LONDON BOOK FAIR 2019 Rights List

FOREIGN AND SUBSIDIARY RIGHTS TEAM

Júlia Balcells Roca
Foreign & Subsidiary Rights
jbalcells@calmann-levy.fr
+33 (0)1 49 54 36 48

Claudia Tamburro
Foreign & Subsidiary Rights Assistant
c tamburro@calmann-levy.fr
+33 (0)1 49 54 36 30

Patrícia Roussel
Rights Director
proussel@calmann-levy.fr
+33 (0)1 49 54 36 49

Éditions Calmann-Lévy
# Table of contents

**Highlights Literary Fiction**  
Jean-Daniel Baltassat - *The Sorrow of the Women Dressed in Muslin* - *La Tristesse des femmes en mousseline*  
Boris Bergmann - *Apnea* - *Nage libre*  
Marc Citti - *Sergeant Papa* - *Sergent Papa*  
Christine Desrousseaux - *While Awaiting The Snow* - *En attendant la neige*  
Camille de Peretti - *The Blood of the Mirabelles* - *Le sang des mirabelles*  
Cécile Pivot - *Heartbeats* - *Battements de cœurs*  
Yann Queffélec - *That Look of an Author* - *Naissance d’un Goncourt*  
Émilie de Turckheim - *The Prince and the Tea Cup* - *Le Prince à la petite tasse*  
David Zukerman - *San Perdido*  

**Highlights Commercial Fiction**  
Roxane Dambre - *A Dream Flat* - *Un appart de rêve*  
Marie-Bernadette Dupuy - *The Orphan of Manhattan* - *L’Orpheline de Manhattan*  
Laurent Gounelle - *I Promise You Freedom* - *Je te promets la liberté*  
Karine Lambert - *All The Colours Of The Night* - *Toutes les couleurs de la nuit*  
Karine Lambert - *Once Upon a Tree...* - *Un arbre, un jour...*  
Laurence Peyrin - *My Darling* - *Ma Chérie*  
Laurence Peyrin - *The Virgins’ Wing* - *L’aile des vierges*  
Julien Sandrel - *The Life I Was Meant To Live* - *La vie qui m’attendait*  
Julien Sandrel - *The Room of Wonders* - *La chambre des merveilles*  

**Highlights Territoires Series**  
Françoise Bourdon - *The Secret of Belle Epine* - *Le secret de Belle Epine*  
Sylvie Baron - *Last Stop Garabit* - *Terminus Garabit*  
Antonin Malroux - *My Father’s Heart* - *Le coeur de mon père*  
Jean Siccardi - *The Stepping Stone Inn books 1 & 2* - *L’auberge du gué tomes 1 & 2*  
Colette Vlérick - *In The Light of Pont-Aven* - *Dans la lumière de Pont-Aven*  

**Highlights Suspense Fiction**  
Pierre Lemaitre - *Blood Wedding* - *Robe de marié*  
Pierre Lemaitre - *Inhuman Resources* - *Cadres Noirs*  
Jérôme Loubry - *The Twelfth Chapter* - *Le douzième chapitre*  
René Manzor - *Apocryphal* - *Apocryphe*  
Guillaume Musso - *The Writers’ Secret Life* - *La vie secrète des écrivains*  
Guillaume Musso - *Gone in the Night* - *La Jeune Fille et la Nuit*  
Franco Mannara - *My Name is Birdy* - *Je m’appelle Birdy*  
Elsa Roch - *Forgetting What We Promised* - *Oublier nos promesses*  
Elsa Roch - *Behind Closed Doors* - *Ce qui se dit la nuit*  
Niko Tackian - *Avalanche Hôtel*
Niko Tackian - Fantazmë •37
Niko Tackian - Toxic - Toxique •37

Highlights Fiction Fantasy •38
Roxane Dambre - Behind the Stars - Signé Sixtine book 1 •39
Roxane Dambre - Echos from Beyond - Signé Sixtine book 2 •39
Roxane Dambre - The Scorpi Trilogy - La Trilogie Scorpi •40

Highlights Non Fiction •41
Roland Cayrol - The President on the Tightrope - Le Président sur la corde raide •42
Nicolas d'Estienne d'Orves - Marthe or the Beautiful Lies - Marthe ou les beaux mensonges •43
Serge Guérin - The Quincados - Les Quincados •44
Jean Quatremer - Let's Finish Off the Euro - Il faut achever l'Euro •45
Jean Quatremer - The Bastards of Europe - Les salauds de l'Europe •46
François Taddei - Learning in the 21st century - Apprendre au XXIe siècle •47
Yves Roucaute - Humanity's Great Future - Le bel avenir de l'humanité •48
Pierre Vasarely & Philippe Dana - Vasarely, A Saga in the Century - Vasarely, une saga dans le siècle •49

KERO •50
Laurent Gounelle - Le Philosophe qui n'était pas sage •51
Laurent Gounelle - And You Will Find The Treasure Within You - Et tu trouveras le trésor qui dort en toi •52
Laurent Gounelle - The Day I Was Taught How To Live - Le jour où j'ai appris à vivre •53
René Manzor - He Whose Name Is No More - Celui dont le nom n'est plus •54
Philippe Nicholson - Extramuros •55
Lucile Paul-Chevance - Nassim's Journey - L'Enfant de la Source •56
Laurence Peyrin - The Secret Life of Zelda Zonk - La drôle de vie de Zelda Zonk •57
Laurence Peyrin - Hanna •57

Highlights Non Fiction Kero •58
Lionel Coudron - The True Word For Happiness Is Serenity - Le vrai nom du bonheur est la sérénité •59
Béatrice Huret & Catherine Siguret - Calais, My Love - Calais mon amour •60
Allan & Daniel Knoll - Mireille Knoll, Our Mother - C'était maman •61
Loïc Lerenard - Hors Gait - Quelle allure ! •62
Éric Perez - Proud To Be a Screw - Maton et fier de l'être •63
Eveleen Valadon - My Thoughts As Butterflies - Mes pensées sont des papillons •64
Philippe Vandel - The "Why" Illustrated - Les pourquoi en images •65
Philippe Vandel - The "Why" of Sports - Les pourquoi du sport •65

The "Dictionary of my Life" Series •66
Highlights
Literary Fiction
1945, Paris. Paul Valéry is an old and solitary man, indifferent to the horrific events of his times. Until one day he is confronted with the terrible reality of the discovery of the Nazi concentration camps.

Searching for answers, he delves into memories from his youth and reopening a little notebook he inherited fifty years earlier from the painter Berthe Morisot.

Berthe was at the heart of the late 19th Century’s creative abundance, during which Mallarmé, Degas, Corot, Monet and so many others crossed paths. Berthe, a French painter and founding member of the avant-garde Impressionist movement, was also Edouard Manet's sister-in-law.

As Paul Valéry reads the pages in which the artist weaves together her memories and a quest for beauty, he begins to question the meaning of life.

An elegant novel reflecting upon art, beauty and hope in the midst of a grim era.
Boris Bergmann

Apnea

Nage libre

“Away from all the stereotypes, Boris Bergmann succeeds in tackling racism, communitarianism, society’s issues and the stakes of growing up altogether, through longing and intimacy. Honored at 15 by the Prix de Flore du lycéen, [...] 25 years old Boris Bergmann confirms with this fourth novel his writing gift and the acuteness of his analysis.”

- M.P. L’Express

A poignant coming of age novel that explores the power of friendship.

Issa, young and introverted, sees his summer getting off to a bad start: to his mother’s great despair, he has failed his end of high school’s exam. She strongly urges him to find a job as quickly as possible. From up high in his flat, in this Northern district of Paris deserted for the holidays, the horizon looks dull for young Issa.

Until his friend Elie, radiant and athletic, frees him from his torments by taking him to the pool every day. Better yet, Elie saves Issa by explaining to his mother that he is training him to become a lifeguard. Issa however, listless and guarded, has appalling childhood memories of swimming pools and proves to be a very bad swimmer.

Nonetheless, he agrees to play along and pushes his own limits to tame a body that seems to refuse to glide naturally. In no time, the environment provided by the pool turns into more than just an athletic challenge: Issa becomes subject to a broad awakening of all his senses. His body, and all those that he scrutinizes under water, morph into a laboratory for his imagination, into catalysts of yearning. More than the crawl, the conquest of a woman’s body becomes his obsession. His challenge lies in freeing himself from his complexes, from the oppressive codes of the “Zone”, from his timidity: the conquest of the other through the conquest of himself. As his own metamorphosis consumes him, will he be able to prove worthy of Elie when he, in turn, will find himself in need of a friend?

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Born in 1966, Marc Citti trained to be an actor under Patrice Chéreau and Pierre Romans’ supervision at the Théâtre des Amandiers’ acting school in Nanterre. For over thirty years, he moved from one theatre, cinema or television set to the next. He worked, amongst others, under the direction of Jacques Audiard, Patrice Chéreau, Jorge Lavelli, Claude Chabrol, Luc Bondy, Alexis Michalik and Jérôme Bonnell. He has also written three plays (Kiss Richard, Le Temps des suricates and Les Vies de Swann), and an autobiographical account (Les Enfants de Chéreau, Actes Sud / Papiers, 2015). Sergeant Papa is his first novel.

Mathieu, an actor on the cusp of his fifties with a struggling career, decides to try and reconnect with his son Antoine, a talented musician and member of a mind-blowing rock band. For father and son, music is a common ground that brings them together, a passion that they have shared ever since Antoine was a child. All too aware of the chasm between them, he cannot help but look at his son with mixed feelings of admiration and envy.

Several days after a concert, Mathieu suffers from a heart attack, and is forced to give up his past life, fuelled by alcohol and sleepless nights. From that moment on, their paths are reversed. As Antoine, the young musician, takes more and more drugs to the detriment of his music, Mathieu, the actor, rediscovers his first love and steps back on stage.

As the absent father fumbles along, feelings of endearment but also sheer force are revealed. Peppered with musical references, Sergeant Papa is as much a novel about the relationship between father and son, as it is a reflection on revival and new beginnings.

"Delicate and sensitive, a beautiful novel written as a confession."
- M.G., Femme Actuelle
Her body and soul still aching from a car crash she was responsible for and that cost her mother’s life, Vera decides to retreat to a chalet in the east of France. She hopes to piece herself back together, wean herself off all the medication clouding her mind, and finally retrieve her memory. But Vera is not the only one to have chosen the mountains to bury her past. She is so relieved to no longer be under her sister’s constant surveillance, that she doesn’t notice the dangers all around her. Hostile villagers. An attractive and equally mysterious neighbor. And the snow threatening to cut off all access into the valley from one moment to the next…
Eléonore is sixteen years old. In order to ensure protection for herself and her little sister Adélaïde, and the preservation of the family lands while their father is in the Holy Land with the King, she is married off to Lord Ours. The sisters discover the new life that has become their own. As a Lord’s wife, for Eléonore, forced into silent observation and devoted to procreation. And as a lady’s companion for Adélaïde, spending her days sewing and reading psalms, under the supervision of Cathaud, Lord Ours’ austere sister.

However, brought up with a certain amount of freedom, neither sister is ready to settle for such an existence. Both find a different form of escape – Eléonore in the arms of a minstrel, with whom she discovers true love and makes plans to run away, and Adélaïde in an apothecary’s teachings, with whom she learns about anatomy and the art of preparing remedies. A quest for freedom that is not without danger, at a time when trials for heresy are commonplace...

Camille de Peretti continues in her vast project exploring literary genres with this new novel. After trying her hand at autobiographies or the epistolary novel, she now tackles the historical novel, enthralling and joyful, delivering a rich tale in both form and detail.
Anna is an editor. Paul is a landscape designer. She likes the city, he likes nature. She is messy, he is tidy, she loves winter, he loves spring. They have nothing in common, other than a tendency to move swiftly from one romantic encounter to the next. And yet they fall in love. Head over heels. Despite all their differences, they complete one another, lower their guard, and build a life together. A life built around such an intense and perfect love, that it would take very little to blow everything apart. One tiny little thing, a mere forgotten kiss one morning.

And Anna begins to doubt. She questions their ten-year relationship, going right back to when they first met, dissecting every single moment to try to understand when things started to go awry. But as she delves into their past searching for answers, Anna and Paul drift apart and lose each other.

The time comes to mourn their relationship. To leave everything behind and piece themselves back together. But can one really ever forget a great, true love?

"You, my dear, have the look of an author!"

These were some of the first words spoken to Yann Queffélec, an avid 26-year-old sailor en route to the equator, when he met Françoise Verny for the first time, a prominent figure in the French publishing world.

A heart-warming, funny and lively account of the collaboration between this young and, for the time being, unknown man, and a woman as famous for her excesses as for her brilliance.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Born in 1980, Émilie de Turckheim has written nine novels and several children’s books. She won the Prix de la Vocation for Chute libre (Editions du Rocher, 2008), the Roger Nimier award for La Disparition du nombril (Héloïse d’Ormesson, 2015) and the Prix des lycéens d’Île-de-France for Popcorn Melody (Héloïse d’Ormesson, 2016). Over the past fifteen years, she has posed as a live model for painters and art schools, an experience she writes about in La Femme à modeler (Editions Naïve, 2012). She also runs writing workshops, mainly in prisons and schools.

Émilie, Fabrice and their two children welcome Reza, a young Afghan who fled his war-torn country at the age of twelve, into their Parisian home for nine months. Despite the language barrier and the painful memories, they slowly discover the young man’s extraordinarily difficult odyssey, how he risked his life to make it to Europe, losing all trace of his family, and travelled thousands of kilometres hanging onto the axles on a truck.

An inspiring and touching journal, looking back over a wonderful experience, the months spent getting to know one another and rediscovering what they had lost along the way: hope and fraternity.
Born in 1960 in Créteil, David Zukerman has gone from being a body repairman to a cleaner, dishwasher, cinema ticket inspector, rock band member, actor and director. Over the years, he has also written around fifteen plays, several of which have been aired on the French radio station France Culture.

San Perdido, a powerful first novel by David Zukerman, calls upon the sounds, smells and colours of South America through a sensual and extremely evocative writing style.

“A must read, spectacular novel. A talented author to discover in great haste.”

– B. Atlan, L’Obs.

One morning in June 1946, in a rubbish tip in San Perdido, a small coastal town in Panama, a black child with blue eyes appears out of nowhere. Endowed with what seems to be a singular strength, this mute orphan grows up in the favela and goes by the name Yerbo.

Amidst prostitutes, American soldiers and dockers, in a town ruled by the black market, corruption and the survival of the fittest, Yerbo becomes a silent vigilante for the oppressed. Through this mysterious boy’s incredible journey, with his magnetic gaze and superhuman grip, the stories of those who cross his path are unveiled. Powerful individuals, consumed by ambition and the fear of losing everything, but also outcasts and women, who never give up, moving forward with unfailing optimism.

This is also the story of San Perdido, a multicultural town, at once cruel and colourful, caught between the Caribbean Sea and the jungle, where extreme poverty rubs shoulders with extravagant luxury, and where superstition and religious beliefs resist the modern world.
Highlights
Commercial Fiction
Noëlle is a Valkyrie. Not a virgin warrior singing along to a Wagnerian melody at the top of her lungs, but rather an employee of Gungir, a consultancy firm called upon by companies to discover the weak spots within their organisation. The young and pretty Noëlle is therefore an expert in infiltration, a champion of camouflage and the queen of espionage. In other words, a Valkyrie, quick-witted with blazing hair. And a single Valkyrie too, with an addiction to dating apps…

Whereas just yesterday she was breaching the security of a large industrial group, Noëlle is propelled overnight into a Parisian estate agency, specialising in luxury properties. Her objective? To understand the mystery behind a recently thriving agency’s decline, despite no major changes taking place. And, incidentally, to close a deal on the Manoir des Sapins Bleus supposedly impossible to sell, whilst under cover. The mansion, which had been the scene of a horrific double homicide, is said to be haunted… But its so-called ghosts are in reality no other than the gamekeeper, determined to make sure nobody moves in.

Noëlle must therefore neutralise the gruff old man, while trying to understand why her new colleagues are so mean to the terribly efficient, sexy and irresistible JC…
October 1886. Catherine and Guillaume Duquesne set off for New York with Élisabeth, their six-year-old daughter. Despite Catherine’s parents’ reservations, they decide to leave France and their little house in Charente behind, full of hope and eager to start a new life. But the young couple’s dreams of freedom and independence soon turn into a nightmare. Catherine dies during the journey and, one week after their arrival on American soil, Guillaume is assaulted on the street and left for dead.

Élisabeth ends up all alone in a vast country. After one night of wandering in Central Park, she is hit by the carriage of the very wealthy Woolworth family. They bring her home, look after her and decide to adopt her, ignoring the wanted notices sent by her grandfather.

Élisabeth grows up spoilt and happy. But when she turns 16, she learns the truth about her upbringing and her life is shattered. She feels betrayed and leaves New York to come back to France and meet her real family. However, she discovers upon her arrival the true face of her grandfather and the secrets hidden in the house... Will Elisabeth manage to distinguish the truth from the lie and finally feel true love from her kin?
Laurent Gounelle

I Promise You Freedom

Je te promets la liberté

Laurent Gounelle returns with a brand-new novel!

Following the successes of his previous books, I Promise You Freedom is a bright novel about life-changing choices.

Picture this: on the same day, your boss blasts that you have 10 days left to save your job, and your partner implies that your relationship is not working that well anymore. In both cases, you are told that your personality is the issue. This awful day is the one that Sybille Shirdoon is living. But what is to be done to change the very thing that is so intrinsically herself? A former friend of her seems to have the answer. When she meets him unexpectedly, the man in front of her seems to be a completely different person from the one she remembers: Sybille does not even recognize him at first. He tells her about a mysterious man, the leader of a secret society, who masters an ancient knowledge capable of giving you a brand-new personality. Sybille is intrigued. After all, what does she have to lose?

Always inspired by his passion for psychology and spirituality, Laurent Gounelle proves once more his ability to tell a story that enlightens how to live better with ourselves and others around us.

A real publishing phenomenon, Laurent Gounelle’s books have reached millions of readers in France and abroad, where his books have been translated into 27 languages.

For more information on Laurent Gounelle’s previous books, see our Kero Rights section (pages 51, 52 and 53).

Laurent Gounelle is a writer and a specialist in the social sciences. His books exude his enthusiasm for philosophy, psychology and personal development. His previous novels have all become bestsellers and have been translated worldwide.

French sales:
Audio-book (Audiolib)
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Large Print (Libra Diffusio)
Book-Club (Le Grand Livre du Mois)

Foreign sales:
Alma Littera (Lithuanian)
Book Plaza (Korea)
Centre Culturel Arabe (Arabic)
Colibri (Bulgarian)
Editura Trei (Romanian)
Pegasus (Turkish)
Roca (Spanish)
Rybka (Czech)
Karine Lambert

Karine Lambert is a novelist and photographer. Her first novels, *L'immeuble des femmes qui ont renoncé aux hommes* and *Eh bien dansons maintenant*, proved an outstanding success in France and abroad, with translations in more than ten countries.

All The Colours Of The Night

*Toutes les couleurs de la nuit*

Vincent, a 35 year old tennis coach, is about to start a family with Emilie when he is diagnosed with an irrevocable disease: Leber’s optic neuropathy. Vincent will lose his sight. In three weeks, darkness will prevail.

Upon hearing the news, Vincent goes through anger, followed by denial and despair. All of which is made worse when Emilie decides to leave him. Shell-shocked, he feels the need to be alone, to escape his mother and those around him, and come to terms by himself with his situation and soon-to-be reality. He seeks refuge in a place where he felt happy as a child: his deceased grandfather’s abandoned house in the countryside. In a frenzied state, he throws himself headlong into the revival of the family’s vegetable patch. And then, inexorably, his sight disappears, leaving each minute fraught with obstacles.

How can he adapt to his new life? Who can he count on? Questions and emotions swirl around in his mind. But, with his hands in the dirt, he learns. He must let go of his former life, re-discover the world through his other senses and think differently. His existential needs now intertwine with his basic needs. He reconnects with the notions of slowing down, living in the moment, with the new people sharing his day to day life, and his feelings. All the Colours of the Night is a story about legacy, rebirth, and no ordinary love…

Sometimes, it is only when the lights go out that we can clearly picture life’s most shining colours.
Karine Lambert

Once Upon a Tree...

Un arbre, un jour...

Whimsical and poetic, the story of a tree which refuses to die in the spring.

On this first day of March, a felling notice is nailed onto the gigantic tree shading the central square of a village in Provence. “Ouch! says the tree, it feels like a woodpecker is piercing through my spine.” But these words, of course, remain inaudible to the locals. However, the thought of their tree disappearing completely outrages them. For all of a sudden, the pleasure of its venerable presence, that only the children and birds until then had enjoyed, becomes precious to them once again. Why fell this centenary being? To put in a fountain? Pavements? A parking-lot? It makes no sense.

Initiated by Clément, a very willful young boy, an impromptu motley committee is set up to uncover the truth. In addition to Clément, there is Adeline Bonnafay, 91, an old spinster inseparable from her sister Violette, 93, Suzanne Fabre, 52, who has been striving on her own to keep the bar open since her husband’s motorcycle accident. With Fanny Vidal, young culinary stylist, Suzanne seeks an explanation from the Town Hall. They are told that the tree has been diagnosed with an illness... By whom, when, nothing is very clear. And the mayor is on holiday...

With every passing day, the plane tree, which considers itself immortal, becomes keenly aware that it is condemned, and that certain people are so attached to it that they are willing to risk their lives to save it. While it studies them, stirring and responding to the rhythm of their emotions and conflicts, its advocates stand together in solidarity.

Regardless of the outcome of this battle, each and every one of them will see their lives transformed.
Laurence Peyrin

Laurence Peyrin has been a press reporter for twenty years. She now devotes her time to writing. Her first novel, La drôle de vie de Zelda Zonk, published by Kero, was awarded the Prix Maison de la presse in 2015. Since then, she has written four novels, Hanna (Kero, 2015), Miss Cyclone (2017), L’aile des vierges (2018) and Ma Chérie (2019), published by Calmann-Lévy.

Ma Chérie
My Darling

Gloria, 30 years old, cocktail in hand, fills the rooms of the most affluent and trendy spots of 1960’s Miami with her graceful presence. Surrounded by luxurious gifts and her fellow “wives and girlfriends”, she apprehends life from atop her in-vogue stilettos. A far cry from the village she grew up in, Chooga Pines, with its wooden grey houses, cut off from the rest of the world by the mangroves.

She had escaped the dismal life that should have been hers ten years ago, thanks to her beautiful physique. Scouted by a photographer, she became Miss Florida in 1952 and the mistress of the celebrity estate agent Gerry Grayson, aka GG’s. Indeed, Gloria is a long way from the live she was meant to live… Incidentally, she hasn’t heard her real name in a very long time. To the photographers on the beach, GG or her new friends, she is known as “My Darling”.

But then, one morning, GG is arrested for conning Miami’s elite. My Darling’s artificial world tumbles down. Nothing truly belongs to her: neither her house, nor her so-called friends who turn their backs on her the moment the scandal explodes.

With a suitcase and 200 dollars in hand, she boards a coach home to her parents, who she has not seen for ten years. It’s Easter weekend, and the coach is full. There is one last free space next to her. A black man asks for permission to sit down. In 1963’s conservative Florida, a black man and a white woman seated side by side on a bus is deeply shocking.

When she agrees, Gloria, without even realising it, makes a decision that will bring meaning to her new life.
Laurence Peyrin
The Virgins’ Wings
L’aile des vierges

Should we compromise our dreams and our beliefs in the hope of achieving happiness? The extraordinary portrait of a free woman.

England, April 1946. The young woman walking up the aisle at Sheperd House, a majestic manor in Kent, is proceeding with a heavy heart. For today, Maggie O’Neill, strong headed and the descendant of a line of active feminists, is about to become a maid in the service of the extremely rich Lyon-Thorpe family. Her only consolation lies in the fact that nobody is there to witness her fall from grace, she who had dreamt and still dreams of going to America and becoming a doctor.

Having to blend in with a service of domestic staff still living as they did in the nineteenth century proves no easy task for Maggie, nor does dealing with the ridiculous requirements of Madam, nicknamed “Pippa-my-dear” by her employees, in reference to the way her friends, with their high-pitched voices, call out to her. As for the master of the House, a distant man, Maggie does not care much about him. The only person meeting her approval is the old Lord, approaching one hundred years old, who is losing his mind and confuses her with a mysterious Clemmie to whom he regularly declares his love.

But Maggie is soon to discover that the master of the house, John Lyon-Thorpe, is far from being the chauvinist and arrogant heir that she had imagined. Just like her, John is trapped in his own destiny and longs to break free. Having spent his childhood in Africa, where his father owned a huge estate, he is determined to return there. The urgency to feel alive and a craving for broader horizons brings them together. Maggie and John begin a passionate affair. From the moment Maggie self-confesses her love for him, she realizes that she will have to choose between the promise of happiness and her aspiration for freedom. But should one necessarily exclude the other?
Julien Sandrel

Julien Sandrel was born in 1980 in the south of France. La vie qui m’attendait is his second novel. His first novel, La chambre des merveilles, was a foreign rights phenomenon at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2017.

The Life I Was Meant To Live
La vie qui m’attendait

What would you do if life offered you a fresh start?
After the success of La chambre des merveilles, the new novel by Julien Sandrel.

Romane, 39 years old, lives alone in Paris. A family doctor with paranoid tendencies, Romane is not very happy. One day, Mme Lebrun, a long-standing patient, announces that she saw her coming out of the pulmonology department at the Nord Hospital in Marseille, and that she looked very ill. Mme Lebrun is absolutely certain and appears sound of mind. Yet Romane is perfectly healthy and has never stepped foot in Marseille. Who did Mme Lebrun see?

Romane is troubled, obsessed by this other person, apparently so similar. What’s more, the lookalike is a redhead: Romane’s natural hair colour, that she has dyed for years. On a whim, she decides to go to the South of France to look for her. Her inquiry leads her to a certain Juliette, a bookseller in Avignon. When the two women meet, there is no doubt: the stranger is her twin sister.

The ground shifts beneath their feet. How is this possible? Who lied to them? What secrets are both their families hiding?
As they progress towards a thunderous truth, the two sisters unite their destinies and throw themselves headlong into a surprising journey, oscillating between laughter and pain, that could very well change the course of their existence...

A funny, inspiring and moving novel, about the strength of family bonds, the search for happiness and the courage to reinvent your life.
Julien Sandrel
The Room Of Wonders
La chambre des merveilles

SOLD IN 26 TERRITORIES:

Bulgaria (Ciela), China (China South Booky), Czech Republic (Albatros), Egypt (Dar Al Tanweer), Germany (Penguin Verlag), Greece (Psichogios), Iceland (Forlagid), Israel (Keter), Hungary (General Press), Italy (Rizzoli), Japan (NHK), Korea (Chaek-Se-Sang), Latvia (Zvaigzne), the Netherlands (De Bezige Bij/ Cargo), Poland (Sonja Draga), Portugal (Porto), Romania (Trei), Russia (Corpus), Serbia (Laguna), Slovakia (Albatros), Spain (Planeta), Sweden (Forum), Turkey (Epsilon), UK (Quercus), Ukraine (Hemiro), Vietnam (Kim Dong)

FRENCH SALES: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Audio-book (Audiolib), Large Print edition (Libra Diffusion), Condensed edition (Art Gallery), Book-Club (France Loisirs)

OPTION ON MOVIE ADAPTATION: JERICO PRODUCTION

A journey through the dreams of a child living on borrowed time. A novel that mirrors life, unexpected, moving, funny, sometimes tough, sometimes enchanting.

Louis is 12 years old. This morning, when he tried to entrust his mother with the secret of his very first crush, he could tell that her mind was somewhere else, most probably on her work. So he left, hurt and angry, on his skateboard at full speed, down their street. And missed the turn. A truck rammed into him, in front of Thelma’s eyes. Louis now lies in a very deep coma, surely irreversible. Four weeks from now, if there is no improvement, it will be necessary to decide whether to keep him on the respirator or not.

Arriving home from the hospital, Thelma finds a notebook under her son’s pillow, in which he has compiled a list of his dreams, or rather of all the experiences he’d like to live before he goes: Louis calls them “his wonders”. So Thelma makes up her mind: these dreams, she will live them herself, page after page. If Louis can hear what is going on from his coma, he will see how beautiful life is and how much it is worth living. Maybe it’ll guide him back. And if four weeks from now his destiny is to pass away, he will have led the life that he has longed for.

To cross an intersection in Tokyo, eyes shut, before going to see a tattoo master, to take an intensive football course, to strip naked in the class of Louis’ horrible teacher, to participate in a color-run, to find out who his real father is... In the course of this journey through the dreams of a child, and in the midst of this frightening countdown, Thelma rediscovers the flavor of life, friendship, and mutual assistance, the dragging of time and the sense of how everything is better with the touch of craziness.
Murder madness on the Garabit Viaduct.

Recently divorced and in the midst of a personal crisis, Marc asks on a whim to be transferred to a high school in Saint-Flour in central France, close to where he spent his holidays as a child, at the foot of the Garabit Viaduct. Despite a few bad memories, he is curious, if a little hesitant, to see his childhood friends again after almost twenty years. What had become of Simon, the grocer’s son? And Gloria and Pauline, whose father, a railway worker, had converted the derelict train station into their family home?

But he encounters a region condemned to isolation and decline, following the closure of the Paris to Béziers train line that crossed over the beautiful iron viaduct built by Gustave Eiffel several years prior to his famous tower. Marc also soon discovers that a steadfast bond has formed between his friends following a tragic event. The ever so beautiful Gloria is now confined to a wheelchair following an accident, but no one will tell him what really happened. Before even uncovering the truth, it becomes clear to Marc that a threat looms, so he decides to take the investigation into his own hands...

Associate Professor in Economics, the author of numerous economic textbooks for Hachette, Sylvie Baron has settled in the Cantal region. She lives in Neuvéglise near Saint-Flour.


From his grand abode, the Belle Epine, Honoré Meyran has successfully expanded the family fortune, built upon the silk factory he runs. Disappointed by his older son Antonin, a dreamer and creative soul, with a lack of initiative and a marked preference for the estate’s chestnut grove to the silk industry, Honoré places all of his hopes in Gabriel, ambitious and ready for anything. The antagonism between the two brothers grows, until the day Gabriel marries Laure, the woman Antonin was in love with. Frustrated, bitter and full of resentment, Antonin decides to leave Belle Epine and the Meyran spinning mill forever and start a new life far from the family home, in the chestnut industry where his creativity can run free.

Intertwined into the two brother’s lives are those of Colombe, a young worker seduced and dishonoured by Gabriel, Claude, Colombe’s abusive husband, and the young and naïve Lazarine and Marie.

A saga with several voices spanning over more than 40 years, and an unforgettable and disillusioned fresco of a world made up of secrets, passion and daily violence, where nobody escapes the slow and inevitable descent to hell.

Françoise Bourdon was a teacher before devoting herself entirely to her life-long passion, writing. She chose to set her latest novels in Provence, her adopted region in the South of France. Passionate about history and literature, she brings forgotten trades and day-to-day existence in the olden-days back to life, in memory of her great-grandfather, a builder and “compagnon du Tour de France”, a group of craftsmen who travelled and worked all over France.
1857, in the north-eastern region of Lorraine. Following the mysterious disappearance of her employer, an abusive tyrant, Emilienne, a farm girl, is dismissed from her duties. She goes to join her cousin Henriette and her husband Eugène at the Dieuze salt mine. She gets a job there as a worker, before finding a housekeeping position with a bourgeois family. Despite the distance placed between her and her traumatic past, Emilienne struggles to forget the violent behaviour she was subjected to. Even more so when the police suspect her of being involved in her former employer’s disappearance.

Years later, just as Emilienne finally allows herself to fall in love, terrible accusations force her to flee her own wedding to avoid being arrested. Condemned to a life on the run, separated from her husband, she watches from afar as misfortune descends upon those she holds dearest. Will she ever find a way to take care of her loved ones and live a happy life?

Élise Fischer is a journalist. She worked for many years for the women’s magazine Côté Femme (now known as Vivre Plus). She has written several novels published by Presses de la Cité, Fayard and Calmann-Lévy.

Antonin Malroux
My Father’s Heart
Le coeur de mon père

At the end of 1914, on the Quatre-Vents Farm, François Montfernac, his wife Madeleine and their daughter Violette, form a close-knit family. Even more so since their son, Mathieu, left home following a tragic event of which it is forbidden to speak.

But heartbreak follows when François is, unexpectedly given his age, drafted in to the war. Violette watches as the father she loves above all else, and whom she believes to be inconsolable over the quarrel with Mathieu, leaves. Should she not have tried harder to bring them back together?

Haunted by her father’s fate who succumbs to the bloody turmoil of the war, Violette refuses to let another man into her life and renounces all romantic relationships, for fear of betraying his memory. But fate has other plans...

Antonin Malroux, born in Boisset in the Cantal, has written over 25 novels devoted to his beautiful Auvergne homeland. He is a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, Arts and Literature in Clermont-Ferrand. In 2018, he joined award-winning baker Christian Vabret to create the “pain de paille” from his eponymous novel, a kind of bread eaten in the olden days. The primary school in the village where he grew up is named after him.
The Stepping Stone Inn
The Stepping Stone Inn, Book One
Provence, towards the beginning of 1900. Antoine Rabuis is the thirteenth offspring of a poverty-stricken family. His father, an alcoholic lout, abandons him to a couple of wealthy farmers desperately hoping for a child but unable to conceive, the Bertrands. Cherished as a gift from God, officially adopted shortly thereafter, the boy takes on his new parents’ name and asks to be called Noël. Gentle, intelligent and helpful, Noël Bertrand thanks his lucky star every day for the fortune bestowed upon him. Despite his knack for studies and the promise of a very bright future, he prefers to remain on the farm, amid a countryside that he finds so enchanting and by his new parents’ side, whom he worships above all. Unfortunately, the war breaks out. Noël is called up for service: goodbye Catherine the dreamer, goodbye Cécile the free spirit, between whom his heart wavered. But how does one rush into battle and the carnage that it reaps after having learned to love life so passionately? For Noël, the temptation to change his identity once again is very strong...

Gaston Of The Vineyard
Gaston Of The Vineyard, Book Two
In the wake of the Great War, Noël Bertrand works on his farm, the Saut du Loup, with his mother Madeleine, following the cycle of the seasons in the midst of the harsh, wild environment of the Haute Provence. In his absence, Madeleine receives a strange visit from Cécile, a local girl, accompanied by a stranger looking to buy their property at a good price. Amidst rumours of plans for a new train line, this unexpected offer reignites their fears of expropriation. Noël has not seen Cécile, his childhood love, for many years. Married off to an old farmer by her father, she had left her husband to pursue a dissolute life in Digne. Who is this stranger with whom she has been parading about? What are his intentions? In his quest for answers, Noël slowly gets sucked into the meanders of folly and crime...

In The Light Of Pont-Aven
Dans la lumière de Pont-Aven
A colourful evocation of Pont-Aven's artistic golden age.

In this year of 1880, the tiny village of Pont-Aven in Brittany, attracts more and more artists from all over the world, seduced by its fishing harbour’s picturesque setting. Robert Wylie, Benjamin Champney or even Frederick Arthur Bridgman are amongst some of the artists who make up Pont-Aven’s cultural society.

Mary-Ann, a young heiress from New York, moves there, soon to be joined by her English cousin, Victoria. One of them paints, the other swears only by photography. They end up buying the little house they were renting, extending it and transforming it into a gallery and a guest house for artists.

Beautiful and free, they arouse jealousy and comments when they become the objects of a chivalrous competition between artists and the young fishermen. Who will succeed in winning their hearts?

Colette Vlérick’s La Fille du goémonier, published in 1998, was met with an immediate resounding success. She strives in her novels to revive the existence of those who shaped Brittany over the past centuries. She lives in Landéda, in the Finistère.
Highlights
Suspense
Fiction
Pierre Lemaitre


Blood Wedding
Robe de marié

Sophie Auverney, the thirty-year-old nanny of little Loïc, feels she is losing her mind, she forgets details, does or errands unexpected things. Sophie is haunted by her terrible past. Vincent, her husband, committed suicide after a tragic car accident had left him paralyzed and there have been other deaths too among her loved ones.

One day, she awakens from a deep sleep and finds Loïc in his bed, strangled by a shoelace. Panic-stricken, Sophie runs away. A kind stranger crosses her path at the train station and invites Sophie to her house. There, Sophie steals her ID then wakes once again from a deep sleep to discover the young woman’s lifeless body. Did Sophie stab her? She doesn’t recall anything. Knowing that the police are already searching for her, she goes into hiding. Is she a cold-blooded murderer? What is going on?

A MASTERPIECE TRANSLATED IN 20 LANGUAGES!

Inhuman Resources
Cadres Noirs
February 2010 - 350 p.

57-year-old Alain Delambre, former human resources manager, has been unemployed for five years. Unable to find work in his field, he has accepted a menial job as an inventory clerk at a ridiculously low salary. With the support of his wife Nicole and their two daughters, he tries his best to make do. Then one day he comes across an unexpected job offer that fits his profile to a T, except for his age. Not to be put off, he goes in to the recruitment agency ready to give it all.

Short-listed along with two other candidates, he is informed that the management’s final decision will depend on how well he reacts under intense pressure, that is in a simulated hostage-taking situation. Determined to land the job at all costs, he agrees to play the game, setting off an unstoppable chain of events... Our disillusioned and scorned hero may be a “grandpa boomer”, but he is more than ready to prove that he too is an expert at making the most of any opportunity that comes his way. A remarkably taut, well-crafted novel and a blistering attack on the cynicism and snobbery of corporate bigwigs and management techniques.

A MASTERPIECE TRANSLATED IN 14 LANGUAGES

French sales: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Book-club editions (GLM & France Loisirs), Audio-book edition (CDL)

Foreign sales:
Albatros Media (Czech) 
Alfaguara (Spanish Worldwide) 
Ascheoug (Norwegian) 
Azbooka-Atticus (Russian) 
Bungei Shunju (Japanese) 
Bromera (Catalan) 
Colibri (Bulgarian)
Dasan Books (Korean) 
Erden (Estonian) 
Fazi Editore (Italian) 
Fish+Fish (Complex Chinese) 
KÖNYVMOLYKÉPZŐ KIADÓ (Hungarian)
Lindhardt of Ringhof Forlag (Danish) 
MacLehose Press (English Worldwide) 
Minerva (Finnish) 
Muza (Polish) 
Sea Sky (Simplified Chinese) 
Xander Utgevers (Dutch)

WINNER OF THE 2010 PRIX DU POLAR EUROPÉEN - LE POINT TRANSLATED IN 14 LANGUAGES

French sales: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Book club (France Loisirs), Audio-book (Le Livre Qui Parle), Comic book edition (Rue de Sèvres)
TV Series: Mandarin TV

Foreign sales:
Alfaguara (Spanish Worldwide) 
Ascheoug (Norwegian) 
Azbooka-Atticus (Russian) 
Bungei Shunju (Japanese) 
Bromera (Catalan)
Dasan Books (Korean) 
Fazi Editore (Italian) 
Lindhardt of Ringhof Forlag (Danish)
MacLehose Press (English Worldwide)
Minerva (Finnish) 
Muza (Polish) 
Nemo – Autentica (Portuguese - Brazil) 
Pegasus Yayinlari (Turkish) 
Xander Utgevers (Dutch)
Summer of 1968. David and Samuel are 12 years old. Just like every year, they were spending the summer in a holiday village owned by Vermont Industries, the company their parents worked for. When they meet Julie, a girl their age, the three children soon become inseparable. But their innocence cannot protect them from certain questions. Who is Emilie, the girl who disappeared shortly before they arrived? Does the ghost of Mr Vermont’s wife, who had hung herself ten years earlier, really roam the old building at the centre of the resort? Why were the adults suddenly so quiet and mysterious?

Then, just as the week is drawing to an end, Julie goes missing too. Her burnt body is found abandoned on a beach.

Fast-forward 30 years. David is an author, and Samuel his publisher. They had never spoken about Julie again. Until one day, each of them receives a mysterious envelope. Inside, they discover a text recounting the events of that tragic summer. The last chapter reveals some troubling clues, leading them to believe that the person arrested at the time, could in fact be innocent.
Highlights Suspense Fiction

October 2018
400 pages

René Manzor
Apocryphal

An epic and violent saga, successfully combining fiction and historical reconstruction.

René Manzor is a scriptwriter, filmmaker and author. With just three novels, he has set himself apart as one of the new French thriller names and was awarded with the Prix Cognac du polar Francophone for Celui dont le nom n’est plus (Kero, 2014).

Jerusalem, Golgotha. 30 AD.

In the driving rain, three crucified men fight so that each new breath will not be their last. The downpour causes the last few bystanders to scatter.

All but one.

A seven year old boy who has escaped adult supervision. He never takes his eyes off the man nailed to the central cross. Despite the violence of the vision before him, the child does not cry. His expression even betrays resentment towards this redeemer who gave everything to others and so little to him. His name is David of Nazareth. And this is his story.

Seven years later, at the heart of the Judean desert, a wind of revolt inspires the young David who is tired of living a hidden life.

Secrets, betrayals, political intrigue and war games will mark his path, as if echoing the upheavals of a Palestine bled dry by two decades of Roman occupation.

Longinus the converted legionary, Farah the rebellious slave, Shimon the Zealot but also Pontius Pilate, the high priest Caiaphas, Judas or Barabbas... Against this epic and ultra-realistic backdrop, Apocryphal blends fiction and reconstitution, giving life to characters who were until now only historical figures.

French sales:
Paperback (Pocket)
Book-Club (Le Grand Livre du Mois)

Foreign sales:
Hemiro (Russian)
Guillaume Musso

Born in Antibes, Guillaume Musso first fell in love with literature at the age of ten, spending most of his summer holed up in the local library, run by his mother. Combining intensity, suspense and love, his novels are what made him France’s favourite author, translated the world over, and adapted for the big screen.

"More than ever, Guillaume Musso is the number one bestselling author in France." M.A., Palmarès exclusif GFK – Le Figaro, January 17th 2019

The Writers’ Secret Life
La vie secrète des écrivains

“Everyone has three lives: a public life, a private life, and a secret life...”
Gabriel García Márquez

In 1999, after publishing three cult novels, famous author Nathan Fawles announces the end of his writing career and withdraws to Beaumont, a wild and beautiful island off the Mediterranean coast.

Autumn 2018. Over the past twenty years, Fawles has not given a single interview. As his novels continue to captivate readers, Mathilde Monney, a young Swiss journalist, arrives on the island, determined to unlock his secrets.

That same day, a woman’s body is discovered on the beach and the island is cordoned off by the authorities. And so, begins a dangerous face off between Mathilde and Nathan, in which veiled truths collide with full-blown lies, and love and fear become intertwined...

An unforgettable read, and a fascinating literary puzzle, revealing itself to be diabolical when the author sets the last piece in place.

Watch the booktrailer here:
Guillaume Musso

Gone in the Night
La Jeune Fille et la Nuit

SOLD IN 34 TERRITORIES:

Albatros Media (Polish), Albatros Media (Czech), Alianza de Novelas (Spanish worldwide), A.W. Bruna (Dutch), Balgunsesang (Korean), Baltos lankos (Lithuanian), Bota (Albanian), Business Weekly (Chinese Complex characters), China South Booky Culture (Chinese Simplified characters), Desk (Slovenian), Dioptra (Greek), Eksmo (Russian), Epsilon (Turkish), Hachette Antoine (Arabic), Hemiro (Ukrainian), Iztok Zapad (Bulgarian), Kinneret Zmora (Hebrew), La Nave di Teseo (Italian), Leo Commerce (Croatian), Lindhardt og Ringhof (Danish), Little Brown (English US), Nha Nam (Vietnamese), Nona (Swedish), Nova Knjiga (Montenegro), Park Kiado (Hungarian), Piper Verlag / Pendo (German), Qanun (Azeri), Toper (Macedonian), Shueisha (Japanese), Trei Editora (Romanian), Varrak (Estonian), Vulkan (Bosnia), Vulkan (Serbian), W&N (English UK and Commonwealth)

FRENCH SALES: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Audio-book (Audiolib), Club (France Loisirs and Le Grand Livre du Mois), Large Print (Libra Diffusio), edition adapted for dyslexic readers (Les éditions des terres rouges)

A prestigious high school campus buried in snow.
Three friends bound by a tragic secret.
A young woman disappears in the night.


When her prep school is shut down by a blizzard, Vinca Rockwell, 19, one of the most gifted students in her post-baccalauréat class, runs away with her philosophy teacher with whom she has been carrying on a secret affair. For Vinca, "Love is all, or it is nothing."
No one will ever see her again.

French Riviera, Spring 2017.

Once inseparable, Manon, Thomas and Maxime (Vinca’s best friends) haven’t spoken to each other since they finished high school. They see each other for the first time in 25 years at their high-school reunion. Back when they were students, under terrible circumstances, the three friends committed murder and hid the corpse in a wall of their high school gym. Now the gym is about to be demolished to make way for a new building. Suddenly nothing can prevent the truth from coming out. The disturbing, painful, diabolical truth...
Paolo, an underground rock guitarist living in Paris’ last genuine working-class district, the Goutte-d’Or, is in a really tight jam: he has borrowed money from a couple of kingpins in his neighbourhood and has no way of paying them back, despite their increasingly violent threats. Luckily for him, a golden opportunity arises: shadowing people for a private detective. And so Paolo finds himself tailing Birdy, a wealthy young woman who’s given everything up to live with squatters. Her family is crazy with worry. Paolo is horrified to discover that Birdy is leading an even darker and more destructive life than appearances suggest.

Against this backdrop, a sanitary crisis explodes. On their way home from a party, dozens of kids perish after taking a new blue pill that is all the rage. Inspector Ibanez, of Gypsy descent, is in charge of the investigation. Pretty soon, everyone’s fighting over this new drug, this “Russian roulette” that is giving rise to the most disturbing underground parties. Birdy is part of all this, and in turn Paolo finds himself dragged into a dark and hidden world of sexual debauchery whose reins are being pulled by small groups of violently radical idealists. Ibanez has the intuition that Paolo can help him close the case. The musician’s mission takes on a whole new pace as he struggles to put to an end to the ravages of a drug targeting French youth.

From the slums of Paris to its backrooms, My Name is Birdy takes you on a shocking journey through the nether worlds of Parisian nights and fascist networks, with a clear-sighted and provocative scenario that has you terrified and holding your breath all at once.
Elsa Roch has been writing since childhood, poetry first and foremost. In her teens, she met the person who would change her life, Salomé, a 3 year-old girl with autism whom she would take care of during all of her free time. This experience led her to become a psychiatrist, specialized in autistic, adolescence and addiction disorders. She kept writing on the side but started feeling limited by what she could achieve in poetry, wanting to explore the shortcomings of mankind, one by one, in a different way... Discovering Dennis Lehane, James Lee Burke, Fred Vargas... proved a turning point, and she shifted her writing towards mystery novels. “This world is my own. It concentrates everything. Life, love, death.”

Behind Closed Doors
Ce qui se dit la nuit
Weary of all of the “ides”, the homicides, the matricides, the suicides... that made up his life for the better part of twenty years, superintendent Amaury Marsac comes close to killing the culprit of an umpteenth infanticide with his bare hands. This time he wants to put an end to it all, Major Crimes, Paris, the whole life of Evil and darkness that he’s plunged into since way back when. But his boss has other ideas and tells him to step back, take a break and think things over for a week, far from his desk.
And so he goes, back to his sources and the village of his youth, a land of green hedges shrouded in mist. But on the day of his arrival, as he debates whether or not he should reach out to Elsa, the childhood sweetheart he hasn’t seen in ten years, an old woman is found dead in her ramshackle house. This woman, Marianne, is one of the benevolent souls who watched over him in youth, who let him play for hours on end in her backyard and garden. Marianne’s throat has been slit and her hair shaved off.
Horrified, Marsac makes it clear he wants in on the investigation. In a place where nothing is as it seems, where rural fantasy readily slips away and turns into dark magic, he finds himself once more drawn behind the scenes of the human soul. From where one does not come out unscathed.
In a mix of amorous throes and superstition, of unforgiving landscapes and unhealed scars from childhood and History, this first instalment of the adventures of superintendent Marsac flirts with the secret follies of men and plays a heartbreakingly wrenching melody.

Forgetting What We Promised
Oublier nos promesses
Paris, summer of 2010. Emma Loury is found brutally murdered in her home. Her lover, Jérôme Pieaud, a military officer, is hiding from the police... He seems an ideal culprit.
Emma was a bright and sunny young woman, a gifted independent and committed journalist, whose articles denounced human trafficking throughout the world. She must have loved desperate causes, the sort that puts in danger anyone getting too close. Could this be the reason behind her death? Superintendent Marsac delves into the investigation with all his might, torn between two motives: crime of passion or cold-blooded murder aimed at silencing an overly curious pen...
Jérôme Pieaud, who has been suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder since his return from Afghanistan, is also on the lookout for the assassin. Emma meant the world to him. He wants to take justice into his own hands and seek revenge on whoever took her... But the truth hovers just out of his reach. And on the brink of insanity, he starts to doubt his very own innocence.
A crossed manhunt through the streets of Paris thus begins. A remarkable novel on Paris after dusk, where broken lives, sprung from dreams of freedom, wander around and slowly fade away.
Niko Tackian

Born in 1973, Niko Tackian is a French screenwriter, director and novelist. His work in the audiovisual landscape has been honored on numerous occasions, with among others the Best Fiction Award at the Festival de La Rochelle 2009, the Best Movie Award at the POM Festival (Toronto) 2010, and the Best Movie Award at the ARPA Festival 2012, in LA. His first novel, published in 2015, received the libraries’ people’s choice Thriller Award at the Cognac Thriller Festival (Festival Polar de Cognac), bestowed by 80 readers. Toxic has been shortlisted for the Polar de Cognac literary award 2017. He lives in Paris.

Avalanche Hôtel

“Niko Tackian explores for us the complexity and windings of the human memory in this crazy-paced crime novel, very well-documented and filled with many plot twists. You will shiver, and not just with cold...”

- Lionel Daubigney, Page des libraires

A hypnotic new thriller, somewhere between Stephen King’s The Shining and Robert Ludlum’s Jason Bourne.

January 1980. A man wakes up in a bedroom in the Avalanche Hotel, a luxurious resort located in the heights of Montreux, Switzerland. He cannot remember his name, nor how he got there. Gradually, his memories return: his name is Joshua Auberson, he is a security guard, and a young girl, Catherine Alexander, has mysteriously disappeared. But is any of it real?

January 2018. Joshua Auberson wakes up in hospital. He was investigating an unknown person, discovered in the mountains, when he was caught up in an avalanche and remained in a coma for several days. Despite the confusion reigning in his mind, the puzzle starts to click back into place, piece by piece. He is a police lieutenant and no young girl has disappeared. The hotel scene was merely a construct of his mind in reaction to the trauma he had just experienced.

Convinced that what he saw in his coma was more than a simple manifestation of his subconscious, Joshua decides to look into the now abandoned hotel from his dream. But how can you unravel the mysteries of a highly secretive building when your memory fails you, and you are no longer sure about your own past?
Niko Tackian

Fantazmë

How to be a good cop when victims are also executioners?

January 2017. A man is found, beaten to death, in a cellar in the 18th arrondissement of Paris. On site, a lot of fingerprints and a sample of unknown DNA. Police Commander Tomar Khan reckons the crime is linked to a vendetta, the kind of investigation that will remain unsolved for years. But the DNA found on the scene coincides with another sample, discovered by members of the drug squad on the body of an Albanian dealer, also beaten to death in a cellar. Before long, rumor has it around Paris' red light districts that an elusive killer is on the loose, a Fantazmë, or “ghost” in Albanian. Tomar and his team are soon distraught by the squalid and illegal activities of the victims. And yet, Tomar never wavers from his duty, especially now that his future seems increasingly unsure: an IGPN Lieutenant (Inspectorate-General of the National Police), the police of the police, has summoned his deputy, Rhonda, to interrogate her about a knife gone missing from Archives, registered as incriminating evidence in a murder case. But this knife, this evidence... Is Tomar’s. Revenge, justice and resilience intermingle with panache in this new brilliant thriller by Niko Tackian.

Toxic

Toxique

Some people like to come into your life, some, to exercise their power over you, and others to seduce you in order to destroy you. They are the toxic ones.

January 2016. The Headmistress of an elementary school in the suburbs of Paris is found murdered in her office. In a city bruised by the terrorist attacks of that winter, the subject of schools is a highly sensitive one... Major Crimes sends in deputy police commander Tomar Khan, chief of section 3, nicknamed the Pitbull and known for feeling strongly about violence against women. At first glance, the case seems simple, to be “closed in 24h” according to one of the first detectives on scene, and yet the many demons that haunt Tomar have at least one advantage: he has developed an uncanny instinct for detecting a story that has more than meets the eye. And he immediately gets that the pure violence of this murder is just a false pretence. While investigating with his unit from Major Crimes, his life takes a very dark turn. To begin with, he learns that the body of a repeat rapist well known to him has been found in the Bois de Boulogne... The last time he’d seen him, in that same park, the Bob in question had been pretty banged up from a beating that he himself had given him, but alive. Tomar is going to have to make sure that this cannot be traced back to him. And then, on the same day, the thing that he’d been dreading for over twenty years finally happens: the man that he sends money to every single year to stay away from his mother and his brother reappears, with foolproof blackmailing material. In other words, a painful start to the New Year for Tomar, stuck between raging internal battles and open conflicts.
Highlights
Fiction
Fantasy
Sixtine Perceval is delighted: at 25 years of age, after two years writing freelance articles and struggling to make ends meet, she has landed her dream job as a journalist with ActuParis, the most popular weekly newspaper in the French capital. Despite a boss incapable of remembering his employees’ names who starts every meeting with a gunshot, three colleagues who would go to any lengths to stay in the limelight, and a far from exciting first project, she doesn’t lose heart! She throws herself into her assignment: covering an applied mathematics congress about relativity and cosmology. At the inaugural conference, Elvis Ellroy, a real rock star in his field, makes a sensational announcement. He has found the key to singularity, a discovery which, although rather obscure for Sixtine, could revolutionise the world of physics and the current conception of space and time. But her curiosity grows when Elvis Ellroy is found dead with his brain mysteriously missing. Could his discovery be the cause of his murder?

For Sixtine, this is the perfect opportunity to write an article that will launch her career. With the help of her intern, Melchior, and the very good-looking Bastien, a young researcher in cosmology who sparks more than a simple interest in science in her, she sets off in search of the truth.

But could the truth be elsewhere?

Behind the Stars, Signed Sixtine Book 1

Derrière les étoiles, Signé Sixtine tome 1

Sixtine Perceval is delighted: at 25 years of age, after two years writing freelance articles and struggling to make ends meet, she has landed her dream job as a journalist with ActuParis, the most popular weekly newspaper in the French capital. Despite a boss incapable of remembering his employees’ names who starts every meeting with a gunshot, three colleagues who would go to any lengths to stay in the limelight, and a far from exciting first project, she doesn’t lose heart! She throws herself into her assignment: covering an applied mathematics congress about relativity and cosmology. At the inaugural conference, Elvis Ellroy, a real rock star in his field, makes a sensational announcement. He has found the key to singularity, a discovery which, although rather obscure for Sixtine, could revolutionise the world of physics and the current conception of space and time. But her curiosity grows when Elvis Ellroy is found dead with his brain mysteriously missing. Could his discovery be the cause of his murder?

For Sixtine, this is the perfect opportunity to write an article that will launch her career. With the help of her intern, Melchior, and the very good-looking Bastien, a young researcher in cosmology who sparks more than a simple interest in science in her, she sets off in search of the truth.

But could the truth be elsewhere?

Echos From Beyond, Signed Sixtine Book 2

Les échos de l’au-delà, Signé Sixtine tome 2

After the resounding success of her very first article for ActuParis, Sixtine Lancelot is looking forward to some well-deserved rest. But the Marcus Meilleur, three colleagues whose sole purpose in life seems to be breaking promising young recruits, have other plans... For her next assignment, they suggest that she cover an exhibition about death, an idea warmly welcomed by the head of the newspaper. But if they hoped to throw the impetuous Sixtine off balance, they are likely to be disappointed. Once you have lived through a fire, a kidnapping and an encounter of the third type, very little can unsettle you.

As she is attending the exhibition opening with Melchior, her intern photographer and cooking whiz in his spare time, a young man holding a strange device suddenly bursts on to the stage mid-speech. He claims to have discovered a new technique to observe ghosts. His demonstration is a failure, but Sixtine’s curiosity is piqued and she decides to find out more about this unfortunate inventor, Dimitri. His mysterious machine is, in actual fact, a human wave detector. It allows not only to visualise the aura of living people, but also the magnetic field that subsists for a time after death. In other words, Dimitri has discovered a way to observe the human soul! And Sixtine is determined to help the inventor prove he is not a charlatan.

Even more so if it means winning back the love of his life in the process...
SCORPI V1 Those Who Tread in the Shadows
Scorpi T1 - Ceux qui marchent dans les ombres

A souped-up love story in the supernatural-tinged city of Paris.

During one of those summer storms for which only Paris has the secret, young Charlotte discovers a small boy nestled at the foot of her building, his dark hair dripping with water and his shirt plastered from the rain. Charlotte, the picture of kindness, offers him safe harbour until it eases. Once there, the child starts telling her the most appalling story: his parents and brother are “creatures of the shadows”, hired assassins with supernatural powers, baptised the Scorpi. He himself, Elias, is an apprentice. And his catchphrase seems to be: "Do you want me to kill him"? Charlotte does not believe a word he’s saying, at first. But soon after, she discovers an older version of Elias in her living room, a tall twenty-five year-old with dark brown hair and startling ultramarine blue eyes. Adam, the older brother, has just entered her life, which is about to be turned into a wild and crazy ride. How would you react if you were twenty three, mostly peaceful, and you fell in love with a hired killer who is not even human?

SCORPI V2 Those Who Live in Hiding
Scorpi T2 - Ceux qui vivent cachés

Life with the Scorpi is tantamount to romance, humour and danger.

Since she started living in the Scorpi manor, Charlotte has been discovering a whole new world. If it had just been her fiancé, Adam, and his peculiar family of hired assassins, especially his incredible little brother Elias, her days would’ve been full enough. But then that would’ve been without counting all of the other magical creatures endeavouring to act normal around her just to make her happy... and unerringly failing at one point or another. Charlotte doesn’t know whether she should be trembling or laughing any more, but she adores every one of them! And yet, one September day, her new life plunges into horror. A man, known as the Hunter, has undertaken to track and eliminate all of the creatures. Adam himself fears him and is forced into hiding. Charlotte is their only hope, the man will not harm her as she is human. But being human is precisely a risk, as she is the weakest one to act. A long long time ago, Charlotte heard that legends always arise from a misunderstanding. Will this turn out to be true?

SCORPI V3 Those Who Bring the Masks Down
Scorpi T3 - Ceux qui tombent les masques

A dazzling finale!

One week in Venice with her best friend, a flight on a private jet and a room with a view of Saint Mark’s Square...

Too good to be true? Charlotte should probably have known better... Instead of an idyllic holiday in one the world’s most beautiful cities, she finds herself tracking a mortal enemy of the Scorpi, another Hunter. Assisted by a strange creature hidden in the canals of Venice, Charlotte fulfils her mission only to find out that the Hunter is far from being alone! All of the families from the shadows start converging towards Venice to wage battle, sending their best killers, each more terrifying than the other... the worst being her own in-laws. Thankfully, Charlotte can always count on Adam, more and more in love with her and increasingly awkward, on his younger brother Elias, so cute that you’d forget how dangerous he is, and not forgetting Kibble, the happiest dog on Earth, set to become without a doubt one of the heroes of this adventure...
Highlights
Non Fiction
Roland Cayrol

The President on the Tightrope

*Le président sur la corde raide*

The finest specialist in French political science, and an expert in public opinion analysis, delivers his uncompromising view on Macron’s politics, also known as “Macronism”.

Emmanuel Macron is not like other politicians.

His remarkable destiny rapidly led him, following an unconventional path via philosophy and banking, to the head of the French State at just 40 years old. He brought about a reconfiguration of the political scene and has tackled particularly sensitive economic or social reforms. Above all, he elicited hope within public opinion for a new form of governance, in which citizens would be involved in policymaking decisions directly affecting them.

After a year, this hope may somewhat have dwindled. Emmanuel Macron governs in a technocratic manner, prioritising technical data over human and social issues, attempting to reform society by decree. Quite the opposite of the participatory governance that the French had adhered to in the Spring of 2017. Macron is aware of this. He has committed to moderating this “arrogance” before Congress.

*A President on the Tightrope* shows how Macronism is currently at a crossroads between an imperial exercise of power and the construction of a contractual, citizen-based republic. The implications of this choice are not only relevant to Emmanuel Macron’s political future. The success or failure of Macronism as a form of governing is also a trial for nations in Europe and beyond. It could curb, or not, the rise of populism and the increasing tendency of European public opinion to be wary of the political elite.
Nicolas d’Estienne d’Orves

Marthe or the Beautiful Lies

Nicolas d’Estienne d’Orves' account is a sensitive and joyful tribute to a chameleon-like woman and her fabulous journey through life.

Nicolas d’Estienne d’Orves is a writer and a journalist. He worked for Le Figaro Littéraire for a long time. He is a columnist for Figaroscope, Figaro and at Classica. He has written several short stories, essays and novels, including Othon ou l’Aurore immobile which got the Roger-Nimier prize in 2002. He is part of the jury for the Saint-Germain prize.

Marthe Betenfeld, Richer or even Richard, was a French heroine, a member of the Resistance, a prostitute, and even an aviation pioneer. A fascinating woman with multiple facets, made even more so by her ability to embody each and every one of them. Marthe Richard never ceased to reinvent herself, to build a life on a par with the century in which she lived.

In this fictionalised biography, Nicolas d’Estienne d’Orves, an award-winning writer and journalist, paints a vibrant account of this remarkable woman's life. Navigating between the different versions of her own autobiographies, he pulls on the most intriguing threads and weaves a story without too much concern for the absolute truth, since the latter was such a wonderfully relative concept for Marthe herself.

Guided by the author, the reader thus discovers Miss Marthe Betenfeld's adventures who, after spending her teenage years as a runaway working in a brothel for soldiers, went on to become an aviation pioneer, and a spy during the First World War. During her time as a business woman, she married a British officer, only to be left widowed shortly after. During the Second World War, she saw herself as a key member of the Resistance movement, and after the Liberation, went into politics, mounting a campaign against brothels that led to a vote for a law that would later carry her own name. An ambivalent figure, whose candor has been questioned, Marthe Richard was without a doubt a woman who shaped her own destiny, through her lies and defiance, far from the life of a seamstress to which she had been predestined.
Serge Guérin is a sociologist and a consultant, specialising in issues surrounding the ageing process and solidarity. A professor at the Inseec business school in Paris, he runs an MSc in Healthcare Management. He sits on the board of the CNSA (the national solidarity fund for autonomy) and the High Council for Family, Childhood and Age.

Never before have 45-60 year olds been such a prominent or populous social category! Nor, has this segment of the population ever been so young in body and mind. Never before have the fifty-somethings been, as today, vectors of change, revolutionaries of everyday life, trend setters...

Not everyone in their fifties is a quincado, or a “fifty-something adolescent”. But the number of young seniors who refuse to live through the aging process like their parents are increasing in number. The quincados have invented an alternative way to age, without getting old.

This book describes a new attitude to life. For alongside the traditional figure of the pensioner, beyond the caricatures of the ageing playboy or the mutton dressed as lamb, men and women are devising with glee a new way to live their age. They are not running from time, but from boredom. They are quincado artists, travellers, entrepreneurs... In short, for the first time in the history of our modern society, the over 50s are writing their futures, taking control of their lives, and teaching their younger counterparts a lesson in what it is to be young.
Jean Quatremer is a leading expert in European matters, having covered the subject since 1990. He has brought several stories to light that have shaken the European Union, such as mad cow disease in 1996 and Edith Cresson’s fake jobs, leading to the resignation of the Santer Commission in 1999. As well as being a journalist at the Libération newspaper, an author of televised documentaries, a writer, a television commentator on several programmes, the author of the blog “Les coulisses de Bruxelles” (“Behind the Scenes in Brussels”), he is also very active on social media.

From 2010 to 2012, the Euro experienced a precocious and particularly difficult adolescent crisis. This unfortunate period is now in the past, as on the 1st January 2019, the Euro will celebrate its twentieth birthday and enter adulthood. Yet the European single currency is far from having finished its growth. As the nineteen member states struggle to accept a new shared sovereignty, the monetary integration is incomplete. But without financial solidarity between the states, the Euro will not be able to survive the next crisis.

This comes as no surprise. The Euro’s “founding fathers” were fully aware that their work was not perfect. They were counting on their successors to complete it. However, their successors, such as the “lazy kings”, did nothing, and instead simply capitalised on the Euro’s first successful steps.

Jean Quatremer tells a story of faux pas, reconciliations, secret meetings, Homeric debates and decisions taken in the wee hours of the night. To fully understand the situation, he plunges the reader into the larger historical context and smaller anecdotes about the long road towards a single currency, enriched with accounts from the major players.
Can we still claim to be European? Too many scandals, such as the recruitment of José Manuel Durão Barroso, former President of the Commission, by the investment bank Goldman Sachs. Too many compromises, such as the election of Jean-Claude Juncker at the EU’s executive’s helm, he who turned his country, Luxembourg, into a tax haven. Too many setbacks: from economic issues to external border control, by way of social or defense procedures. Too much unbridled liberalism. And too little democracy.

It is not difficult to file an unsparing indictment against the Union by concealing the responsibility of national governments in these drifts. The bastards of Europe are the States, the masters of the Union, who betrayed the dreams of the founding fathers, but also the demagogues who try to trick us into believing that returning to the past would solve all of our problems. It is time to reiterate what the Union has brought us at its most vulnerable time, i.e. now, what with external threats coming from Putin’s Russia and Trump’s United States, and internal ones stemming from Brexit and the rise of extremist parties.

In this striking and impactful book, one of the best specialists on Europe studies each argument set forward by his opponents, one by one, sorts truth from fiction, and stresses that the construction of the European Community, as perfectible as it may be, remains the last pacifist utopia in a world on the brink of doom.
François Taddei graduated from the prestigious French engineering school, l’École polytechnique, and is now a biologist specialising in genetics and a researcher at the Inserm, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, where he was awarded with their Research Prize. He also set up the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Paris. Collaborating with several working groups, he submitted in April 2018 a report, “Towards a Learning Society”, to the Ministers of Labour, National and Higher Education, and Research and Innovation.

In 1997, an IBM computer, Deep Blue, beat world champion Garry Kasparov in a game of chess. The next day, The Guardian headlined with, “It’s a depressing day for the human race”. Yet, twenty years on, our educational system is still based on memorising information and calculations, tasks that any machine can complete more efficiently than humans. A major transition is currently underway in the history of our evolution. The development of artificial intelligence and the advances in the field of genetics pose two new and unprecedented challenges to humankind. So then why are education, research, and our approach to learning not adapting quickly enough in a world undergoing such major transformations? What is man’s place in a world of machines? How can we use technology to help develop our collective intelligence?

François Taddei calls for a (r)evolution of knowledge in his book. As he takes the reader on a journey through the twists and turns of the human brain, the learning process’ best friend and worst enemy, he suggests that we “learn to unlearn”. He proposes innovative ideas about how to learn with others, in a cooperative manner, just as other living organisms have done since the origins of life and explores all the necessary questions to ensure an evolution in society and education in line with scientific advances and new technologies.
Philosopher Yves Roucaute serves up a jubilant book, an ode to the revolution of the Contemporary Period. The fruit of extensive philosophical, historical and scientific research, this text looks back over the history of mankind. A fascinating account spanning from the gradual acceptance that life was created by nature, and not by some magical religious thinking born 12 000 years ago, to the modern day. "I am the One who creates", such is the modern man’s credo, in his new-found self-awareness. Farewell to the chimeric Homo sapiens, the opposition between "materialism” and "idealism", farewell "socialism", "liberalism", "utilitarianism", farewell to the apocalypse experts’ dismay.

The abolition of work and robots, bionic bodies and designer babies, cloning and cryopreservation, human enhancement and the eradication of diseases, teleporting and self-driving vehicles, the disappearance of the State and government, of war and the oppression of nations, collaborative economy and social media, the end of writing and educational training, the liberation of the female body, modern art and space exploration… The best is yet to come.

At once cheerful and erudite, intelligible and scholarly, this book sweeps away past illusions. Through thorough and humorous analysis, the author revisits fables and mythological stories. In a stand against relativism, he sets forth a new form of universal morality: "Me first, in agreement with myself."

"The world before us is wonderful.”
A bright answer to Yuval Noah Harari's Sapiens and Homo deus.

Yves Roucaute is a philosopher and professor, specialising in philosophy and political sciences at the University of Paris-X’s law school.
A leading artist of his time, Victor Vasarely left behind a rich body of work, with over ten thousand paintings. Fascinated by the Bauhaus artistic movement born in Germany in the 1920s, and a former student of Budapest’s Mühely, he went on to become a graphic artist with advertising agencies, such as Havas, and created his own style, op art or optical art, with the desire to promote a social form of art, accessible to all. He shot to stardom in the 60s and 70s, but gradually faded from memory following his death in 1997. Yet his work is essential – his influence can be felt in architecture, fashion, music - David Bowie used one of his paintings for the cover of his album, Space Oddity -, literature – Jacques Prévert dedicated his poem “Imaginoires” to him – and even automobiles, with Renault’s logo. At the height of his fame, he opened two museums in Hungary and a foundation in France. He gifted his work to them without imagining the inheritance battles this would open the door to after his death.

Pierre, his only grandson, tells his grandfather’s story for the first time - his incredible journey through life, his art, his loves, and the family and legal saga surrounding his inheritance.

Philippe Dana is a journalist, producer and television and radio presenter. He has published several books, including Ginette Kolinka with Editions Kero in 2016.

Pierre Vasarely, son of the artist Yvaral and Geneviève Dupin, is Victor Vasarely’s sole heir, and president of the Vasarely Foundation.
Laurent Gounelle is a writer and a specialist in the social sciences. His books exude his enthusiasm for philosophy, psychology and personal development. His previous novels have all become bestsellers and have been translated worldwide.

Previous title – Rights sold:

Le philosophe qui n’était pas sage (Kero, 2012)

French Sales:

Pocket (Paperback)
Audiolib (Audio-Book edition)
GLM (Book-club edition)
La Loupe (Large-Print edition)

Foreign sales:

Alma Littera (Lithuanian)
Azbooka-Atticus (Russian)
China Citic Press (simplified Chinese)
Colibri publisher (Bulgarian)
Goldmann (German)
Pegasus (Turkish)
Planeta (Spanish Worldwide)
Rybka (Czech)
Sperling & Kupfer Editori (Italian)
Trivium Kiado (Hungarian)
Yolimwon (Korean)
Alice’s life couldn’t be better. At 35, she has a happy marriage, is mother to a lovely little boy and enjoys an exciting and rewarding career.

Jérémie is in a darker place. Having followed his calling as a priest, he finds himself discouraged by the small number of souls who still attend mass at the church where he officiates. His dream was to help people along the stony path of life, but with only twelve willing to listen, his scope is somewhat limited.

Alice and Jérémie were childhood friends and went through thick and thin together in their native region of Burgundy. When Alice lost her mother, Jérémie offered an open ear and a shoulder to cry on. So of course Alice wants to help. Her job as a crisis manager is to counsel people with a PR problem - and what else would you call what Jérémie, and in a larger sense the Catholic church, are facing?

Ever the pragmatist, Alice, a professed atheist, plunges headfirst into the heretofore completely unknown world of spirituality and the teachings of the major religions. And to her amazement discovers the unsuspected wealth and inner richness human beings can possess if only they allow themselves to be open to finding them. Imperceptibly her own view of what makes a fulfilled life changes...
Laurent Gounelle
The Day I Was Taught How To Live
Le jour où j’ai appris à vivre

A radiant and joyful novel by bestselling author Laurent Gounelle

Recently divorced, father to little Chloé, Jonathan leads a home life that is prosaic enough. His professional life, however, is more taxing: for an insurance agent, every day is a struggle to make ends meet, in particular given trying economic circumstances. It’s not always possible to stick to one’s moral values. And the fact that Angela, his ex-wife, is also a partner at work, doesn’t make life any easier.

One summer’s day, while out on a stroll through the city, Jonathan has his palm read by a mystic who, visibly shaken, foretells his impending death. Although he does not really believe in these things, Jonathan is unsettled by this doom-laden announcement. Soon the thought begins to obsess him, to the point that he can no longer fulfil his duties at work as before. Jonathan starts to question the meaning of his life. What if everything were brought to an end tomorrow?

He leaves to recharge his batteries at his aunt’s, the wise and joyful Margie, a former biologist who founded a research institute for neuroscience and «unexplained» phenomena. During his stay, she puts Jonathan through a series of experiments based on real scientific observations. His time with her will turn Jonathan’s vision of life, his life, on its head.

A great feel-good novel which calls on us to assess our own lives and shows how we can be the architects of our own happiness.
René Manzor

He Whose Name Is No More

Celui dont le nom n’est plus

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 Stephen King and Michael Connelly, on the borderline between love and death, this thriller will leave its mark on you.

René Manzor is a scriptwriter, filmmaker and author. With just three novels, he has set himself apart as one of the new French thriller names and was awarded with the Prix Cognac du polar Francophone for Celui dont le nom n’est plus (Kero, 2014).

May 2014
396 pages

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 figure 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.
Highlights Kero Fiction

In a world facing rising temperatures and electricity shortages, business districts have risen up throughout the world. These highly-secure areas house employees from major companies in cosseted luxury. High walls and electric fences cut them off from the average citizens outside living in increasingly trying circumstances. These business districts have concentrated the majority of the world’s wealth, quickly becoming more powerful than the very states in which they are located.

To the point that the Spanish government has just sold one of their regions for the creation of the first company-state in the world, Evergreen. A UN council is poised to decide on whether to recognize this new country in a few weeks in New York. Susan Craft, US National Security Advisor, is determined to oppose the move, but to do so she must go up against Ted Muller-Smith, the formidable business districts representative who has already obtained the vote of the four other Member States. But this is also a world in which the rumblings of revolt are beginning to be heard, with a resistance movement forming. Young Max wants to join the struggle, and soon becomes swept up in a chain of events which threatens to not only turn his life upside down, but shake the very foundations of the Earth.

Philippe Nicholson has worked in the world of finance, written economic papers, been a crew member on Atlantic sailing expeditions and a consultant in the fields of marketing and finance. He has already published two novels: *Krach Party* (2009) and *Serenitas* (2012), with Carnets Nord.

Faced with the threat of a world governed by companies, divided in those who seek personal gain and those motivated by moral convictions, everyone will have to take a stand, either for or against the powers that be. Philippe Nicholson has written the definitive political thriller for the 21st Century.

Philippe Nicholson

Extramuros

February 2015

343 pages

Philippe Nicholson has worked in the world of finance, written economic papers, been a crew member on Atlantic sailing expeditions and a consultant in the fields of marketing and finance. He has already published two novels: *Krach Party* (2009) and *Serenitas* (2012), with Carnets Nord.

Extramuros

Faced with the threat of a world governed by companies, divided in those who seek personal gain and those motivated by moral convictions, everyone will have to take a stand, either for or against the powers that be. Philippe Nicholson has written the definitive political thriller for the 21st Century.

In a world facing rising temperatures and electricity shortages, business districts have risen up throughout the world. These highly-secure areas house employees from major companies in cosseted luxury. High walls and electric fences cut them off from the average citizens outside living in increasingly trying circumstances. These business districts have concentrated the majority of the world’s wealth, quickly becoming more powerful than the very states in which they are located.

To the point that the Spanish government has just sold one of their regions for the creation of the first company-state in the world, Evergreen. A UN council is poised to decide on whether to recognize this new country in a few weeks in New York. Susan Craft, US National Security Advisor, is determined to oppose the move, but to do so she must go up against Ted Muller-Smith, the formidable business districts representative who has already obtained the vote of the four other Member States. But this is also a world in which the rumblings of revolt are beginning to be heard, with a resistance movement forming. Young Max wants to join the struggle, and soon becomes swept up in a chain of events which threatens to not only turn his life upside down, but shake the very foundations of the Earth.
Lucile Paul-Chevance

Nassim’s Journey
L’Enfant de la Source

As inspiring as Paulo Coelho’s Alchemist, as charming as Raphaëlle Giordano’s books, Nassim’s Journey is a mind changing tale of self-discovery, a timeless fable, in which the reader embarks on a mindful adventure alongside a curious and sensitive boy.

Through each chapter of this bright bildungsroman, follow a young boy’s journey into the desert, bask in his wonderful encounters and listen to the teachings that are dispensed to him. Upon turning the last page, you will understand that, just like him, you have emerged from this novel stronger.

Nassim is a somewhat unique little boy. Intelligent and sensitive, he discovers on his fifth birthday that at times he can hear a voice: this voice, which he names Source, is an inner force that advises and helps him. He lives a happy and pampered life with his parents and sister, Naia, until one day, his father Ousmane, whose dream is for his son to take over the family business, entrusts his education to a tutor, and places him in the hands of Faisal, his insidious foreman. Caught between the tutor’s violence and the perverse manoeuvres of Faisal, Nassim decides to run away. He flees to the desert and meets a wayfarer, Malek, who takes him under his wing and introduces him to inner discovery and self-control.

Throughout his journey, Nassim meets a variety of spiritual masters who teach him the power of meditation, the ability to listen to his emotions and visualize happiness… and from each of those he meets along the way, from one discovery to the next, Nassim receives the greatest of life lessons.

Lucile Paul-Chevance is a coach and instructor. In France, she followed the teachings of Professor Alfred Tomatis on the method of sensory stimulation and those of Jean Laurent Cochet in theater. In India, for over ten years, she improved her knowledge of the body and energy systems from Ayurvedic physicians, yogis and martial arts masters. Lucile Paul-Chevance works in vocational training; she helps athletes, business leaders and artists cope with their activities, manage, create and develop their professional projects.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Laurence Peyrin has been a press reporter for twenty years. She now devotes her time to writing. Her first novel, La drôle de vie de Zelda Zonk, was awarded the Prix Maison de la presse in 2015. Since then, she has written four more novels published by Kero (Hannah, 2015) and Calmann-Lévy (Miss Cyclone, 2017, L’aile des vierges, 2018 and Ma Chérie, 2019).

The Secret Life Of Zelda Zonk
La drôle de vie de Zelda Zonk

What if anyone could change your life?

On a Tuesday like any other, on a road she had taken so many times, destiny lies in wait for Hanna. Heavy rain, a truck...then a terrible accident. In the hospital where she is bedridden for many long weeks, Hanna becomes close to her roommate, a feisty, 85-year-old woman with a sparkling personality and an indomitable spirit. But in spite of their budding friendship, Hanna senses something mysterious about Zelda, who dodges any real questions about her past. When Hanna's sister mentions that Zelda Zonk was the name that Marilyn Monroe used to escape from the public eye, Hanna starts to wonder...

But of course it’s ridiculous. Everybody knows that Marilyn Monroe has been dead for fifty years. And yet...

Hanna soon meets Zelda’s son, the seductive Michael, and her quiet, uneventful life is shaken to the core. All of a sudden, possibilities open up, but they come with dangers. After all, Hanna is happily married, isn't she? Shouldn't that be enough? But Hanna can no longer stop herself from thinking: if Zelda really was Marilyn, and she managed to swap the spotlight for a happier life in the shadows, can’t she try to change hers, too? Can anybody change their life if they dare to take the risk?

Hanna

After the success of La drôle de vie de Zelda Zonk, Prix Maison de la Presse 2015, former journalist Laurence Peyrin has written another delightful charmer of a novel, to be savored like one of Hanna’s cupcakes!

The Pemberley bookstore is where you can find that amazing book you didn’t know you wanted, where you can rest your feet and indulge in some delicious cupcakes. Hanna has turned the place into an oasis for weary travelers, for she is one herself. After a painful breakup, this is where she has come to recover with her little daughter Eleanor.

But Hanna has no idea that she is not the only one who is hiding something about her past. Her new husband, her sister and even her most faithful clients, old eccentric professor Allenwood and young Russian expat Elena, all of them are jealously guarding some secrets that will need only the tiniest spark to tear Hanna’s carefully constructed new life apart...
The loss of natural rhythms and values, a myriad of choices giving rise to desire and frustration, stress, alcoholism, materialism, fatigue, anxiety… Faced with these modern-day woes that seem to have multiplied in recent times, more and more people are turning towards ancient techniques such as yoga, meditation or acupuncture, as they search for a sense of peace. Indeed, whereas modern medicine targets a specific ailment, dividing the body and mind and thus doing little for psychosomatic troubles, these alternative methods consider man as an undividable entity, to be treated as a whole.

Lionel Coudron, a doctor and yoga instructor for over thirty years, believes that our bodies and minds are in constant interaction with one another, and must therefore be treated simultaneously. Rather than some miracle solution, this book lays out tools from different ancient cultures, enriched with the most recent scientific discoveries, to act upon the five aspects that shape us: our environment, our body, our emotions, our mind and our relationship with others and the world. Tips and simple exercises that call upon our natural resources, such as breathing, stretching or positive thinking, in order to return to what should be our natural state of being: a calm mind and a peaceful body.
Béatrice Huret & Catherine Sigueret

Calais, My Love

Calais mon amour

This is the tale of an extraordinary encounter between two fundamentally different people: a woman, who’s been living an ordinary life and who, for the love of a migrant, lets go of her prejudices, moves mountains and rages battles against absurd laws until she is assigned with a fiche S. In return, he teaches her courage, strength, dignity, and gives her back a taste for forgotten love, along with an even more valuable taste for truth, which she has decided to share today.

Béatrice Huret is a former caregiver turned adult educator. She lives on the outskirts of Calais with her son and her mother. She has been placed under court supervision and assigned a fiche “S” for “helping a foreigner in an organized group illegally enter, circulate or stay in France.” She is currently awaiting a new trial.

Béatrice’s life was never meant to take a turn onto the risky paths of the Jungle: an adult educator, the widow of a policeman, she lives with her 16 year-old son and her 76 year-old mother in a great big house on the outskirts of town. A nice and quiet existence far removed from the “jungle” in Calais, where over 9,000 people are crammed in the most precarious conditions. One day, Béatrice picks up a young migrant hitchhiker who asks her to drop him off there. She witnesses children playing in the mud and her entire world turns upside down. To begin with, through material solidarity: she appeals for donations and distributes blankets and food inside the jungle. Then, in February of 2016, a group of Iranians sew their mouths together to protest against their living conditions. Amongst them, Mokhtar, their spokesman, who’d arrived in France in the fall of 2015 after crossing the Mediterranean in a makeshift boat. Béatrice, who has become a regular visitor, redoubles her efforts and support. She starts bringing water to those who have stitched their own mouths and her eyes meet those of Mokhtar. A regular host of the No Borders who is under close scrutiny by the police asks Béatrice if she can host the Iranian for some time. Béatrice accepts: Mokhtar is an intellectual, a Persian teacher. After hours on end of unbridled discussions with the help of “Google translate”, Béatrice and Mokhtar move on from simple glances to a full-blown love story. For a month, their love knows no bounds. But their time is limited by Mokhtar’s imminent departure towards England on a makeshift boat, despite Béatrice’s misgivings.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Condensed edition ( Sélection du Reader’s Digest)

Foreign sales: Rizzoli (Italian)

Option on Movie Adaptation (Super 8)
Allan and Daniel Knoll are Mireille Knoll’s sons, who was murdered on March 23rd 2018 in an eastern neighbourhood of Paris. Two suspects were charged with murder of an antisemitic nature in the days following her death.

In March 2018, Mireille Knoll, an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor, is stabbed to death in her Parisian home on Avenue Philippe Auguste. Her tragic murder highlights the need for an urgent discussion about antisemitism. But Daniel and Allan Knoll refuse to allow their mother to be turned into a simple religious or ideological symbol. For above all else, Mireille Knoll was a woman, a mother and a grandmother. Her whole life cried freedom, both to think and act, well ahead of the times. Her entire existence embodies the possibility for cosmopolitanism, from her origins to her descendants. Her Russian father, who lived part of his life in Brazil, and her Polish mother, met in the Parisian neighbourhood of Sentier in the 1920s. As for Mireille, she married an undocumented Bulgarian immigrant, before meeting the man who would make her happy for ten years, a former deportee who died three years ago. Her son Daniel, who describes himself as an agnostic Jew, has been married three times, the third to a Catholic Filipino he met in Jerusalem with “faith enough for two”, the second to a Belarussian, and the first to a French woman with Turkish and Algerian origins. Together they have three daughters, all now living in Israel. Inspired by their cosmopolitan family and its love for love, the two brothers have sought to erect a monument to life, instead of giving in to the temptation of a monument to death.

Daniel and Allan Knoll deliver an ode to life in homage to their mother, Mireille Knoll, who enjoyed her own to the fullest before being murdered on the 23rd March 2018 for being Jewish.
Over the last thirty years, Loïc Lerenard has recorded over 600 victories at racecourses all around France – Vichy, Saint-Galmier, Cagnes-sur-Mer... and of course Vincennes, the temple of trotting. A life of high-level competition, marked by triumphs, but also setbacks and adversity, such as the epidemic that struck down his stable. Passionate about his work, he takes the reader behind the scenes of this high-performance sport.

How do you prepare a horse for those few minutes of intense physical effort in a trotting race? How do you manage a schedule that involves travelling 100 000 km per year in a van or a truck? Who do the trotters belong to, and how are the costs and winnings shared out? Loïc Lerenard also introduces us to the punters, whether casual or semi-professional, draws up the portrait of some of the major stud farm owners, and provides insight into the secrets of the trotting world’s governing bodies. He seizes the opportunity to evoke the lively debates within the sport, whose financial resources, funded by the quintessential French horse racing betting company, the PMU, have come under threat by competing online betting services.

Loïc Lerenard’s passion, his love and knowledge of horses, his perseverance and loyalty to the values instilled in him by his father, but also the precarious nature of his profession, where nothing can ever be taken for granted and one accident or epidemic can bring everything crashing down, all form the major themes in this richly anecdotal account, in turn delicious and dramatic.
In thirty years, Éric Perez has held almost every “field” position within the penitentiary administration – prison officer, then governor, team leader within the ERIS (regional intervention and security teams) who restore order in prisons, and finally supervisor of the central visiting hall and manager of the young offender’s unit at the Fleury-Mérogis Prison, the biggest penitentiary centre in Europe. The prison world, so grim and uninviting for many, holds no secrets for him. “Behind the walls” a constant power struggle, both physical and psychological, reigns between inmates and guards.

He describes his professional journey, interspersed with crises and confrontations, at times subdued, at times violent, and draws up a typology of inmates – Tough guys, radicalised, minors, white collars, VIPs… Each of these categories must be dealt with according to specific criteria and with understanding, but always firmly, with dignity, and the set idea that the law must always prevail.

Incidents, rebellions, accidents, suicides, disasters (the escape of Antonio Ferrera, a key figure in French organised crime, assisted by an armed commando in Fresnes in March 2003), frictions with the upper management… Éric Perez has lived through it all and recounts his experiences with calm and humility, but also pride, elevating as such this poorly regarded, and yet essential, line of work.
Eveleen Valadon

My Thoughts As Butterflies

Mes pensées sont des papillons

For the very first time, an Alzheimer’s patient tells her story.

"About this illness, I can say one thing: it is as if I had jet lag all the time. When you get the flu, you get fever. But here, the pain is invisible. I am endlessly in this jet lag sensation and my concentration capacities are foggy. To explain this to you, I have deeply, deeply delved. And that is my conclusion. My illness it’s a full-time jet lag, you are here without actually being here. And nevertheless, I continue trying to be in truth inside semblance."

It is a scourge that affects over 31 million people throughout the world – with 5 million new cases diagnosed every year. A disease that fills people with fear and of which we only have an outside view, that of doctors or loved ones. We have never heard the voice of its victims and it is excruciatingly difficult to grasp what men and women suffering from this pathology are going through. Because they hide, protect themselves, from their own distress but also from the eyes of others.

Eveleen Valadon was diagnosed four years ago. She can remember the past quite clearly, but her short-term memory sometimes fails her. She still lives alone and is autonomous. Her book describes her struggle against an illness that she refuses to name. She tells us, in her name and on behalf of all the others, that she is neither insane nor aggressive, and that this illness bears so many stereotypes that badly hurt those afflicted. This book is, for Evelyn, a way to find herself again, but also her challenge: to show her internal enemy that she will not be erased.
Philippe Vandel is a writer and journalist. He has written eight books, including Les Pourquoi en images, published by Kero in 2012. He presents two radio programmes on France Info, “Tout et son contraire” (Everything and its opposite) from Monday to Friday and “Les Pourquoi du weekend” (The Whys of the weekend). He is also a presenter on French TV channel D8 on Cyril Hanouna’s daily talk show “Touche pas à mon poste”, and hosts the live Monday night programme on Sport 365.

Curiosity did not kill the cat...

Philippe Vandel tackles some of the questions you have always asked yourself without ever knowing the answer. To be enjoyed by the whole family and curious souls of all ages!

Why was the baguette only invented in France?
Why do cobras dance in front of snake charmers?
Why do men fall asleep after making love?
Why is black slimming?
Why do we eat with a fork?
Why are wedding rings worn on the ring finger?

Everyone has noticed. But no one knows why.

This book is made up of adult answers to children’s questions. Or maybe it’s the other way around. The questions can be read one at a time – but it can also be very hard to stop.

The “Why” Illustrated
Les pourquoi en images
Illustrations by Cathy Karsent and Madd

The “Why” of Sports
Les pourquoi du sport
Illustrated by Martin Vidberg, cartoonist for L’Équipe.

Following the success of The “Whys” Illustrated (Les Pourquoi en images), Philippe Vandel returns with new questions on the world of sports that you’ve always asked yourself without ever getting any answers:

Why did the Brazilians invent dribbling? Why is the marathon 42.195 kilometers long? Why are all sports socks fluorescent? Why is the checkered flag the emblem for victory? Why does a golf course have 18 holes? Why is there a tennis tournament in Wimbledon?

Everyone has noticed. No one knows why. The “whys” are adult answers to kid’s questions. But also the opposite. The “whys” can be read one by one. But they’re also great to read all in one sitting. To be enjoyed with the whole family, for curious minds of all ages.
“The Dictionary of my Life” Series

From A to Z, a gallery of famous personalities put the spotlight on their intimate life and describe their world through their own alphabet. Each of them unique, each of them full of discoveries, the “Dictionary of my life” series dives into the intimacy of those usually seen in the public scene.

Claude Lelouch, born in 1937, is widely known as a filmmaker, screenwriter and producer. The 50 films and more on which he collaborated, including A Man and a Woman, Life for Life or Les Misérables, have received several major awards.

Patrice Leconte is a French author and film director. Trained as a draftsman, the author of many short films and advertising spots, Patrice Leconte broke through in 1977 with the movie Les Bronzès. His career to date as a film director and screenwriter includes more than thirty five films among which figure The Hairdresser’s Husband, Monsieur Hire, The Girl on the Bridge and Ridicule, productions that have garnered both critical and public acclaim.

Born in 1931, Michael Lonsdale has been a fixture in French and international cinema since the 1950s, starring in Nouvelle Vague films like François Truffaut’s The Bride Wore Black (1967), but also in major Hollywood productions (James Bond, The Name of the Rose). He also pursues a career in theatre, both as an actor and director. In 2011 he was awarded a César for his role in Of Gods and Men by Xavier Beauvois.

Born in Cairo, Louis Chedid dedicated himself to the film industry before starting singing, from which he won an undeniable success. He released seventeen albums, one musical tale (Le soldat rose), directed short films and has composed several film soundtracks as well. He also wrote 40 berges blues (éditions Flammarion, 1992) as well as a collection of short stories entitled Des Vies et des poussières and published by Calmann-Lévy in 2016.

Claude Lelouch

Patrice Leconte

Michael Lonsdale

Louis Chedid
Born in 1951 in Paris, Gérard Jugnot is a French comedian, director, actor and screenwriter. One of France's best-loved celebrities, he is well known for being a member of the Splendid, a group of comedians who starred in comedies such as Les Bronzés or Le Père Noël est une ordure. Gérard Jugnot is also very much involved in the charity organization Rire Médecin, whose aim is to bring laughter and joy to children in hospitals.

Michel Leeb is a French actor, singer and comedian. Famously known for his impersonations and one-man-shows, he performed in several films and stage productions where he even played the role of the well-loved Mrs Doubtfire. He is also very fond of jazz music and distinguished himself by singing with the Count Basie Orchestra and the Big Band Brass.

Eric Dupond-Moretti is a French criminal defense lawyer renowned for the impressive amount of acquittals he won. Amongst many other clients, he was in charge of defending Yvan Colonna, Jérôme Kerviel, Bernard Tapie, Karim Benzema, Nikola Karabatic, Jean Castela or even Roselyne Godard (during the d’Outreau trial).

Gérard Darmon is a French-Moroccan actor and singer. He is famously known in France thanks to films such as Le Grand Pardon, Les Princes, 37°2 le matin, Astérix et Obélix : Mission Cléopâtre, La Cité de la peur or Le Cœur des hommes. Born from a Jewish family, Gérard Darmon holds dear his faith and his culture. He is a man of conviction, authentic, proud of his life and his career.