pevel is bringing all the skills of a historical fantasy writer to an epic stage.

The High Kingdom is facing its darkest hour. Its King has been weakened by illness and many are discontent with the Queen's regency. As rebellion rumbles throughout the land, new threats are massing forces at the realm's borders.

Desperate, the King decides to free Lorn, who has spent the past year locked away on trumped-up charges in the citadel of Dalroth. Acting on the advice of a mysterious emissary of the Dragon, he dubs Lorn "Knight of the Onyx Throne", making him the upholder of royal authority.

Lorn accepts the King's mission but also hunts those responsible for his imprisonment. Reinstating the Onyx Guard, a once-powerful elite force, he intervenes in time to avert a war and becomes a new figure of hope for his people. But some take a dim view of his growing popularity and influence, and they are busy plotting his downfall.

If he foils his enemies, will he assume the role of champion that the Dragon's Council of Emissaries have been seeking, the one capable of facing the Black Prince? He must first confront an evil that gnaws at him ever since he was exposed to the Obscure at Dalroth, which now threatens to overwhelm him.

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. His *CARDINAL'S BLADES* trilogy – part historical novel, part old-fashioned swashbuckling high-action adventure and part classic fantasy – is sold to UK (Orion Gollancz), Germany (Heyne), Holland (Mynx), Spain (Edhasa), Russia (Geleos), Czech Republic (Albatros) and Estonia (Varrak).

*“Pevel (...) makes a stunning English-language debut with this breathless, swashbuckling tale of intrigue, spying, and swordfights. In an alternate 17th-century Paris, dragonnets are exotic pets, wyverns are high-class riding mounts, and drac thugs are the coarsest of mercenaries. After a five-year hiatus, Cardinal Richelieu reunites his elite force to aid France in its complex relationship with Spain's Black Claw cult of half-dragon royalty. A mostly straightforward adventure plot leaves plenty of room for character development, drama, and excitement. (...) Published in France to great acclaim in 2007, Pevel's adventure is just as likely to charm Anglophone audiences who enjoy action-packed adventure with a true historical sensibility.”*Publishers Weekly, August 30, 2010

Blanvillain, Luc: *UN AMOUR DE GEEK* (Plon, October 2011, 210 pages)

At the age of 16, Thomas is a happy geek with no complex. But his passion for Esther Camusot will turn his world upside down and force him to rush into reality.

Thomas is a geek, or a “nolife”, if you like. That is to say, he frags as he breathes, leads his team, slaps cheaters, and hazes noobs. If you can't understand a word, you must be a pathetic parent, lost in reality. But if, like Thomas, you spend your nights in front of a computer screen, annihilating crâs, taking the dungeons of AZEROTH by storm, and directing guilds, you know what life is all about. Thomas is just fine, thanks. He sleeps very little, eats anything handy, gains points and ascends levels. In his expertly configured High Definition world, Thomas escapes the disagreeable beings crawling all over the place IRL (In Real Life) - the clueless kids at his lycée, the odious Latreille and his pal Tartine, Madame Friol, the French teacher who's wild about fat books full of lengthy descriptions. He puts up with his parents and their demands, and even with his little sister Pauline, whose mission it is to make sure he doesn't spend too much time in front of the screen. So, what's the problem? The problem is Esther. Esther, with whom Thomas has, quite simply, fallen madly in love; Esther who does stunts on horseback ; Esther who loves the light streaming through the trees and dreams of faraway places. Esther who hates computers. She loves Thomas, but she'll never go out with him unless he gives up his passion and never again gets near a screen. She just wants him to stop being a nolife. Is Thomas up to the challenge?

Luc Blanvillain was born in Poitiers shortly before May 68. Early on, he tortured his parents by refusing to go to sleep unless they would reread *BABAR* and *L'ODYSSÉE* to him. Later on, as a teacher of literature, he created writing workshops, theatre clubs, and alternative short story ateliers with his students. After twenty years spent perfecting his style, he published his first novel, *OLAF CHEZ LES LANGRE*, followed by *CRIMES ET JEANS SLIM* (2008 and 2010).

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