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FICTION

BEST-SELLERS 2014

Tuil, Karine: *L'INVENTION DE NOS VIES*

(Grasset, August 2013, 496 pages)

65 000 copies sold in France !

Longlisted for *Prix Goncourt, Prix Femina*

- *“You can go very far with a lie, but you can’t come back,” goes the old Yiddish proverb underlying this novel’s tempo and extraordinary construction, where one secret always hides another.*

From New York to Paris, from the up-scale neighbourhoods of the French Capital to the wastelands of the periphery, Karine Tuil takes us on a humorous odyssey through society. *L’Invention de nos vies* is an epic and unique work which, not unlike Saul Bellow’s *Herzog*, brings the reader face-to-face with his/her own lies.

What drives Sam Tahar to keep going? Money, luxury goods, a lovely marriage to the daughter of a powerful man, success with women, recognition from the New York State Bar, where this fearsome lawyer practices, or his numerous appearances on TV? Sam has got it all... so what more does he want? To forget, maybe. Because his success is based on a lie: he made his fortune by ransacking the life of his once best friend, Samuel Baron, a failed writer, son of Jewish intellectuals, who slowly wastes away in an explosive inner city, and whose only consolation is the beautiful and gentle Nina, a model for department store catalogues.

These three were close friends twenty years ago. And when they meet again, after the suspense pulls the reader through to the last page, everything explodes. Nina prostitutes her beauty while believing she can love again. Sam’s past catches up with him: his real name is Samir, the son of Muslim immigrants, raised in the council estate. As for his old friend Samuel, the loser... he manages to turn things around.

Rights sold for this title: German (Aufbau), Netherlands (De Bezige). Rights sold for previous works: Italian (Voland)

“How could you not fall for this nearly 500 page novel about the failures of our society? [...] a huge success. Unquestionably one of the season’s best. [...] Masterful.” Paris Match

*“Karine Tuil has succeeded in creating a work of great magnitude with *L’Invention de nos vies*. It envelops the complexity of our world, mixes it around, describes it, dissects it, and, finally, helps us to understand it. We often rave about great foreign writers – as we well should –, but France has a truly talented author in this young novelist [...]. In terms of literary merit, *L’Invention de nos vies* is simply full of ideas (...), a singular voice, and a feverish, convulsive tone.” Le Figaro*

“From [...] her first novel [...], Karine Tuil has built a powerful and unique body of work that has gone far too unnoticed. In 2013, applause is now bursting forth – this is her resurgence.” Elle

Ledig, Agnès: *JUSTE AVANT LE BONHEUR*

(Albin Michel, May 2013, 344pages)

Short-listed for the *Prix Maisons de la Presse*

130 000 copies sold in France !

- *A subtle and delicate novel about a mother's courage and determination.*
- *A life-lesson for anyone who has ever been about to give up on optimism*
- *An author who can be compared to the most successful novelists over the past few years, Anna Gavalda, David Foenkinos or Muriel Barbery.*

In this poignant novel, full of compassion and optimism, single mother Julie has to face her little boy's death after a tragic car accident. Through this heartbreaking loss, she learns the importance of friendship.

20-year-old Julie works in a supermarket to bring up her son Lulu on her own. When she meets 50-year-old retired Paul, recently divorced, they progressively build a strong and reassuring friendship. Paul ends up

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asking Julie to join the trip he is about to take with his son Jerome, young doctor whose wife just committed suicide, to their family house on the Brittany coast. During this singular excursion, they learn to know each other step by step and start to heal their hearts, surrounded by Lulu's joyfulness.

But on the way home, a car accident leaves the young boy in a deep coma. When Lulu dies, Julie finds some comfort in Paul and Jérôme's support, but she also fell in love with Romain, her son's physical therapist. As a life just ended, Julie refuses to let herself drown in sorrow and starts a new life. She gives us a lesson of courage, love and tenacity.

Agnès Ledig started writing when her own son was in the hospital, diagnosed with leukemia. She published *MARIE D'EN HAUT* (Les Nouveaux Auteurs, 2011), awarded with *Femme Actuelle* prize. *JUSTE AVANT LE BONHEUR* goes deeper into her favorite leitmotives: the complexity of the human soul and the ability to bear the unbearable.

Rights sold to: Italy (Mondadori), Israël (Kinneret), Suède (Forum), Korea (Prunsoop Publishers), Spain (Grijalbo), Germany (DTV), Norway (Gyldendal Norsk), and Sweden (Forum Publishers).

Ono-Dit-Biot, Christophe: *PLONGER*
(Gallimard, August 2013, 448 pages)
Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie Française 2013
Prix Renaudot des Lycéens 2013
More than 100 000 copies sold!

➤ *From the treasures of old Europe to the megalopolises of the new world, the marble of museums to the sand of sensuous banks where one is cleansed of all, PLONGER explores the itinerary of a heroine of our times, in quest of liberty, meaning, and purity in an increasingly stifling world.*

A man is investigating what has happened to a woman he once loved passionately. As the novel begins, he has just received a phone call informing him that she has been found dead on a beach, close to the waves and presumably drowned, in a faraway country marked by a stony landscape that could be Saudi Arabia.

She was an artist, and her name was Paz. She was solar, incredibly gifted, and suffocating in Europe. He owes his son the truth about his mother, and so he returns in his mind to the time when they loved each other and attempts to elucidate the reasons that precipitated its ending.

Journalist and writer, Christophe Ono-dit-Biot was born in 1975. He holds an *agrégation* in literature and is assistant editorial director of the weekly newsmagazine, *Le Point*, notably in charge of the Culture section. He is the author of four novels: *DÉSAGRÉGÉ(E)* (2000), *INTERDIT À TOUTE FEMME ET À TOUTE FEMELLE* (2002), *GÉNÉRATION SPONTANÉE* (2004), and *BIRMANE* (2007).

"The words and phrases of this impressive novel flap like ridiculous but proud banners battered by the winds of modernity, cynicism and speed" **Le Figaro magazine**

Minard, Céline: *FAILLIR ÊTRE FLINGUÉ*
(Rivages, August 2013, 326 pages)
Longlisted for the Prix Médicis, the Prix Femina and the Prix Wepler
37 000 copies sold in France

➤ *A Western with roots, a veritable founding saga that ranges from lyrical to dramatic to burlesque, FAILLIR ÊTRE FLINGUÉ is first and foremost a vibrant celebration of the shifting limits of the imagination.*

On the outskirts of a burgeoning town that all trails lead to, a fresh breath is blowing over the inhospitable prairies of the Far West. That breath belongs to Water-Running-Over-the-Plains, a young Indian woman whose clan was decimated and who has been using her skills as a healer for the good of both Whites and Indians ever since.

She will meet plenty of people: Brad and Jeff, brothers who are crossing the great open spaces along with their dying old mother in a rickety cart drawn by two stubborn old oxen; Gifford, who would have died of smallpox if Water-Running hadn't saved him in the nick of time; Elie, who's on the run from Bird Boisverd, whose horse he stole; Arcadia, a wandering musician whose bow was stolen by the Quibble Gang. And plenty of other characters whose singular fates, like the entwined strands of a colorful skein of wool, are woven into a boldly revisited Western tale in which that mythically untamed American landscape becomes a shared, still-permeable space open to all sorts of trafficking, transits and wanderings.

Céline Minard's novels include *LE DERNIER MONDE* (2007), *BASTARD BATTLE* (2008, Prix Wepler Special Mention), *OLIMPIA* (2010) and *SO LONG LUISE* (2011). All of her books have been critically acclaimed for their demanding style and their narrative virtuosity. She is seen as one of the most unusual voices in contemporary literature.

Right sold to: Germany (Matthes & Seitz VG), Italy (66thand2nd).

"FAILLIR ÊTRE FLINGUÉ is one of the most intriguing and thought-provoking novels I've read in a good while. [...] Céline Minard handles things with admirably authoritative skill. She is by turns a painter, a geographer, a surveyor and a magician. In a word, a novelist." **Livres-Hebdo**

"FAILLIR ÊTRE FLINGUÉ [is] a marvel of intelligence and originality, one of the gems of this year's crop of new books." **Le Monde des Livres**

"With perfect aim, Céline Minard's entertaining characters, drawn over a poetic and contemplative background, bring this unique western blazingly to life." **Télérama**

Gallay, Claudie: *UNE PART DU CIEL*

(Actes Sud, August 2013, 446 pages)

- *An affectionate, melancholic novel about childhood, the wounds of the past, the unspoken, searching for who you are, and finding your place in your family.*
- *An insightful and poetical style that gets up close and personal to the characters and places, and reveals their deepest feelings. A book about everyday life and the repetition of simple yet meaningful acts.*
- *The characters are moving, flaws and all. They must cope with both the weight of the past and their hopes for the future as they try to understand each other despite their differences, and the passing of time.*

Carole, who has gone back to the little village where she grew up for the holidays, tries to reestablish a bond with her brother and sister, as they wait for their father, who asked them all to come.

The past rears its head, especially the tragic night in their childhood when their house caught fire and their mother was forced to choose to rescue just two of her three children. There's no news from their father, and the siblings' attempts at conversation are awkward at this first family reunion in years. Although Philippe and Gaby have a lot in common and understand each other well, Carole can't shake off her role as the one who left the others behind, and who asks too many questions. She winds up going back to her own life in January, without ever having seen her father.

After the bestselling *LES DEFERLANTES*, Claudie Gallay delivers another moving and intensely personal tale whose atmosphere is set by the siblings' mutual affection.

Born in 1961, Claudie Gallay has had six novels published by Editions du Rouergue since the year 2000. They have all been released in paperback by Babel as well. Her 2008 novel, *LES DEFERLANTES* received the *Grand Prix des lectrices de ELLE* and sold over 600,000 copies. In 2010, *L'AMOUR EST UNE ÎLE* was published by Actes Sud.

"On le sait, la famille et ses non-dits, la transmission, consciente ou non, les casseroles qu'on se trimballe de génération en génération sont un formidable moteur romanesque. Tout comme la notion de terre, la puissance fictionnelle du microcosme des origines. On le sait, oui, mais Claudie Gallay le met joliment en émotions, sans jamais tomber dans l'affectation." **Le Point.fr**

"Un univers âpre et mélancolique, à la fois hyperréaliste et intimiste jusqu'à la grâce."

"Des cabossés vivant à coup d'expédients. Des mal-aimés qui tentent d'aimer quand même. Claudie Gallay pose sur eux un regard profondément juste et bouleversant." **La Vie**

Razon, Boris: *PALLADIUM*

(Stock August 2013, 480 pages)

12 000 copies sold in France

- *palladium* /pə'leidiəm/ ► *noun*
- *1. Late Middle English word derived via Latin from the Greek palladion, denoting an image of the goddess Pallas (Athene), on which the safety of Troy was believed to depend.*
- *2. (Archaic) a safeguard or source of protection.*

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“*Palladium* is a factual novel, it’s my story. The story of a man who, in the space of a few days and for no obvious reason, ends up paralysed from head to toe, unable to move a single muscle, robbed of all his senses and any means of communication with the outside world.

Then began a journey through the furthest reaches of human existence, territories ruled over by fear, violence, death, pain and sex... because illness is like stepping through the looking glass, a gateway to other worlds, a place of prostitutes and demons, of men living like vegetables with bodies like birds, of nurses and firework makers thrown together in a whirlwind of hate and debauchery. A manic, terrifying world: my world.

PALLADIUM is my account of this crossing, an expedition to the land of the dead and through the subconscious. PALLADIUM delves into the very roots of pain and literature, to a place where our life force itself is huddled alongside the myriad different stories it has to tell.” B. R

Boris Razon is 37. He studied history before embarking on a career in journalism. He was editor of *monde.fr* for ten years. He now runs the new writings and mixed media services for France Télévision, and teaches at the School of Journalism at Sciences-Po, France’s top university for social sciences.

Rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein), Czech Republic

Jérusalmy, Raphaël: *LA CONFRERIE DES CHASSEURS DE LIVRES*

(Actes Sud, August 2013, 320 pages)

Over 30,000 copies sold in France!

- *A fabulous and exciting adventure in which East and West, Jerusalem and Paris, meet, and readers get front-row seats for the birth of the Renaissance and its new ideas.*
- *The author imaginatively re-writes many famous people’s lives.*
- *An epic saga that sets books and knowledge firmly at the heart of our culture, amongst the values worthy of defending against obscurantism and fanaticism.*

1463, the Middle Ages and their willful ignorance are drawing to a close. The poet François Villon has been chosen by the Brotherhood of Book Hunters to lend his pen to the Renaissance’s new ideas and to stem the tide of Rome’s overwhelming influence.

Over the course of a journey that will bring him all the way to the Holy Land, Villon will uncover a vast web of alliances, conspiracies and counter-conspiracies all aimed at thwarting the Pope’s omnipotence. Adventure, danger, mysticism and love will dot his path.

Since historians know next to nothing about the final period in Villon’s life, the author entertainingly decides that the poet became the subtle, clever voice of the Brotherhood.

A graduate of both the École Normale Supérieure and the Sorbonne, Raphaël Jérusalmy worked for Mossad for many years before becoming involved with humanitarian and educational action. He is now an antique bookseller in Tel Aviv. His first novel, SAUVER MOZART (2012 ENS Cachan Prize) is currently being translated into English (U.K., U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand), Italian and Hebrew.

Rights are sold: USA/UK: Europa Edition, Italy E/O Edizioni; Spain: Navona Editorial

“[Un] thriller littéraire moyenâgeux des plus originaux, hymne au pouvoir de l’écrit et à la magnificence des livres.” **L’Express**

“Jérusalmy s’en donne à cœur joie, dans cette saga picaresque échevelée et érudite, où il emporte son lecteur, ravi. Par delà son intrigue, le roman peut se lire comme un hymne d’amour au livre, outil de connaissance et de civilisation, face à tous les fanatismes et tous les obscurantismes.” **Livres Hebdo**

“Du style, de la verve et du panache, Jérusalmy éclaire avec malice l’aube de la Renaissance.” **Paris**

Match

“Un fort roman d’aventures, emballant, plein d’énergie, d’insolence et d’érudition” **Lire**

“Une aventure digne d’un roman picaresque mâtiné de conte philosophique. (...) Après SAUVER MOZART, (...), Raphaël Jérusalmy donne naissance à un tout autre univers narratif, vibrant de saveurs, de couleurs et de sensations. (...) À la gloire des livres et de la liberté, un roman d’aventures profond et bondissant comme son héros inattendu, le poète François Villon”. **La Croix**

Mayeras, Maud: REFLEX**(Editions Anne Carrière, October 2013, 368 pages)****15 000 copies sold in France !**

- *The dual story of a serial killer and the mother of one of his victims makes for a discomfiting novel with a surprising ending.*
- *A gripping thriller with disturbing, pathetic and dangerous characters.*
- *Readers will be taken in by the red herrings: nothing about this novel is obvious or hackneyed.*

When another child's body is found in the place where her son was murdered, Iris Baudry, an asocial and obsessive police photographer, reopens the case, unearthing family secrets in a dark and disturbing novel where no one is what they seem...

Iris Baudry is a forensic photographer. Available night and day, she is called to crime scenes to immortalize the victims' tortured bodies. Iris is discreet, obsessive and determined. She shoots corpses by the dozen to try to erase the image of her own son, who had been brutally murdered 11 years earlier. Henry Witkin, the scion of a long and chaotic line of unwed mothers, is a discreet serial killer who skins his victims carefully, grasping for the comforting contact of his mother's skin. When a child's body is found in the home town she has fled, attention à la vo, 'fui' au lieu de 'fuit', Iris is forced to return to the scene of her worst nightmare, the unbearable place where her son died, and where her wicked witch of a mother still has some hideous secrets buried deep within her insane mind.

Maud Mayeras leads readers through the unpredictable plot with perfect mastery. A disturbing police procedural that is neither hackneyed nor flashy, and which has a very unexpected ending. A psycho-thriller that's impossible to put down!

Maud Mayeras is 30 years old; REFLEX is her second novel, after the noteworthy HEMATOME (2006), the winner of several awards for detective fiction.

"Réflex", paru chez Anne Carrière, est le deuxième et excellent thriller de la jeune Limougeaude, Maud Mayeras. Elle y développe suspens, ambiance sombre mais aussi une belle écriture, percutante et inventive. (...) Cela ajoute encore à son histoire bien ficelée, originale et prenante." Le Populaire

"Dans le monde de Maud Mayeras, la première impression est rarement la bonne et le vrai coupable jamais celui que l'on pense (...). Un thriller hors-pair qui se lit d'une seule traite avec la peur au ventre et l'horreur dans les yeux." À-Lire.info

"Exceptionnel. Absolument diabolique." Gérard Collard, Le Magazine de la Santé.

"En étant tout en sensation, ce roman fait appel à tous vos sens et particulièrement à la vue. Les images de Reflex, un thriller sensoriel, resteront un long moment dans l'esprit du lecteur." Plume Libre

Toussaint, Jean-Philippe: NUE**(Minuit, August 2013, 176 pages)**

- *The final chapter in a passionate, exciting love story roaming from Tokyo to the Isle of Elba to Paris.*
- *Marie, a fascinating and emblematic character, bares her all, taking on a clearly defined shape by the end of this book cycle devoted to her.*
- *A chiseled style focusing on the delicately elusive atmosphere of different places and on the changes in the seasons that mirror the characters' feelings.*
- *This intimate personal story is skillfully portrayed in a way that feels accurate, credible and universal.*

The continuing romantic adventures of Marie unfold to the rhythm of the seasons. NUE, the fourth and last volume, opens in Paris in the autumn, after the narrator and Marie's stay on the Isle of Elba – an ephemeral halcyon moment after their break up, which took place several months earlier. The return to daily life leaves things up in the air, but affords the narrator the thrill of hoping that the relationship will soon pick up where it left off. Absent in the first half of the novel, Marie is all the more present in that she appears only in memories invoked to help the narrator await her hoped-for return. Then suddenly she appears, and with her, NUE takes a livelier, gentler turn. The two lovers' second visit to Elba is a study in contrasts with the preceding one, and it bares Marie's all, exposing the exceptional being as an ordinary woman: complex and fragile. This transformation establishes a happy ending, and the novel finishes with the announcement that Marie is pregnant.

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The arrival of this third person, who creates a bond between Marie and the narrator, allows the couple to envisage the future both more concretely and more serenely, too.

Jean-Philippe Toussaint is a writer and a filmmaker. His novels, which have all been published by Editions de Minuit and have been translated into some 20-odd languages, include LA SALLE DE BAIN (1985), LA TELEVISION (1997, *Prix Victor Rossel*), FAIRE L'AMOUR (2002), FUIR (2005, *Prix Medicis*). LA VERITE SUR MARIE (2009, *Prix Decembre*). NUE is the 4th and final volume in the series about Marie.

Rights sold: Germany, Offers from: Italy, Spain and USA.

"La réussite de NUE est telle qu'on peut lire ce roman sans connaître les trois précédents." **Le Nouvel Observateur**

"Jean-Philippe Toussaint est] connu pour faire naître l'apparente simplicité de ses textes d'un long travail." **Le Monde**

"Jean-Philippe Toussaint clôt en beauté sa tétralogie sur Marie." **Le Monde**

"Marie [...] présente ou absente - attendue, espérée - occupe tout l'espace." **Télérama**

"Le quatrième volet d'un grand roman d'amour à la grâce limpide." **Télérama**

"NUE évolue, comme les trois autres volets, dans des espaces vidés par l'élégance. Marie est parfaite dans ses moindres gestes, ses absences, ses caprices." **Libération**

"Toussaint a un art efficace et discret de la composition : des scènes pâles, d'une texture presque transparente..." **Libération**

"C'est un amour d'aujourd'hui, du début du XXI^e siècle [...] mais c'est aussi un amour intemporel, que bercent les saisons et que mettent à l'épreuve les déchaînements immémoriaux de la nature..." **Le Nouvel Observateur**

Germain, Sylvie: *PETITES SCÈNES CAPITALES* (Albin Michel, August 2013, 256 pages)

- *Sylvie Germain's spell-bindingly musical writing illuminates her characters' souls, describing their doubts and flaws and revealing what they leave unspeakable.*
- *This lush, moving narrative addresses universal themes like family, identity, roots, love and death.*
- *Studded with revelations, the novel delivers an emotion-filled and discerning analysis of human frailty.*
- *The latest book from a novelist known for her skillful story-telling, luminous writing style, and her rich and masterful narration. L'INAPERCU and MAGNUS sold over 40,000 and 120,000 copies respectively.*

In this saga spanning more than 50 years in the life of Lili and her family, Sylvie Germain intertwines threads of intimacy and tragedy into PETITES SCÈNES CAPITALES (SMALL CRUCIAL SCENES).

Lili is barely a year old when her mother leaves. She dies three years later. So Lili is raised by her father and her step-mother, who has four children: a son and three daughters, including twins Lili's age. But the blended family soon comes apart: after Christine dies from a fall at age 14, her twin, Chantal, goes to live with their father in New Zealand.

Lili, an eyewitness to the family tragedy, leaves for school in Paris. For her 20th birthday, her father finally talks to her about her mother, Fanny. She was 19 and he, 28, when they got married. They were separated by the war. Overwhelmed by the responsibilities of raising a child, she was unable to love her baby daughter. These revelations affect Lili deeply: she drops out of school, falls in love and tries out communal living in May '68. She is helped in the long quest for her own identity by various encounters and revelations. Having spent years searching for her path, first as a painter, then as a jewelry maker, she finally finds peace when she falls in love at age 50. Sylvie Germain has written a thoughtful family saga, with very visual passages that paint key scenes from the characters' lives, from childhood to adulthood.

Sylvie Germain has been composing a singular body of work for almost 30 years. The winner of numerous literary prizes (from the 1989 Femina for JOURS DE COLÈRE and the 2005 Goncourt des lycéens for MAGNUS to the 2012 *Grand Prix SGDL* de littérature for her entire oeuvre), she has had three novels and two works of non-fiction published by Albin Michel.

"Sylvie Germain sait l'art de conter des fables mélancoliques qui nourrissent nos chemins. Elle n'est jamais aussi poignante que lorsqu'elle se penche sur les mille et une rédemptions possibles." **Télérama**

“Un roman subtil, très maîtrisé et faussement simple.” **Lire**

“Elle évoque avec délicatesse les méandres de l’âme humaine, les aléas d’une vie pour faire de ce très beau texte, tout en émotions contenues, le roman familial d’une femme en quête d’identité.” **Page**

“Sylvie Germain a l’art de conjuguer la douleur et la beauté. Son roman est infiniment triste et infiniment réconfortant.” **Elle**

“Avoir conscience que toute vie est précieuse : l’idée, généreuse, traverse ces *PETITES SCENES CAPITALES*, portée par la prose cristalline de Sylvie Germain.” **L’Express**

Scherrer, Pierre-Emmanuel: *LA DEFENSE FISCHER*
(Denoël, November 2013, 224 pages)

- *The fascinating story of Robert James Fischer the most famous chess player who ever lived, who experienced everything from fame and fortune to poverty, exile and torture; from love to prison and loneliness.*
- *An original point of view that puts a new twist on the life of the world’s most famous chess player.*
- *An obsessive writing style that sucks readers into experiencing the main character’s paranoid delusion.*
- *A novel that makes you want to learn more about this secretive and paradoxical personality.*

Pierre-Emmanuel Scherrer invents the last months of the life of Robert James Fischer, a controversial 20th-century character who is generally considered to be the greatest chess player who ever lived. A disorienting plunge into the twisted psyche of an obsessive and paranoid genius.

Fall 2007, a man is wandering through the streets of Reykjavik by night. The man is Bobby Fischer, and he’s convinced that he is being followed by an elusive man in red, who has been hovering around his entourage for weeks. Fischer is tramping through the streets in an attempt to identify the ghostly figure who keeps eluding him, and who could as easily be an FBI, Mossad, or KGB agent as a former challenger for the title of World Chess Champion.

The author draws us into the paranoid delusion of a man who is cracking up – both physically and psychologically. The attention paid to each minute detail reflects the obsessiveness of a brilliant but tormented mind for which chess is a metaphor for the world, and most of the time, the world is no more than a metaphor for chess.

A fascinating novel that reinterprets the events and scandals that marked Bobby Fischer’s life, as seen through the prism of his obsessions and his persecution complex.

Pierre-Emmanuel Scherrer was born in 1976. He lives and works in the South of France. His first novel, *DESERT PEARL HOTEL*, was published by Éditions de la Table Ronde in 2010.

Boissard, Janine: *CHUUUT !*
(Julliard/Robert Laffont, February 2013, 330 pages)
30 000 copies already sold in France

- *The motto ‘children should be seen and not heard’ can have explosive effects...*

Edmond de Saint-Junien is a farmer that lives in a beautiful chateau enclosed by vine yards in the Cognac region. He is surrounded by his wife, Delphine, their three children and their children’s families. Only one person is absent: their daughter, Roselyne, who ran away the day she came of age and has just been discovered as dead. Everyone is shocked when her son, Nils, previously unknown to have existed, arrives at the chateau. Charming and intelligent, Nils swiftly wins the heart of his grand-parents and his cousin, Fine, whom he falls immediately in love with. Until the day that something terrible happens: Maria, the little girl of the caretakers, is found murdered...

Janine Boissard no longer needs an introduction. She is the author of numerous best-sellers, among which *L’ESPRIT DE FAMILLE*, *UNE FEMME EN BLANC*, *MARIE-TEMPÊTE*, and more recently, *HISTOIRE D’AMOUR*.

HIGHLIGHT SPRING 2014

Lambert, Karine: *L'IMMEUBLE DES FEMMES QUI ONT RENONCÉ AUX HOMMES*
(Michel Lafon, May 2014, 240 pages)

- *Endearing characters, an acute insight into woman's psychology, a cleverly-crafted novel and a building that both men and women will be curious to visit.*
- *A novel that rides a growing trend: intergenerational cohabitation, self-managed shelters for elderly women, inter-district solidarity, an effort to reinforce social bonds and proximity between people.*
- *This commercial novel, optimistic and comforting, about a small group of women who've given up on men and whose refusal to love again will be turned upside down, is the perfect feel-good book.*

In a building inhabited by women who have abjured men only, man's presence is everywhere. In their anger, nostalgia, dreams and desires... There, four women have joined their destiny, in spite of their different ages and backgrounds. They are no bitter feminists, but women who, hurt and betrayed by love, have found a new way of life.

Juliette, a young new tenant, is charmed by the joyful complicity, the laughter and the touch of eccentricity she discovers in them. But she hasn't given up on anything! Will her relentless quest for love end up shattering her neighbours' certainties and taste for celibacy?

Both full of harsh and tender moments, the novel skilfully oscillates between deep and humorous reflections on the difficulty of loving someone and making choices in life, but also on how human beings, although broken by life, still find their way to happiness.

Karine Lambert is a photographer on the lookout for essential truths. *L'IMMEUBLE DES FEMMES QUI ONT RENONCÉ AUX HOMMES* is her first novel. Karine is Belgian and lives in Brussels.

Rights are sold: Spanish rights pre-empted by Random House Spain; Italian rights sold to Sperling & Kupfer (after an auction), and Romanian rights sold to Editura Trei!. Offers received from Holland!

Didierlaurent, Jean-Paul: *LE LISEUR DU 6H27*
(Au Diable Vauvert, May 2014, 194 pages)

- *A structure that intertwines several voices: both the characters' and the texts they read*
- *A warm, welcoming world in which books are honored and words bring people together*
- *A cast of colorful characters whose humanity is touching*

When the passion of reading seizes the machine of solitude... An original and feel-good debut novel, which renders a generous reflection on human relationships and an ode to simple life, love and literature.

Discrete employee Guylain Vignolles works in the book pulping business and is in charge of a formidable machine that shreds unsold works. He leads a dull and lonely existence, steered by his commutes to the factory. Yet every morning on his way to work, in the suburban train that departs at 6:27 AM, he reads out loud a few pages he saved the day before from the iron teeth of the Zerstor 500. One day, Guylain discovers the texts of a mysterious woman, which will change the course of his life...

In a color evoking the cinema of Jean-Pierre Jeunet or Jean Meckert's working-class plume, Jean-Paul Didierlaurent has written a debut novel that reveals the world of a remarkable writer, full of warmth and poetry, in which the most insignificant characters are crazy and extraordinary in their humanity, and literature the remedy to daily monotony.

Rights already sold: Spain (Planeta, Seix Barral), Italy (Rizzoli), World English (MacMillan), Germany (DTV), Brazil (Intrinseca), Israel (Modan), Sweden (Norstedts), Finland (Tammi), Czech Republic (Euromedia), Slovakia (Ikar), Netherland (Xander)

"This 'reader' is impressive: I read it in one single sitting last night and I enjoyed it very much."

Charles-Henri Flammarion

"A gem of a novel" A German publisher

Bayard, Pierre: *IL EXISTE D'AUTRES MONDES*
(Minuit, February 2014, 160 pages)

- *A new book, in the same vein as the preceding ones, that toys with paradoxes.*
- *A book that is crammed with fascinating literary and scientific references. The narrator invites readers to revise their classics.*
- *An unsettling reading experience: readers get caught in a cleverly set trap.*

Pierre Bayard, author of the best-selling COMMENT PARLER DES LIVRES QUE L'ON N'A PAS LUS, is back with another one of those wonderfully insightful books that are his specialty.

This one is on the cusp between fiction and non-fiction. In *IL EXISTE D'AUTRES MONDES*, he takes as his subject the theory of parallel worlds that so many writers have explored, then uses that as a lens through which to examine the life of certain authors and artists whose sensitivity and imagination are heightened.

In *IL EXISTE D'AUTRES MONDES*, Pierre Bayard tries to convince his readers that different worlds – the “other worlds” of the title – really do exist, and that these parallel worlds are where artists find their inspiration. While the book reads like a serious essay, it is actually a sophisticated literary hoax. The method is simple: each section develops one idea. The author draws on everything from quantum physics, psychology and literature to experiences from daily life as well as from TV series. He supports his arguments with in-depth analysis and plenty of examples.

Delving into the text is both enlightening and entertaining; the analyses and comments are brilliantly unexpected. It is an active read. Granted, readers are being manipulated, but they get their eyes opened as well: they learn a lot and are forced to think for themselves. This is truly a euphoria-inducing book.

Reading *IL EXISTE D'AUTRES MONDES* is a literary experience; like Borges, the author enjoys leading readers into confusion.

Pierre Bayard is both a professor of literature at the University Paris VIII and a psychoanalyst. He has had many non-fiction books published, including the best-selling COMMENT PARLER DES LIVRES QUE L'ON A PAS LUS (rights sold in 12 languages: Korea, Holland, Germany, Norway, Russia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, China, Japan, USA, UK and Brasil).

Bassinac, Sophie: *MER AGITEE A TRES AGITEE*
(JC Lattès, January 2014, 256 pages)

- *A poetical novel with plenty of subtle humor, thus book addresses issues like aging, families, and finding one's balance.*
- *The characters are deliberately ambiguous, wavering between melancholy and euphoria, brutality and affection, holding on and letting go.*
- *The profoundly human and truthful plot is free of pathos and preaching.*

Set in the heavily charged atmosphere of a beach resort in Brittany, Sophie Bassinac's latest novel describes the dilemmas of a former top-model who has to deal with a drug-addicted husband, a troubled-teen daughter and the reappearance of her first love.

Maryline has decided to give up on her career as a top model and leave New York and its scandals. She goes back to her childhood home, on the coast of Brittany, with her daughter – an obese and anger-filled teen – and her husband – a rock star, a dandy and a drug addict. She is determined to save him –against his own will, if need be.

For the past 10 years, she has been holding things together, despite her bouts of melancholy, her feeling cut off from other women by her beauty and her fame, and her constant fear that her borderline husband would go overboard. But when the body of a drowned young woman is found on a nearby beach, the fragile balance of Maryline's life is nearly upset. While her family and entourage have to face the police and the press's suspicions once again, the former top model has to face her first love, a man with a prickly temperament and an almost brutal tenderness.

Sophie Bassinac has written a moving and truthful novel that avoids clichés and cultivates a certain mystery. There are neither good guys nor bad guys here; both the plot twists and the characters have the complexities of real life.

After five critically acclaimed novels, of which *DOS À DOS* (2011) and *UN JARDIN EXTRAORDINAIRE* (2012) were published with Lattès, Sophie Bassignac signs a vivacious and charming novel with *MER AGITÉE À TRÈS AGITÉE*. Her novel *LES AQUARIUMS LUMINEUX* (Denoeil, 2008) was sold to Poland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Korea, China and Russia.

Rights sold: in Germany (Hoffmann und Campe).

“Sophie Bassignac is a natural writer with an engaging sense of detail and melancholy.” Eric Neuhoﬀ, *Madame Figaro*

“Sophie Bassignac establishes her quirky characters in her beloved Brittany with disarming ease, as if a whimsical god had touched her with grace and endowed her with the gifts of keen observation, inspired prose and an energetic rhythm that carries her story...” **Elle**

“*MER AGITÉE À TRÈS AGITÉE* is the best book by this fanciful, funny and moving novelist (...). One cannot but yield to this formidable puzzle that takes us to a small beach resort on the west coast of France.” **Livres Hebdo**

Martin-Lugand, Agnès: *JE VOUS ATTENDS À L’ATELIER* (Michel Lafon, June 2014 336 pages)

- *Agnès Martin-Lugand’s first novel, LES GENS HEUREUX LISENT ET BOIVENT DU CAFE, sold over 170,000 copies, has been translated in 20 countries, and is soon to be made into a major motion picture.*
- *A very feminine and thoughtful novel that makes us think about the choices we make in life.*
- *The glamorous and pitiless world of Parisian haute couture is reminiscent of the recent film about Yves Saint Laurent.*
- *A strong heroine who takes her life into her own hands and isn’t afraid to make painful choices in order to make her dreams come true.*

Agnès Martin-Lugand’s latest novel invites us into the luxurious world of Parisian haute couture, in the wake of a woman whose fate is to live her dream... no matter what!

At age 31, Iris has everything: a happy marriage, a lovely house, friends with similar life styles, an uncomplicated family life... the perfect middle-class existence.

But Iris was bitten with the fashion bug young, and has never completely abandoned her dream of making her passion her profession – despite the well-meant advice of everyone she knows. So she decides to take her life into her own hands, and to go to Paris to get to know the world of fashion and design – and the power of women in stiletto heels. She finally finds her element, but can she balance her dream and her marriage, which is coming apart at the seams?

Iris draws us into a world of promises and disappointments that will teach her a lot about herself.

The portrait of a woman searching for her own identity, this book draws readers into an adventure that is so devilishly lush that, like the heroine, you’ll find it hard to drag yourself away.

Agnès Martin-Lugand, a clinical psychologist, is the author of the best-selling *LES GENS HEUREUX LISENT ET BOIVENT DU CAFÉ*: more than 170,000 copies sold in France, 20 translations, and an upcoming film version. She now devotes herself entirely to her writing.

Russian rights are under option with Corpus

van Cauwelaert, Didier: *LE PRINCIPE DE PAULINE* (Albin Michel, May 2014, 333 pages)

- *A modern take on Jules & Jim, centered on a woman who loves two men, who are both friends and rivals.*
- *Delving into the torments of friendship, it explores jealousy, passion and conflict.*
- *Fierce satires of the worlds of politics and literature, it perfectly echoes our era, in which anything goes.*

When Quincy, a 21-year-old writer, catches both Pauline and Maxime’s eyes, he doesn’t realize that their encounter will lure him into the torments of a ménage à trois of love and friendship that will be even more devastating than passion...

Quincy Farriol is the winner of the Saint-Pierre-des-Alpes Prison Book Award. In the deserted bookstore where he has come for a book-signing, the young author first meets Pauline, a computer-technology student who has offered to be his assistant. It's love at first sight. As he is getting ready for an interview with Maxime, the president of the prisoners book club, Pauline insists that he bring her a present from her. Maxime, her lover, has been falsely accused of plotting against a shady politician whose bodyguard he used to be. At the interview, Maxime asks Quincy to seduce Pauline, "so that she can start over without him." But Pauline soon leaves the Alps for England. A few years later, when Maxime has been pardoned, he gets in touch with Quincy: Pauline wants to see them both. To celebrate her degree and her up-coming wedding, she wants to spend the night with her two former lovers as a final fling before settling down. The three friends are inextricably united in an unshakeable passion-friendship.

Didier van Cauwelaert has been winning both literary prizes and audience acclaim since his beginnings, including the *Prix Goncourt* for *UN ALLER SIMPLE* in 1994. His latest novels include *LES TÉMOINS DE LA MARIÉE* (2010) and *LA FEMME DE NOS VIES* (2013). A prolific writer, he has produced some 20 novels, as well as several plays and musicals. His *DICTIONNAIRE DE L'IMPOSSIBLE*, published by Éditions Plon, has been a huge success.

**Anidjar, Patrick: *LE TROMPETISTE DE STALINE*
(Plon, February 2014, 416 pages)**

➤ *The tragic fate of Eddie Grynberg, Stalin's favourite jazz trumpet-player.*

A Parisian journalist, at fifty, Gabriel Linhardt loves jazz and sometimes performs in the bars of the capital in his off hours. One day, he receives a letter from an attorney in New York that will turn his life upside-down. An old uncle, living in New York and now on his deathbed, asks to see him. For this only child, whose family consists of just his parents the shock is enormous.

In New York, Gabriel learns that he was adopted, and that his father was in fact the great Russian jazz trumpeter, Edouard "Eddie" Grynberg. His mother was a dancer, Elsa, and the two Jewish artists performed in Paris and in Moscow, where they finally took refuge from the Nazis. Eddie Grynberg plays for the Soviet upper crust, including Stalin until the day when Jdanov relegated «American» jazz to the dustbin of degenerate art.

In a nightmare scenario, Elsa was swallowed up into the cellars of the NKVD, while Grynberg was sent to the gulag. Incapable of going on without Elsa, Eddie let himself die after having given his only property—a trumpet engraved with an inscription in Hebrew—to an Ukrainian prisoner with whom he had become friends, begging him to swear he would find Elsa and the child she had brought into the world, so that he would receive his meager inheritance.

Correspondent of AFP news agency in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, Patrick Anidjar is the author of an essay on Iran's nuclear aspirations (*LA BOMBE IRANIENNE*, Editions du Seuil, 2008). He is currently an assistant editor in chief at the AFP and lives in Paris.

**Echenoz, Jean: *CAPRICE DE LA REINE*
(Minuit, March 2014, 127 pages)**

- *In a chiseled, literary style, Jean Echenoz takes us on a stroll through different places and periods, while posing questions about the passage of time and how mankind effects the environment.*
- *With an inimitable sense of humor, Jean Echenoz portrays ancient cities and famous queens as well as more modern places, like airports.*

These seven short stories and experimental narratives by Jean Echenoz were published in various journals between 2002 and 2014; they have been brought together in this volume.

The stories have no connecting thread, yet there is coherence among them. We jump from Admiral Nelson to Babylon and Herodotus, with a stopover to admire the portraits of 20 important French queens before tagging along with a narrator obsessed with the idea of going to have a sandwich in Le Bourget as he strolls observantly through modern-day Paris. That last story stands alone for its contemporary setting. The narrator – none other than the author himself – leaves Paris proper in order to accept the challenge of eating a sandwich in the suburbs. A pretext for taking a good look at the city and how it has changed, while offering observations about the landscape, transportation and urbanism.

A writer and screenwriter, Jean Echenoz has published twelve books and has been awarded numerous literary prizes, including the *Prix Medicis* in 1983 for *CHEROKEE* and the *Prix Goncourt* in 1999 for *JE M'EN VAIS*. His books have been translated in more than 15 countries. His novel *COURIR* sold over 75,000 copies in

France, and translation rights have been sold to: the US (New Press), Italy (Adelphi), Germany (Berlin Verlag), Spain (Anagrama), Norway (Aschehoug), Greece (Polis), the Netherlands (De Geus), Portugal (Objetiva), Brazil (Alfaguara), Finland (Tammi), Denmark (Per Kofod), Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta), Poland (Noir sur Blanc), China (Art et Litterature du Hunan), Korea (Open Books) and Turkey (Kitap Yayınevi).

“Jean Echenoz se penche sur la Grande Guerre, embrassant la tragedie en quelque cent vingt pages d’une bouleversante beauté. Un grand livre.” **Télérama**

“Dans 14, le prodigieux Echenoz, raconte quatre années de la Grande Guerre, des tranches au village vendéen où une femme attend le retour de deux mobilisés. (...) Leur histoire toute petite rejoindra la grande avant de se perdre dans l’anonymat, comme les milliers de carnets de guerre griffonnés par les poilus. Elle se lit, s’écoute, se voit et se touche par la beauté des mots de l’écrivain, simples, neufs et implacables.” **La Croix**

“Maîtrisant une écriture aussi stylisée qu’elliptique, sans jamais se départir de son sens du détail, de son élégance ni de son esprit, Jean Echenoz signe un de ses textes les plus graves et les plus beaux” **Page**

“14 est un texte les plus forts de cette rentrée qui pourtant n’en manque pas. Le confirmation que Jean Echenoz fait partie du petit club des (très) grand écrivains.” **Page**

Mingarelli, Hubert: *L'HOMME QUI AVAIT SOIF* (Stock, January 2014, 160 pages)

- *Hubert Mingarelli’s powerful yet poetic new novel explores the themes of friendship between men, of fragility, vulnerability and a longing for consolation, and it sensitively examines the wounds of post-war Japan.*

Japan 1946, during the American occupation. Hisao has just been demobilised and is on his way home from the mountains, obsessed by a crippling thirst that he can never slake. On board a train taking him to the woman he loves but has not yet met because he only knows her from their correspondence, he makes the mistake that is to become the reader’s preoccupation for the rest of the book. He steps off the train for a drink and watches the train pull out, taking with it his suitcase and the gift he intended to give to Shigeko, his beloved. A jade egg, a unique, sacred object which is now to become his quest.

Hubert Mingarelli establishes a subtle yet intense mood of suspense, allowing the reader to follow Hisao’s trials and tribulations as he tries to catch up with the train; but at the same time he reveals Hisao’s experiences of war in the mountains of Peleliu, digging trenches day and night to escape American air raids. To cope with the physical exertion, the fear, the darkness, the constant thirst and the ever-present threat of madness, he grew close to young Takeshi. They slept huddled together for many, many nights, they dug, they lived in hope, they comforted each other, and then Takeshi was killed when one of their excavations collapsed. Ever since, Hisao has been inconsolable, haunted by the question “where do souls go?”

Hubert Mingarelli lives near Grenoble. He is the author of highly regarded works, having published nearly a dozen novels and collections of short stories, including QUATRE SOLDATS (Le Seuil, winner of the 2003 Prix Médicis). He has also written novels for young adults. Stock has published his last novel A MEAL IN WINTER en 2012, which was a remarkable success and was translated in Israel, Italy and United-Kingdom.

Under option in Italy, Israel and United-Kingdom

Lafon, Lola: *LA PETITE COMMUNISTE QUI NE SOURIAIT JAMAIS* (Actes Sud, January 2014, 320 pages)

- *A lively narrative as fast-paced as young Nadia’s gymnastic routines that enchanted the entire world in 1976.*
- *The author precisely portrays the Communist regimes’ system for producing champions.*
- *A tribute to the girl who proved that innocence, talent and beauty could touch the entire world.*
- *The story of a nearly forgotten world that has so often been caricatured in the West: Eastern Europe’s history is now buried in a chapter closed by the fall of the Wall.*
- *A fictionalized account of the life of the famous Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, the living emblem of Communist perfection.*

This novel is neither a psychological analysis nor a biography in the usual sense of the word. Instead, the narrator imagines the experiences of the little girl who became a star. We follow the “girl with bones of silk” from her sudden rise to fame and fall back into rejection by the media, to her escape to the USA.

But it is above all a way for Lola Lafon, who knows Eastern Europe well, to present a slice of contemporary history. Both a portrait of – and in a certain way, a tribute to – Romania in the 1970s and 80, this novel carefully avoids caricatures about Communism. Taking stock of our modern world, it intelligently describes the fragility of the symbols we endlessly build up and tear down.

With French, Russian and Polish roots, Lola Lafon, who was raised in Sofia, Bucarest and Paris, started out as a dancer before turning to writing. Her first three novels are *UNE FIEVRE IMPOSSIBLE A NEGOCIER* (translated into Spanish and Italian, and winner of the “A tout lire” Prize), *DE ÇA JE ME CONSOLE* and *NOUS SOMMES LES OISEAUX DE LA TEMPETE QUI S’ANNONCE*, (*Coup de Cœur de la 25ème heure* Prize at the Le Mans Book Fair and short-listed for the *Marie-Claire* Prize). The latter novel will be released in the USA in January 2014 by Seagull Books.

Rights already sold to: Germany (Piper), Romania (Trei) and Italy (Bompiani), Spain (Anagrama).

“Lola Lafon retrace [le parcours de Nadia Comaneci] pour interroger notre rapport au corps et au mythe. Tout est donc vrai et tout est donc faux dans *LA PETITE COMMUNISTE QUI NE SOURIAIT JAMAIS*. La réalité ne dépasse pas la fiction, mais la fiction aide à décrypter la réalité.” **Le Journal du Dimanche**

“*Lola Lafon se bat contre les stereotypes entourant les pays du bloc de l’Est et dénonce la chosification du corps de la femme.*” **Le Journal du Dimanche**

“*Formidable ! Génialissime.*” **Elle**

“*Subjuguant.*” **Le Point**

“Lola Lafon signe le roman le plus fascinant de cette rentrée.” **Les Inrockuptibles**

“*On dévore ce roman aux multiples facettes, réfrénant l’envie de remettre son justaucorps pour un dernier salto.*” **Flavor**

“De cette légende du sport, Lola Lafon extirpe un portrait attachant, sorte de décryptage âpre et romanesque pas du tout complaisant. » **Le Nouvel Observateur**

“Quelle belle idée de choisir la fiction, de se débarrasser des obligations documentaires pour conserver l’essentiel.” **Lire**

“*Écrit comme un livre qu’on se passe sous le manteaux, un brûlot de résistance plein de sens caches, LA PETITE COMMUNISTE QUI NE SOURIAIT JAMAIS met en regard la dictature communiste d’hier et l’asphyxie capitaliste d’aujourd’hui.*” **Télérama**

Gavalda, Anna: *LA VIE EN MIEUX* (Le Dilettante, March 2014, 288 pages)

With typical sensitivity and finesse, Anna Gavalda composes an ode centred around two slightly lost souls in these 2 novellas.

Two stories. Two stories about young people of our time, satiated yet craving, polite yet raging, who would rather risk choosing the wrong life than living no life at all.” (Anna Gavalda) “

Mathilde is 24. She dropped out of art history for a small-time job and shares lodgings with twin sisters. She says she is happy, but always needs to drink to remember that. One day, she forgets her handbag in a café. A man gives it back to her the following week. Several months later, and precisely because of this man, she chucks it all in and decides to change her life.

Yann is 26. He’s as qualified as can be, but can’t find a job. While waiting for better times, he’s working as a sales assistant in a hi-tech electrical goods store. He is living with Mélanie and doesn’t say he is unhappy, but often, when he crosses the Seine river, he imagines jumping and sees himself drowning. One evening, when he is alone, he gives a helping hand to his neighbour across the landing. To thank him, the latter invites him to dinner. The following morning, he chucks it all in and decides to change his life.

Anna Gavalda is one of France’s most beloved best-selling novelists. She burst onto the literary scene in 1999 with her collection of short stories *JE VOUDRAIS QUE QUELQU’UN M’ATTENDE QUELQUE PART*, which is translated into 40 languages. Since then, she has published four full length novels: *JE L’AIMAIS* (2002, also translated into 40 languages), *ENSEMBLE C’EST TOUT* (2004, translated into 38 languages), *LA CONSOLANTE* (2008, translated into 33 languages) and *L’ECHAPPEE BELLE* (2009). Every one of her books have sold millions of copies in France and many more in the 40 languages into which she has been translated.

Russian rights are under option with AST Group.

“Anna Gavalda has an incredible talent for finding the right turn of phrase and image, a unique way of speaking about today’s world with a host of spot-on details, of describing everyday life that sometimes makes us buckle, while showing us we can take off provided we want to have wings. Gavalda illustrates better than anyone that life can knock you about, but that it can also be vibrant and kooky when we decide to tackle it head on. But how does Anna Gavalda do it?” LIRE

“The many readers who appreciate Anna Gavalda’s world will feel at home once again. And those who were recalcitrant may be won over, for Gavalda, having returned to her first love, reveals once again all her talent as a short story writer.” Livres Hebdo

Guène, Faïza Guène: UN HOMME, ÇA NE PLEURE PAS (Fayard, January 2014, 320 pages)

The latest book from Faïza Guène, whose first novel, KIFFE, KIFFE DEMAIN was an international sensation translated into 30 languages. Mourad, a Frenchman with Algerian roots, tells his family’s history with self-deprecating humor, and a certain distance from both his own culture and from integration policy.

Mourad, a young French teacher with Algerian roots, describes his childhood in Nice and his life in Paris. He talks about his over-protective mother; his father who can’t read, but never cries, and above all, about the scission in his family caused by his sister, Dounia. She walked away, slamming the door behind her, to become a feminist activist. Going into politics, she turns into a token of successful integration, and starts to look down on her own people. Mourad, disconcerted by her ideas, chooses to fight the prejudice around him: his parents’, his students’ and Dounia’s. Only their father’s falling seriously ill can bring this divided family back together again.

A touching and funny novel that portrays, from Mourad’s point of view, French Muslim family life: their desire to integrate while also preserving their own traditions and roots.

Faïza Guène is a French author with Algerian roots. She writes social comedies that deal with integration. Her first novel, KIFFE, KIFFE DEMAIN (2004, Hachette Editions) sold over 400,000 copies and was translated into 26 languages. UN HOMME, ÇA NE PLEURE PAS is her fourth book, after DU RÊVE POUR LES OUFUS (2006) and LES GENS DU BALTO (2008).

“Le roman décrit le poids de l’héritage, la transmission et le décalage entre les générations. (...) Faïza Guène nous guide au fil des pages vers un miroir douloureux, drôle et beau à la fois.” Libération

“On attendait son vrai retour depuis le truculent KIFFE KIFFE DEMAIN. La voici au top avec les tribulations tristes et drôles du fils d’un clan, écartelé entre changement et conservatisme.” Marie-Claire

Schmitt, Eric-Emmanuel: L’ELIXIR D’AMOUR (Albin Michel, May 2014, approx. 200 pages)

- *A portrait gallery of colorful characters – including Mourad’s hypochondriac mother and his cousin who lives with a rich, older Parisian woman – whose humanity makes them touching.*
- *An intelligent novel about Arab culture, racist prejudice and integration that asks serious questions about these important issues.*
- *A lively, almost spoken writing style, thanks to the many pages of dialogue bursting with expressions that are characteristic of specific cultures and generations.*

A love potion, a sure-fire method of making someone fall in love... But does such a thing exist?

Louise and Adam have separated and now live thousands of miles apart – he in Paris and she in Montreal. By letter, they issue a mutual challenge: to find a sure way of inciting love. Their epistolary conversations, while recalling the hurts of the past, also describe their new life and new encounters and ponder on the mystery of attraction and emotions. But this ‘love potion’ game – a trap that incites passion – could be hiding another kind of manipulation...

Playwright, novelist, essayist, film maker, translated into 40 languages and staged in as many countries, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt is one of the most widely-read and performed authors in the world.

Russian rights are under Option with Azbooka-Atticus Group

Belletto, René: *LE LIVRE*
(P.O.L, March 2014, 277 pages)

- *An intimist novel that reminds of Belletto's usual atmosphere, as in HORS LA LOI and L'ENFER.*
- *With his precise and lucid writing, Belletto underlines fascinating details in the sentimental attachment people have for mere objects.*
- *A successfully nightmarish and evanescent character: the man with the hateful stare is a spine-chilling encounter.*

Belletto's dreamlike new novel has the reader almost lost between fantasy and reality. A captivating novel on the edge of both noir and fantastic genres.

Michel can't get over his sister Elisabeth's recent death. He spends most of his days locked up in his home, doing nothing. When he visits his sister's doctor, his doubts and anxiety about life come back to the surface and disturb his quiet routine. There, he also runs into a man whose hateful stare starts haunting his dreams. Two women he just met, Eva and Evelyn, will accompany his nightmarish wanderings.

René Belletto immerses his reader into the mind of a man lost in his own obsessive existence, suffering from dreadful nightmares and vertigos, and yet, still able to recognize the beauty in chance encounters, and the subtle delicateness of feelings.

Born in Lyon in 1945, René Belletto is known as a literary-thriller author whose works are marbled with characteristics of detective, noir and science fiction genres. The author of dozen novels, many of which were awarded including *LE TEMPS MORT* (*Prix Jean Ray de la littérature fantastique* in 1974), *LE REVENANT* (*Prix de L'Été VSD Radio Monte-Carlo* in 1981), *SUR LA TERRE COMME AU CIEL* (*Grand Prix de littérature policière* in 1983). In 1986, *L'ENFER*, receives both the *Prix Femina* and the *Prix du Livre Inter*. *LE LIVRE* is his twentieth novel.

“René Belletto est un maître de l’effroi. On le sait depuis Le Revenant, L’Enfer, La Machine... Avec LE LIVRE, il trace un nouveau cercle infernal de son cru, un de ses engrenages cauchemardesques calculé au micron ! [...] Belletto possède l’art de charger jusqu’à la gueule l’orage de la malédiction, de le précipiter sur l’âme humaine. Chez lui, le réel a toujours un statut onirique. Entre le vécu et l’enfer des rêves les plus effroyables, il n’y a pas de différence. [...] L’habileté du romancier, sa maîtrise ondoyante, sa logique limpide, musicale traduisent des fantasmagories intimes, des doubles redoutables, des ambivalences fascinantes.” **Le Figaro**

“Un vertigineux thriller fantastique sur le suicide et la création.” **Lire**

“Il suffit de quelques pages à René Belletto pour installer un climat flottant, pour distiller le mystère et attacher définitivement aux pas de Michel Aventin. [...] Il navigue parfaitement entre le thriller, le fantastique à l’ancienne et le romantisme noir. Et promène son lecteur fasciné dans un Paris étrange dont il prend un malin plaisir à redessiner la topologie. LE LIVRE, on l’a compris, est un Belletto d’exception.” **Livre Hebdo**

“Belletto reparait avec un livre intimiste et haletant, une seconde peau [...] La réalité n’existe pas dans ce livre. Aux frontières de la folie, le héros lévite entre ses rêves et ses regrets, ses angoisses et ses souvenirs. Il circule dans le labyrinthe de son imagination, au gré des télescopes et des coïncidences.” **Télérama**

JM Erre: *LA FIN DU MONDE A DU RETARD*
(Buchen Chastel/Libella, February 2014, 416 pages)

- *A side-splitting tribute to esoteric thrillers. In this brilliant, off-the-wall and absolutely hilarious new novel, J-M Erre draws us into a paranoid amnesiac's epic quest to save the world.*

Composed like a thriller, *LA FIN DU MONDE A DU RETARD* features Alice and Julius, two amnesiacs who have escaped from the psychiatric ward where they are being treated. Julius is convinced that he has a mission to save humanity from a dastardly plot. As he is chased by the police, the press and mysterious, shadowy figures, adventures and plot twists pile up until the incredible final revelation.

As with all of his novels, J. M. Erre plays fast and free with the codes of a popular genre (B movies in *SÉRIE Z*, detective novels in *LE MYSTÈRE SHERLOCK*). In *LA FIN DU MONDE A DU RETARD*, esoteric thrillers like the *DA VINCI CODE* are his new playground.

LA FIN DU MONDE A DU RETARD questions in an off-beat way how each of us comes to our beliefs, but above all, it is a joyful tale about what is both so horrible and so wonderful about being human: our ability to tell stories.

DISCOVERED WRITER

J.M. Erre is a professor in Sète and lives in Montpellier. He has had four previous novels published by Buchet Chastel: *PRENEZ SOIN DU CHIEN* (2006), *MADE IN CHINA* (2008), *SÉRIE Z* (2010) and *LE MYSTÈRE SHERLOCK* (2012).

Rights for previous books sold to: Korea (Moeum & Jaeum), China (Shangai Translation Publishing House), Italy (Clichy Edizioni) and Russia (Inostranka)

DISCOVERED WRITER

Magda Szabó: *THE DOOR*
(Viviane Hamy, 2003, 286 pages)
150,000 copies sold in France

- *Prix Fémina Étranger 2003*
- *Adapted into a movie starring Helen Mirren in 2012*

THE DOOR: A duel between two very different women : an explosion of the mistress-servant relationship. Emerence is a servant, generous as only a queen without a kingdom can be. Naturally unselfish, she is deeply preoccupied by every living thing around her, but she has a strong nature and keeps her fl at as a sanctuary where no one ever enters. The mistress is an intellectual, awkward with everyday things and basic feelings. They share their universe amidst tension and misunderstanding, and their relationship smoothly turns upside down, until it reaches crisis point.

Magda Szabó is considered in Hungary as “a national treasure”. She was born in 1917 and started writing early. Her novels were immediately widely translated. In 1978, she was given her country’s highest honors.

“Magda Szabó (...) shows us the sulfurous conflict that exists between two women, the ‘mistress’ and the ‘servant’, making the latter into a kind of queen without a kingdom.” **Le Canard enchaîné**

“A demonic female version of Jeeves, Emerence not only clears the knots from the writer’s life but also acts as the unofficial administrator for the neighbourhood, all-seeing and as firmly interventionist as the Old Testament God.” **The Telegraph**

*“There is much in this story that will bewilder and perplex, but *The Door* is a document of a vital relationship.”* **The Guardian**

Rights sold to: Italy (Einaudi), Spain (Random House Mondadori), Portugal (Dom Quixote), Norway (Aschehoug), Israel (Keter), Greece (Psichogois), Turkey (Kanat Kitap), Netherlands (Houtekiet), Germany (Suhrkamp), Hungary (Europa), Poland (Piw), UK (Harvill Press), USA (EEM)

LITERARY FICTION

Pagano, Emmanuelle: *NOUONS-NOUS*
(P.O.L, November 2013, 203 pages)

- *In this exceptionally moving and varied book, a great number of anonymous characters offer us an intimate glimpse at their private lives.*
- *The stories range from a few lines to a few pages, and are all in the first person. This choral “I” creates a collection in the shape of a kaleidoscope of intimacy and emotion, drawn from different ages and eras.*
- *The style is masterful, the fragments full of poetry, affection, sensuality and humor, too.*
- *You can’t help smiling when you recognize yourself – or someone you love – in certain characters. These clever and varied fragments are surprisingly moving on many different levels.*

Emmanuelle Pagano offers us a wide range of love stories, composed of pleasure and excitement, love and sex, bodies and souls, getting started and breaking up. A series of fragments that each tell a different story, sometimes in a man’s voice, sometimes a woman’s.

In *Nouons-nous*, love is in the details, composed of daily gestures – the ones we do or don't agree to share, the ones we miss when the other isn't there.

Nothing is taboo here, but nothing is vulgar either. The bodies, with their desires – and sometimes their disgraces – are real. This kaleidoscope of love stories, all told in the first person, is a delight: concrete and ordinary, but poetic and moving, too.

The author portrays the ties that bind, and how they can be tight or slack, smooth or frayed. She allows us to see her characters' strengths and weaknesses, cowardice and courage; their children, friends and families, their daily lives – in sickness and in health, for better or for worse, married or not.

Born in Rodez (southwestern France) in 1969, Emmanuelle Pagano's books include *Adolescents troglodytes*, published by POL in 2007.

“On assiste à une agonie de battements de cœur ou à l'envol d'une rencontre à un moment perdu. Emmanuelle Pagano écrit de manière directe. Petites fléchettes au cœur de la cible...” **Le Journal du Dimanche**

“Ce n'est pas un inventaire des lieux érotiques, un dénouement, une -logie, sémio ou psycho. Au contraire, c'est la confusion, l'écriture, la mémoire, le fantasme, le banal tout ensemble. Et ce n'est pas triste. Certains moments confinent au rêve...” **Libération**

“L'auteure découd l'amour, de main de maître, pour en isoler un détail signifiant. Un problème de peau, un geste inattendu, un objet à chérir. On se glisse dans son "je" pour devenir ce qu'elle veut.” **Le Journal du Dimanche**

Hachtroudi, Fariba: *LE COLONEL ET L'APPÂT 455* (Albin Michel, January 2014, 192 pages)

- *A raw and striking novel that immerses the reader in a tale of unshakeable love, woven over a background of fanatical violence.*
- *Characters damaged by torture, abandonment and guilt are looking for renewal and redemption.*
- *A puzzle that isn't resolved until the last page.*
- *In her latest novel, Fariba Hachtroudi has a former prisoner who was horribly tortured confront the man who – unbeknownst to her -- saved her life: a high-ranking officer looking for belated redemption.*

As the wife of a leader of the resistance against the Supreme Commander, Vima has become Decoy 455, kidnapped by the Army of God to be tortured, in order to get her husband to capitulate. But the unshakeable force of Vima's love allows her to withstand months of torture and rape without screaming, crying or begging for mercy. All she says is, “No”. As she is awaiting her own execution, she is transferred to a military hospital, where she is secretly given a passport and a plane ticket out of the country. She winds up in a Scandinavian country without knowing who saved her or what has become of her husband.

No one, not even his wife, knows that Ala has become The Colonel. He had enlisted in the Army of God in his youth, but has promised his wife – whom he is passionately in love with – that he would resign. But he is already part of the Supreme Commander's Inner Circle – which no one can get out of alive. He has been put in charge of purging the prison staff of whoever has been helping political prisoners escape. Until the day his wife finds a tape of the interrogation of Decoy 455 and forces him to choose: help the young woman escape and leave the Army of God, or lose her love forever.

Above and beyond the harshness of certain scenes, and the sense of outrage at what is being denounced, *LE COLONEL ET L'APPÂT 455* portrays the transcendental strength of absolute love, which can transform the lives of those who experience it.

Born in Iran, Fariba Hachtroudi has lived in France since she was a teen. After a doctorate in archaeology, she became a journalist, covering the Iran-Iraq war and writing in-depth reports about Iran and women's rights. Her first novel, *IRAN, LES RIVES DU SANG* won the 2001 *Grand Prix des Droits de l'homme*. Since then, she has written a number of works of both fiction and non-fiction about Iran. Her personal history and her knowledge of the Middle East make her both an eyewitness and a renowned expert.

Rights sold to: Italy (E/O), world English rights (Europa)

LITERARY FICTION

“Fariba Hachtroudi signe un livre subtil et palpitant où entrent en scène aussi bien la violence que son contraire, le pouvoir imprévisible de l’amour.” **Le Courrier**

“Ce roman, plein de conviction, dit avec force la tragédie des dictatures et l’imprévisible puissance des sentiments humains” **Le Monde des Livres**

“Un formidable roman, puissant et captivant!” **Page**

Fontanel, Béatrice: PLUS NOIRE AVANT L’AUBE (Stock, January 2014, 368 pages)

- *Over the course of one century and four generations, Béatrice Fontanel has constructed the story of a family of Paris doctors and their secrets.*
- *The author watches with an entomologist’s eye as they progress through darkness to reclaim the light. A teeming, epic narrative served by vibrant, palpating writing.*

The Hartmanns always unflinchingly pay homage to literature, making of it a life-guide, a barrier, a murderer and a balm. What the Hartmanns don’t know is that they in turn will become characters in a novel.

It all begins in Odessa, on the eve of the Russian revolution. And with a first exodus. Olga, a young woman from a wealthy background, leaves her family to study medicine in Paris. She will never see any of them again. The story ends in a Paris hospital in 2011. There are not many days left before ninety-year-old Gabrielle will leave this world, but, in a final twist of fate, this woman who is still dazzled by life and horrified by death, meets a young intern called Alice, one of those intractable creatures who have constantly populated her world and her library. Between these two different moments, there will be more than one further exodus, engagements, break-ups and wars, un-hoped for outcomes and ineffable suffering. Trials and obstacles that this family will tackle with laughter, as if it were a game. Their common trait: a gracious casualness. And literature may well have something to do with it too.

Over the course of one century and four generations, Béatrice Fontanel has constructed the story of a family of Paris doctors and their secrets. She watches with an entomologist’s eye as they progress through darkness to reclaim the light. A teeming, epic narrative served by vibrant, palpating writing.

Béatrice Fontanel was born in Casablanca. Over the last twenty-five years she has published around 100 books for children and adults, including LA MÉNAGÈRE CANNIBALE (2003) and L’HOMME BARBELÉ (2009). She lives and works in Paris.

Treese, Elie: LES ANGES À PART (Payot-Rivages, January 2014, 134 pages)

- *Like a cross between Mark Twain and Faulkner, this lively, chatty text recreates the sense of freedom of early adolescence, as well as the share of fantasy that is inherent to it.*

Young boys tramp through the countryside hoping to find a few cigarettes, a beer, or a girl to impress. They have taken refuge in an abandoned house where Carabi, the latter to arrive, plans to store his childhood treasures. Together, they become initiated into transgressive play, provoking adults who are portrayed through the lens of childhood derision. Until their friendship begins to crack...

Elie Treese, a Franco-American, was born in 1973. This is his second novel, after NI CE QU’ILS ESPÈRENT, NI CE QU’ILS CROIENT (Allia, 2012).

“With this second, even more well-written novel (...), one of the most ambitious and singular novelistic projects of our times is starting to take shape.” **LivresHebdo**

“Something about this misleadingly naïve text is reminiscent of William Faulkner’s THE SOUND AND THE FURY. But the violence is more sudden here, the beauty of the world both more raw and more obvious.” **Technikart**

Bruckner, Pascal: UN BON FILS (Grasset, April 2014, 200 pages)

- *With this novel of origins, Pascal Bruckner offers us his most surprising and intimate book – his “rosebud.”*

- ***How, in the shadow of an abusive, anti-Semitic, Nazi sympathizer of a father did the author of *La Tentation de l'innocence* and of *L'Euphorie Perpétuelle* become a philosopher long thought to be Jewish? Is it even possible to love a father despite mediocrity, violence, and the unbearable?***

This is the story of a frail child born after the war and immediately sent to a village in Austria to treat his lungs. He sings the glory of God and jabbars a German dialect under the falling snow. Every night as his mother lovingly watches him, the cherub prays to God: he wishes for his father's death. "There is nothing more difficult than to be a father: a hero, his glory is crushing; he is a bastard for his infamy; ordinary in his mediocrity." The father in this case is a violent and perverted husband who beats and humiliates his wife, who is an obsessive anti-Semite and racist, and whose son will do everything in his power to become his opposite. "I am his defeat," writes the author.

The son goes on to become a student of Jankélévitch and of Barthes, and becomes best friends with Alain Finkielkraut. Grouped with the "Jewish intellectuals" with whom he identifies though he is not one himself, he falls in love with women of far-reaching origins, becomes a loving father, and a respected writer. In this powerful story, Pascal Bruckner tells of his personal and intellectual filiation, giving us the key to his entire body of work.

Pascal Bruckner is the author of, among others, *LA TENTATION DE L'INNOCENCE* (*Prix Médicis de l'Essai*, 1995), *LES VOLEURS DE BEAUTÉ* (*Prix Renaudot*, 1997), *L'AMOUR DU PROCHAIN* (1998), and *MISÈRE DE LA PROSPÉRITÉ* (*Prix du Meilleur Livre d'Economie, Prix Aujourd'hui*, 2002).

Rights sold for previous titles: Arabic (Obeikan), Castilian (Ariel, Tusquets), German (Aufbau, Beltz, Siedler), Bulgarian (Gloria Mundi, Liubomadrie), Chinese (simplified: East China Normal UP, Sea Sky; Complex: Athena Press), Croatian (Algoritam, Dhk, Nakladni Zavod Matice), Czech (Mlada Fronta, Motto), Dutch (De Bezige Bij, Uitgeverij Boom), English (US: Algora, Princeton UP; UK: Dedalus, Polity Press), Greek (Patakis), Hungarian (Europa Konyvkiado), Italian (Ugo Guanda), Japanese (Hosei UP), Korean (Arte Books, Dongmoonsun, Jakkajungsin, Mujintree, Munhakdongne, Vega Books), Lithuanian (Tyto Alba), Norwegian (Arneberg, Vidarforlaget), Polish (Jagiellonian UP), Portuguese (Brazil: Bertrand Brasil, Rocco; Portugal: Notícias Editura, Europa America), Romanian (Trei, Nemira), Russian (Inostrannaya Literatura, Ivan Limbakh, Zao Machaon, Text), Serbian (Beobook, Sluzbeni Glasnik), Slovak (Kalligram), Slovene (Studentskz Zalozba), Turkish (Ayrinti Yayinlari, Yapi Kredi Kultur Sanat, Sel), Ukrainian (ECEM, Grani-T)

**Besson, Philippe: *LA MAISON ATLANTIQUE*
(Robert Laffont/Julliard, January 2014, 224 pages)**

- ***A narrator with a complex personality: both witness to and player in the adulterous relationship and his father's murder.***
- ***Philippe Besson's story unfolds through simple yet powerful sentences that draw readers in, gripping them with tension.***
- ***A family drama with a noir feel to it, as the narrator gradually provides the keys to understanding the tragic events that took place in the house by the Atlantic.***

Philippe Besson offers us a tragic insight into the fragile relationship between a father and his estranged son. A drama is taking place in a family beach house on an island off France's Atlantic coast; the characters can't escape the events that unfold ineluctably. A breathtaking story with a small number of characters, reminiscent of Françoise Sagan's *BONJOUR TRISTESSE*.

A father-and-son vacation at the shore seemed like a good idea. The two have had trouble communicating since the teen's mother – the man's ex-wife – died. A real ladies' man, he had always been an unfaithful spouse, and the son can't bring himself to forgive his father. When a young couple on vacation takes the house next door, the tenor of their days changes. The young woman is radiantly beautiful; her husband, distracted and naive. All four characters' fates are sealed when the young woman and the ladies' man have an affair.

From animosity and misunderstanding to hatred, the narrator of this tale analyses every word, deciphers every action to explain how a confrontational relationship leads to tragedy.

Former jurist and business Philippe Besson became a novelist in the early 2000s. His second novel, *SON FRÈRE*, was adapted by filmmaker Patrice Chéreau. He is author, amongst others, of *L'ARRIÈRE-SAISON* and *UNE BONNE RAISON DE SE TUER* has become one of the greatest writers of his generation. *LA MAISON ATLANTIQUE* is his fourteenth novel.

LITERARY FICTION

Brunet, Pierre: *FENICIA*

(Calmann-Lévy, March 2014, 420 pages)

- *The dramatic life story and psychological portrait of an exceptional woman*
- *A well-documented novel set during a troubled historical period*
- *The endearing characters are truly moving*

The tragic fate of the author's mother, Ana, a Spanish orphan who was brought to France during La Retirada by her adoptive parents; her intelligence and beauty wouldn't be enough to save her from the psychological damage done by her past.

At age six, Ana is adopted from an orphanage in Barcelona by an anarchist couple, Mateo and Conchita. They flee Spain when Franco takes power in 1939, taking Ana with them into exile in France. Months of detention in a camp in Argelès sur Mer, followed by the couple's struggle to survive in wartime and post-war France leave indelible traces in their daughter, who was rechristened Fenicia by her adoptive parents.

As an adult, brilliant, elegant Ana, professor of literature and of Spanish, seems to find stability with Jean, her future husband. Alas, the peaceful, normal existence he provides throws the cracks in her character into stark relief. Jean becomes aware of his wife's troubled personality shortly before the birth of their son Pierre: deeply in debt, she borrows money from friends and relatives, supposedly to help out her parents, who are in difficulty. Confronted, she comes up with another excuse, complains that no one understands her and that she's too generous. In fact, she is giving the money to Spanish anarchists, and she keeps on doing it, to be loved. Between marital spats, fainting spells, frequent stays in rest homes, and stronger and stronger medication to calm her anxiety, life is becoming a nightmare. Meeting Gil, her last lover, seems to revive her, but she slides definitively into madness, and has to be locked up.

After several suicide attempts, she ends her own life in April, 1964, at the age of 31. Her conversations with the psychiatrists in her last rest home provide her sons with keys to understanding her better, and being able to tell her story.

Born in 1961 in Paris, Pierre Brunet is PR Manager for a French NGO, and devotes an essential part of his time to writing. FENICIA is his third novel published by Calmann-Lévy, after BARNUM and J.A.B.

Lambron, Marc: *TU N'AS PAS TELLEMENT CHANGÉ*

(Grasset, January 2014, 144 pages)

- *After the death of his brother in 1995, Marc Lambron wrote a portrait-in-words for him. It is this text that he now brings us, nineteen years after the death of an individual whose incandescent memory is inexorably fading. A moving tribute.*

Philippe Lambron died in his hospital bed on July 17th, 1995. He was almost thirty-four years old. He was the author's only brother. With this tribute, Marc Lambron allows us to witness the work of mourning and attempts to engrave the image of a man whose brief life did not exhaust its mystery.

A modest and heartbreaking book that endeavors to deal with the silence of death by way of words.

Marc Lambron is the author of several novels: 1941 (1997), ETRANGERS DANS LA NUIT (2001), LES MENTEURS (2004); short story collections: UNE SAISON SUR LA TERRE (2006), MIGNONNE, ALLONS VOIR (2006), EH BIEN, DANSEZ MAINTENANT... (2008) and his CARNETS DE BAL.

Rights sold for previous titles: Dutch (De Geus), Greek (Patakis), Lithuanian (Kronta), Portuguese (Grovida), Russian (Fluid, AST), Turkish (Dogan)

Charrel, Marie: *L'ENFANT TOMBEE DES REVES*

(Plon, January 2014, 198 pages)

- *Imagination is an important part of this book, thanks both to Croquebal, Emilie's imaginary monster-friend, and to the Icelandic legends.*
- *The narrative, told in two voices, presents two aspects of the same story, as well as different sides of certain characters.*
- *Readers will recognize themselves in Emilie's words, which paint a sensitive portrait of how difficult daily life often is for teenagers.*

In this highly imaginative novel, we discover a tale of two quests: a father's quest to protect his extremely sensitive 12-year-old daughter, Emilie, who expresses herself mainly through painting; and the quest for redemption of an older man living like a hermit in Iceland, where he is trying to forget a secret burden: the death of his childhood friend, Emilie's biological father.

Emilie is a sensitive and intelligent 12-year-old girl who only expresses her feelings through art. At an exhibit of her paintings, she realizes that one of them upsets her parents tremendously, and decides to find out why. Robert Repac is an ageing doctor who left France for a hermit's existence in Iceland a dozen years before. Emilie and he both dream about falling from a balcony; they are protagonists in the same event: the accidental death of Emilie's biological father before she was born – death for which Robert, his best friend, blames himself.

This novel describes two quests: Emilie is searching for the secret of her origins, which may ease her malaise; Robert – who goes through the motions without really living – needs to settle his scores with the past.

Marie Charrel, 30, is a journalist with *Capital* and a music magazine, *Longueur d'ondes*. L'ENFANT TOMBEE DES REVES is her second novel, after UNE FOIS NE COMPTE PAS.

**Khadra, Yasmina: *QU'ATTENDENT LES SINGES*
(Robert Laffont, April 2014, 360 pages)**

- *Yasmina Khadra returns to his first love, the Algeria of today. In *What're the Monkeys Waiting For?*, he depicts a somber and deliquescent portrait of his country.*

A young girl is found murdered in the Baïnem forest, in the environs of Alger. An upstanding woman leads an investigation. Her relentless struggle leads her right to the downward spiral of a nation ruled by predators, opportunists and the power-hungry. With as much with love as precision, the most celebrated of Algerian writers unveils the obscure elements of this nation, of his people. The magnificent country, made for dreaming, is atrociously disfigured by the insatiable greed of the authorities and their accomplices. They stop at nothing: neither law nor the most abominable of crimes. *What're the Monkeys Waiting For?* combines all the characteristics of the noir novel: a virulent social critique, a vilification of organized crime, and a suffocating atmosphere.

Yasmina Khadra's books have been translated in 42 countries, and received many literary prizes. *THE ATTACK*, which was recently adapted for the big screen and has already received the Audience Award in Bastia and the Golden Star (*Grand Prize*) at the Marrakech film festival.

**Douard, Julie: *USAGE COMMUNAL DU CORPS FEMININ*
(POL, January 2014, 223 pages)**

- *The characters are hilarious, and their encounters even more so. Readers will enjoy meeting a guru-like, manipulative assassin, a "providential" engineer-cum-swindler, and more.*
- *Irresistibly hair-raising humour.*
- *In a small town in the French countryside, nothing ordinary happens and no one is dull.*

A clumsy young orphan who has dropped out of school meets someone who will change her life. Skilled manipulation, he's an avid fan of local news... and of the sound of his own voice. What this man loves most in life is haranguing crowds. In order to keep up with what's going on in town, he tries to get his fiancée a job at Town Hall. The attempt will cause all sorts of mayhem, from botched murders to failed philology degrees and postponed galas. Incredible events will have cataclysmic effects on the characters' lives.

Julie Douard plunges readers into an extraordinary world, filled with comical twists and turns each more unlikely and entertaining than the last.

Julie Douard, professor of philosophy, has written several plays. *USAGE COMMUNAL DU CORPS FEMININ* is her second novel.

"USAGE COMMUNAL DU CORPS FEMININ met en scène une jeune orpheline naïve et coincée, lancée malgré elle dans des aventures abracadabrantes en compagnie d'une galerie de personnages loufoques. Le deuxième roman de Julie Douard est la chronique réjouissante d'un petit bourg, une friandise dans la rentrée littéraire de l'hiver 2014." **Culturebox**

*"C'est un plaisir de retrouver Julie Douard pour ce deuxième roman, toujours à cheval entre style impeccable et casting dégingué. Une satire joliment méchante, entre *Le Père Noël est une ordure*, *Tom Sharpe* et *Edward Gorey*"* **Les Inrockuptibles**

LITERARY FICTION

“USAGE COMMUNAL DU CORPS FEMININ est d’une drôlerie et d’une contemporanéité parfaites.”

Libération

“Julie Douard a une vision très drôle de la vie en province. [...]La galerie de portraits qui entoure son héroïne est saisissante : les hommes sont calamiteux. [...]Dans ce bal de névrosés, les personnages féminins prennent peu à peu le dessus en soulevant leurs dessous et ça picole, ça fornique, on rit de bon cœur et on se demande où on est tombé. [...] Ce livre se lit avec Bonheur” **France Info**

“Une comédie foldingue sur les gens ordinaires” **La Libre Belgique**

Leclair, Bertrand: *LE VERTIGE DANOIS DE PAUL GAUGUIN*

(Actes Sud, February 2014, 192 pages)

- *A dizzying plunge into the suffering spirit of a budding artist.*
- *Both a biographical novel and the account of an investigation, the search for a legendary artist whose reputation is considered scandalous even now, over a century after his death.*
- *A stunning style that recreates both the distress and the passion of a beleaguered being.*

In this astonishing investigation, Bernard Leclair restitutes six months in the life of Paul Gauguin – a period of doubt, heartbreak and artistic growth in the city of Copenhagen.

Obliged to join his wife and their five children in Copenhagen in November, 1884, Gauguin isn't the Gauguin yet, but, confronted with the hostility he inspires both in academic circles in this conservative city and within his own family, he will become that man.

On the trail of one of the world's most beloved painters, Bertrand Leclair draws on archive materials, pictorial analysis and empathy to represent the distress of a man torn between his family and his art, and to highlight the paradoxes behind the legend: devoted father and egotistical artist, haughty provocateur and insecure painter desperate for recognition. The hero who sacrificed everything for the sake of painting, and the man who abandoned his wife and children to spread syphilis across Polynesia.

With his ample sentences, the author draws us into the world of a character who is still resistant to critical and biographical discourse.

Bertrand Leclair is a French writer of fiction, non-fiction and plays.

“Cette parenthèse danoise de Gauguin ressemble à un purgatoire avant l'éclosion. [...] Magistral roman sur l'entre-deux.” **Libération**

“Un roman qui donne à la personnalité de Gauguin de plus en plus de grandeur [...] Les lecteurs qui ne jugent le peintre que d'après ses tableaux, et non d'après son tempérament, son invités à se rendre sans retard chez leur libraire.” **La Marseillaise**

“Très documenté sur son sujet, l'auteur [...] redessine avec une écriture nette et limpide le premier exil d'un Gauguin tiraillé entre deux exigences contradictoires et incompatibles.” **Livres Hebdo**

Ravey, Yves: *LA FILLE DE MON MEILLEUR AMI*

(Minuit, March 2014, 159 pages)

- *An ordinary-seeming story that gradually reveals its depth as the plot draws you in.*
- *A truly surprising ending, in which all of the pieces of the puzzle fall into place.*
- *The author manages to create a tense ambiguity that keeps readers unsure what to think.*

The tale of a notorious con man in a French provincial town who will learn at his own expense that it's not a good idea to make rash promises to your best friend on his death bed. As in his earlier books, the author gradually creates a tense and ambiguous atmosphere that is both creepy and suspenseful.

As his friend lays dying, William, a man in his 50s, promises to watch over the man's daughter, Mathilde. The psychologically unstable young woman asks William to help her see her five-year-old son, whom she has lost custody of. So William agrees to try to mediate. This seemingly noble gesture will actually reveal William's true nature: he's a hustler who will take advantage of any person or circumstance that comes his way, as long as he thinks he can get away with it. In this short book, the author sketches subtle portraits of people who seem ordinary at first glance, but who have a dark side that means it would be best to stay far away from them.

Yves Ravey lives in Besançon, where he teaches literature and art at Collège Stendhal. A novelist and playwright, most of his work has been published by Les Editions de Minuit.

“Dans son dernier roman, l’écrivain Yves Ravey joue de nouveau du suspense et de l’incongruité des situations, poursuivant sa réinvention très littéraire du roman noir.” **La Croix**

“Yves Ravey ne cesse de prouver la richesse du peu, lui dont les romans ne dépassent jamais les 200 pages.” **Le Monde**

“Les habitués le savent, les néophytes le pressentent d'emblée : on n'est jamais trop minutieux, trop circonspect, lorsqu'on entreprend la lecture d'un roman d'Yves Ravey [...] Mais ce processus de révélation ne doit pas induire en erreur : on n'évolue jamais, chez Yves Ravey, dans le roman psychologique, ni même dans la fiction réaliste. Comme les ouvrages qui l'ont précédé, La Fille de mon meilleur ami est avant tout un objet de pure littérature. Un songe tout à la fois ironique, cruel et anxieux, épousant la forme du roman noir, celle aussi d'une représentation donnée par un théâtre d'ombres – dont Yves Ravey est le marionnettiste virtuose.”
Télérama

Astolfi, Christian: LA PEINE CAPITALE
(Flammarion, January 2014, 144 pages)

- *This novel contains the portrait of France’s last executioner, as drawn by his son, woven into the latter’s life story: the younger man long wondered how to exist as the son of the executioner?*
- *An unusual theme and an interesting question: how can a man live with the knowledge that his job is to take other people’s lives?*
- *The writing style captures the unique atmosphere*

The narrator’s father was in charge of capital punishment: he organized the executions of the last 42 people sentenced to die in France, from the end of WWII to 1977, shortly before the death penalty was abolished. Through his son’s reminiscing, we discover a cold and overwhelming personage, but above all, the oppressive atmosphere of Paulo’s lonely childhood and teenage years, the slow suffocation, the absence of affection except from his mother, the lack of friends – as though he were waiting to escape before being able to live his own life. Yet Paulo never rebels against this omnipotence in his father’s lifetime, and even takes a production-line job that his father finds for him. After his father’s death, Paulo’s hand is crushed in a deliberate accident, as he unwittingly frees himself from the yoke of his father. Now he can finally start to live life his own way.

Christian Astolfi was born in 1958 in Toulon, where he lives and works as a high-school guidance counselor. UNE PEINE CAPITALE is his second novel.

Bordaçarre, Olivier: LE DERNIER DESIR
(Fayard, January 2014, 280 pages)

- *A noir novel that will draw readers in until, like the characters, they’re caught. The suspense lasts right to the end*
- *Bitting, ironic social commentary that makes you think*
- *A very well written book, carefully plotted and with a fine eye for detail*

A noir novel that portrays what happens when a family that chosen to get back to nature and away from consumerism encounters a narcissistic, manipulative neighbor who’ll do anything to worm his way into their lives and destroy their ideals, the better to satisfy his own possessiveness.

Mina and Jonathan are a 40-something couple, parents of Romain. They have decided to live a simple life in the countryside, far from consumerism. But meeting their new neighbor will upset their harmonious lifestyle. For Vladimir, who seems warm and friendly at first, gradually worms his way into their lives – to the point that it becomes problematic: by copying their lifestyle, giving them luxurious presents and making himself indispensable.

The couple’s rejection of consumerism, which started out as a choice, gradually becomes problematic for both Mina and their son, Romain, who are drawn to Vladimir’s charm and money. Jonathan is the only one who realizes that something’s wrong and that their neighbor is actually a shifty character. Jonathan tries to enlighten Mina, but to no avail. So to get things back under control, he has no other choice than to eliminate his

NON-FRANCOPHONE AUTHORS

wife, his son and his neighbor, and to adopt Vladimir's lifestyle. Consumerism is the real winner in this novel, but the victory will leave an unpleasant taste in readers' mouths.

Olivier Bordaçarre is a writer, actor, director and trainer. LE DERNIER DESIR is his fourth novel published by Fayard.

"Il sait construire un suspense psychologique hitchcockien, mais avec une french touch: tout en finesse, en glissant des indices là où on ne les soupçonne pas." **Livres Hebdo**

"Ni véritable roman à thèse, ni simple fable sur les méfaits de la consommation, Derrière le désir est un roman efficace et plus complexe que le sujet ne le laisse attendre" **Les Livres**

Fayez, Aïat: UN AUTRE
(POL, February 2014, 176 pages)

- *A fascinating tension building up as the reader follows this cruel love story, driving right down the lane to an expectable catastrophe.*
- *A universal issue tackled with depth and subtlety: finding one's place in a foreign environment.*
- *The author's meticulous way of depicting everyday life provokes a truly salutary uneasiness.*

Aïat has given himself a mission: to radically change his identity. When his relationship with a glamorous Russian tennis player becomes serious, he faces the impossibly difficult act of keeping his secret, while salvaging a love story that seems doomed from the start.

Aïat dyed his hair, put on blue-tinted contact lenses, changed his name into Alain, and created a new origin for himself. At last, he has become someone else: not just because it was possible, but rather out of self-disgust. It just so happened that this period of his life coincided with his meeting the attractive Anna, a promising Russian tennis player. When she is unexpectedly charmed by his physical metamorphosis and falsified story, he finds himself in the middle of a love story in which he is made to assume what he has become, but cannot forget who he really is. As he lives his life on the razor's edge, he is constantly reminded of his former self by reoccurring nervous tics, images and words. He will have to work hard to preserve the image of what he has become, in spite of a growing tension in his relationship with Anna, whom he discovers to be superficial, capricious... and racist.

Aïat Fayez was born in 1979. He studied philosophy in Paris. Three of his novels were published by POL, and three of his plays by L'Arche.

"Pour séduire une championne de tennis russe, un prof de philo change d'apparence et d'identité. Une déconstruction par l'absurde des mécanismes racistes. [...] UN AUTRE s'impose comme une farce noire et grinçante, caricature à peine outrée d'une société de plus en plus tentée par le repli sur soi." **Les Inrockuptibles**

"Une forme de haine de soi est ici à l'œuvre, un racisme égocentrique qu'Aïat Fayez affronte crânement. [...] L'auteur appuie ses coups, il multiplie les lobs, les passings, les amorties, les aces, les montées au filet à contretemps, les smashes, sans cesse il prend son lecteur à contre-pied et le promène si bien qu'à la fin celui-ci s'incline." **Eric Chevillard, Le Monde**

NON-FRANCOPHONE AUTHORS

Lofiego, Vivian: LE SANG DES PAPILLONS
(JC Lattès, March 2014, 250 pages)

- *With sobriety and grace, an intimate novel on the terrible wounds left by the worst years in the history of Argentina.*

Argentina, 1976. After the coup d'état, the military junta headed by Videla, Massera and Agosti, takes over the government. The atmosphere in the country is toxic, suspicion abounds and fear grips the heart of the people. Leftist opponents are hunted down like animals. One by one, people "disappear". The narrator, Tamara, is still a child when one night she witnesses her father being taken away by some men. They throw him into a car and take off. Tamara will never see her father again. Ana, Tamara's mother, becomes depressed and cuts herself off from the world and her daughter. Angelica, Tamara's grandmother, tries to hold the family together but how can they live under the heavy weight of silence?

Vivian Lofiego is Argentinean and divides her time between Paris and Buenos Aires. She has written several poetry collections; BUTTERFLY BLOOD is her first novel.

Clavel, Ana: *LE DESSINATEUR D'OMBRES*

(Anne Carrière, January 2013, 272 pages)

Translated from the Spanish (Mexico) by Brigitte Jensen

18th century Switzerland. Johann Kaspar Lavater, church minister and renowned theologian, friend of Goethe and author of a famous treatise on physiognomy, takes a young boy under his wing. The child possesses a remarkable gift for silhouette portraits. Lavater calls his apprentice 'Giotto', in honour of the great Italian genius. The youngster displays an astounding talent for revealing, in just a few lines, not only a likeness but the personality of the sitter. The theologian becomes obsessed with the boy's skills, feeling he has been entrusted with the divine mission of helping his protégé resist evil temptations. For the churchman firmly believes that art must remain a path leading to God; and he knows that along this path, beauty can easily tempt the artist to perdition...

An aesthetic and moral tale, LE DESSINATEUR D'OMBRES tells the story of Giotto de Winthertur, a genius of chiaroscuro, too much of an artist to give up everything to God, much too human not to give in to love.

Ana Clavel was born in Mexico in 1961. A novelist and visual artist, her LES VIOLETTES SONT LES FLEURS DU DÉsir (Editions Métailié, 2009) received the *Juan Rulfo prize*, awarded by Radio France Internationale, in 2005.

DEBUT NOVEL

Malfoy, Thibault: *PARIS EST UN RÊVE ÉROTIQUE*

(Grasset, January 2014, 256 pages)

➤ *In this lyrical and satirical first novel, Thibault Malfoy draws us into a phantasmagorical Paris and reveals the nebulous backrooms of desire.*

It all starts with an invitation card: "Welcome to Paris is an erotic dream." The narrator's lover invites him to this Parisian cabaret for his birthday. Captivated by one of the dancers, he begins to confuse fantasy and reality. His insomnia leads us into the festive and fascinating Paris night: a literary party, a sleepless night in a famous movie theater at Grands Boulevards, a Connan Mockasin concert, a trip around the world in a bathtub, an exhibition on rain at the Centre Pompidou, an illegal bar, a flood. What will be left of it all in the morning... love, perhaps?

Thibault Malfoy was born in 1984, he lives in Paris. PARIS EST UN RÊVE ÉROTIQUE is his *first novel*.

Naimski, Laure: *EN KIT*

(Belfond, February 2014, 176 pages)

➤ *In this tender, ironic and hilarious fable-like novel, Hélène firmly plants her tent in the middle of the living room of her Parisian apartment after she's dumped by Samuel. She takes shelter there with her faithful cat.*

However, in spite of now having two roofs over her head, the outside world sneaks in...her flight attendant-mother who changes lovers like she changes planes, her old Jewish father, a Holocaust survivor who may be religious but not quite as moral, a British neighbor who thinks that France is still occupied, and clandestine construction workers who congregate on the scaffolding in front of her windows.

Constantly surrounded by this cast of characters, Hélène never has a moment to herself. And that's ok.

Laure Naimski was born in the Parisian area in 1971. EN KIT is her *first novel*.

"Ce premier roman offre une critique virevoltante sur l'absurdité de la vie. Jubilatoire!" **Femme actuelle**

"C'est déjante et terrible! Grotesque, tragique ! Plein de talent!" **Le Monde des Livres**

Tielrooy, Elise: *LE BONHEUR N'EST PAS UN SPORT DE JEUNES FILLES*
(Belfond, May 2014, 320 pages)

- *How could anything go wrong at a luxury spa resort in just a couple of days? Find out in this comical and lively tale...*

LE BONHEUR N'EST PAS UN SPORT DE JEUNE FILLE follows a handful of characters desperately seeking a relaxing few days at a spa in Brittany. They all hope to clear their minds of their everyday problems and to leave refreshed and at peace.

The one thing they all have in common is Guillemette, the young masseuse whose life has just been turned upside down following a revelation about her past. In shock, she loses control and disrupts the peaceful equilibrium of the resort. Misunderstandings and accidents abound within the small group of clients.

Mona, Victor, Iris, Claudine, Thomas...they will all be transformed for better or for worse. Because happiness is not a sport for young girls.

Élise Tielrooy is an actress with a starring role in the television series *Mes amis, mes amours, mes emmerdes*. LE BONHEUR N'EST PAS UN SPORT DE JEUNE FILLE is her first novel.

Lescure, Léa: *LES NUITS MELANGEES*
(Kero, April 2013, 160 pages)
Print-run: 25.000 exemplaires

- *A short, but subtly nuanced novel, in which nothing is entirely good nor bad, and paradox reigns supreme.*
- *The extreme experiences of a middle class young woman going in search of herself.*
- *Léa Lescure portrays exceedingly raw scenes with compassion, intelligence and poetry.*
- *Léa Lescure's first novel explores both an unstable young woman's existential quest and the nocturnal world of "private clubs" and prostitution.*

Manon is a French university student, barely out of her teens, studying psychology in Brussels. She is neither dim-witted nor poor, and she was never abused by her parents. Yet one night, Manon decides – entirely of her own free will – to become a prostitute. What follows is months of nightlife, parties, drugs and perpetually running away from herself.

Written in a style that is both crude and delicate, with tremendous poetry, Léa Lescure explores the paradoxes of a young woman freely choosing to be a prostitute, of an intelligent young woman earning a living through sex, of a young adult who is at once running away from, and seeking, herself.

"Ce premier roman est intrigant" **Libération.fr**

"C'est cru, dérangeant, nouveau." **Rue89**

"Grâce à son talent d'écriture, elle passe fort heureusement entre les gouttes et nous offre un récit fort, passionnant et sans facilité." **Be Aware Mag**

Despot, Slobodan: *LE MIEL*
(Gallimard, January 2014, 144 pages)

- *Inspired by actual events, Le miel is a first novel that reads like a tale marked by Slavic humor, where the narratives fit cleverly, one into the next, like a nest of Russian dolls.*

In present-day Belgrade, at herbalist Vera's medical practice, the narrator is listening to the turbulent adventure of Vesko (known as «The Cantankerous») and his father Nikola, an old bee keeper, set against the background of the new borders of an ex-Yugoslavia that has been split up by civil war.

The Old Man and his two sons lived in the little Republic of Krajina, populated by Serbs but belonging to the Croat Federation before the latter declared its independence in 1991 and, backed by NATO, chased the Serbs out. After the debacle, the family found refuge in Belgrade, but the father stayed on, hiding in the mountains, refusing to abandon his bees. Vesko was then chosen to go find his father in what was now enemy territory.

Slobodan Despot, born in ex-Yugoslavia in 1967, is a French-speaking Swiss publisher and writer. After several published essays and collections of articles, LE MIEL is *his first novel*.

“Cette excellente fable à tiroirs n’a rien d’un manifeste politique. C’est un road-movie foutraque à la Kusturica, tantôt burlesque, tantôt poignant...” **Le Nouvel Obs**

“Une fable touchante, ancrée dans la poitrine et la mémoire de ses héros” **Le Matin**

de Cazotte, Marie-Laure: UN TEMPS ÉGARÉ

(Albin Michel, February 2014, 288 pages)

- *Intelligently constructed, this novel begins like a psychological thriller, but recounts in fact the story of a friendship while exploring, with great subtlety, the torments of the soul and the enigma of memory.*

Arrogant and insensitive, Eric Meyer, a feared entrepreneur, is shattered when he discovers that his girlfriend, Stephanie, has committed suicide, despite the fact that he treated her very badly. He decides to consult a psychiatrist, Dr. Kaplan, hoping to obtain corroboration that he is in no way responsible for his lover’s desperate act. That very day, his wife leaves him. He makes up his mind to go to the hospital and kill Dr. Kaplan.

But Meyer and Kaplan have one thing in common: both their childhoods were affected by the Holocaust. Meyer feels like a positively different person now, while the doctor has spent his whole life trying to cast off an overpowering memory. At the centre of this ‘time forgone’ time stands the psychiatric hospital, a place where all experience and renaissance can be educed.

Marie-Laure de Cazotte is an art historian. UN TEMPS ÉGARÉ is her first novel

“Le rôle ambivalent des deux femmes qui l’ont aimé est bien décrit. (...) C’est aussi un roman sur le rôle pervers de l’imaginaire.” **Le Figaro**

“On jubile à la lecture de ce premier roman à la fois diabolique et compatissant.” **Vogue**

WOMEN WRITING

Hemmerlin, Brigitte: PERSONNE NE PEUT ARRETER UNE FILLE QUI REVE

(Calmann-Lévy, March 2014, 240 pages)

- *A chiseled portrait of a woman: readers will feel compassion for this young lawyer who will do anything to approach the object of her obsession*
- *Since the novel is based on the author’s real life, readers can’t help wondering which parts are true and which are fiction.*
- *A spare, incisive and authentic writing style*

Based on a true story, Claire’s obsession is a tale of unrequited love that leads a young woman to live in her mentor’s shadow, and even to wind up in prison.

Paris, in the late 1970s. Claire, in law school, is fascinated by the lawyer Gabriel Doré. She manages to approach him professionally, first by studying in his library, then by getting an internship in his firm. From that point on, her life is focused entirely on him, while he barely notices her. Through him, she discovers the courts, and prison, too. She often goes there alone, as he has her visit his clients in jail for him. Despite her best efforts to make herself useful to Gabriel Doré, he thinks she’s inefficient, and hires someone else instead. So Claire opens her own law office.

Then one day, a scandal breaks out: Claire has smuggled a weapon to a prisoner for an escape attempt. Gabriel Doré agrees to defend her, and she is thrilled. In fact, that’s the real reason for what she did – it was an excuse to see him again, even if it’s from behind bars. Her years of detention don’t discourage her: she knows that even if she doesn’t see Gabriel Doré, she will always be beside him, will always have him with her... because “no one can stop a girl with a dream.”

Journalist and writer, Brigitte Hemmerlin is a former lawyer who was convicted of smuggling a weapon into jail. PERSONNE NE PEUT ARRETER UNE FILLE QUI REVE is inspired by her true story.

Magellan, Muriel: N’OUBLIE PAS LES OISEAUX

(Robert Laffont, January 2014, 350 pages)

- *This is a story of mad love, unlikely and irrational, the kind you experience only once.*

For her third book, Murielle Magellan chose autobiography. This is her story, and she announces as much from the very first lines. Fascinated by the professions of performance, a young provincial girl, timid yet determined, arrives in Paris. At the École de Chansons where she takes classes, she's enthralled by one of her professors, a charismatic charmer 20 years her senior. While she instantly falls head over heels, her professor seems more flattered than seduced, at first, by this student who is neither the most dazzling nor the most extroverted. The insatiable Don Juan will nonetheless experience a long-term passion that snuffs out only in death. The two loved each other and tore one another apart, separated and came back together.

Murielle Magellan is a novelist, screenwriter and playwright. With Julliard, she has published *LE LENDEMAIN GABRIELLE* in 2007 and *UN REFRAIN SUR LES MURS* in 2011 (awarded the Gaël Magazine prize and Horizon Second Novel prize). This is her third novel.

Schneidre, Dominique: *AVONS-NOUS ASSEZ NAVIGUE?* (JC Lattès, May 2014, 200 pages)

- *When a woman is well beyond the age of reason like Viviane Rivet, can she become completely infatuated with a man? What if she broke up with that man thirty years earlier and bumped into him by accident at the opera?*

The narrator, Viviane's inseparable friend and accomplice since childhood, finds herself in the position of trying to reason with Viviane who still thinks of herself as a young woman for whom anything is possible. The object of her desires, Antoine Fournier, is still a fascinating man but is he a passionate one and does he have anything to offer Viviane this time around? Can Antoine still be the same man he was thirty years ago?

Dominique Schneidre is the author of eight novels, among which *ATTEINTE À LA MÉMOIRE DES MORTS* (Robert Laffont, 1987), *LA CAPITAINE* (Seuil, 1990), *FORTUNE DE MÈRE* (Fayard, 2001) and *CE QU'EN DIT JAMES* (Seuil, 2007).

Plantagenet, Anne: *TROIS JOURS A ORAN* (Stock, January 2014, 176 pages)

- *A superb narrative about family heritage and characters searching for their origins, Three Days in Oran explores the trajectory of a man reconnecting with his past and a woman finding her freedom – a journey vibrant with the colours, smells and light of present day Algeria.*

THREE DAYS IN ORAN describes the journey a young woman undertook in 2005 to bring her father home to the land of his birth, after almost forty years' absence, a land where he is now a foreigner.

She had to wait until her grandmother had died and she herself was separated from her husband before fulfilling the wish that, until then, had struck her as unjustified. She spent too long hovering between two apparently irreconcilable positions, wavering between pride in her "pieds-noirs" origins and shame about her colonial history. It is this painful relationship with her roots which ruled her life and dictated her choices in spite of herself.

From the apartment in Oran to the family farm in Misserghin and on to some forgotten white tombs, from the colourful streets of the dazzling seafront... over a period of three days, father and daughter weave together a conversation that is restrained yet touching and joyful, and which reconciles them with themselves. Traces of the family have not disappeared, far from it; in fact they have some generous, unexpected encounters in store.

Anne Plantagenet is the author of several novels, including *LE PRISONNIER* (2009) and *NATION PIGALLE* (2011) published by Stock; she also writes biographies and novellas, and has translated numerous Spanish and Latin American novels. After London and Seville, she now lives in Paris.

Enjolet, Catherine: *FACE AUX OMBRES* (Phébus, January 2014, 128 pages)

- *A novel with a film-like style.*
- *The odd coincidences and strange discoveries that the characters make about their own family history grant the tale an eerie, thrilling atmosphere.*
- *This true and somewhat upsetting story is a real page-turner.*

Ariane Lavnir moves into an apartment on Rue Mouffetard, in Paris, while she is expecting her first child. Confronted with several upsetting coincidences, she soon realizes that her apartment has a past.

So Ariane must take a good, hard look at her own past, retrieving her most deeply buried memories and looking into her family's past. Although what she learns is terribly upsetting, she knows that the investigation is both necessary and healthy: she needs to tame the past in order to keep it from overwhelming her.

The true, harrowing story of a young woman who finds herself caught in the meanders of existence by coincidence.

Catherine Enjolet is a professor of literature, and author of both novels and non-fiction books. She also writes screenplays and directs short films. *FACE AUX OMBRES* is her fifth novel.

**Villeneuve, Angélique: *LES FLEURS DE L'HIVER*
(Phébus, April 2014, 151 pages)**

- *A short but touching, discreet but powerful, loving but painful story of war, survival, family, love and mutual assistance.*
- *A moving story that looks at war through the fate of one couple, one family; it is atypical in that it portrays war through a woman's eyes.*
- *A thoughtful style, with precise but unobtrusive descriptions of the characters' feelings and pain. There are wonderful passages about the body: mutilated, changed, absent, desired.*

The moving tale of a broken man's return from war, as seen through the eyes of his loving wife, who wants desperately to reconnect.

Paris, October 1918. The war is almost over. Toussaint can finally go home to Jeanne, his wife, and the daughter he hardly knows. He's not coming straight from the trenches though, but from the Val-de-Grâce Hospital, where he has been since December 1916, when his face was ripped apart by shrapnel at Verdun. For Jeanne, who works in a florist's shop, Toussaint's return means the start of a new battle. For four years, she managed to cope with absence, fear and shortages; but the silence of the man she loves, and the bandage he refuses to remove from his face, are harder to bear. She muses about their time together before the war, the loss of their first child, her husband getting called up, and the war years.

The paths these two characters take – both together and separately – are described with subtle attention by Angélique Villeneuve. This short novel is the tale of one month in the life of a wounded family: a month to reconnect, to get to know each other again, to accept the losses and to begin to build the future.

Angélique Villeneuve was born in Paris in 1965 and has lived in both Sweden and India. She has had four novels published, by Editions Phébus, Panama and Denoël including *GRAND PARADIS* and *UN TERRITOIRE*, published in 2010 and 2012 by Editions Phébus), as well as *À LA RECHERCHE DU PAON PERDU* (for young adults, Les Grandes Personnes, 2011) and for those who like to cook (*FOOD* collection, Editions Tana since 2007, Editions de l'Épure in 2011).

**Bois, Ariane: *SANS OUBLIER*
(Belfond, February 2014, 252 pages)**

- *An honest, touching and thoughtful novel about mourning, families, childhood and mother-child relationships.*
- *The style is masterful; the narrator is thoughtful and clear-headed, and has a sense of humor, too.*
- *A moving confession that pays tribute to a mother's love, looks closely at the difficulties of motherhood, and is a reminder about the fate of many Jewish children who were hidden during the war.*

To become a mother she has to first stop being a daughter...

She isn't quite yet 30 years old but already has a painful, haunting past. So when her mother dies in a helicopter accident thousands of kilometers away, everything falls apart. The shock puts a strain on her relationship with her children and loving husband, and on her career.

As she falls deeper and deeper into mourning, she can't possibly manage her responsibilities at work or at home. To stop her free-fall, she runs away hoping to rediscover the woman, wife and mother she was. Her journey unwittingly takes her to the heart of a secret about her mother's past which helps heal her pain.

With her love of life restored, she returns home to become the wife and mother she's now ready to be.

WOMEN WRITING

Ariane Bois is a journalist for the Marie-Claire group and literary critic for *Avantages magazine*. Her two previous novels are *ET LE JOUR POUR EUX SERA COMME LA NUIT* (Ramsay, 2009) and *LE MONDE D'HANNAH* (Robert Laffont, 2011) with 40 000 copies sold.

"Un roman thérapeutique, une plume trempée dans l'urgence, un roman d'aujourd'hui" **Livres Hebdo**

"Ce beau roman, à l'écriture dense et ciselée, raconte un deuil et une métamorphose." **Femme Actuelle**

"Le nouveau roman autobiographique d'Ariane Bois donne à lire la perte." **Marianne**

Caffin, Vanessa: *SOUVIENS-TOI DE DEMAIN* (Calmann-Lévy, March 2014, 233 pages)

- *In this suspenseful novel with an unusual plot, we follow the heroine step by step in her quest for the truth.*
- *The characters, who we get to know gradually, seem very real, particularly the terrifying and sadistic Vincent.*
- *With its clever construction and plot, this psycho-thriller is a real page-turner.*

In this captivating and suspense-filled novel, Vanessa Caffin reveals a tormented writer's terrifying manipulation of an amnesiac young woman.

Charlie Longe, 35, wakes up in the hospital, completely amnesic after having been mugged. Her past is entirely wiped out, and she can't store any new memories. In order to know what happened the day before, she decides to write in a diary. On the first pages it says: "I'm going to die. Find my husband, find Adam." Terrified, Charlie sneaks out of the hospital to try to find out the truth.

Vincent, the obsessively jealous ex-boyfriend who attacked her and left her unconscious, has writer's block. He finds inspiration for a novel in their unhealthy, sadistic relationship. While Charlie, terrified and convinced she has to find her husband, tries to unravel the mystery, Vincent manipulates her, explaining that they are engaged, and moving in with her. When he finishes his novel, he disappears without a trace. Georges, who used to work with Charlie, suspects Vincent. He hacks Vincent's computer, erases the manuscript and brings it to Charlie to reveal the truth to her. Two months later, Charlie is being treated in a specialized center. Georges tires of coming to visit her. Vincent finds her, steals her notebook, and writes the same words as the last time. As he planned, she escapes once again: he's going to be able to start his novel over.

An efficient, well-constructed tale that is impossible to put down until the blood-curdling ending.

Vanessa Caffin was born near Paris in 1976. A journalist, her acclaimed first novel, *J'AI PAS L'AMOUR... OU TROP, PEUT-ÊTRE*, was published in 2008 by Anne Carrière and won the Besançon Debut Novel Prize. Her next two novels were published by Belfond: *MEMOIRE VIVE* (2010) and *ROSSMORE AVENUE* (2011). She has also written two essays about soccer, published by Solar in 2005 and 2007. She is currently a columnist for Yahoo.fr as well as a scenarist.

Hug, Nathalie: *1, RUE DES PETITS-PAS* (Calmann-Lévy, February 2014, 350 pages)

- *An exciting love story with lots of unexpected plot twists that stays interesting all the way to the happy ending.*
- *The narrator is very endearing, despite her young age and her difficult childhood.*
- *This book portrays women's daily lives in the 1910s: their unhappy marriages, their lack of knowledge of their own bodies, their moments of solidarity, and their cruelty, too.*

Focusing on the fate of a young orphaned girl who learns about life and love by becoming a midwife, this novel skilfully portrays life in a French village after World War I.

Winter 1918, in a village near the German border, just a few miles from the front: in the midst of the ruins, after most of the men have died, the women and children are fighting to survive. Louise, the narrator, was orphaned at age 16. She is a sort of midwife's assistant, learning the job from Anne, who has unofficially adopted her. When both Anne and the woman giving birth die during a complicated delivery, Louise names the baby Jean-Baptiste, and raises him as her own son. Vida, a mysterious and somewhat brutal midwife, takes Louise under her wing. Louise falls in love with Vida, who is in fact a man: David, Anne's son. The revelation leaves Louise feeling betrayed, and she moves out. The townspeople challenge the legality of Louise's medical

practice. A new doctor comes to the village and asks Louise to be his assistant. David, who is worried about getting arrested for deserting from the Army, moves to America. Louise is arrested for practicing medicine without a license and is sent to jail for a year. She sends her son to live with David in New York. When she is released from jail, she goes to New York to join them.

Nathalie Hug has composed a realistic and touching novel narrating the many hurdles and traps that can get in the way of a determined young woman who has every intention of getting an education, improving her life, raising a child, and above all, loving.

Nathalie Hug has written two novels published by Calmann-Levy, L'ENFANT-RIEN (2011) and LA DEMOISELLE DES TIC-TAC (2012), as well as several books with her husband, Jérôme Camut.

“Palpitations assurées!” Marie-Claire

“Dans son troisième roman en solo Nathalie Hug séduit une nouvelle fois le lecteur avec une intrigue captivante des personnages émouvants et attachants et une atmosphère historique recréée avec brio.” Page des libraires

Halberstadt, Michèle: *MON AMIE AMÉRICAINE*
(Albin Michel, January 2014, 192 pages)

- *The need to write emerges as the only way to overcome a dramatic event.*
- *Life's upheavals put friendship to the test*
- *A very personal narrative, that manages to be at once discreet and very emotional*

New York city: forty-year-old Molly lies in a coma after suffering a ruptured aneurysm. Such is the painful and shocking news that the narrator, her French friend, has just received. Rather than sitting around doing nothing, she decides to write to her friend, to remind her of all the little gestures that built a friendship that was born when they met professionally, as they both work in cinema. As time goes by, and Molly remains unconscious, her friend's writings reach the deeper level of conjugal confessions, though her problems seem to be small fry compared to what her friend is enduring in New York.

But one day, when all hope has been abandoned, Molly awakes from her coma – indifferent to what has happened to her and in no hurry to become the generous, enthusiastic, good old Molly again. The affection patiently maintained during her absence begins to wane, giving way slowly and silently to remoteness and guilt.

Film producer, Michèle Halberstadt wrote CAFÉ VIENNOIS, L'INCROYABLE HISTOIRE DE MADEMOISELLE PARADIS, UN ÉCART DE CONDUITE and LA PETITE (2011) published by Albin Michel.

Ledig, Agnès: *MARIE D'EN HAUT*
(Albin Michel, June 2012, 362 pages)

- *A love story interwoven with social issues.*
- *An invigorating novel filled with both laughter and tears.*
- *FEMME ACTUELLE magazine's Reader's Prize Grand Prix.*

Agnès Ledig's first novel – a madcap romantic comedy featuring characters who have been hard hit by life -- paints a novel portrait of contemporary society over a background of life on a farm

Olivier, a grouchy cop, is new in town. When an investigation leads him to an isolated farm in the middle of nowhere, the last thing he expects is to fall in love with the woman whose farm it is. Yet Olivier's usual boorishness melts away before Marie, an independent-minded, temperamental woman.

Between hilarious verbal jousting and grotesque situations, the characters gradually learn to relax with each other, overcoming their own fears and obstacles, and proving to be deeper than they seemed at first glance. The misanthropic policeman is an abandoned child who thinks he's King Arthur; the solitary woman farmer – a gifted child trying to find her father – writes haikus to overcome having been raped. Their mutual lucky charm is a farmer on the run who talks to his cows in iambic pentameter!

A refreshing romantic comedy that queries society's values: caring for your parents, becoming a parent yourself – whether you're battered, lonely, misanthropic or homosexual.

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Born in 1972, Agnès Ledig is a midwife. She started writing after one of her three children died of leukemia in order to find her way back to life's simple pleasures. Her first novel, *MARIE D'EN HAUT*, has already enchanted readers in France. *JUSTE AVANT LE BONHEUR*, her new book, which came out earlier this year, has already been bought in several countries.

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Field, Michel: *LE SOLDEUR*

(Robert Laffont, February 2014, 360 pages)

- *What could be more anodyne than ridding one's shelves of some extra books? Who could imagine that such a decision could alter the course of one's life?*

A man decides to sell a few books from his home shelves. At the discount seller's store, he encounters a young woman who bewitches him, and he wishes to see her again. She proposes a pact. She will throw out a word like throwing down a challenge. He will have to gather books related to this word, recount them to her, and get rid of all but one. Through this singular love story, the protagonists find themselves confronted with the mystery of sentiments that link us to our books, and to the intimacy of our book collections. Is detaching oneself from the books in their life liberating or simply giving up? This enigma challenges the narrator as much as the readers.

Michel Field is the author, amongst other titles, of *LE PASSEUR DE LESBOS* (1984) and *IMPASSE DE LA NUIT* (1986), first published with Éditions Bernard Barrault, then republished with Robert Laffont, where he's since published *CONTES CRUELS POUR ANAËLLE* (1995) and *LE LIVRE DES RENCONTRES* (2002).

Tadjer, Akli: *LES THERMES DU PARADIS*

(JC Lattes, March 2014, 280 pages)

- *A novel full of humor and tenderness set in authentic Paris, where we discover that it is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.*

Adèle Reverdy is a woman of many hang-ups and, to make matters worse, men run the other way when they learn she is an undertaker. But her life will change the day she turns thirty. Among the guests invited to the party organized by her sister, there is Leo, ex-trapeze artist, blinded by an accident, now a masseur at the Paradise Spa. Adèle decides, with the help of her best friend Leila, a talented embalmer, that she will do everything in her power to conquer Leo's heart.

Akli Tadjer is the author of eight novels, three of which (*LE PASSAGER DU TASSILI*, *LE PORTEUR DE CARTABLE* and *IL ÉTAIT UNE FOIS*) have been adapted to the screen.

Rights sold in Germany (Blanvalet / Random House) and Italy (Garzanti).

Patou-Mathis, Marylène & Leroy, Pascale: *MADAME DE NÉANDERTAL*

(Robert Laffont, April 2014, 210 pages)

- *A hilarious novel on the habits and customs of our Neanderthal ancestors, confronted for the first time with Homo sapiens forbears...*

A mix of Roy Lewis's *Pourquoi j'ai mangé mon père* and *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *Madame de Néandertal: A Diary* is a light comedy, spirited and funny while being instructive. Marylène Patou-Mathis is a great specialist of the Neanderthal: combining a quixotic fantasy full of wickedness and great scientific rigor, this joyous novel teaches us everything about the quotidian life and behaviors of our distant ancestors – we have more points in common with them than we suspect, you'll see!

Doctor of Prehistory, Research Director at CNRS, internationally recognized behaviors of Neanderthals and early modern humans in Europe specialist Marylène Patou-Mathis is the author of several books. Longtime journalist before becoming editor, Pascale Leroy is also an author

Anidjar, Patrick: *LE TROMPETTISTE DE STALINE*

(Plon, January 2014, 416 pages)

- *The tragic fate of Eddie Grynberg, Stalin's favourite jazz trumpet-player.*

A Parisian journalist, at fifty, Gabriel Linhardt loves jazz and sometimes performs in the bars of the capital in his off hours. One day, he receives a letter from an attorney in New York that will turn his life upside-down. An old uncle, living in New York and now on his deathbed, asks to see him. For this only child, whose family consists of just his parents the shock is enormous.

In New York, Gabriel learns that he was adopted, and that his father was in fact the great Russian jazz trumpeter, Edouard “Eddie” Grynberg. His mother was a dancer, Elsa, and the two Jewish artists performed in Paris and in Moscow, where they finally took refuge from the Nazis. Eddie Grynberg plays for the Soviet upper crust, including Stalin until the day when Jdanov relegated “American” jazz to the dustbin of degenerate art.

In a nightmare scenario, Elsa was swallowed up into the cellars of the NKVD, while Grynberg was sent to the gulag. Incapable of going on without Elsa, Eddie let himself die after having given his only property—a trumpet engraved with an inscription in Hebrew—to a Ukrainian prisoner with whom he had become friends, begging him to swear he would find Elsa and the child she had brought into the world, so that he would receive his meager inheritance.

Correspondent of AFP news agency in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, Patrick Anidjar is the author of an essay on Iran’s nuclear aspirations (LA BOMBE IRANIENNE, 2008). He is currently an assistant editor in chief at the AFP and lives in Paris.

**Deghelt, Frédérique: *LES BRUMES DE L’APPARENCE*
(Actes Sud, 368 pages, March 2014)**

- *An appealing heroine, whose doubts we can follow step by step*
- *A lively and up-to-date writing style, and a great sense of humor*
- *The theme is addressed with subtlety, and never overwhelms the heroine’s search for meaning in her life.*

A woman with a perfectly happy and fulfilling existence sees her world turned upside-down when she realizes she’s a medium and a faith healer. From then on, her only goal is to learn the true meaning of life – both her own and humanity’s.

At age 40, Gabrielle has it all: a job as an event organizer, a plastic-surgeon husband and their 18-year-old son. They live in Paris, where Gabrielle enjoys her urban, social lifestyle. When she finds out that she has inherited a few acres in the center of France, where her mother is from, she decides to sell it, even though the executor of the will tells her that the locals say that the land is haunted, so she’ll have trouble finding a buyer. Gabrielle goes to see for herself, and the trip to the land of her ancestors, called the Forêt des Brumes – the Forest of the Mists – changes her life, because she learns that she descends from a long line of mediums and healers. Even though she’s tempted to go back to her old life as though nothing had changed, it’s too late: she realizes that she can see the dead and bring ease to the dying. From then on, Gabrielle’s life is overturned. Who is she? What should she do? Where does she belong?

Gabrielle will find peace after fighting off the evil spirits on her land, and above all, after truly taking stock of her own life. Once she has gotten rid of her biases and her concern for appearances, and learned to trust her own intuition, Gabrielle can finally be truly happy.

A former journalist and television director, Frédérique Deghelt now devotes herself to writing. One of her novels, LA VIE D’UNE AUTRE, published in 2007, was made into “Another Woman’s Life”, a film by Sylvie Testud starring Juliette Binoche and Matthieu Kassovitz. LES BRUMES DE L’APPARENCE is her ninth novel.

**d’Halluin, Bruno: *L’EGARE DE LISBONNE*
(Gaïa Editions, February 2014, 256 pages)**

- *Readers are quickly drawn into this adventure story, thanks to João, an endearing character who introduces us to a society in transition, one that is the foundation of today’s world.*
- *A well-documented novel that allows us to learn about mindsets during the Age of Discovery.*
- *A literary historical/ adventure novel set in the Age of Discovery, the life of João Faras, a real-life doctor and cosmographer from 1500s Lisbon, featuring a scheme to steal a precious map that is jealously guarded by the King, and threats to João Faras’s status in Lisbon society.*

João Faras is 25 in the year 1500, when he embarks on the good ship Bate-Cabelo as a doctor and cosmographer. But as they round the Cape of Good Hope, a storm at sea separates them from the other ships in

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the armada. After a long, difficult voyage, in which half the men are lost to disease or to attacks by locals, they manage to limp back into Lisbon. But their return doesn't go as planned: the King sees their mission as a failure that would be best to hide from public knowledge. João loses his position as the King's cosmographer, and is forced to practice medicine, a profession he doesn't care for.

Embittered, he doesn't hesitate to betray his country. He steals a precious map that belongs to the King in order to provide a mysterious Italian explorer with information about recent discoveries made by Portuguese sailing ships all over the globe. Tension within both his own family and Portuguese society as a whole because of the Plague and the forced conversion of Jews convince him to set off on another expedition. This time, he will settle for good in Vera Cruz (present-day Brazil) which he had greatly admired during an earlier voyage.

An epic novel of adventure that carries readers off to both to faraway times and to distant places locales.

Bruno d'Halluin is a computer engineer, a traveller and a sailor who is fascinated with the Age of Discovery. L'EGARE DE LISBONNE is his second novel for Gaïa Editions, after the highly acclaimed JON L'ISLANDAIS (2012).

"Un récit d'aventures auquel il ne manque aucune épice ; de l'action, de l'inconnu, du danger, de l'exotisme." **Livres Hebdo**

"Un texte palpitant." **Librairie Gwalarn (Lannion)**

d'Epenoux, François: *LE REVEIL DU COEUR*
(Editions Anne Carrière January 2014, 256 pages)
10 000 copies sold in France

- *An affectionate and nostalgic novel that is less about the generation gap than about the change of eras.*
- *Touching and authentic male characters whose lifestyles and belief systems are called into question by the arrival of a child.*
- *Delightful dialogues with a scathing sense of humour.*
- *François d'Epenoux has written a touching and truthful novel, tinged with nostalgia, that queries what it means to be a man and a father in a modern world in which ancestral identities have been swept away.*

At age 30, Jean is the stereotypical Parisian hipster. He works for a PR firm that he hates, has been dating the same woman for the last three years without the slightest intention of getting married, reads the paper, goes out to eat, and feels like he's treading water.

His father, the Grand-Pariah, hasn't read a newspaper since 1968. He lives in a house where time stopped when everything was simpler – when men were men and women were women and everybody knew what that meant.

But the unintended birth of Malo upsets everything. The son becomes a father, and feels like a man for the first time. The old man has to make room in his heart for this unexpected grandchild. He gets caught up with introducing Malo to nature, opening his eyes to what children don't notice any more: animals, plants, the seasons and more. The little boy, in turn, opens his grandfather's mind to the world's evolution.

François d'Epenoux, 46, writes both novels and screenplays. His novel DEUX JOURS A TUER, 2001) was adapted for the screen by Jean Becker (one million tickets sold!).

"À l'humour caustique succède une écriture empreinte de tendresse. Et aux séparations ou oppositions des premières pages, une véritable rencontre." **Paris Match**

"Les détours et les surprises de cette tendre complicité entre le vieil homme et l'enfant sont au fil des pages drôles, insolites et touchants." **Télé Z**

Damas, Geneviève: *HISTOIRE D'UN BONHEUR*
(Arlea, February 2014, 203 pages)

- *A cleverly crafted choral novel whose original structure intertwines narratives and points of view in a virtuous way.*
- *The author's subtle portraits take us deep inside the psychology of both men and women, children and adults, with great sensibility and acuteness.*

- *A crucial and hopeful reflection about the nature of happiness and the possibility of finding it in unexpected places: a novel that everyone can relate to.*
- *4 characters, 4 different lives, 4 ways of telling a story: Geneviève Damas's virtuosity takes us into a clever narrative about human frailty and the beauty of chance encounters.*

Anita is 50. For outsiders, she is a bourgeois condescending housewife in control of her life. But behind this neat façade, is a desperate woman trying to overcome bipolar issues, deeply upset by the unexpected revelation of her son's homosexuality. When she meets Nourredine, a young kid about to drop out of school, he puts an end to her aching loneliness and takes over the narrative. His improbable new relationship with Anita will lead him to meet her neighbour, Nathalie, whose life is also falling apart. As she takes over as a third narrator, she lets us into her wrecked marriage to a betraying husband. But, once again, life is full of chance encounters, and destiny leads her to meet Anita's disfigured brother-in-law, Simon, a taciturn man who, as the last narrator, brings the narrative to a full circle.

Geneviève Damas is a Belgian director and comedian. Her first novel, *SI TU PASSES LA RIVIERE* won the 2011 *Prix Rossel* and the 2012 *Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie*. She currently lives in Brussels.

"Porté par le 'je' ou par le 'tu', l'écriture est superbe, sensible et délicate, donnant leur pleine puissance aux quêtes intérieures de ces déclassés prisonniers du regard porté sur eux." L'Avenir

"Geneviève Damas a ce don de camper des personnages qu'on n'oublie pas, en qui on croit, même si on ne les aime pas, et de raconter des histoires qui nous parlent, qui nous remuent, qui nous font réfléchir, qui nous offrent ce que tout lecteur est en droit d'exiger des écrivains : de l'intrigue et de la profondeur." Le Soir

Khayat, Ondine: *OLD'UP*
(Michel Lafon, March 2014, 295 pages)

- *Old age – Loneliness – Neighborhood life – Solidarity - Humour*
- *Endearing characters whose optimism will remind you of the ones in Katherine Pancol's books.*
- *A novel about inter-generational relationships in which everyone will see a bit of themselves.*
- *A story that holds hope for our society: it is still possible to be the change you want to see!*

When Léonce retires, life suddenly feels meaningless to her. But little by little, thanks to her neighbours, she will come to see that retirement isn't all bad, and that she can even help other people overcome their loneliness.

At 72, Léonce, has reached mandatory retirement age. Since her whole life revolved around her job, retirement leaves her completely disoriented by the looming emptiness of her aimless days.

Her neighbors try their best to help her cope with her loneliness. But Léonce was never one for socializing, or for confiding in others. It takes time and perseverance on her neighbours' part to help her see that other people care about her, and that retirement isn't a death sentence.

With a rogues' gallery of colourful portraits that add up to an endearing neighbourhood, we get drawn into this older woman's daily life: her anxiety, and above all, her first, awkward steps in reaching out to others. Through the story of Léonce and her neighbours, who manage to band together to ward off loneliness, this resolutely optimistic book urges us to look at older people differently.

Born in 1974, Ondine Khayat has Lebanese, Armenian and French roots. Very committed to humanitarian causes, she is also the author of *LUCINE*, (2007, Henri-Verneuil Prize) and *PAYS SANS ADULTES* (2011). *OLD'UP* is her fourth novel.

Petersen, Pia: *MON NOM EST DIEU*
(Plon, January 2014, 264 pages)

- *The latest novel by Pia Petersen, a writer known for her unique, quirky style. Her biting sense of humour keeps readers turning pages to the very end.*
- *Although this book is about human beings' complex relationship to the divine, it isn't mystic in the least. Readers get to know Jansen and his utilitarian vision of religion; Dorian, an atheist, and plenty of other characters who feel disappointed by God, believing he has abandoned them.*

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- *A tale that presents human relationships in a very unusual way: Morgane's conception of religious belief is upended by her encounter with God.*

This surprising new novel by Pia Petersen draws us deep into the existence of a young French journalist whose life is thrown into turmoil when she meets an unlikely character: God. But is this depressed, disillusioned, being with his oh-so human desires really God?

Morgane Latour is a French journalist living in Los Angeles. One day, she accompanies Jansen, a guru she is writing an in-depth article about, to a Santa Claus election. Little did she know that she would meet someone there who would change her whole existence. Among the many candidates is a homeless-looking man who insists that he is actually God. Fascinated by him, Morgane offers to let God stay at her place, soon entering into an intense relationship with him. But Morgane isn't the only one who attracted to this strange personage. Jansen, the guru, is also aware of God's extraordinary charisma, and he will do anything to get God into his sect.

Pia Petersen handles her extraordinary tale with maestro. No matter how improbable the plot, it is described so matter-of-factly that one can't help getting drawn into the logic of it.

Pia Petersen grew up in Denmark. When she was still quite young, she decided to devote her life to writing. At the age of 16, she chose to move to Paris, learn French and study philosophy. With a master's degree in the subject, she opened a bookstore in Paris and then started to write. Her first novel, *LE JEU DE LA FACILITE*, was published in 2000. Her 8 other books have all been published by Actes Sud.

"Book after book, Pia Petersen reveals an ever-expanding mastery of the craft of the novel!" **Le Monde des Livres**

"Throughout Pia Petersen's novels, her questions about the problem created by western society – solitude, exclusion, and innder disquiet – show through transparently" **Les Echos**

Lossky, Olga: *LA MAISON ZEIDAWI* (Denoël, February 2014, 240 pages)

- *Olga Lossky beautifully intertwines a subtle inner quest with a powerful historical saga.*
- *A fascinating glimpse of Lebanese culture as seen through thoughtful characters who are torn between their attachment to the past and their desire for renewal.*
- *The intricate family plot is told in a classically beautiful, well-pitched tone.*

Olga Lossky's third novel is a family saga marked by the fates of a line of proud and rebellious Lebanese women. A 50-year-old Parisian man who was cut off from his roots discovers the tumultuous history of the influential Beirut family he descends from.

Dominating the port of Beirut, the Zeidawi house symbolizes the success of Evelyn, a Maronite peasant woman who, through marriage, became the matriarch of a highly respected family. Inside their prestigious home, successive generations have been torn apart by the turmoil wrought by history upon the banks of the Levant.

Fouad, a 50-year-old man with a family in Paris, goes to Beirut to sign the papers for the sale of the Zeidawi house, which he has inherited a share of. He discovers his ancestors' country, which his mother had left under obscure circumstances before he was born. By forcing him to confront the past he had always chosen to ignore, the journey begins to take on accents of a search for his roots, allowing Fouad both to mourn his mother and to become a better father.

Olga Lossky takes us from the tranquility of the mountains of Metn to the energy of the ever-changing streets of Beirut, via the stunning landscapes of Byblos. Through her portraits of the proud, brave and rebellious Zeidawi women, she tells the story of one man's awakening and new-found maturity.

Olga Lossky, 33, has written two previous novels, *REQUIEM POUR UN CLOU* (2004) and *LA REVOLUTION DES CIERGES* (2010); articles for *LE CHAMEAU ET LE CHAS* (Journal de la jeunesse orthodoxe) and a play, *LOURMEL, 26 OCTOBRE 1936*.

Grégor, Jean: *FEMME NUE DEVANT SA GLACE* (Editions Fayard, 192 pages, 2014)

- *This story works its way back through the hard life of a solitary prostitute who was once an idealistic, romantic young woman.*
- *Wounded characters are forced to examine their own lives and make radical decisions.*

- *Through this story – which could have been sordid, but isn't – Jean Grégor explores his fascination for the mystery of women's lives.*

Jean Grégor's 12th novel gathers together the broken pieces of the life of a young woman in a coma. She is a prostitute, but that wasn't always the case. An older cop is intent on giving the woman's identity and life story back to her.

During a night-time patrol on the outskirts of Paris, Gérard Robance, a cop approaching retirement, finds the battered body of a nameless prostitute. Atypically, Gérard breaks the rules by going to the hospital to visit the young woman while she's in a coma. She reminds him of his own daughter, who died of an overdose. In an attempt to assuage his guilt over his daughter's death, he decides to investigate... less to find out who did it, then to provide the woman with an identity and a past.

One clue leads to another, and Gérard eventually manages to outline the life of Nathalie Caron, a provincial girl with a squint, an alcoholic father and an unhappy first love. A stubborn and temperamental woman with contradictory desires and self-destructive impulses.

In a text that is neither voyeuristic nor judgmental, Jean Grégor pays tribute to these forgotten, anonymous women, offering an identity to one of them.

Jean Grégor has written over a dozen novels since 1996, including L'OMBRE EN SOI (2012), which tells the story of his own father, the writer and investigative journalist Pierre Péan.

"Aucune leçon de morale, mais une jolie démonstration d'humanité." **Le Nouvel Observateur**

"Jean Grégor assemble son récit comme un jeu de cubes. Son style méthodique et posé a quelque chose de plaisamment anachronique. (...) Ce roman a le charme de la mélancolie qui n'a pas fait le deuil de la bonté."
Figaro littéraire

"Par petites touches impressionnistes, c'est tout un monde qui se révèle (...). C'est un très beau petit livre avec une musique intérieure qui griffe le cœur" **Page**

Sfar, Joann: *LE PLUS GRAND PHILOSOPHE DE FRANCE* (Albin Michel, June 2014, approx.200 pages)

Humour, derision, a sense of the Romanesque, delectable descriptions, sensuality and emotion... all the things that give originality and profundity to the universe created by Sfar, who, in this book, blends his mischievous spirit and sharp intelligence more superbly than ever.

Jewish and a disciple of Spinoza (without ever having read him), a Dutch pirate decides to go into politics: since the 'Code Noir' forbids him from being a slave driver, slavery cannot be allowed! A minor earl, Alarmé de l'Implication, aspires to become France's greatest philosopher. Obsessed with his lofty ambition, he neglects to bonk his wife, to her great despair.

A little prince, black and extremely fat, boards a slave galley, bound for what he imagines to be the land of sugar cane: France! And around the threesome, a talking dog, a little girl who never takes off her socks, a priest who believes that sexual abstinence will give him superpowers, and a twisted old lecher... All these characters writhe and labour to make a living under God's indifferent eye – he prefers sport to this depressing spectacle of humans searching for meaning in their lives, and believing in him...

Artist and scenarist of cult comic books, film maker, author of L'ETERNEL, Joann Sfar is an inexhaustible raconteur.

Allez, Cookie: *MOBILE DE RUPTURE* (Bouchet Chastel/Libella, February 2014, 240 pages)

- *A resolutely up-to-date novel that pokes fun at our modern world without falling into the trap of condemning it.*
- *The author laughs at the world's absurdities with a blend of sensitivity and sarcasm.*
- *An amusing way of identifying the cell phone as the culprit that is putting an end to authentic human relations.*
- *Full of wincing humor, puns and word play.*

A couple celebrating their wedding anniversary in the chic, trendy restaurant where they first met, some five years before...

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Inside the woman's head, a camera is switching back and forth between that first luncheon – when both of them were trying to seduce each other – and this one, five years later. Little by little, a repressed belief emerges: she was wrong about this man, and/or he misled her about himself.

An inanimate object acts as a pretext for the argument that leads to their breaking up: her husband's smartphone: "all-in-one" lying between them on the table. She sees it as a third person, a rival, and it crystallizes all the frustration and anger she had been holding in check until then.

Cookie Allez has already published four novels with Buchet Chastel (LE VENTRE DU PRÉSIDENT, LA SOUPIÈRE, LE MASQUE ET LES PLUMES, SANS SUCRE AJOUTÉ). She lives in Versailles, near Paris.

Guilbert-Billetedoux, Augustin: *LES JOUEUSES* (Payot-Rivages, January 2014, 183 pages)

- - *A spell-binding novel of initiation in which a young woman discovers the strength of emotions, as well as developing her spirituality through an experience with religion*
- - *A book that invites the reader into a strange and fascinating Brazilian community*
- - *Through the story of these two young women, the author portrays a society in crisis where it is hard to find one's place and achieve your dreams*

When Zoé and Lou meet in an acting class, they realize that it is the beginning of a friendship like no other, one without limits. Then the two young women meet Thaïs, and they invite him to share their lives. The young man fascinates them both, overwhelming their entire existence. The tale of an uncommon friendship and a complex love triangle.

Two girls who want to get the most out of life and are determined to make it – budding actresses, they're sure – form a life-long friendship the first time they meet, in acting class. Zoé talks, Lou leads the way. With their shared obsession for the stage as a backdrop, they go through the motions as they await roles that are worthy of them. They'll need to find a love that can compare to their feelings for each other... They soon become young women who feel hemmed in under the rooftops of Paris in a decadent era. When they meet a man who seems to hold the promise of a different kind of love, they head to Brazil, desperately seeking something sacred and true, in search of something greater here on Earth. Will their encounter with Candomblé, the cult of the orishas, allow them to share their love?

Each in her own way, both women will go to the end of their obsession: the irresistible need to play.

Augustin Guilbert-Billetedoux was born in 1986. His first novel was LE MESSIE DU PEOPLE CHAUVÉ (Gallimard, 2012).

"Augustin Billetedoux has gracefully escaped second-novel syndrome. He has a fine grasp of what the holy could mean in that period of existence when the desire to live life to the fullest brushes up against – at the risk of falling into – eternal abysses." **Le Nouvel Observateur**

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Barillé, Elisabeth: *UN AMOUR À L'AUBE. AMEDEO MODIGLIANI - ANNA AKHMATOVA* (Grasset, March 2014, 208 pages)

- *What do we know of the Amadeo Modigliani and Anna Akhmatova's explosive passion? Nothing, or so little... Following the discovery of a statuette of the famous poet made by her lover at the time, Elisabeth Barillé wanted to investigate. Here is the story of this unknown love that took place in the Paris of the 1900s.*

That enigmatic face, isn't it the poet Anna Akhmatova? What relationship connected the sculptor and the woman of letters? Through travel and clues that she passionately seeks out, the author gives life to the meeting of two lovers in Paris at the beginning of the 20th century.

How did two people with such remarkable destinies come to attract and love one another at the beginning of their artistic lives? Anna, a young bride on her honeymoon, is already bored by her husband and has a singular dream: to become a poet. At the same time, Modigliani arrives from Italy. He is 26 years old and has decided to dedicate himself body and soul to sculpture.

More than the reproduction of an ephemeral love, Elisabeth Barillé gives us the resurrection of two figures at the dawn of their successes. Two voices loving one another in a clumsy French, two artists filled with desire and beautiful ambition, as well as two burgeoning “worlds” – the Montparnasse of the 1900s and the Russian poets of “the Tower”.

Elisabeth Barillé is the author of several novels, stories, and biographies, including *Corps de jeune fille* (1986), *Exaucez-nous* (1999, Prix de la Fondation de France), *A ses pieds* (2006) and *Heureux parmi les morts* (2009).

Masson, Jean-Yves: *L'INCENDIE DU THEATRE DE WEIMAR*
(Verdier, January 2014, 192 pages)

- *A brilliant tribute to Goethe, a master of literature, which also doffs its cap at such great names as Byron, Shakespeare and Mozart.*
- *The city of Weimar and its most illustrious inhabitant, Goethe, are presented as icons not only of the German spirit, but beyond that, of a more global universal philosophy.*
- *The narrative switches between a powerful and heart-warming story about a man who fights to keep his art alive, and extremely accessible reflections on humanism.*

Mars 1825: The Weimar Theatre burns down. Goethe, who had it built and ran it for almost 30 years, sees the fire as “the bonfire of his memories”.

But as soon as the rubble is cleared away, Goethe begins making new plans for a new theatre that would be even more beautiful, and universal. In the meantime, he pours all his energy into various projects, from a series of concerts and programming *The Magic Flute* to a sequel to that opera which he is believed to have written with a student of Mozart himself. There will be just a single performance, held in secret, and described by those in attendance as a moment of pure grace.

This novel leaves us dazzled by the energy of a man in the autumn of his life who, when faced with a catastrophe, finds it within himself to keep performing and to contribute to furthering art, whatever it takes.

Jean-Yves Masson was born in 1962. He is a writer, translator, critic and professor. His previously published books: *L'ISOLEMENT* (1996), *HOFMANNSTHAL, RENONCEMENT ET METAMORPHOSE* (2006), *ULTIMES VERITES SUR LA MORT DU NAGEUR* (2007).

“Dans un roman insolite, l'écrivain ressuscite l'icône du romantisme allemand. Ou comment les forces de la vie peuvent conjurer celles de la destruction.” **La Liberté**

“Une combinaison de simplicité et d'exigence, de liberté et de règles précises.” **L'Humanité**

“Un épisode capital de la vie du poète allemand raconté par un témoin inconnu.” **L'Humanité**

“Cette double médiation narrative, ces points de vue habilement entremêlés, qui révèlent autant une position artistique singulière qu'une philosophie générale de l'art théâtral, permettent de vivifier la prose classique, soucieuse d'équilibre, de Jean-Yves Masson.” **Livres Hebdo**

François-Guillaume Lorrain: *L'ANNEE DES VOLCANS*
(Flammarion, January 2014, 384 pages)

- *Three fates are intertwined in this novel that tells the true story of the encounter between Ingrid Bergman and Roberto Rossellini – an encounter that led to a film rivalry with Rossellini's previous girlfriend, the Italian actress Anna Magnani.*
- *Readers will be immersed in the atmosphere of Italy and Hollywood in the 1950s.*
- *This passionate love story involving Rossellini and Bergman, as well as Magnani, makes for an intimate page in the international history of the movies.*

In 1946, Ingrid Bergman is a huge star in the United States, but her career is on the wane. One day, she decides to go see *Rome, Open City*, a film by the Italian director Roberto Rossellini, whom she's heard a lot about. Moved by the film, she is determined to work with Rossellini, whose unique vision can, she is convinced, open a whole new chapter in her career. The outcome of their encounter is that in 1949, the actress leaves her husband and daughter to move to Italy, causing a huge scandal in puritanical America. This novel describes the making of their first film, *Stromboli*, shot in Sicily, as well as a competing film bankrolled by an American

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

studio, *Volcano*, starring Rossellini's ex-girlfriend, Anna Magnani, who wants to get back – or just get back – the man who left her for another woman.

This book tells the story of these exceptional stars and their impact on the history of the cinema, focusing on the year 1949 – a watershed in all of their careers. After that Italian interlude, Ingrid Bergman began to work in Hollywood again, and Anna Magnani became the first Italian actress to win an Oscar.

François-Guillaume Lorrain, born in 1970, is a journalist specialized in history and a film critic for the weekly magazine *Le Point*. L'ANNEE DES VOLCANS is his seventh novel.

Barilier, Etienne: *RUIZ DOIT MOURIR* (Buchet Chastel/Libella, March 2014, Barilier, 320 pages)

- *Picasso as seen through the eyes of one of his last detractors, an artist who was a contemporary of the great genius of the modern avant-garde*
- *A book that everyone can enjoy: based on actual aesthetic clashes, it offers readers an entertaining way to learn about art history*
- *Clara, who learns about art from Godward, is fascinated by the Ballets Russes, and eventually becomes Picasso's mistress.*

In 1917, while the headlines are all about World War I and the Russian Revolution, a different kind of battle is taking place in Rome: the artistic revolution of abstraction, led by one of its geniuses, Picasso. This story's singular atmosphere and setting will transport readers to an era of tremendous upheaval – both political and aesthetic.

John William Godward, a neo-Classical English painter, has come to Rome to work on his latest paintings. He worships the canonical beauty of the Classical period, and is fascinated with Greek and Roman antiquity. He is living in Villa Strohl-Fern, an artists' residence. He soon finds out that Pablo Ruiz (Picasso), whom he has criticized publicly, is also in Rome. Knowing that makes him want to explain everything – all the aesthetic and personal reasons that have made him the avant-garde painter's sworn enemy. He also decides to follow Picasso, and asks Clara, his model and muse, to spy on Picasso for him. Godward wants to confront Picasso and explain his beliefs about art to him. Godward's encounter with one of Picasso's revolutionary paintings is profoundly upsetting to the narrator: from that point on, he can no longer think of art, in general, and his own painting, in particular, in the same way.

In this book, Etienne Barilier manages to create an exciting fiction inspired by real-life historic and artistic events. Readers will be hooked by this enthralling story, whose main characters include some of the most important painters of the 20th century.

Etienne Barilier is a Swiss writer who is a huge fan of both painting and music. As a journalist, he contributes to the magazine ARTPASSION. He has written several books published by Editions l'Âge d'Homme and Zoé. RUIZ DOIT MOURIR is his latest novel.

Prévost, Guillaume Prévost: *LA BERCEUSE DE STALINE* (Robert Laffont, March 2014, 360 pages)

- *Being Lenin's guest is no protection from being Stalin's target.*

March 1920. While an investigation of the savage murder of a former spy from the tsar's secret service stagnated in Paris, François-Claudius Simon was sent on an unofficial mission in Moscow. The brilliant detective of 36 quai des Orfèvres tried to come to an agreement with Russian authorities on a separate delicate matter, one that incriminated a high-profile minister. The young inspector was forewarned: if things go badly, he will be on his own. Yet, in this atmosphere of acute paranoia and permanent scheming, characteristic of Lenin's Russia, things can only go badly. Especially when a certain Joseph Stalin gets mixed in... This mélange of fiction, suspense, and history finds Guillaume Prévost at the height of his talent.

Historian, professor, and novelist, Guillaume Prévost is the author of LIVRE DU TEMPS, an internationally successful trilogy published with Gallimard.

Schneck, Colombe: *MAI 67* (Robert Laffont, April 2014, 121 pages)

- *In the image of his heroine, a luminous novel, as free as it is endearing.*

Their meeting is sunny - under the Roman sky, in the spring of 1967, how could it be any other way? He was the assistant costume designer on the new Louis Malle film. For over two months, in Rome and then in Paris, at "Bri's," they experienced an *amour fou*, right under the noses of the henchmen employed by her multimillionaire husband Gunter. As he says, this passion "taught me to love," and F. kept the dozens and dozens of love letters that he never knew how to respond to. Thirty years later, finding "Bri"'s autobiography at a bookstore on rue de la Pompe, he finally felt ready to answer and, in turn, began writing the long note that comprises this book. In the image of his heroine, a luminous novel, as free as it is endearing.

In 1967, "Bri" was the most beautiful woman in the world - and one of the most famous, too. Through this love story, as brief as it was intense, with an anonymous man whose life was forever illuminated, Colombe Schneck choose a fictional approach to pierce, beyond the myth, the fascinating mystery that is Bardot.

Ravenne, Jacques: *LES SEPT VIES DU MARQUIS DE SADE*
(Univers Poche/Fleuve Noir, January 2014, 320 pages)

- *Everybody knows the Marquis de Sade's infamous reputation but who knows about his life? This fictionalized biography will give you all the details.*
- *Jacques Ravenne recreates with brio the trouble times around the French Revolution.*

Sade as never seen before... Who really knows the true story of the Marquis de Sade? Only one man, Joseph Fouché, the Minister of Police. He will reveal to the Marquis' eldest son the whole story of Sade and his seven lives: a libertine under Louis XV, a prisoner under Louis XVI, a politician during the French Revolution, a writer during the Directory, a madman during the Empire era, Sade was also a lover madly loved in return.

As for his seventh life, it's yet to be discovered....

Jacques Ravenne is the pseudonym of a high-ranking Freemason with intimate knowledge of the history of and culture of the Order. He is, together with Eric Giacometti, the author of the Antoine Marcas' Freemasonic Investigations series whose rights have been sold in 16 countries

"A detailed, entertaining, fictionalized and well documented biography." **Midi Libre**

Laurendon, Gilles: *LE VILLAGE FLOTTANT*
(Stock, February 2014, 304 pages)

- *Reflections on art, descriptions of artwork and the presentation of both well- and lesser-known artists are intertwined with the main plot, providing a real bonus*
- *Captivating characters who must confront their family's pasts in order to build their own identities.*

Russia, 1890. Since the bloody defeat inflicted on his squadron by Chechen rebels, the brilliant Cossack officer Semion Berchenkov is relegated to the fringes of the Taiga. This man who dreamed of returning to the Ukraine in triumph is now responsible for piloting boats through a narrow channel... and ends up being sent to the gulag.

Siberia, 1954. Pavel, one of the Cossack's descendants, is liberated after Stalin's death and leaves the gulag in which he was born to try to find his son Alexei.

Paris, 1960. Pavel has fled to France with his son. After working in a factory he opens a canteen in Paris which becomes a haven for Russian artists.

Ontario, 2000. Anna is brought up by two loving women, a longed-for child.

New-York, 2010. Alexei, now a famous painter, decides to withdraw from the world and to retrace the steps of his childhood in Russia. Before he disappears, he sends his notebooks to Anna, thereby revealing the secrets of her birth and of her forefathers.

From one era to another, and one continent to another, the story of love and adventure that is The Floating Village celebrates men and women smitten by the beauty of the world and confronted by the violence of mankind.

A lover of cooking and travel, Gilles Laurendon has enjoyed tremendous success with his restless, roving books that combine literature with gastronomy. These books have been translated across the world and have been awarded numerous international prizes. Laurendon has also written several novels. THE FLOATING VILLAGE is his fifth work of fiction.

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Fernaye, Éléonore: *AUDACIEUSE SARAH*
second volume of the *FAMILLE D'ARSAC*
(Bragelonne, April 2014, 257 pages)

- *A formula that never fails: two lovers who are polar opposites.*
- *A carefully researched and depicted historical setting, rendered in a controlled writing style.*
- *Numerous plot twists and torrid erotic scenes.*

Everything opposes them, and yet...

Maryland, March 1783. After having spent three years serving in a unit of French volunteers sent in aid of the cause of American independence, Louis d'Arsac must carry out a gloomy mission: the restitution to a young woman of an object belonging to her brother, fallen at the battle of Yorktown.

That is how he meets Sarah Hart, a ravishing creature only twenty years in age, who is managing the family plantation since the death of her father. The medallion he gives her reveals family secrets that deeply upset the young woman and threaten to precipitate events.

When Louis finds himself forced to prolong his stay at the Hart plantation as a storm makes travel by road impossible, he falls beneath the spell of Sarah's charm and her fiery temperament. Yet, numerous obstacles stand in the path of their union.

Éléonore Fernaye was born in 1983. Having always dreamed of being a princess, she decided to write a love story of her own, set in the period of the Enlightenment, thus cleverly combining her passion for history with her love of romance.

Varenne, Antonin: *TROIS MILLE CHEVAUX VAPEUR*
(Albin Michel, Avril 2014, 554 pages)

- *An adventure that invites readers to travel around the world, over a span of many years.*
- *A masterful style and a well-handled investigation that shows off the author's ability to move from genre literature to a truly epic saga.*

From the Burmese jungle to the American Wild West via London's dodgier neighborhoods, this is the tale of one man's metamorphosis, of a personal quest and of a clash of morals and values in a world in transformation.

Burma, 1852, Arthur Bowman, Sergeant In the East India Company, has been chosen to lead a secret mission during the second Anglo-Burmese war. The expedition goes awry and the men are captured. Tortured for several months, only 10 of them will get out alive.

London, 1858. Half-destroyed by opium and alcohol, tortured by ghosts, Bowman stumbles across a mutilated corpse in the sewer. The victim seems to have been subjected to the same treatment that Bowman suffered in the Burmese jungle. Convinced that the murderer must be one of his former co-captives, Bowman sets off on a manhunt. His quest leads him onto a steamship, the eponymous *Trois mille chevaux vapeur*, in which he crosses the Atlantic. While he is over there, another war breaks out.

Bowman runs into Revered Peevish, a former soldier from the Company. By the time they manage to track down Erik Penders, the last suspect, Penders is dead. Yet the killer is still on the loose. Years later, while Bowman, who now has a wife and child, is seeking redemption in the Sierra Nevada, he sees Christian Bufford's face in the newspaper, and the manhunt is back on, because justice must be served. The text of this unusual historical saga – about both war and social justice – is well-served by a truly epic tone.

Having studied philosophy, Antonin Varenne worked in Island, Mexico and the USA, where he wrote his first novel, *LE FRUIT DE VOS ENTRAILLES* (2006) followed by *GÂTEAU MEXICAIN* (2007). *FAKIRS* (2009) won the *Grand Prix Sang d'encre*, the *Prix Michel Lebrun* and *Points magazine's 2009 readers' prize* for Best Detective Novel. His previous novel, *LE MUR, LE KABYLE ET LE MARIN* (2011), won the *Quais du Polar/20 Minutes Readers' Award*, the Francophone detective novel prize and the *Amila Meckert Prize*. In that book, which was set during the Algerian War, he began to distance himself from the detective-novel genre. *TROIS MILLE CHEVAUX VAPEUR*, an adventure novel, reiterates that freedom from the codes of the genre.

Rights already sold in: Germany (C. Bertelsmann) and Israel (Kinneret)! Under negotiation for world English and Italian rights.

de Cortanze, Gérard: *L'AN PROCHAIN A GRENADE*

(Albin Michel, January 2014, 422 pages)

- *A historical novel that describes pogroms and religious wars with both precision and passion, intertwining historical fact and a heart-warming love story.*
- *A political novel and a romantic saga in one, this book also addresses contemporary events, offering a strong symbolic message about current religious conflicts.*
- *A literary novel carried by the poetic style of an established writer who needs no introduction.*

From Spain to Portugal and from Istanbul to Paris, Gâlâh is the heroine of *L'An prochain à Grenade*, a romantic saga that combines the history of Judaism with a love story that defies the laws of time. Invoking collective memory, Gérard de Cortanze rehabilitates the identity of an entire people.

On December 31, 1066, five thousand Jews are slaughtered massacred in a single night. Samuel Ibn Kaprun, renowned Sephardic poet and Talmud scholar, is killed in the massacre. His daughter, Gâlâh, is one of the rare survivors, along with her lover, the young Halim al-Labbana, a Muslim poet who could be burned at the stake or stoned to death for having a relationship with a Jewess. Ignoring the risk, Romeo and Juliet run away together. Before he died, Samuel gave his daughter the *khamsa* of memory that lets whoever possesses it “cross through the walls and wrinkles of time”: he gave her the possibility of living for centuries without ageing, and without forgetting anything.

Lucena is the lovers’ first destination; then Seville, where, once again, the Muslim rulers chase Jews and Christians out of the city. Halim dies in Toledo, leaving Gâlâh alone to face the centuries. She will cross first Spain, then Portugal, studying ancient texts everywhere she goes, developing her knowledge of both her mother tongue and the Jewish traditions that she wants to help keep alive. The young woman is a witness to the Spanish Inquisition, the Fall of Constantinople, the flames of the auto-da-fé, the discovery of America and more... living through the centuries all the way up to the Dreyfus Affair, the two World Wars, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and many other events that would affect the Jewish community. She is continuously studying, gathering and annotating information for the sake both of history and of memory.

Gérard de Cortanze is a French writer of fiction and non-fiction, a translator and a literary critic who was born in Paris on July 22, 1948. He published his first novel, *LES ENFANTS S'ENNUIENT LE DIMANCHE*, in 1985, and he won the *2002 Renaudot Prize* for his historical novel *ASSAM*. He has also written about Paul Auster, J.M.G. Le Clézio and the history of surrealism. He is a frequent contributor to *Le Figaro littéraire* and to *Le Magazine littéraire* and is in charge of the Folio Biographies collection launched by Gallimard in 2005.

Fournier La Touraille, Jean-Pierre: *LE JEU DE QUILLES EN OR*

(Plon, March 2014, 300 pages)

Paris, November 1793: sensing that Robespierre is about to have him eliminated, Hébert, one of the most extremist of revolutionaries, decides to free the Dauphin from the Temple with the complicity of the royalists.

During this period of the Terror, as the revolutionary Tribunal condemns left and right, everyone knows the power struggle is a fight to the death. Determined to maintain his place at the center of events, Hébert, editor of *Père Duchesne*, the newspaper popular with the *Sans Culottes*, multiplies his attacks against the Incorruptible and the Committee of Public Safety. But Robespierre is still more powerful. Sensing that he is about to lose, Hébert secretly agrees to help a tiny group of royalists bent on saving the Dauphin, who is imprisoned in the Temple. Their ultimate goal is to take the child to Spain and organize the reconquest of France.

But another plot to liberate the Dauphin is simultaneously being planned, the brainchild of two liberal gentlemen from Auvergne. Their plan is inspired by human kindness rather than any political calculations, their intent simply to free the unhappy child from his cell. As a sign of recognition among themselves, the participants must each present a small gold ninepin, a piece from the skittles game the Dauphin played with at Versailles. But between the Republicans, the reforming royalists and the Ultras, it will be a dicey game. In this tangle of unholy alliances, none of them has any scruples about betraying another.

Jean-Pierre Fournier La Touraille is the author of a novel about John the Posthumous, *LE TROISIÈME PRÉTENDANT* (De Borée 2002). He is also the biographer of HUDSON LOWE, *LE GEÔLIER DE BONAPARTE* (Perrin, 2005). Rich in new information, research on *LE JEU DE QUILLES EN OR* took him five years to complete.

HISTORICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

Lancar, Charles: *LA TERRE ET LE CIEL*

(Anne Carriere, February, 306 pages)

- *This is a novel about loss and uprooting, human resilience and commitment during the 20th century's most tragic years.*
- *Through the moving destiny of these twins, so different in character yet complementary, the author skilfully blends historical events with more personal destinies.*

1922, a Jewish village in Poland. Twin brothers, whose family was slaughtered in a pogrom, are trying to rebuild their lives. Each believes the other to be dead, and lives in solitary mourning. While Salomon, who has sworn to avenge his loss, becomes a gang leader on the Lower East Side of New York, David discovers Christianity and becomes a brilliant student.

In 1939, David is called up. Wounded, he meets Sister Hortense. To escape an impossible love, he goes to London and joins the Resistance. During a mission, he is arrested, tortured and deported to Buchenwald, where he becomes friends with a priest who provides succor in his hours of despair.

After Pearl Harbor, Salomon joins the army and displays heroism in the Pacific War, before going to fight the Germans in Europe. He is one of the soldiers who liberate the camp at Buchenwald, where he walks past his brother without recognizing him as David lies on a stretcher. In the late 70s, tragic circumstances finally reunite the twins, when David, converted to Christianity, has become director of the Grand Seminary in the Holy See.

Journalist, psycho-sociologist, training consultant for sales and communication professionals, screenplay writer, author of children's books and of a novel adapted for the French TV station FR3, vendor in Parisian street markets, Charles Lancar – an atypical figure in the literary world – was born in 1943. *LA TERRE ET LE CIEL* is his eleventh novel

Filippini, Serge: *RIMBALDO*

(La Table Ronde, April 2014, 160 pages)

- *The switching between different points of view is achieved with great subtlety, offering a wide range of emotions felt at the precise instant in which the photograph is taken.*
- *The mysterious and omnipresent Rimbaud is portrayed, not as a poet, but as a foreman in a coffee factory. Both fascinating and off-putting, he is the object of everyone's attention; all of his compatriots in the photo are wondering him.*
- *The theme of memory is developed with great relevance here. It is as though capturing the moment in a photograph forces everyone to re-examine their entire existence.*

Inspired by a hitherto unpublished photograph, discovered in 2010, of French expatriates in Aden, Yemen in 1880, Serge Filippini has written a captivating novel. It imagines the lives of the seven people in the photo. One of them is Rimbaud, and the author paints a subtle portrait of the poet, who has put literature behind him and chosen a different life.

Aden, 1880: Jules Suel, the director of the Grand Hôtel de L'Univers, is on the terrace, waiting for a group of French expatriates. In order to promote his establishment, he wants to take a photograph of them all together. The seven people trickle in gradually. They are all wondering about, arguing with and observing each other – guessing at and trying to uncover the others' existences and secrets. Over the course of two hours, seven fates cross, and hang in the balance. The photograph will be handed down from one generation to the next, bearing unique witness to a faraway time and place.

In this novel that intertwines several narrative voices, Serge Filippini chooses to show precisely the wealth and diversity of the exchanges riches between these people, who have exiled themselves from their native land – either to flee something or to seek something. He presents the ties between and feelings of these men and women who have chosen to confront their fate.

Serge Filippini lives and works in Paris. A writer, translator and scriptwriter, he is the author of more than ten novels. Amongst them is *THE MAN IN FLAMES* which has been translated into four languages - English (Dedalus), German (Rütten & Loening, Bastei Lübbe, Aufbau Taschenbuch, Blanvalet), Spanish (Emece Editores) and Greek (Psichogios) - and which recounts the tale of the then infamous heretic visionary Giordano Bruno, who was burnt at the stake in Rome during the Inquisition in February 1600.

Calmel, Mireille: *LA MARQUISE DE SADE***(XO, May 2014, 320 pages)****Partial English translation available**

- *An epistolary novel between the Marquis' very prudish and virtuous wife and a mysterious stranger.*
- *A fascinating epistolary novel set in the Paris of Enlightenment and of libertinism.*

On the 200th anniversary of the Marquis de Sade's death, the most prolific novelist has taken an interest in this little-known spouse. With the charm and power of libertine innuendo, she brings this period of moral revolution at the court of Versailles back to life.

You may have forgotten that the Marquis de Sade was married. To a sweet and prudish young woman who feel head-over-heels in love with him. But she refuses to partake in any pleasurable activities with him, as she considers these things lacking in virtue.

An anonymous friend writes to her to reveal the extent of her husband's mischief and to invite her to witness it herself.

Heartbroken and disillusioned, impotent and astounded, she observes her husband's behavior and the scale of her misfortune. She begins exchanging letters with this friend, who goes from a zealous denouncer to true friend, keen to share secrets and advice in the hopes of introducing the Marquise to the sweeter things in life.

Born in 1964, Mireille Calmel has been writing since she the age of eight. Like many authors, her writing career started discreetly, with songs, short stories, plays. Then, she took several years to write her first novel, *ELEANOR'S BED* (XO, 2002), the success of which was like a fairytale come true for Mireille. She has published a total of 7 novels with XO, all of which have been best-sellers. Mireille lives in the Aquitaine region with her husband and two children.

Calmel, Mireille: *RICHARD CŒUR DE LION. VOL. 1: L'OMBRE DE SALADIN***(Editions XO, March 2013, 418 pages)****Mireille Calmel's works are sold in 14 languages**

- *After three volumes on Eleanor of Aquitaine (almost 1 Million copies sold), this is the first in a new series by Mireille Calmel. Richard the Lionheart, both warrior and poet, springs back to life through Calmel's magical pen.*

1189. A new king dons the crown on England. He is called Richard the Lionheart. His team of confidants includes his mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine, widow of Henry Plantagenet and Eloin Rudel, his lover and mistress and by their old friends. Yet it also includes the power of the three swords of the legend of Avalon: Excalibur, Marmiadouise and Durendal. Will their light be enough to stave off the betrayal and lies of John Lackland, the youngest of the Plantagenets in England or Saladin, commander of the Infidels who is quickly gaining power in the East?

Under the watchful eye of Loanna de Grimwald, the only crusade to battle against his enemies in the shadows will be one of courage, love, and abnegation. Without fail.

Born in 1964, Mireille Calmel has been writing since she the age of eight. Like many authors, her writing career started discreetly, with songs, short stories, plays. Then, she took several years to write her first novel, *ELEANOR'S BED* (XO, 2002), the success of which was like a fairytale come true for Mireille. She has published a total of 7 novels with XO, all of which have been best-sellers. Mireille lives in the Aquitaine region with her husband and two children.

"Mireille Calmel returns with her special recipe for mixing medieval history and Arthurian legend in a well-structured plot." **Carrefour Savoires**

"While plunging into history, we are swept away by the gripping rhythm of an adventure novel." **La Manche Libre**

"This novel mixes history and Arthurian characters in a maelstrom of passion, war and love...Bestselling author Mireille Calmel dresses a spicy narrative which will captivate avid readers of the genre." **Sud-Ouest**

COMMERCIAL FICTION

Jacq, Christian: *NEFERTITI*
(Editions XO, October 2013, 374 pages)
Partial English translation available

- *A new title by Christian Jacq. His world-famous series all published by XO: THE STONE OF LIGHT • QUEEN LIBERTY • THE MYSTERIES OF OSIRIS*

Nefertiti is the most famous of the Egyptian queens and the fabulous portrait illustrating her eternal beauty is known the world over. But what do we really know about this woman, born into lower nobility, who became the Great Royal Wife of Akhenaten, the mystical pharaoh?

Christian Jacq's novel recounts the extraordinary story of this couple, united by red-hot love, breaking with customs of the time – the brilliant and prosperous 8th dynasty (around 1350 b.c.e.). Endowed with stubborn willpower, Nefertiti, mother of six daughters, was the soul of the revolution that so deeply shook the country. Many changes took.

Foreign rights for Christian Jacq's novels are sold in 29 languages. 27 million copies sold worldwide!

The Russian rights for several titles sold to Hemiro/Family Leisure Club

COMMERCIAL FICTION

Maston, Vincent: *GERMAIN DANS LE MÉTRO*
(JC Lattes, February 2014, 200 pages)

- *A modern tale full of humor and tenderness.*

Germain is not gifted in the social skills department. Not only does he suffer from shyness and a stutter, he is also a specialist in obscure music that no one has ever heard of and has the worst possible speech therapist in all of Paris and... worse still, he is in love with her.

But Germain has found an oasis: the metro. There, Germain finds relief from the misery of his numerous handicaps. In the metro he can become a modern super hero, eliminating injustice and discrimination wherever he sees it. During one of his subterranean excursions, he meets a girl who appears as gifted as he is for making passengers stumble. He is not alone! Are there many of us, he wonders. Are there organized roving bands? But in the metro, just like a boxing ring, if you push people around, they will push back...

Born in Le Mans in 1978, Vincent Maston grew up in the South West of France. He studied to become an engineer but was interested only in music. He wanted to be a rock star but found himself in front of a typewriter. Tried his luck in a writing contest that he lost but still managed to write a book.

Rights sold in Italy (Salani).

“With this rock’n’roll novel riddled with anecdotes Vincent Maston has managed quite a feat: starting off as a nice Parisian social comedy, it soon becomes a rather gritty urban fable.” Livres Hebdo

Fernandez, Dominique: *ON A SAUVÉ LE MONDE*
(Grasset, January 2014, 608 pages)

- *On a sauvé le monde brings together five of the author's passions in the form of a spy novel: Italy, painting, Russia, History, and doomed love affairs.*

The 1930s: a young foreigner spends time at the Art Institute in Rome to conduct research on the painter Poussin. He courts Giulia Falconieri, a young aristocrat of sculptural purity, while being chased after by Wanda, a sensual woman of Polish descent. But everyone in this love triangle is already cheating... Upon making the acquaintance of Igor, the son of white Russians who fled the Stalinist terror to find refuge in Mussolini's Italy, the narrator meets his destiny. His love of this enigmatic young man leads him to become a spy for the communist regime.

These two fledgling spies bring documents they manage to steal in Rome to Moscow. But the trap soon springs shut on these idealists duped into being the regime's "useful idiots"... And yet, with one final historical turnaround, these two young men who believed they were betraying the West turn out to ensure its salvation.

Born in 1929, Dominique Fernandez is the author of, among others, *PORPORINO OU LES MYSTÈRES DE NAPLES* (*Prix Médicis*, 1974), *DANS LA MAIN DE L'ANGE* (*prix Goncourt*, 1982) and *LE RADEAU DE LA GORGONE* (*Prix Méditerranée*, 1988), all published by Grasset.

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

Paviot, Christophe: *AUJOUR'HUI POUR TOUJOURS*
(Belfond, April 2014, 193 pages)

- *A romantic comedy laced with secrets and leading to redemption*
- *Readers will be drawn into the mystery of these ghosts from the past*
- *Colorful, lively writing that recreates life in a fishing village on a quiet little island*

When William Baker, once a Hollywood movie star, moves to Martha's Vineyard, he can't imagine everything he will find there: love, with Lisa; as well as redemption for a secret that has been haunting him since he was a teenager.

William Baker had been a major star in Hollywood until a terrible accident left him briefly in a coma, and he was gradually forgotten. A few years later, as an anonymous has-been, he decides to start over on the little island of Martha's Vineyard, in New England. There he meets a young woman from New York, Lisa, and they move into a large house together. William soon realizes that the house is inhabited by the ghost of Lisa's twin sister, Betty, who died when she was 8 years old. Betty soon becomes like a daughter to the couple. The threesome forms a happy little family, appreciated by their neighbors.

When Betty disappears, the whole island helps to look for her. Lisa is overcome by guilt, convinced that she has killed Betty for the second time: when they were children, Lisa had pushed Betty up a hill on her bike. Betty had ridden down so fast that she had been unable to brake, and had plunged right into the water. But this time, Betty has in fact been kidnapped by Norman, a fisherman and friend theirs, "for her own good". Norman remembers that years before, William had been vacationing on the Vineyard and was present at Betty's death: she had been trying to avoid him when she fell into the water. Norman mistakenly held William responsible for Betty's death. Once everything is settled, the little family can live happily ever after on the island.

After working as a longshoreman in Valparaíso and on a crocodile farm in Australia, Christophe Paviot is now a copywriter for an ad agency. His novels include *LE CIEL N'AIME PAS LE BLEU* (*Le Serpent à Plumes*, 2001) and *LA GUERRE CIVILE EST DECLAREE* (*Dialogues*, 2013), as well as a book inspired by Kurt Cobain, *CASSE* (*Naive*, 2008). Born in Rennes, he divides his time between Paris, Rennes and Quiberon. *AUJOUR'HUI POUR TOUJOURS* is a totally new direction for him.

Sardou, Romain: *FRÄULEIN FRANCE*
(Editions XO, May 2014, approx.. 320 pages)
Partial English translation available

- *France plays a dangerous and thrilling game in times of war.*

In a French village, a large town house is requisitioned. One evening, two drunk men rape the woman of the house and brutally murder her husband.

In Paris, German soldiers take advantage of *la vie Parisienne*: the brothels have opened back up. Word gets around about one of their residents who is causing quite a stir: France is not only drop-dead gorgeous, she is also very demanding. She and she alone decides which men will have the pleasure of her services. What is she hiding behind her cold exterior? Nothing that she does is left to chance because she has a master plan driving her forward. With Paris in the hands of the enemy, she enters into the highest circles of power and mingles with the worst collaborators. The secret she hides would certainly come as a shock to many... n

Born in 1974 of a long line of artists, Romain Sardou developed a passion at a young age for opera, theatre and literature. He left the lycée in the year before graduation with the firm intention of becoming a

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playwright. After living 2 years in Los Angeles, where he wrote scripts for children, he came back to France and wrote a very successful first novel FORGIVE US OUR SINS followed by other successful medieval thrillers, contemporary thrillers, as well as a philosophical novel.

Lavarenne, Stéphane: *JOURNAL D'UN LOOSER*
(Buchet Chastel/Libella, May 2014, 240 pages)

➤ *In a few words: A male Bridget Jones!*

He is Cyril. He's 30. She just left him, and he's falling apart. He doesn't get it, he did practically everything for her. He took a steady, boring job. He listened to her music. He even thought like her... He turned into a shadow of his former self for her sake, and what good did it do?

Luckily, his old friend Hubert comes calling. Hubert doesn't have his own place. All his money goes straight up his nose. He's a real ladies' man, and he always has some crazy idea up his sleeve...

DIARY OF A LOSER is a hilarious description of an emotional crisis. At some point, everyone has to decide: be a rebel or admit that you've become a responsible adult.

Stéphane Lavarenne is 30, bears a serious resemblance to the hero (?) of his first novel, and lives in Rambouillet, outside of Paris.

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Barde-Cabuçon, Olivier: *LES ENQUÊTES DU COMMISSAIRE AUX MORTS ÉTRANGES*
(Actes Sud, 2012-2013)

A series of historical crime novels featuring Volnay, a police commissioner whose title is Inspector of Suspicious Deaths, and his no-less-unusual partner, a heretic monk, who poke into the darkest corners of the Age of Enlightenment.

➤ *A light-hearted police procedural, full of unexpected plot twists, that transports us to 18th-century Paris.*

Vol I: *CASANOVA ET LA FEMME SANS VISAGE*
(Actes Sud, February 2012, 328 pages)
Grand Prix Sang d'Encre 2012

The first exhilarating installment of a promising set of historical detective novels starring Volnay, the Inspector of Suspicious Deaths. In 1759 a faceless woman is found dead in Paris...

Vol II: *MESSE NOIRE*
(Actes Sud, March 2013, 368 pages)
Historia magazine's *Grand Prix du roman policier* 2013

A not very peaceful night in 1749, in a Paris cemetery. A young girl's body is found on a tomb. She may well have been sacrificed as part of a Satanic rite...

Vol III: *TUEZ QUI VOUS VOULEZ*
(Actes Sud, February 2014, 384 pages)

- *This droll and light-hearted crime novel makes for a very enjoyable read.*
- *Entertaining characters that make you want to read more books featuring them.*
- *18th century Paris seen from a novel point of view.*

In 18th century Paris, the Inspector of Suspicious Deaths and his partner, a heretic monk, have to investigate the unresolved assassinations of three young men of very different backgrounds.

Over a backdrop of political intrigue and religious tension – as well as the cheerful chaos caused by the Feast of Fools – a sort of Saturnalia – they learn that the assassin is the father of a young woman. The first two victims had gotten a bit too close to his daughter for the man's liking. Then he killed the third young man at random, as a red herring.

Olivier Barde-Cabuçon lives in Lyon. Fascinated by books, art and history, his taste for crime novels combined with his interest in the 18th century led him to create the character of an Inspector of Suspicious Deaths. TUEZ QUI VOUS VOULEZ is his third investigation, after CASANOVA ET LA FEMME SANS VISAGE (2012, winner of the 2012 Grand Prix Sang d'Encre) and MESSE NOIRE (winner of Historia magazine's 2013 Grand Prix du roman policier).

"Entre fait divers et affaire d'Etat, cette nouvelle enquête d'Olivier Barde-Cabuçon fait le portrait d'une ville au bord de l'implosion" **Telerama**

Collette, Sandrine: *UN VENT DE CENDRES*
(Denoel, January 2014, 272 pages)

- *The revelation at the end makes you see the whole book in a new light.*
- *A superb analysis of the main character's emotional pain.*
- *A spare, straightforward and elegant writing style.*

Like Mo Hayder's BIRDMAN and Charlotte Brontë's JANE EYRE, UN VENT DE CENDRES explores the psychological torment of a man devastated by guilt and madness from his responsibility in the death of his fiancée.

Ten years after the tragic car accident in which his fiancée, Laure, lost her life, Andreas lives a secluded life on his estate in the Champagne region. He never goes out, and the neighbours call him the madman. His friend Octave, who was severely disabled in the accident, manages the estate, living apart from Andreas, but sharing his pain. A misleading calm has settled over them. The arrival of Camille, who looks so much like "Her", upsets Andreas deeply, because Octave and the young woman become very close during the grape harvest. Maddened with pain and jealousy, Andreas would do anything to drive them apart and to be able to forget Camille. But Octave and he are in fact two facets of the same man, who, we realize at the very end, is schizophrenic. To keep himself from forgetting Laure, he will kill Camille, sliding even further into madness.

DOCTOR JEKYLL AND MISTER HYDE, created not by science, but by suffering, would be an apt summary of this novel. Stunningly well-constructed, reminiscent of the film *The Sixth Sense*. A psychological thriller worth reading for the subtlety alone.

With an unusually wide range of experience, Sandrine Collette has a Ph.D. in political science; is the winner of the 2013 *Grand Prix de littérature policière* for her novel LES NŒUDS D'ACIER ; tends to her farm in the centre of France; teaches at the University of Nanterre, in the suburbs of Paris, and has eclectic tastes in reading. DES NOEUDS D'ACIER, reached 30.000 copies (all formats) and rights have been sold to Japan (Hayakawa). For her second novel, she draws us into the mind and estate of a schizophrenic in the Champagne region.

"A crime fiction version of Beauty and the Beast! [...] After the success of her debut novel, Sandrine Collette confirms her talent with this second effort. An outstanding story teller, she excels at creating a gripping ambiance and pulling the strings of a plot that gets under the skin until the final outcome. She creates unusual characters, and manages to make one feel so uncomfortable that one cannot put down the book until the last page." **Métro News**

"Introspective and disturbing. You'll love its baroque and bizarre atmosphere." **Le Point**

"Sandrine Collette knows how to capture the reflection cast in one's eyes by one's soul and secret thoughts. She gives a bitter taste to the grapes of wrath and puts fear into her readers..." **L'Alsace**

"Oppressive." **Libération**

"[...] In the electrifying tension of a village on the slope of a vineyard, a terrifying restaging of the Beauty and the Beast takes place." **Les Dernières nouvelles d'Alsace**

Forma, Dominique: *HOLLYWOOD ZERO*
(Payot-Rivages, January 2014, 253 pages)

- *A text with cynicism perfectly mastered of the style of gothic novel.*
- *A cruel and realistic vision of Hollywood, away from glitz and glamor.*
- *An interesting parallel drawn by the narrator between the "hot" areas of Paris, the City of Light, and the reality of Los Angeles, the city of all American fantasies.*

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Dominique is a solitary burglar who likes efficient, low-risk jobs. Unfortunately, he owes a rather large sum to a pair of very threatening thugs. With his back to the wall, he flies to L.A., where he is hoping to find his old pal Christian, a.k.a. Kenny, who has become a Hollywood producer. Well... to be more precise, Kenny's specialty is swindling gullible would-be investors with sham film projects. Which is how a desperate Dominique is transformed into a promising young film director. After all, in Hollywood, anything's possible. But the dream machine seems to be churning out nightmares instead.

Having been both a computer engineer and a vendor of pirated records and X-rated movies, Dominique Forma's life took a new tack when he moved to Hollywood, where he directed *Scenes of the Crime*, a film noir with Jeff Bridges. He lived in the USA for 15 years and acquired U.S. citizenship.

Back in France, Dominique Forma decided to devote himself to writing. His books include SKEUD (Fayard) and VOYOUCRATIE (Rivages).

"This novel is both as high-octane and as disillusioned as can be" **le Magazine du Monde**

de Gubernatis, Aurélie: L'IMPASSE (Éloïse d'Ormesson, April 2014, 384 pages)

- *Psychological manipulation – Bipolar disorder – Psychopathic killer – Romance*
- *From a fateful alliance to a curse invented to cover up a parricide, an intense, suspenseful story with lots of unexpected twists and turns*
- *A plot that allows the protagonists to travel all over France, meeting unlikely and entertaining characters like the man who makes music with water bottles, and a former hypnotizer who is now a monk.*

A fascinating job, a mischievous young son and a loving husband: Estelle has it all. But everything changes when she runs into her first love: with a mix of guilt and fascination, she's soon hooked. A gripping psychological thriller that is perfectly suited to Editions Heloise d'Ormesson's new series of suspenseful crime stories with captivating heroines aimed at women readers.

Estelle is an excellent medical student, but at the final exam, she gets a subject that she didn't study for. Josselin de Montalban, a disconcertingly good student, decides to switch places with her and exchange their exams. At the end of the test, he kisses his classmate good-bye, and disappears.

Estelle has become a highly regarded psychiatrist at a major Parisian hospital. One day she gets a strange call: someone named Josselin de Montalban wants to speak to her before he kills himself. He winds up as a patient in her department, and asks her for her help. Her one-time lover says that all of the men in his family are cursed. The psychiatrist realizes that she is still in love with him, and would do anything to help him –even if it means running away with him and risking her own life. Because Josselin is not just a man in distress – he is also a dangerous, manipulative killer.

Aurélie de Gubernatis gradually unveils the dangerous criminal at the heart of the character: a manipulative serial killer who manages to pull the wool over everyone's eyes – including the reader's!

Aurélie de Gubernatis is a former lawyer turned writer. L'IMPASSE is her third novel.

Moucha, Mathias: SEULS (Bragelonne, March 2014, 320 pages)

- *A 'Lovecraftian' horror story, in which the fantastic atmosphere is particularly finely crafted.*
- *A breath-taking hunt, with numerous unexpected twists.*
- *A sensitive, elegant and well-documented piece of writing, that moves us efficiently from country to country, from period to period... and from hallucination to hallucination.*
- *A nightmarish story that will keep you holding your breath right up until final full stop.*

Mathieu thought he was embarking on a quick trip to the Czech Republic, long enough to wrap up of the affairs of his grandfather, who has just died, and maybe have a beer in a typical Prague *pivnice* along with his brother, his nephew and a friend. But as soon as he sets foot in his ancestors' sinister village, his escapade turns into a nightmare. From the deep heart of Bohemia to Prague's old streets, from ancient Sumer to imperial Vienna, from the Cathars to the Nazi hordes, Mathieu follows a path strewn with horrendous discoveries. A journey where his sole companions will be fear, death, and an old pair of glasses.

A return to family roots that turns into a descent into hell.

Mathias Moucha has been telling stories for a long time. At first, he dreamed them in pictures and sound, but now he imagines them in words, sentences and chapters. Twenty-six letters, ten numerals and a few punctuation marks: it's not much, you might think. But to him, it's a mighty army.

Duchon Doris, Jean-Christophe: Meurtres en série au temps des crinolines, dans le Paris du Second Empire

(Robert Laffont, March 2014, 324 pages)

➤ *Serial murders in the era of crinolines: a Parisian mystery set during the Second French Empire.*

In 1856, the Countess de Castiglione, a drop-dead beauty of Italian origin, readied herself for a spectacular entrance at the Bal des Tuileries before the imperial couple. Her mission was to capture the heart of Napoleon III who, dazzled by the most audacious crinoline dress ever seen, succumbed to her. Seven years later, a young police officer, Dragan Vladeski, discovers the body of a woman with a slit throat, in a dress identical to the one worn by the countess the night of her triumphant conquest. Soon other cadavers, similarly clad, surface in every corner of the city. Can a dress, mythic as it may have been, be at the heart of this series of frightful murders?

A captivating crime novel, as sumptuously written as the flamboyant garments it describes, remote souvenirs of bygone glory.

Goetz, Adrien: INTRIGUE À GIVERNY

(Grasset, April 2014, 304 pages)

➤ *Here is the fourth installment of the adventures of the delightful Penelope, who is on the trail of a double murder. As the investigation brings her from Giverny to Monaco and back, she reveals little-known aspects of the life of the famous painter of the Nymphéas.*

Pénélope Breuil thought she would take a little break after her nomination to Le Mobilier National. But while she is attending an official dinner at the Musée Marmottan-Monet, two top connoisseurs of the painter's work magically disappear. The next day, one of them is found dead, and the other, a nun named Sister Marie-Jo, is spotted by Pénélope's companion Wandrille in Monaco – precisely where the purchase of a previously unseen painting by Monet is to be sold to celebrate the wedding of Prince Albert and Charlene.

Who is the mysterious Sister Marie-Jo? Why is she in Monaco? And who killed Carolyne Square, her erudite associate in water lilies? With the help of the judicious Wandrille, Pénélope retraces her steps to Giverny, where someone broke into Monet's former home just a few days earlier, but didn't take anything...

Between curators' secrets, bids for the unknown painting, and the discovery of the painter's secret correspondence, Pénélope discovers an unknown aspect of the painter's life. His friendship with Georges Clemenceau and his travels to the four corners of the world suddenly make sense. Could Monet have been a spy working for the French Republic?

Adrien Goetz is an art historian, a lecturer at the Sorbonne, and a weekly columnist for *Le Figaro*. He has published several novels with Grasset: A BAS LA NUIT (2006), INTRIGUE À L'ANGLAISE (2007), INTRIGUE À VERSAILLES (2009) and LE COIFFEUR DE CHATEAUBRIAND (2010), INTRIGUE À VENISE (2012).

Rights sold for previous titles: Chinese (traditional: Azoth Books), Czech (Host), Danish (Arvids Forlag), Russian (A-Team), Ukrainian (ECEM media)

Teissier, Sebastien: X

(Nouveau monde, January 2014, 224 pages)

- *Characters with exceptional mental capacities based on surprising real-life cases.*
- *A breathtakingly unpredictable investigation that will have readers on tenterhooks.*
- *A captivating psychological thriller in which the victim is also the guilty party.*
- *A tale in which every revelation draws readers a little further into understanding the human brain's unlimited capabilities.*

Like SHUTTER ISLAND and THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY, this is a gripping thriller in which the assassin, who has an identity disorder, appropriates his victims' identities and personalities. A riveting tale based

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on the troubling but true story of a man whose brain was damaged in a way that he wound up with virtually unlimited IQ.

Lucas Moriani, crime-scene investigator, is staring at a corpse that looks oddly familiar to him. Although he was called out for an investigation, he is alone at the scene of the crime; then he realizes that he is holding a scalpel. He doesn't remember what happened. He wonders who this man is, and why he would have killed him. He learns that the corpse is his partner, Samuel Rogero. Inspector Félix Vizzini starts the murder investigation. Félix is exceptionally intelligent, which helps him solve a lot of tricky cases. He gradually comes to understand the ties between the suspect and the victim, and to grasp the murderer's extremely complex personality. Thanks to his sharp sense of deduction, he will figure out what's going on and wipe out the killer.

Troubling characters with psychoses that are as enthralling as they are terrifying, and that will remind you of Stephen King's characters. Sébastien Teissier draws inspiration from fascinating real-life medical cases, brilliantly renewing the genre thriller.

Sébastien Teissier has a Ph.D. in bio-chemistry and molecular biology. X is his first novel; it is also the first volume in a trilogy of books that can be read independently.

Sylvain, Dominique: *OMBRES ET SOLEIL* (Viviane Hamy, March 2014, 300 pages)

➤ *In this devilishly well-crafted crime novel, neither the guilty nor the innocent are quite what they seem.*

Political-legal scandals intertwine in a way reminiscent of those thousand-piece puzzles that superintendent Lola Jost is fond of. She will have to piece this one together time and again before being able to make out the whole picture... In 1998, an attack took place against the French company Aerolix, located in Damas. At the funeral ceremony, the daughter of one of the victims refuses the official decoration awarded to her father by the President of the Republic, and demands that someone be held to account. In Paris, Sacha Duguin is accused of the murder of her superior: the chief superintendent Arnaud Mars who had dabbled in insider influence linked to arms contracts and suspicious retro commissioning processes in Africa. To exonerate Sacha, Lola Jost, the retired superintendent, takes up her functions again. She is soon assisted by her inseparable American sidekick, Ingrid Diesel, who comes to the rescue from Las Vegas where she has been demonstrating her unparalleled talents in dance and strip-tease. But the road that will take them from the "Mars case" to the Aerolix attack is long: from Abidjan, the clues surrounding Mars take them to Brittany, where Aerolix has a plant, via Hong Kong. In the background of these two cases is the lightning career of President Borel magnificently orchestrated by his charismatic communication adviser, Gildas and his faithful ally, Mando; the equally dizzying fall of his political opponent, Candichard, who committed suicide leaving behind an inconsolable wife and son; and the inquiries of a young judge who breaks the political omertà, preventing the cases from being settled.

Dominique Sylvain has been a detective novel writer for over ten years and lives in Japan. Tokyo, where she spent three years, inspired her first novel *Baka!* (1995). Dominique Sylvain is now living again in Tokyo where she works as a full time writer. Her nine novels have all been published in the "Chemins nocturnes" collection of Éditions Viviane Hamy. She's a big fan of Haruki Murakami, Ed McBain, Ian Rankin, Bret Easton Ellis, Bukowski, Calvin & Hobbes, Bruce Lee, Groucho Marx, Totoro, etc...

Rights for previous books sold to: Spain (Santillana) - italy (mondadori) - Sweden (norStedtS) - netherlandS (de geuS) - ruSSia (inoStranka and Corpus) - japan (Shogakukan) - germany (liSt verlag / ullStein) - romania (univerSal dalSi) - lituanie (baltoS iankoS) - turquie (altin bilek)

Russian Rights are under option with Corpus/AST Group

Graham, Patrick: *CES LIEUX SONT MORTS*

(Univers Poche, May 2014, 340 pages)

Sample English translation and Reader's report available

- *Beautifully written, sizzling with tension and containing a host of troubled, extremely well drawn characters.... Fleuve Noir is delighted to welcome a great author!*
- *An exciting thriller, in which the terrified reader shivers with anticipation as much as he/she is horrified by some striking scenes in the vein of Thomas Harris.*
- *A novel that also follows the rules of noir fiction, as the main character has to face his own inner darkness.*

A neuropsychiatrist whose only link to his kidnapped daughter lies in a patient in a coma: is he prepared to go beyond the dead places of her conscience?

Eric Searl is a doctor specialized in helping people in a coma. Shaken by the death of his wife, he has devoted his time to his patients instead of his family. On Christmas break, he stays in Los Angeles instead of going with Rebecca, his new partner, and his three children to their recluse house in the Rockies, where he is supposed to come later.

On their way up, Rebecca takes a young hitchhiker, Liam, who turns out to be a psychopath. He leaves Rebecca and Searl's two eldest children on the verge of death and kidnaps Kirsten, the youngest. Eager to reunite his family, Searl will have to become the hero or the plaything of a story that escapes him.

Patrick Graham is the author of several thrillers, among which *L'ÉVANGILE SELON SATAN*, *L'APOCALYPSE SELON MARIE* whose rights have been sold in nine countries.

Bussi, Michel: *N'OUBLIER JAMAIS*

(Belfond, March 2014, 216 pages)

France's #8 bestselling author of 2013!

➤ *In just a few minutes, Jamal goes from trying to save a woman's life to becoming the prime suspect in her murder...*

Jamal is running along the cliffs in Normandy when he picks up a mysterious red Burberry scarf lying on his path. He then comes across a woman crying in despair, her dress torn. To persuade the woman to step away from the cliff's edge, Jamal tosses the scarf in order to reel her in. But the woman grabs the scarf and jumps to her death. Jamal finds her body on the beach below...with the scarf tied around her neck. While two witnesses saw the woman fall, they don't know if she jumped or if she was pushed. The police investigation reveals that the woman was raped and then strangled to death with the scarf. Not only that, but 10 years earlier, two women were killed exactly the same way, with exactly the same scarf. Jamal doesn't have much time to prove his innocence.

Michel Bussi has published three novels with Presses de la Cité: *NYMPHÉAS NOIRS* (2011), *UN AVION SANS ELLE* (2012), which has sold more than 450,000 copies, and *NE LÂCHE PAS MA MAIN* (2013). His works have been translated into 22 languages and two of his novels are currently being adapted for film and television.

Russian rights for previous titles are sold to Veche Publishers.

Maugenest, Thierry: *LA SEPTIÈME NUIT DE VENISE*

(Albin Michel, April 2014, approx.300 pages)

➤ *A thrilling investigation that takes the reader into the heart of 18th century Venice.*

➤ *Maugenest's masterful plot, as always before, will keep the reader hooked until the end.*

Venice, in the winter of 1727. A jealously-guarded secret invention that promises to revolutionise navigation leaks out, and becomes the object of all desires. One Venetian mercenary has a precise mission: he will kidnap the scientists working in La Serenissima and force them to divulge the plans, purloining the invention for himself.

En route, he encounters Zorzi Baffo, the erotic poet, and a certain Carlo Goldoni who - long before he triumphed with his Italian comedies at the court of Louis XVI - was deputy investigator in the Venetian criminal police.

Thierry Maugenest has written a dozen books, most notably *VENISE.NET* (2003) which received several literary awards, and *LES RILLETES DE PROUST* in 2010.

Ragouneau, Alexis: *LA MADONE DE NOTRE-DAME*

(Viviane Hamy, January 2014, 200 pages)

➤ *THE MADONNA OF NOTRE-DAME is a dazzling dive into the mystery of good and evil but is also a comic and quirky novel which shows the cathedral of Paris in a new light.*

It is the day after 15 August in Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris. A beautiful young woman, clothed in white, is kneeling in one of the side chapels. She does not go unnoticed. The sexton and the warden have their eyes on her. But when an American tourist knocks against her, her body collapses: she has been murdered.

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Commanding officer Landart and lieutenant Gombrowicz, together with the young and sensitive acting prosecutor, Claire Kauffmann, are leading the inquiry. When they arrive at the scene of the crime the witnesses have fled. The autopsy reveals that the victim's sex had been sealed with wax, as if to reconstruct her virginity.

Who committed such a crime? Was it one of the religious fanatics with an obsession for the Virgin Mary who, the day of the feast of the Assumption, took part in the traditional procession with a statue of the Virgin on l'Île-de-la-Cité? Or was it one of the staff members or one of the 'strayed souls' who wanders around the cathedral and knows its corners well?

Father Kern, substituting as he does every summer in the Parisian cathedral, is questioned from all sides: the police and his superior, the bishop Monseigneur de Bracy, who is annoyed by the bad press surrounding the cathedral. He will investigate on his side...

Alexis Ragouneau, is a playwright and this is his first novel. He worked for many years in Notre-Dame cathedral as a guide. He knows well its infinite secrets and the little people who linger there who he calls 'the strayed souls of Notre-Dame'.

"The inquiry dives into the painful past of the protagonists, takes us behind the masks and appearances, and swings between shadows and light. The style is racy and the humour subtle. It is one of those exceptional novels to which Viviane Hamy has the key." **Télérama**

Rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein NDA), Spain (Siruela), Sweden (Sekwa), Greece (Stereoma).

Dokmak, Boris: *LA FEMME QUI VALAIT TROIS MILLIARDS* (Éditions Ring, April 2013, 640 pages)

- *A well-constructed plot with charismatic characters and murders worthy of the worst psychopaths: all the elements you need for a successful, suspenseful thriller.*
- *In the vein of the grand masters of crime fiction, like Bret Easton Ellis and Ellroy, Boris Dakmuk places Paris Hilton, with her fame, fortune, and taste for excess, at the heart of the plot.*
- *An offbeat and wonderfully entertaining crime story. Readers will be shivering with fear on one page and laughing out loud on the next!*

2023. Although Paris Hilton disappeared 10 years ago, her DNA has just been found on the body of a young woman in Bruges, Belgium, who was embalmed alive. The Belgian Lieutenant Borluut and the American private eye Almayer lead the investigation from Belgium to the USA.

Borluut, a clumsy lieutenant bogged down in red tape, and Almayer, who runs on cocktails and drugs, don't have anything in common but Paris Hilton. Each for their own reasons: Borluut is trying to find her in order to understand how her DNA came to be on the young victim's body, and Almayer was hired by Rick Hilton, Paris Hilton's father. But the case turns out to be more complicated than he thought it would be: Paris Hilton has not been seen for 10 years, and the body of the young woman that was found in Bruges was mummified in accordance with a rare and ancient Egyptian ritual, known as Tophar mummification. In that process, the person is embalmed while they are still alive. From Bruges to the USA, via Russia and Egypt, there are plenty of plot twists, and the truth finally comes to light when Professor Boersch, an Egyptologist who is assisting Borluut's investigation, reveals his latest discovery: a Tophar mummy that is actually Paris Hilton.

Boris Dakmuk has written an offbeat detective story that draws the reader through a skillfully orchestrated plot full of unexpected paths and places, the better to expose an unsuspected truth.

Born in Ukraine in 1967, Boris Dokmak is a crime-fiction fan. He has a graduate degree in philosophy, as well as a wife and four children with whom he lives in France. He has devoted himself to writing since 2009.

Monfils, Nadine: *MÉMÉ GOES TO HOLLYWOOD* (Belfond, February 2014, 240 pages)

- *Nadine Monfils takes us on a new madcap adventure with a cast of zany characters...*

Granny Cornemuse has decided to meet her God: Jean-Claude Van Damme. Since he's filming a movie in Hollywood, she needs to get enough money to travel there. She signs up to participate in the TV show "Adopt Me" so that she can con a wealthy family looking for a sweet, old lady to take care of their kids.

Granny gets herself adopted and quickly steals the family's money and goes on the run to Le Havre where she is hired as a cook on a shipping vessel. But her cooking skills wipe out the men on board and those

who survive abandon her on a beach in the North Sea. There, she learns with outrage that JCVD has been kidnapped.

Look out kidnappers. Granny's coming to get you.

Nadine Monfils has published over a dozen novels with Belfond most notably *LES VACANCES D'UN SERIAL KILLER* (2011) with over 100,000 copies sold which Neri Pozza published in Italian.

**Monfils, Nadine: *LA VIEILLE QUI VOULAIT TUER LE BON DIEU*
(Belfond, March 2013, 256 pages)**

Warning: Mémé Cornemuse is back! What's in store?...gory murders, a botched jewelry store burglary, the return of the not-so-prodigal son...

Mémé Cornemuse is a strange old lady. She just find work a the concierge for an apartment building in Pandore. One evening, Ginette, one of the tenants, returns home after cheating on her husband to find him dead in their bed with his hands cut off. Mémé Cornemuse convinces Ginette not to call the police because the wife is sure to be the number one suspect.

Meanwhile, as Ginette investigates one neighbor after the other, Mémé Cornemuse is planning to burglar a jewelry store nearby. A thief, living in her basement, is in the process of building an underground tunnel straight to the gold. But when the jewelry store goes out of business, Cornemuse needs to come up with a new plan. Which is when the son she forgot she ever had shows up, and lucky for Cornemuse, he manages a bank...

Nadine Monfils is the author of several novels published by Belfond including *LES VACANCES D'UN SERIAL KILLER* (2011), 70,000 copies sold and published in Italian with Neri Pozza.

The Russian rights for some of her novels are sold to Corpus/AST Group.

SERIES

**Sylvain, Dominique: *LOUISE MORVAN SERIES*
(Viviane Hamy, 6 titles)**

Louise Morvan is a private destective and glamorous woman passionate about body art, Inoshi Iii - the biggest Japanese tattoo artist - and Stradivarius violins.

**Sylvain, Dominique: *BAKA !*
(Viviane Hamy, 2000 and 2007 (new edition), 256 pages)**

Louise is sent to Japan by a French bishop. His nephew seems to be in trouble, and the Monseigneur wants to keep his reputation above suspicion. In fact, his nephew, Florent, is involved in mysterious relationships with a depressive politician, a charismatic Yakuza - Boss Gonzo -, and an old woman who deals in stolen artworks. Louise is slowly beginning to understand the situation, when her translator, Miss Eve, is found badly murdered.

**Sylvain, Dominique: *BLOOD SISTERS*
(Viviane Hamy, 1997 and 2012 (new edition), 256 pages)**

Someone had taken a photo of Victoria with their polaroid. Someone had killed her. Someone had staged a horribly meticulous scenario. This spectacle was on the level of dangerous insanity. Do the Hindu God Shiva, the brilliant artist and the terrorist share a common element of destruction? Louise Morvan abandons Paris to confront Berlin, the city where ex- militants of the Red Army faction have transformed themselves and play with reality and the virtual, dreaming of victim art, the art of the future.

**Sylvain, Dominique: *THE LIZARD KING*
(Viviane Hamy, 1998 and 2012 (new edition), 272 pages)**

Louise Morvan is finally going to shed light on the mysterious death of her uncle, Julian Eden, whose agency she inherited. Commissioner Clémenti offers her a primary lead. He found the cop from whom the dossier was taken away and who was transferred to the provinces in 1979. The young woman's solitary quest begins in Strasbourg. Meanwhile in Paris, Clémenti must flush out the "riverside killer", a bloody assassin of the homeless.

THRILLERS

Sylvain, Dominique: *STRAD*
(Viviane Hamy, 2001, 256 pages)

A Stradivarius worth more than twenty four million Francs is stolen from Meyer, a brilliant young violinist murdered in the middle of the street. Louise Morvan, commissioned by the owners of the unique instrument, hides out across the street from the apartment of an antique dealer, Christian Donovan, an antique instrument specialist.

Sylvain, Dominique: *TECHNO BOHEMIAN*
(Viviane Hamy, 1999, 336 pages)

During a rave party organized on private property, two young girls are seen jumping off a cliff together. The autopsy reveals that they had been drugged to the bone: an explosive cocktail of ecstasy and ketamine. The police concludes suicide without a doubt.

In Paris, the body of a young Asian woman is found with her throat cut and vitriolized; thirty tablets of ecstasy are hidden in her belt buckle. Nothing helps to establish her identity.

While commissioner Clémenti does not want to make a link between the two cases, Louise Morvan explodes the status quo by showing that suicide is absolutely not a factor in this story.

Sylvain, Dominique: *IN THE DEEP NIGHT OF GERONIMO*
(Viviane Hamy, 2009, 368 pages)

“Geronimo didn’t kill anybody, but who killed Geronimo?Philippine is perplexed with this anonymous email. We used to call her father “Geronimo” – that was long before he committed suicide, back from a brilliant career in molecular biology in the USA. All the members of the family – or rather of the Domeniac dynasty – have also received this email. Philippine asks a private investigator recommended by the superintendent Clémenti for help: Louise Morvan. And if those two have been lovers in another life, the wound remains quite fresh for Louise.

An extremely dynamic investigation in the heart of the family secrets, a series of characters, one stranger than the other, involving drug dealing and GMO.

THRILLERS

Grand, Emmanuel: *TERMINUS BELZ*
(Liana Levi, January 2014, 368 pages)
14 000 copie sold in France

- *Listed for Prizes: Prix of european detectif Le Point, Deuxième liste du Prix des Maisons de la presse, Prix Landernau policier*
- *An unsettling tale in a magnificent and menacing natural setting that is the only true master of sailors and other men’s fates.*
- *Human folly and superstition, as well as small-town gossip, make for a threatening atmosphere.*
- *The plot weaves social commentary in with themes like illegal immigration and sailors’ difficult working conditions.*

Marko, an illegal alien with the Rumanian mafia on his trail, is hiding out on the island of Belz, in Brittany, where he works on a fishing boat. He is confronted with a world steeped in superstition. A thriller with a threatening atmosphere and relentless suspense.

Marko has decided to leave Ukraine for France, illegally. But the trip doesn’t go as planned: the two guides rape the young woman who is traveling with them. Three men step in, take their money, and slip away. With the Rumanian mafia on their trail, they part ways. Marko heads west, eventually finding a job on a fishing boat on a small island called Belz. What seemed like a perfect situation quickly turns into a nightmare: everybody on the island knows everybody else, fishermen live in miserable conditions, and there’s not enough work to go around. When a man is viciously murdered, the police lock the island down in order to interrogate everyone. But if they interrogate Marko, they’ll find out that he’s an illegal alien, and he’ll be deported. Once he has hidden from the police, he has to continue to lay low.

Other strange events ensue, and fishermen's superstitions crop up. Marko feels trapped between the demons of his own past, a threatening community, the police manhunt and the Rumanian mafia. Masks finally fall, and having faced down both his fear of the sea and of death, Marko is welcomed into the community.

In this masterful tale, Emmanuel Grand's Marko is captive to a hopeless situation and a police investigation on an island whose closets are filled with skeletons, where the madness and supernatural events evoke David Lynch's Twin Peaks.

Born in 1966, Emmanuel Grand spent his childhood on the Atlantic coast. TERMINUS BELZ is his first novel.

"At times a sobering thriller, at others an inspired social novel, Terminus Belz deploys its beautiful architecture and musical style right to the last page." **Télérama**

"The thriller revelation of the new season." **RTL**

"Grand strings us along right to the last sentence." **Métro**

"A first thriller that speaks of resilience, of masculine fraternity, and of insularity." **Psychologies**

"Cursed be the reader who misses this diabolical book." **Paris Match**

"Right from the start of play, he proves he's got the soul of a storyteller. A detour to Belz is a must."
Livres Hebdo

"A 'devilishly' disturbing road movie punctuated with murders and peopled with feisty yet profoundly humane characters." **Actualité**

"A windswept island is the harrowing no-exit setting for this first novel that combines Stephen King and Simenon." **Télé Z**

Kennedy, David-James: RESSACS

(Fleuve Noir/Univers Poche, January 2014 , 320 pages)

Sample English translation and Reader's report available

- *Ressacs is sponsored by Franck Thilliez.*
- *A tautly written first novel that combines thriller and atmospheric settings to produce a hugely entertaining page turner.*

A former monastery, now a military hospital on the Basque Coast, a roaring storm, people going missing and a curse... A bewitching atmosphere!

Jean-Christophe d'Orgeix, an intern, finds out that one of his patients has been attacked within the hospital. He goes after the aggressor and will never be seen again. Tom, another intern, investigates alongside the police and discovers that other people have disappeared in the hospital - among which another intern, seven years earlier, who bears a strong resemblance to Jean- Christophe...

David-James Kennedy was born in 1969. He is a chemist in the Northern France. RESSACS is his first novel.

"A first efficient thriller." **Madame Figaro**

Enton, David: LE DERNIER DÉLUGE

(Albin Michel, June 2014, approx.300 pages)

- *A disquieting gallery of characters: a geneticist who manipulates viruses, a psychopathic billionaire wanting to eliminate the human race, a bloody killer from Asia, an American secret agent...*
- *Beyond the gripping intrigue and the spectacular evocation of Paris submerged by floodwaters, the author poses a fundamental question: is nature on our side?*

Christmas Eve in Paris. As the greatest flood of the millennium devastates the capital, a single girl finds herself - in the strangest of circumstances - with a new born babe on her hands, and killers - who work for countries and organisations with conflicting aims - on her trail. As she flees through the ravaged city, she learns that the infant is carrying a deadly strain of AIDS, which can be transmitted by air. The euthanasia of this new-born, previously enveloped in a hi- tech membrane, would permit scientists to elaborate a salutary vaccine. But if it stays alive, it will spread a deadly mutant capable of killing off the human race. His new 'mother' faces an impossible dilemma.

THRILLERS

In 2012, David Epton published his first and remarkably successful novel: LE SECRET DE DIEU, which received the *Prix du Livre d'Ile-de-France* 2013.

Manzor, René: *CELUI DONT LE NOM N'EST PLUS* (Kero, May 2014, 320 pages)

- *The tale is packed with breath-taking suspense, larger-than-life characters and a completely unexpected plot twist at the end. Halfway between the works of Chattam and Grangé, on the borderline between love and death, this thriller will make its mark on you.*

Dawn breaks over London. On a kitchen table lies a man's body – minus its internal organs. The murderer is an old lady of impeccable standing. How could she have come to kill the man she brought up as her own son? It makes no sense – and yet everything points to her as being guilty.

Two days later, the same thing happens again: a man is killed in similar fashion by the person who loves him more than anyone else in the world. And so it goes on, with a new victim every twenty-four hours. All the murders are linked by a common thread: distraught suspects and epitaphs in letters of blood: "May this sacrifice bring peace to the soul of He whose Name is no more".

Amid these inexplicable murders, three destinies become interwoven. McKenna is an Irishman: a policeman, the father of four boys, widowed a year ago and still grief-stricken. Dahlia Rhymes is an American criminologist who specialises in ritual and satanic murders, assigned to fathom out what makes killers tick. Nils Blake is a semi-retired barrister who is willing to return to court to defend these unlikely perpetrators. Three destinies – and three lives irreversibly changed.

Born with the storytelling urge, René Manzor originally pursued his passion in cinema. His first two films caught the attention of Hollywood. After working as a scriptwriter and director on major US productions (*The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones: Demons of Deception*) as well as for French TV, his first novel, LES ÂMES RIVALES ('Rival souls'), was published in 2012.

Rights sold to: Pocket (French), Chaek-Se-Sang Pub (Corean)

Reydi-Gramond, Christophe: *UN MENSONGE EXPLOSIF* (Liana Levi, May 2014, 368 pages)

- *A well-documented thriller with plot lines reaching into the upper echelons of the government and of multi-national corporations.*
- *The entertaining style is both fast-paced and funny; the appealing characters make you want to keep reading, to find out more about them.*
- *The conspiracy theory raises lots of questions about society today*

On September 21, 2001, ten days after the attacks on the World Trade Center, an explosion at a chemical plant near Toulouse, France, left 31 dead and 2,500 injured. The authorities immediately announced that they were "99% sure it was an accident." Commissioner Clovis Lenoir, the detective leading the investigation, has his doubts about that, and will eventually uncover a vast conspiracy.

The apparent suicide of a journalist leads anti-terrorism commissioner Clovis Lenoir into an investigation in which economics, politics, and ideology are inextricably linked. A physicist who had defected to the East in the 70s, a secret agent in search of revenge, an arrogant chief of staff, a predatory ex-trader, and an old lady who still believes in the Revolution are just some of the characters Lenoir will come across in this case, which has roots that sink far into the past.

Throughout the book, the reader goes from revelations to red herrings, until the final disclosure.

Christophe Reydi-Gramond works in communication for a major French corporation; he lives in Clermont-Ferrand. Before writing UN MENSONGE EXPLOSIF, he published two children's books under the pen name Raymond Grady.

Delalande, Arnaud: *LE PIÈGE DE LOVECRAFT* (Grasset, April 2014, 368 pages)

- *Arnaud Delalande returns with a psychological and fantastic contemporary thriller that is also a reflection on the power of art and of books on our imagination.*

David is looking to understand the reasons that pushed one of his friends to cause heinous carnage on the campus of Laval, in Quebec. Discovering the books recently borrowed by the crazed student, David finds himself trapped by the cursed books, which include H.P. Lovecraft's famous *Necronomicon*... Swept into the novelist's world, he gradually drifts into madness...

Thus begins a hallucinatory plunge into the search for banned books – a classic literary quest, from Edgar Allan Poe to *The Name of the Rose*.

Arnaud Delalande was born in 1971. A screenwriter and comic book writer (SURCOUF, ALIÉNOR, LE DERNIER CATHARE), he has published several novels with Grasset, including *LE PIÈGE DE DANTE* (2006), *LES FABLES DE SANG* (2009) and *NOTRE ESPION EN AMÉRIQUE* (2013).

Rights sold for previous titles: German (Droemer Knaur Verlag, Lubbe Verlag), Portuguese (Brazil: Distribuidora Record; Portugal: Edicoes Asa), Bulgarian (Uniscorp Printing), English (Canada: Penguin Books Canada; United Kingdom: Weidenfeld & Nicolson), Chinese (China: Citic Publishing House; Taiwan: Crown Publishing), Korean (Hwang-Mae Publishers), Croatian (AGM), Spanish (Random House Mondadori Sa), Greek (Harlenic Hellas), Hungarian (Gabo Konyvkiado), Hebrew (Kinneret Zmora Dvir), Italian (Garzanti Libri Spa), Dutch (De Bezige Bij), Romanian (RAO International), Russian (AST Publishing Group, Hemiro Limited), Serbian (Laguna), Czech (Albatros)

**Guérin, Françoise: *LES ENFANTS DE LA DERNIÈRE PLUIE*
(JC Lattes, April 2014, 360 pages)**

➤ ***The author offers the highly complex investigation***

During a visit to his brother Xavier who is a patient in a psychiatric hospital, Commander Lanester is witness to a brutal homicide, followed by a suicide. When they discover that he acted under the influence of powerful psychotropic drugs, the investigation shifts to a certain Dr Raynaud who is conducting research for a pharmaceutical company.

Thanks to the captivating hospital archivist, Elisabeth Dassonville, Eric Lanester is able to penetrate into the hospital's logistics and meet the fascinating Theophobe Le Diaoul, the eccentric poet who gave his name to the establishment. But how can old poems shed light on what is proving to be a highly complex investigation?

Françoise Guérin is a psychologist. Her first novel, *À LA VUE, À LA MORT* (Éditions du Masque) won the *Prix Cognac at the Crime Film Festival* in 2007 and the *Prix Jean-Zay*. *CHERCHE JEUNES FILLES À CROQUER* was awarded the *Prix Sang pour Sang* for a crime novel in 2013.

**JB Bénichou, Pierre: *LA TENTATION BARBARE*
(Kero, March 2014, 348 pages)**

➤ ***Plenty of red herrings maintain the suspense all the way to the final resolution.***

➤ ***The characters are appealing, especially Max, who struggles with an overwhelmingly traumatic past.***

➤ ***The author offers readers a moving story of healing and redemption through writing and reading.***

In this psychological thriller, Max, a failed writer, earns a living as a ghostwriter for well-known authors. An accident caused him to lose all memory of the first 16 years of his life. He will eventually get his memory back, and finally cure himself of his past.

Recently divorced, alone and without a past, Max moves to New York to start over. Everything seems to finally be working out for him: he meets Maureen, a beautiful young Irishwoman. But the nightmares he thought were over soon begin tormenting him once again. His sleepwalking episodes return, too, and one morning, he is startled awake by the realization that "The Girl" is back. He doesn't know who this speechless girl who haunts his nights is. He becomes a ghostwriter for the famous and mysterious Emilie Roubaix. Spooked out by his nightmares and sleepwalking, Maureen leaves him. Max has to get better if he wants to win her back. The Girl's return seems to be connected to the new novel he's writing. In order to understand, Max has to do everything he can to examine his memories and face up to his past. After all sorts of twists and revelations about his childhood and adolescence, Max finally recovers his memory. "The Girl" is his twin sister, who died when they were 16. And Emilie Roubaix is his mother.

With its devilishly clever construction, this novel hooks you in with a blend of pleasure and fear. Pierre JB Benichou leads us from revelation to revelation; and from Paris to Marseille to New York, on the trail of a man in search of his own memory.

THRILLERS

Pierre JB Benichou, born in 1952, has been a ghostwriter, a film festival organizer, film distributor, director and producer. After having spent four years in New York, he now lives in Tel Aviv, where he devotes his time entirely to his writing. *LA TENTATION BARBARE* is the first novel he has written in his own name.

Bossi, Luc & Polin, Isabelle: *TROUVEE* (Fayard, February 2014, 280 pages)

- *The suspense is handled well: you can't help getting sucked into this story with all its plot twists*
- *The main character is an appealing young woman, who we follow very closely as she tries to unravel her past*
- *A successful dual manipulation, of both the character and the reader*

A young woman has to confront her own past in order to find the killer who stalks her obsessively. A psychological thriller that never lets up until the last line.

Clara, 25, is happily in love with François, a neuropsychologist who is 10 years older than she. When their neighbor is murdered, Clara's entire life is put into question: François informs her that nothing that she thinks she knows about her past is real, it's an invention to help her get over a terrible trauma: her father's murder when she was a teenager and her own four-year-long sequestration by a man who played a sadistic form of hide and seek with her. François is convinced that there's a connection between the two murders, and he decides to help Clara remember her past so that she can identify the killer. At the same time, Captain Marianne Brunel, the detective who led the investigation years ago, shows up, convinced that Clara is guilty, and is lying about the alleged kidnapper/killer. So begins a difficult period for the young woman, who doesn't really know who to believe. Doubt is omnipresent, both for Clara and for readers: who is Clara really, and who are the people around her, who she thought she knew? Who should she trust?

Her nightmare ends when the kidnapper turns out to be their new neighbor. He does everything to try to manipulate her, including convincing her that François did it. Luckily, despite losing faith in her own conclusions, Marianne manages to save her from yet another sadistic game of hide and seek. While readers may think the plot ends there, the author keeps the suspense going all the way to the last page... leaving readers feeling uneasy.

Luc Bossi, scenarist and producer, has also written *MANHATTAN FREUD* (Albin Michel, Livre de Poche). After having spent 17 years working at a pharmaceutical laboratory, Isabelle Polin decided to devote her time to writing detective stories. *TROUVEE*, written with Luc Bossi, is her second novel.

de Malherbe, Delphine: *À L'HEURE OÙ LES HOMMES VIVENT* (Plon, January 2014, 208 pages)

- *A breathtaking yet tender psychological thriller that explores the depths of the hidden truth of men.*
- *After having successfully dealt with feminine taboos, Delphine de Malherbe takes on the masculine mystery.*

Franck Steiner is a researcher, busily absorbed in probing the influence of the global economic crisis on our lives, until the day he finds his own existence plunged into chaos. In swift succession, he runs into an enlightened nymphomaniac who brings out all his forbidden desires, a businessman who reveals to him his dark side, a sainted woman who forces him to confront his values and her child, who is addicted to social networking and exposes a tendency to live vicariously through others.

In the storm of this global crisis that becomes his own, will he realize, as one discovers his own cowardice or courage in times of war, what kind of man he has turned out to be? What will he find out about men in general? His own nature is gradually revealed in a profound tale of burning suspense.

Delphine de Malherbe is the noted author of two autofictions, *LA FEMME INTERDITE* (Lattès, 2006) and *LA FILLE À LA VODKA* (Plon, 2012), as well as *L'AIMER OU LE FUIR*, a sensual narrative about Colette (Plon, 2011, rights sold in Turkey). A multi-talented writer, she adapted and directed Anaïs Nin's journal for the Théâtre Marigny in 2010. She was also the director of "Inconnu à cette adresse". The drama met tremendous critical success and was chosen "Best Play of the Year 2013" at the *Globes de Cristal*.

"A feverish style!" Figaroscope

"A limpid and pragmatic plume." Paris Match

"Delphine de Malherbe is a novelist of passion" Madame Figaro

“Sincerity and poetry, femininity and intellectual rigor...” **Air France Madame**

Bichet, Yves: *L’HOMME QUI MARCHE*
(Mercure de France, January 2014, 174 pages)

- *A metaphysical thriller offering an insight into man’s animal nature, the potential existence of a god, and the beauty of nature.*
- *A poetical narrative that dignifies the freedom of vagabonds and poets, walking on the edges of society.*
- *A vivid style that juggles between naturalist descriptions and a lyric melancholy.*

In his 9th novel, Yves Bichet depicts fierce yet silent characters who, standing against the gusty winds, remind us that freedom is a sweet madness.

Robert Coublevie used to be a monitor at a highschool in the South of France. But he was also unwillingly poor, cuckolded by his wife, enduring a harsh life and yet finding consolation in his melancholic walks. His life changed dramatically five years ago, when his wife went away. Since then, he walks with his female dog on the crest between France and Italy, above the village of Briançon. He never crosses the frontier, or goes down the Italian side. When he doesn’t spend the night in the mountain, he sleeps in some disused locals in the village, where he also has habits at the local bar, “Le Café du Nord”.

There he can find Sylvain Taliano, the owner, Camille, his daughter, Mounir, the taciturn bartender. Their life seems well-ordered, without any unexpected event. But only until Tissot’s arrival, a “stranger” with the peculiarity of being a customs officer. Soon enough, Tissot is found dead... Accident or murder? With his usual detachment, Robert Coublevie will investigate and discover heavy family secrets. Must he reveal them or take justice into his own hands?

Yves Bichet wrote numerous collections of poems and novels, including RESPLANDY (2010) and LA PART ANIMALE (Gallimard, 1994), which was adapted in a movie with Niels Arestrup as the lead.

SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY

Laurent Genefort: *LES VAISSEAUX D’OMALE*
(Denoel, March 2014, 400 pages)

- *The long-awaited fourth episode of the Omale Series is finally available.*

Omale is a hollow and spherical world, about the size of a solar system. Mankind, which was brought there a long time ago by the mysterious Vangks, share this universe with two other intelligent species: the Chiles and the Hodgqins. After sixteen centuries of warfare, the three have made peace. These peaceful times are disturbed by the Aezirs, another species living inside Omale’s core, who urge the peoples living on the surface to embark on a long and perilous space journey that could ultimately reveal some of the secrets of the captive moons. Only the Hodgqins seem capable of such an undertaking. But Ipis, a human woman, also wants to be part of it. With a group of scientists in her trails, she ventures into the land of the Hodgqins in an attempt to prove that Humankind is worthy of partaking into this crucial cosmic endeavour.

Laurent Genefort was born in 1968, and is the author of over forty novels. THE OMALE CYCLE stands as his masterwork. This epic space saga stands the comparison with Jack Vance at his best.

Suhner, Laurence: *QUANTIKA* Cycle
(L’Atalanta, 2012-2013)

Volume 1: VESTIGES, April 2012, 576 pages.

Volume 2: L’OUVREUR DES CHEMINS, October 2013, 464 pages

- *A text that will appeal both to fans of hard sci-fi and to those who enjoy mystical worlds.*
- *An interesting take on Hindu traditions.*
- *Both volumes alternate action-packed scenes with more intimate or philosophical ones without losing their rhythm.*
- *A masterful analysis of the difficulties inherent in communicating with extraterrestrial cultures.*

In pure hard-sci-fi-saga style, VESTIGES and L'OUVREUR DES CHEMINS blast us off to Gemma, a terra-formed glacial planet, with Ambre Pasquier.

Having left Earth with the Archéa mission, supposedly for the sake of scientific exploration, Ambre will have to meet a lot of challenges head on before she winds up, along with several of her fellow explorers, drawn into a vessel-world called the Great Arch, which is orbiting Gemma.

Through the personal quest of this exo-biologist, who is guided by mysterious voices in VESTIGES, then saved by an extra-terrestrial who opens the doors to her past for her in L'OUVREUR DES CHEMINS, Laurence Stuhner brings a modern feel to a genre that is often somewhat formulaic. The Hindu mysticism that is the key to the main character's personality takes the plot beyond commonplace politico-economic conflicts to achieve a philosophical dimension.

With scientific writing worthy of Kim Stanley ROBINSON or Ben BOVA, the first two volumes of the QUANTIKA trilogy offer a uniquely personal style that Frank HERBERT would surely have approved of. Skilfully alternating high-octane action scenes and more intimate passages, the suspense never lets up.

A long-term fan of both science fiction and physics, Laurence Suhner first comic book was published when she was still a teenager. From there she moved on to short stories, including TIMHKÂ, published in 2009 by the prestigious sci-fi magazine Galaxies. Suhner has followed up on the 2013 Bob Morane and *Futuriales Prizes* for VESTIGES with L'OUVEUR DES CHEMINS, while her fans clamour for the final volume of the saga.

Brissot, Camille: *LE DRESSEUR DE FANTÔMES* (L'Atalante, April 2014, 192 pages)

- *A quest for vengeance and an adventure*
- *Travel from the Caribbean to the dark back streets of Edinburgh, passing through the Great Plains of America.*

The world had been redrawn by a series of climatic catastrophes, marine currents and changing winds, and there was no electricity at all in many areas, returning peace to the sky and emptying the floating cities. Once the old maps had become obsolete, adventurers could sally forth again...

For years Théophras Werenfeld and Valentine have travelled the world employed by rich people to look for treasure and hidden wonders; until the day Valentine is poisoned by the mysterious Collector, her best client. Reduced to the state of a ghost she becomes invisible to everyone... except Theophras.

Helped by Captain Peck, the owner of the biggest paddle steamer in the world, and by the celebrated AeroCircus troupe, a disparate flotilla of balloons and flying machines, the two lovers set off in pursuit of Valentine's murderer. Why would the Collector have eliminated one of his best employees? And who is he really?

Camille Brissot was born in 1988. In print for the first time after a short story competition, she was still at school when her first novel, LES HÉRITIERS DE MANTEFAULE was published in 2005. Her published novels so far: SOUS UNE PLUIE D'ÉTOILES (2010), LE CŒUR À L'OUEST (2008).

Colin, Fabrice: *ARCADIA* (Bragelonne, February 2014, 325 pages)

- *Winner of the Ozone Award (best Fantasy novel by a French-language author)*
- *An ambitious depiction of Victorian society in a similar vein to Tim Powers, where one encounters legendary painters, poets and writers.*
- *A fantastic parallel world with a blend of references from Jack the Ripper to Alice in Wonderland, reminiscent of Philip Pullman.*
- *A major award-winning French author in the steampunk and fantasy genres, offering a richly detailed universe and an original, carefully crafted style.*

London, 1872. In the world of Arcadia, reality takes on the colours of dreams: an idyllic kingdom, bathed in the magic of faerie, where ministers are poets and artists are kings, where the future is taboo and death an unlikely prospect.

One day, however, strange omens disturb the peacefulness of Arcadia's magnificent capital. Blue-tinged nights, a ghostly vessel... The painter Rossetti and his friends feel themselves mysteriously drawn. One hundred and forty years later, in a post-apocalyptic Paris submerged beneath the waters, four young lovers of Victorian art hear the same call, and prepare to tear open the veil that separates the two worlds.

To the sound of Excalibur's song, and to save Arcadia's queen, a handful of artists take on the role of knights...

Fabrice Colin, born in 1972, has written forty novels, including Fantasy, mainstream and young adult titles. Successful and critically acclaimed, he is a multi-award winning author of *the Grand Prix de L'imaginaire* (thrice), *the Prix des Incorruptibles*, the *Prix Bob Morane* and the *Prix Ozone*.

"An eclectic, genre-breaking author gifted with an enthralling writing talent." **France Inter**

"Fabrice Colin is a master of French Fantasy. He is a spellbinding storyteller and his novels generate a delightful feeling of wonder." **Le Monde**

**Biefnot, Véronique: *LA OU LA LUMIERE SE POSE*
(Heloise d'Ormesson, April 2014, 320 pages)**

- *A tale in which the sordid rubs shoulders with suspense, mystery and fantasy, it will appeal to fans of noir fiction*
- *The author manages to turn the story of one woman's efforts to rebuild herself after a painful childhood into something hopeful and poetic*
- *The appealing characters make you want to read the earlier volumes*

The final volume in a trilogy about the life of Naëlle, a young woman with a painful past who is trying to make peace with her ghosts. The key points in this gripping quest are the importance of dreams, the power of intuition and above all, of love.

At age 8, Naëlle was rescued from the cellar of her home, where her father had been keeping her, her mother and her sister prisoner. That sordid treatment made her stronger, but she lost touch with her sister, Evelyne. Believing that something needs to be resolved in order for her to be at peace with herself, Naëlle decides to try to find Evelyne. She eventually tracks her down in a community that her boyfriend, Simon, says is a sect, but where Naëlle feels at home. Lili, a little girl who lives there, too, takes to Naëlle immediately, and she decides to spend a week living with the community.

This novel describes Naëlle's effort to find and rebuild her own identity. It is also about the importance of dreams and intuition in Naëlle's life. The young woman will finally chase the ghosts from her life when she realizes that her father – who managed to escape before the police rescued her as a child, founded the community. She will in turn help to save the members of the community allowing her to make peace with her past. She will even wind up adopting the little girl, Lili.

Véronique Biefnot lives in Belgium. Her professional career is multi-faceted. While the theatre takes up most of it, the cinema, writing, television (she is a presenter on RTBF), painting, dubbing and directing all have their place. Véronique has an eclectic range of tricks up her sleeve.

**Houssin. Joël: *LOCO*
(Ring, September 2013, 224 pages)**

- *This new novel by Joël Houssin, the "French Stephen King," is actually an adaptation of his very first novel. It combines teenage rage with the literary maturity of a 55-year-old writer.*
- *A stunning nuclear novel that drags humanity into demented, grandiose horror.*
- *A dazzling writing style and disturbing narration that contribute to the amoral plot that is neither pessimistic nor optimistic, just self-destructive.*

Joël Houssin, the author of the famous DOBERMANN crime series, serves up a violent and hard-hitting new novel set in the near future and describing how mankind is wiped out in a bloody apocalypse.

After a global nuclear-chemical catastrophe that ravaged the Earth, the survivors are divided into two groups: those whom radiation has turned into mutants, and the self-proclaimed Healthy, who have withdrawn into fortified cities. The Survivors have their health and their obsession with both purity and weaponry; the Contaminated have drugs, monstrosities and sex. Each of the two worlds is trying to wipe the other one out.

SCIENCE-FICTION & FANTASY

Readers will discover this horrifying world through the eyes of different characters – for rarely more than a chapter each, because a cruel and violent death awaits them all. Inside the city, we meet the TV-show host Kiss Apok, a laughable and detestable person who wants to interview a fetus on his show. According to a prophecy, the fetus will be mankind's savior. Outside, there is Malcolm, a charismatic mutant leader who is organizing the Contaminated clans' attack.

Joël Houssin takes the idea of apocalypse to its extreme, offering a stunningly surprising epilogue over a backdrop of extinction, mutation and para-psychic powers. A dark, immoral, bloody, hard-hitting and almost demented book.

Joël Houssin, christened “the French Stephen King” by the American press, writes both crime fiction and science fiction. His first novel was published when he was 17. Before the success of his DOBERMANN series, he was a professional gambler and bred Scandinavian dogs. The series sold over a million copies in the 1980s and was made into a film by Jan Kounen. Houssin then switched to screenplay-writing, so this is his first book since 1990.

“Houssin écrit superbement et n'a pas son pareil pour faire exploser les corps en mille morceaux dans un style efficace et presque poétique. (...) Avec ce roman de guérilla urbaine et de science-fiction apocalyptique, Houssin réussit un retour remarqué.” **Fluctuat**

“L'écrivain majeur de la science-fiction et du polar français, Joël Houssin, signe son retour sous le label des éditions Ring, à l'occasion de la sortie de Loco. Salué par la presse américaine comme notre Stephen King national, le créateur du DobermanN revient avec une mordante fresque d'anticipation apocalyptique, réécriture de son premier roman Locomotive Rictus.” **ActuaLitté**

“Rien n'est blanc ou gris chez Joël Houssin... tout est noir. Après avoir écarquillé les yeux à la lecture des premières pages, on s'attend au pire sans cesser d'être surpris, fasciné, écaeuré, sidéré... Loco, roman d'anticipation, thriller, critique sociale, représente une bombe littéraire inoubliable.” **Les Numériques**

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