FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2019
Rights List

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Éditions Calmann-Lévy
CALMANN-LÉVY

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Marc Citti - Sergeant Papa
Christine Desrousseaux - Waiting For The Snow
Philippe Hayat - Where the World's Heart Beats
Denis Jeambar - And Mara Closed her Eyes
Erik L’Homme - A Bit of Night in Broad Daylight
Camille de Peretti - The Blood of the Mirabelles
Cécile Pivot - Heartbeats
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Émilie de Turckheim - The Prince and the Tea Cup
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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 reopen 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.

“An erudite and poetic journey through the great paintings of the end of the 19th century, in which Baltassat writes of the influence that Berthe Morisot’s aesthetics left on Paul Valéry, touch by touch. A novel best read in a museum, amidst masterpieces.”

- Zoé Courtois, Le Monde des Livres

“A true quest for beauty.”

- Cosmopolitan
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
Christine Desrousseaux

Waiting for the Snow

En attendant la neige

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...

Christine Desrousseaux works as a copywriter in advertising, alongside which she has written several crime novels, short stories and children’s books, before moving into general literature. Her last novel, Mer agitée, was published in 2017.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Large print (Libra Diffusio)

"With a soft atmosphere and a refined writing style, Christine Desrousseaux gifts us with a gloomy but life-saving novel."

- Page des libraires
Struck by muteness after witnessing his father’s violent death, Darius Zaken grows up in Tunis in the 1930s, raised by his mother Stella who sacrifices everything to forge him a great destiny. As the young boy strives to live up to expectations, a swinging clarinet comes and disturbs the maternal nest. Darius discovers he has an irresistible gift for this instrument that gives him a voice once more. The possibility of a new life, brighter and more intense, opens up before him.

Excerpt:
“He lifted the mouthpiece to his lips. The first notes turned the basement into a funfair. They silenced the prayers. Darius felt every face turn towards him, taken aback by this sudden joy countering the bombs. His mother stared at him, speechless. He had disturbed the prayers, interrupted the elders... After eight bars, he stopped, abashed. Those few chords had stunned the community. From the other side of the basement, somebody cried out:
"Why are you stopping?"
Then another:
"Play, son, play!"
Then yet another:
"Play louder than the war!"
Darius turned towards his mother, who shrugged her shoulders.
"If it makes them happy..."
So, he let a deafening noise burst from his cornet. The apocalyptic atmosphere inspired him, the audience asking for more inflamed him. He served them his best jazz, the original, that of the New Orleans founding fathers, that splattered across America’s towns, that jazz that, within the depths and desolation of darkness, could rekindle hope, a glimmer, a touch of insouciance."
During this month of April, Mara Mendel, a twenty-nine-year-old bright criminal lawyer at the Paris bar, prepares for the most difficult plea of her life: the Sajâh Yildirim case. The fate of this woman, who fatally stabbed her husband ten times, lies in Mara’s hands. She alone sees her as innocent, a victim even. Because for Mara, this is not a simple crime of passion. Over the past ten years, as Sajâh’s husband became secretly radicalised, and with the view of leading his wife down the same path, he subjected her to a life of torture. Once a loving partner, he became hateful, then threatening, before falling into violence. Sajâh killed him to protect herself, and by doing so, she also protected others from a man ready to launch an attack. Which is what Mara wants to demonstrate.

The trial is appallingly harsh, as Mara expected. There is no shortage of intimidation techniques. But in a fierce plea, Mara proves that Abdullah Yildirim, a well-respected man in his public life, was in fact a persecutor, a time bomb, a terrorist about to strike. Verdict: ten years in prison including seven without parole. A victory.

Two months later, a bomb-laden lorry rams into Mara’s offices, in the centre of Paris. Everything explodes. The losses are heavy; her parents, her grandmother, her associate Agatha, all dead. Mara is seriously injured. After many hours in the operating theatre and days of uncertainty, she emerges from her coma.

On that day, she decides to seek revenge. Forgetting justice or legal system, she moves on to the law of retaliation. She has nothing left to lose. Igor, one of Mara’s former colleagues, wants in to avenge Agatha, whom he loved. After an intensive training course with the Israeli secret services, Mara and Igor take action. But how can peace be found at the end of this blood-stained path?
Paris is invaded by perpetual darkness and abandoned to the primary instincts of certain inhabitants organised into clans. Nature is slowly dying, the trees and plants have given way to tortured branches, desperately twisting in search of an inaccessible light. Feral is one of the few in this violent urban world to remember the ancient times. He is also extremely skilled in the hand-to-hand combats that henceforth oppose the strongest clan members during expiatory ritual gatherings.

It is during one of these fights that Feral meets the beautiful Livie, who exudes freedom and strength. Their love is instant, passionate, whole. But Feral's destiny comes crashing down onto this young woman, who is not free to love.

A literary gem, A Bit of Night in Broad Daylight, explores our deteriorating world, the savage side of man and the ineluctability of fate. Those crossroads when one must choose between a long, conventional existence and the brevity of an exhilarating life.
Camille de Peretti was born in 1980 in Paris. She has written six novels, including *Thornytorinx* (awarded the Prix du Premier Roman de Chambéry for debut novels) and *Blonde à forte poitrine* (Kero, 2016).

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 Adelaïde 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.

"Camille de Peretti brilliantly takes on the challenge of transforming a story set in long gone Medieval times into a topical and powerful historical tale."

– Flavie Philipon, *Elle*
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?

"A delicate and heartending analysis of our weaknesses."
– I.P., Madame Figaro

"In this universal first novel filled with sensitivity, Cécile Pivot hands us a microscope to observe the signs of wear capable of threatening the most beautiful love stories."
– H.R., Version Femina
“Yes, family is good, reassuring, it sticks together and provides a ritual setting within which you grow into adulthood. Family is, often, harmful, suffocating, unfair, snide, it’s the jungle rule of the every-man-for-himself; you can lose your mind, your life. What do you think, little brother?”

Yann sees his younger brother Tanguy again after years of silence one snowy evening, in a hospital room. A delicate medical procedure scheduled the following day had pushed the youngest brother to call his sibling. In the hospital room, the two brothers begin to talk; about their lives, their memories, a family history still heavily weighed down by the unsaid. And this goes on all night. A passionate story about brotherhood, each person’s place within the family, but also a caustic dialogue between two brothers as they finally speak to one another from the heart.
Yann Queffélec, a writer, is the author of many books. His second novel, Les Noces barbares, was awarded with the Prix Goncourt in 1985.

“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.

"An amused diary of a cohabitation filled with all sorts of exchanges. The narrative is funny and describes a shack, its hosts and its habits (...) through trust and imagination, this little community makes up its own harmony."
- CLD, Libération

"This book gives the Rentrée littéraire a particular brightness, made up of understanding, solidarity, fraternity and love. Of joy, optimism and happiness."
- Jean-Claude Vantroyen, Le Soir

"An urge to say no to the hardships of times."
- Madame Figaro
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.

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

– B. Atlan, L’Obs.
Highlights
Commercial Fiction
Roxane Dambre

A Dream Flat (Boyfriend Included)

Un appart de rêve (amoureux compris)

Love, ghosts and espionage – the hilarious adventures of an intrepid young Parisian woman.

Roxane Dambre, 30, has been writing for as long as she can remember. Despite working as an industrial process engineer, she dedicates all her free time to writing. Her first series, ANIMAE, was translated in the United States and received the Readers Choice Award 2015 from the Antre-Monde book store, and the Golden Pen 2015, category New Pen (Nouvelle Plume). Her SCORPI series, published in 2016, has also won her several awards, including the Grand Prix de l’Imaginaire 2017.

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...
Marie-Bernadette Dupuy

Marie-Bernadette Dupuy, best-selling author, was born and raised in Charente, where she still resides. A multi-talented writer, she successfully addresses the most diverse genres such as historical biographies, thrillers, romances, locally-based novels, epic family sagas. In France, in 2018, over 500,000 copies of her books were sold!

The Orphan of Manhattan
L’Orpheline de Manhattan

THE NEW SAGA BY THE FRENCH BESTSELLING AUTHOR MARIE-BERNADETTE DUPUY!

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 spoiled 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?
Marie-Bernadette Dupuy

The Lights of Broadway
Les Lumières de Broadway

1900. Élisabeth is fleeing her grandfather and the Guerville Château in Charente aboard an ocean liner, carrying her back to America. By her side, her fiancé, the detective Richard Johnson. With affection and kindness, he helps her regain her self-confidence and faith in love. The captain even celebrates a quick wedding between the two lovebirds on the boat. But a violent storm breaks out and the young husband disappears at sea. This new stroke of fate, that Élisabeth had foreseen in a dream, destroys her. Only the support and unfailing love of the Woolworths, her adoptive parents, helps her piece herself back together.

Newly widowed, the young woman rediscovers New York, in full expansion. As her gift develops, she senses a supernatural presence inside the Dakota Building, where the Woolworths live. But this semblance of serenity is short-lived as, following a terrible ordeal that leads her to death’s door, the young woman sets off in search of the truth; in a dramatic turn of events, an accident on Broadway turns her destiny upside down and shakes everything she once believed in...

The Hudson River’s Tears
Les Larmes de l’Hudson

As New York gradually fades away behind the boat taking her back to France, Élisabeth Woolworth dreams of an impossible happiness.

Upon arriving on her ancestors’ land, she settles near the family castle, which now belongs to Justin, Élisabeth’s grandfather’s natural son. But the running of the vineyard seems to elude the young man, so much so that Élisabeth decides to take over the reins. At 27 years of age, Élisabeth proves herself to be a woman of both heart and mind. She pours all her passion and enthusiasm into the estate. Troubled by Justin, whom she cannot forget and who she refuses to see as an uncle, Élisabeth works tirelessly to keep the Laroche torch burning.

Evidently enamoured, the two observe one another, but are held back by this kinship that they begin to doubt. Upon deciding to investigate the circumstances surrounding Justin’s birth, they discover new secrets.

As the mysteries shrouding the Laroche family grow thicker, Élisabeth asks herself: will she ever, one day, experience true love?
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.

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 hers 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 62, 63 and 64).
Eddie, 35 years old, lives alone in Montmartre, Paris, in a tiny apartment where you have to climb on a chair to glimpse part of the Sacré-Coeur’s dome. Orphaned at the age of sixteen, she has built herself a life of detachment and invisibility, to keep both misfortune and happiness at bay.

One day, a charming notary announces that she is the sole beneficiary of a very old Italian man and the inheritor of a farm in ruins in the Parma region, in Emilia-Romagna.

Although the thought had never crossed her mind before, Eddie feels the urge to flee Paris, her monotonous life, and to get to know her roots. And, why not, begin a new life there.

Is it a sudden whim or a poker move to seduce the attractive notary? Be that as it may, she decides to fly to Italy for a weekend that could well last longer…

Little does she know when setting off to discover this mysterious inheritance and explore the beautiful Italian region, that the course of her life will be turned upside down. And that her shell, as thick as the sarcophagus of an atomic plant, will crack, leading to a nuclear – or romantic – catastrophe…

What if you inherited a kingdom in ruins in Italy?
A bright and joyful novel about rewriting one’s life and the power of love.
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...
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.
October 2018
400 pages

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).

Apocryphal

French sales:
Paperback (Pocket)
Book-Club (France Loisirs)

Foreign sales:
Hemiro (Russian)

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.

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

My Darling

*Ma Chérie*

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.
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 19th 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?

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

Laurence Peyrin

The Virgins’ Wing

L’aile des vierges

April 2018
350 pages

French sales:
Paperback (Pocket)
Large print (A Vue d’Oeil)
Book-Club (Le Grand Livre du Mois and France Loisirs)
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.
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.
Françoise Bourdon
The Secret of Belle Epine
Le secret de Belle Epine

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.

Élise Fischer
Easter Wine
Le vin de Pâques
The portrait of a woman on a quest for freedom, in contemporary Lorraine.

In Villey-Saint-Etienne, a small village in eastern France, it is tradition to distribute wine to the inhabitants every year on Easter Day. Annelise, a journalist, is sent to cover the event by her editor. It is the perfect opportunity for her to escape her life for a while, disrupted by an unfaithful husband, two grown children leaving home and an elderly father losing his independence, locked in silence.

En route to the Toul vineyards, memories flood back to Annelise, taking her thirty years back. To that summer, in 1969, when she had led a scout camp nearby. An enchanted interlude during which she experienced her first love... Why had she relinquished this boy she loved?

Plunged into her memories, Annelise starts to become aware of the cloak of secrets and prohibitions that have forever weighed upon her shoulders. Can she still free herself from the past? And if so, at what cost?

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.
A dark judicial enigma in 19th century Normandy.

In November 1872, on the heights of Rouen, the murder of a ten-year-old boy, Delphin Luce, sends shockwaves through Normandy.

The child was killed in the middle of the night, as he was walking home from the weaving mill where he worked. Justine Boulard, a young worker who accompanied him that night, was savagely beaten. But she survived.

When she is well enough to speak, Justine is incapable of describing their attacker in detail. Then, much to everyone’s surprise, she points the finger at her supervisor, Adolphe Neveu, a family man with an honourable reputation.

Should she be believed? The magistrate in charge of the case must shed light upon some very dark mysteries, and deal with weak witness accounts, events shrouded in ambiguity and the ghosts of the recent Prussian occupation... And eventually, he will guide the sword of justice over an unexpected culprit...

Born in Dinan, Yves Jacob lives in Normandy. He is the author of thirty or so books, including the hugely successful Marie sans terre published in 2003 (56 000 copies sold – source GFK). Honoured twice by the Académie Française, he has won numerous awards including the Prix Guillaume-le-Conquérant, the great Prix de la Ville de Rennes and the 2004 Prix du Roman Populaire.

A young French woman in the turmoil of the Spanish Civil War.

Summer 1936, the world is getting ready to compete in the eleventh summer Olympic Games in Berlin. But the German political landscape pushes the Popular Front’s France to consider joining the boycott of these Olympiads and send its athletes to the antifascist and popular Games being prepared in Barcelona. In Paris, Madeleine, a student nurse and passionate long-distance runner, takes part in the qualifying events.

When the National Assembly finally votes in favour of Berlin, Madeleine defies the decision and boards a train for Barcelona. There she meets antifascist athletes from all around the world. They come together at the hotel, the stadium where they train, in bars, the streets. But the day before the opening ceremony, Franco launches his military coup d’état.

Torn between Alix, a Catalan separatist and Giovanni, an Italian communist, Madeleine joins forces with the Republicans and finds herself swept up in the turmoil engulfing Spain...

Hélène Legrais, who studied journalism, was born in Perpignan. She worked for the French radio station France Inter and on the editorial team for Europe 1, before returning to her Catalonia birth place and devoting herself to writing.
Jean-Paul Malaval

Such a Beautiful Marriage

Un si joli mariage

Behind the scenes of an all too perfect marriage

Low on money, Joëlle drops out of her literature course at the university of Bordeaux and seeks refuge at her father’s house in Périgueux. He is of no great help, so Joëlle decides to accept a domestic staff position with the owners of the Conserves Dufournelle, a large foie gras producer. The eldest son Geoffroy is getting married to one of the best matches in town, in the highly anticipated event of the year. Alice, the groom’s father’s new wife, is not displeased to see her step-son, who despises her, move away. But as her husband keeps her in the dark about the wedding preparations, a marital and family crisis soon breaks out. Isolated, Alice finds comfort alongside Joëlle, who becomes her confidante. Despite herself, the young employee finds herself at the centre of a conflict that stretches far beyond her...

A sharp and ironic insight into the microcosm of a provincial town, through a story of troubled friendship between two women from antagonistic social backgrounds.

After completing his bachelor of arts, Jean-Paul Malaval became a journalist and notably wrote for Le Nouvel Observateur, before devoting his time to literature. He has written over thirty novels that have established him as one of the greatest observers of Provincial France both old and new. Born in Brive, he now lives in Corrèze.

Jean-Paul Malaval

Blue Fountain Street

Rue de la fontaine bleue

The new struggles of a former Resistance fighter, from within the editorial board of a newspaper in the wake of the Liberation.

As the political landscape pieces itself back together after the dark hours of the Second World War, four former members of the Resistance decide to set up a newspaper, on Rue de la Fontaine Bleue, to support the municipal opposition, placing one of their own at its head, Rose Cipriani.

Convincing the shareholders proves to be no easy task, especially with rumours about the origin of the daily newspaper’s funds swirling around; it is alleged the financing came from a hold-up, carried out by Resistance fighters in the final hours of combat.

The challenges mount for Rose. The 1950’s journalism industry, primarily male, is reluctant to accept a woman at the head of a newspaper, making no exceptions for Rose, whom the war had already not spared. Busy bypassing the manoeuvres of those who want to oust her, she struggles to forget the man she was madly in love with, Adrien, shot by the Gestapo. Her life is turned upside down when she meets Frédérick, one of Adrien’s best friends within the Combat network, for whom she is seized by an all-consuming passion, losing the lucidity she so badly needs to keep her opponents at bay.
Éric Le Nabour

Cécile and the Beaujour

The 1900s. Cécile leads a happy adolescent life in a villa on the outskirts of Nantes, in the West of France. Along with her sister Juliette, she is raised by her mother Mathilde and her grandmother Noémie, both widows. No man is allowed to enter this jealously feminine environment, and nothing remains of those who left them; not even one photograph of the deceased father or paternal grandfather, a wealthy wine merchant who went bankrupt and took his own life to wash his honour. Or so goes the story that prevails within the family… until a maid surreptitiously shows Cécile a letter, written by her grandfather, dated long after his alleged suicide.

Naive yet indomitable, the young girl is far from suspecting the terrible revelation towards which her quest for the truth will lead her…

Born in 1960 in Caen, Éric Le Nabour started writing from childhood and published his first novel at the age of 19. A graduate and history enthusiast, he is the author of many historical books and novels, such as Retour à Tinténiac, La Louve de Lorient, À l’ombre de nos larmes, Les Étés de la colère, published by Calmann-Lévy.

Jean Siccardi

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…

Author of over 60 books, Jean Siccardi is a virtuoso when it comes to defending his country, the Provence mountains, from certain stereotypes: far from the farniente and dolce vita it often evokes, it is for him a land of toil, discipline and passion.
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...

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Suspense Fiction
Pierre Lemaitre


Suspense Fiction

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.

Pomme Production

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.

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

Spanish sales: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Book-club editions (GLM & France Loisirs), Audiobook (CDL)

WINNER OF THE 2010 PRIX DU POLAR EUROPÉEN - LE POINT
TRANSLATED IN 14 LANGUAGES
TV SERIES ADAPTATION: MANDARIN TV

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!
OPTION FOR A TV SERIES ADAPTATION: POMME PRODUCTION

Inhuman Resources

French sales: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Book club (France Loisirs), Audiobook (Le Livre Qui Parle), Comic book adaptation (Rue de Sèvres)

Spanish sales: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Book club (France Loisirs), Audiobook (Le Livre Qui Parle), Comic book adaptation (Rue de Sèvres)

English translation available

Si la traduction vous intéresse, nous sommes à votre disposition.

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

Spanish sales: Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Book-club editions (GLM & France Loisirs), Audiobook (CDL)

Winner of the 2010 Prix du Polar Européen - Le Point
Translated in 14 Languages

TV Series adaptation: Mandarin TV

A Masterpiece translated in 20 Languages!
Option for a TV Series Adaptation: Pomme Production

Inhuman Resources
Cadres Noirs
February 2010 - 350 p.


Suspense Fiction

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.

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Jérôme Loubry

Born in Saint-Amand-Morond, Jérôme Loubry, grew up fascinated by the millions of books coming out of the factory where his aunt used to work. There, his passion for writing was born. He now resides in the South of France.

The Refuges

Les refuges

A complex and addictive thriller about past wounds.

Sandrine, a journalist at a daily local newspaper in Normandy, learns of the death of her maternal grandmother, Suzanne, whom she never knew. According to her mother, Suzanne was crazy and lived on an island that nobody, not even her family, could persuade her to leave.

In order to retrieve Suzanne’s belongings, Sandrine makes her way to the grey and cold island, off the Channel coast. She discovers a handful of inhabitants who had settled there at the end of the Second World War. Everyone describes her grandmother as a lovely person. Like them, she arrived on the island in 1946, to work on a holiday camp for children whose families had been made vulnerable by the war. The camp closed just a few months after opening following a terrible accident that killed all the children, but neither Suzanne nor the other employees ever left.

In a few hours, Sandrine realises that the inhabitants are hiding a secret. They are terrified of something or someone that seems to be preventing them from leaving the island, as though they were prisoners... Little by little, Sandrine understands that she too could well be the victim of this threat, of this Erlkönig from Goethe’s poem that they all talk about. The one who seems to orchestrate all the island’s woes, from the accident to Suzanne’s death.

A few days later, Sandrine is found wandering a beach on the mainland, her clothes covered in someone else’s blood, mumbling fragments of memories about her experience on the island. The police takes charge of the investigation, faced with a story that makes no sense: no island on the coast ever hosted a holiday camp that turned to disaster, and the people Sandrine describes appear to have never existed. Only one name mirrors a real person, an old farmer Sandrine interviewed before learning of her grandmother’s death... To understand the truth, Lieutenant Damien Bouchard will have to explore Sandrine’s memories, at the risk of intermingling his own...
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.

"After The Hounds of Detroit, a thriller unanimously recognized as a revelation, Jérôme Loubry promises an even darker novel, on the ghosts of childhood."
- Le Berry Républicain
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

SOLD IN 24 TERRITORIES:

Hachette Antoine (Arabic), Albatros Media (Czech), Albatros Media (Poland), Alianza de Novelas (Spanish worldwide), Balgunesang (Korean), Baltos Lankos (Lithuanian), Business Weekly (Chinese Complex characters), Dioptra (Greek), Eksmo (Russian), Hemiro (Ukrainian), Iztok Zapad (Bulgarian), Kinneret Zmora (Hebrew), La Nave di Teseo (Italian), L&PM (Portuguese - Brazil), Leo Commerce (Croatian), Nha Nam (Vietnamese), Nova Knjiga (Montenegrin), Park Kiado (Hungarian), Piper Verlag (German), Qanun (Azerbaijani), Shueisha (Japanese), Toper (Macedonian), Trei Editura (Romanian), Vulkan (Serbian)

French sales:
Book-Club (France Loisirs and, Le Grand Livre du Mois), Paperback (Le Livre de Poche), Audiobook (Audiolib)

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.
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), Balgunesang (Korean), Baltos Iankos (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), Audiobook (Audiolib), Club (France Loisirs and Le Grand Livre du Mois), Large Print (Libra Diffusio), edition adapted for dyslexic readers (Les éditions des terres rouges)

Praise for La Jeune Fille et la Nuit (The Reunion):

“This immensely satisfying thriller about a prep school scandal and three friends’ buried secrets had me turning the pages well into the night. The Reunion has everything a masterful thriller should: gut-wrenching suspense, a twisting story with blindsiding surprises, and a narrator with a mysterious past. It’s no wonder that Guillaume Musso is one of France’s most loved, bestselling authors.”

- Harlan Coben


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...
Elsa Roch

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.”

The Ogre’s Kiss

Le baiser de l’ogre - Superintendant Marsac Series Book 3

Paris, in Autumn. A man is found dead in the stairwell of his building, killed by a bullet in his mouth. By his side, Lise Brugguer, a young policewoman from the Marsac unit, lies between life and death. Despite being seriously injured, she managed to call Marsac. When he arrives, she makes him promise two things; to keep her presence at the crime scene a secret, and to look after her three year old daughter Liv, a mysterious child who rocks tirelessly back and forth without saying a word, and of whom Marsac knew nothing until now.

The victim turns out to be Cornelius Markus, a disgraced second-rate actor, crippled with debt and ravaged by methamphetamine. The last anyone heard, he had just opened a Thai massage parlour in the very chic 17ème arrondissement... But who was he really? And what was his relationship with the young policewoman? Why does she want nobody to know that she was at the crime scene?

Marsac will have to unravel the truth from the false and dig into the young woman’s past to unearth shameful secrets. From the most unexpected, to the most insane. To the most beautiful.
Elsa Roch

Behind Closed Doors

Ce qui se dit la nuit - Superintendent Marsac Series Book 1

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 - Superintendent Marsac Series Book 2

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.
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?

“Aiko 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
Niko Tackian

Toxic

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.

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.
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?

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But could the truth be elsewhere?

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 nested 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 23, 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 of 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
Graphic Novel
Written in 1831 by Victor Hugo, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* has been on the bestseller list in France and in many foreign countries since the dramatic fire that damaged the legendary cathedral in April 2019. A tragedy that moved people, Christian or not, all around the world.

Set in 1482 in Paris, in and around the cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, the book tells the story of a poor barefoot Gypsy girl, Esmeralda, and a misshapen bell-ringer, Quasimodo, who was raised by the Archdeacon Claude Frollo. The book was written as a statement to preserve the Notre-Dame cathedral and not to ‘modernize’ it, as Hugo was thoroughly against this. The story begins during the Renaissance in 1482, the day of the Festival of Fools in Paris. Quasimodo, the deformed bell ringer, is introduced by his crowning as Pope of Fools. Esmeralda, a beautiful 16-year-old gypsy with a kind and generous heart, captures the hearts of many men but especially Quasimodo’s adopted father, Claude Frollo. Frollo is torn between his lust and the rules of the church. He orders Quasimodo to get her...

Damien Macdonald beautifully celebrates the intensity and depth of *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*. With a very clever synthesis, readers will have a wonderful access to a dark and fascinating tale of lust and revenge known all around the world.
L’Homme étoilé

To Life!

À la vie!

"The nurse who transforms palliative care into bubbles of love."

Sarah Dumont

“A marshmallow stuck in a tank”: a 1m93 tattooed Kiss fan, L’Homme étoilé tells the story of his and his palliative care patients’ everyday lives, through poignant drawings, via his Instagram account, followed by 100 000 subscribers.

L’Homme étoilé, the most famous nurse on Instagram, recounts his everyday life, vocation and incredible encounters with his patients, in moving and funny illustrated stories.

Each one contains its little share of victories. With Roger, L’Homme étoilé slaps illness in the face with the upbeat sounds of Queen’s greatest hits. Mathilde teaches him Swedish, Edmond sets him a true gourmet challenge and Nanie ends up adopting him, like a perfect new grandmother.

Through endearing portraits and funny or poignant interludes, this graphic novel also raises questions, with great sensitivity, about a nurse’s role; how to take care of a patient when the end is near and inevitable? A graphic novel full of compassion that gently relates the end of life with respect, love and humour.

“So you work in palliative care, right? - Yes!”
Highlights
Non Fiction
On the 19th of July 2019, upon reaching the Pau stage, the Tour de France has celebrated 100 years of the yellow jersey, created by Henri Desgrange to help the spectators easily recognise the race leader. Yellow, like the sun in July. Yellow, like the paper on which the L’Auto daily sports newspaper was printed on, the creator and organiser of the Tour since 1903.

The greatest champions (Anquetil, Coppi, Merckx, Indurain, Hinault, LeMond, Bobet) have carried the yellow jersey to Paris several times, as has the disgraced man of the Tour, Lance Armstrong, since removed from the list of winners. Others, less well known, have worn it for a day, crowning their careers by doing so. And Raymond Poulidor, who never adorned the jersey, reached fame by riding after it all throughout his career.

But if the Tour de France exists, the France of the Tour exists too. Life goes on during the race, and there has been no shortage of important events in July over the last hundred years; the signature of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, the Geneva Conference and end of the Indochina war in 1954, Charly Gaul’s victory echoing General de Gaulle’s return in 1958, the aftermath of the May 1968 riots, the first steps on the moon in 1969, two days after Eddy Merckx’s victory.

The Tour de France remains a major sporting event and a huge celebration. The spectators lining the roads often don’t know the names of the champions. But if they see the yellow jersey go by, they go home happy. This book tells the story of a legend that has marked the course of History.
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.
Highlights

Biography
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.
Jacqueline Fleury
Fighter of the Resistance
Résistante

The exclusive story, never told before, of a “bigger than life” existence.

Born in December 1921, Jacqueline Marié-Fleury was a member of the French Resistance, the Défense de la France and a liaison officer with the Mithridate network. After being arrested, she was deported to Ravensbrück with her family. Following the war, she became the President of the Association des déportées internées résistantes. Jacqueline Fleury is a former member of the French Resistance. She joined the movement against the Nazi occupation early on, as did her mother, father and brother. She experienced torture at the hands of the Gestapo, the over-crowded deportation trains, the horror of the camps, the death marches... But she survived. Born in 1923, this strong-willed woman has spanned the century and faced its barbarism. Following the war, she became an activist and the President of the Association des déportées internées résistantes (Association of Former Resistant Detainees and Deportees).

Today, with a strong voice, she wants to honour all the female members of the Resistance, whose faces and words continue to haunt her, who sacrificed themselves for freedom. To ensure that History never forgets them.
Before devoting herself to writing, Bernadette Pécassou was a journalist and television director. She is the author of a number of successful novels such as La Belle Chocolatière, L’Impératrice des roses, La Passagère du France, La Dernière Bagnarde, Sous le toit du monde and most recently L’Hôtelière du Gallia-Londres in 2018.

Told like a novel, an account of the inspiring life of Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz, whose struggles and sense of fellowship are more relevant today than ever before.

Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz was a resistance fighter. Deported to Ravensbrück at the age of 20, she experienced the saving grace of brotherhood and solidarity. From these dark hours and her unwavering sense of duty and justice, she drew the strength to dedicate her life to defending the poor. Committed to working by their side for over thirty years through ATD Fourth World, she was also, unbeknownst to many, at the origin of the anti-exclusion law adopted by Parliament in 1998.

An intimate portrait of a courageous, wholesome French woman, a “little lady” with a will of steel, a loving wife and caring mother who, in the face of injustice, always refused to look the other way.
Alain Quella-Villéger, a History graduate with a Doctor of Arts in Contemporary History, born in Rochefort, France, in 1955, is devoted to travel writing, exoticism, and literary and colonial history. Over the course of several decades, he has become a specialist on the life and work of Pierre Loti and notably co-edited the author’s personal diary, for which he was awarded the 2018 Emile-Faguet prize by the Académie Française.

One hundred years ago, after bringing the personal diary he had held his whole life to an end, Pierre Loti (1850-1921) published a remarkable autobiographical account of his adolescence with Calmann-Lévy, *Prime jeunesse*. One hundred years later, with the same publisher, Alain Quella-Villéger, determined to rejuvenate both the man and his work, delivers not the novel of a life, but the life of a novel.

A fascinating existence, oscillating between the pull of elsewhere and the need for refuge, between conformism and transgression, as much as Pierre Loti appears as whimsical, unpredictable, nonchalant, rebellious, a hedonist to the extreme, at once a glutton and a bottomless pit; a thousand lives would not have satisfied him. A genuine photo-novel shows him in turn as a Spahi, an Albanian, a circus acrobat, a Bedouin on a dromedary, riding an elephant in India or smoking a narghile in Turkey, as a Mandarin in Beijing, a Basque pelota player, a Breton fisherman, Osiris, or a soldier in the trenches during the First World War.

Herein lies the singular figure of an anti-colonialist marine officer and great friend of Islam, who became a French academic at the age of 42, a near-bigamous bourgeois and a friend to both crowned heads and athletic sailors alike. All too often reduced to exoticism at its most kitsch, the delicious modernity of one of the early 20th century’s “committed” writers continues to be uncovered on a daily basis.

And an oeuvre that still works its magic today, from *Aziyadé* to *Pêcheur d’Islande*, or *Madame Chrysanthème* to *Ramuntcho*.

Sacha Guitry wrote that “we should lie when telling the story of Pierre Loti’s life, to the younger generations we should say; once lived an author who was so admired in his country that a squadron accompanied him on his travels around the world”...
Pierre Vasarely & Philippe Dana

Vasarely, a Saga

Vasarely, une saga dans le siècle

An incredible artistic, family and legal saga.

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 “Imaginaires” 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 (Audiobook)
GLM (Book-club edition)
La Loupe (Large-Print)

**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…
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.
He Whose Name Is No More

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.

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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).

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French sales:
Paperback (Pocket)

Foreign sales:
Hyundae Munhak (Korean)

Previous title:
Les Âmes rivales (2012)
Chaek-Se-Sang Pub (Korean)
Paperback (Pocket)

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.
Lucile Paul-Chevance

Nassim’s Journey

As inspiring as Paulo Coelho’s Alchemist, as charming as Raphaëlle Giordano’s books, Nassim’s Journey is a mindchanging 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?

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...
This book is an account of the little known and enigmatic world of the “Compagnons du Devoir”, an organisation of artisans renowned in France for the excellence of its training in craft and artisan trades. Although this institution has been in existence for more than nine centuries, it wasn’t until 2004 that women were accepted in this world reserved for men. Amongst the first three to be adopted in December 2004 was Lucie Branco, a 27-year-old from Lille, who had been learning the ancestral art of stonemasonry for over ten years.

In Cathedrals Aren’t Built on Stereotypes she tells her story and gives us an insight on the world of “compagnonnage”, a mentoring system imbued with mystery and rituals, that creates an unbreakable bond among its members and offers a familiar and protective network that lasts a lifetime. The book recalls the journey of a passionate individual who, through her tenacity and despite all the obstacles along the way, never lost sight of her objective: opening the door to craft and artisan trades for dozens of other women… who, although now fully integrated in the “Compagnons du Devoir” organisation, continue to fight underlying misogyny on a daily basis.

The invigorating viewpoint of a strong woman, as the manual trades return to favour.

Lucie Branco was the first woman to be adopted to the Compagnons du Devoir as a stone mason. She is now 41 years old and currently lives in La Rochelle. After working as a technical trainer, she is now preparing to take on a managerial role.

Gaëlle Rolin is a journalist and author. She co-wrote La Revanche des nuls en orthographe with Anne-Marie Gaignard, published by Calmann-Lévy. More recently, she worked with Stéphane de Freitas, on the book Porter sa Voix, published by Robert Laffont.

September 2019
224 pages
Béatrice Huret & Catherine Siguret

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.”

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 (Art Gallery – Sélection du Reader’s Digest)

Foreign sales:
Rizzoli (Italian)

Movie Adaptation: Super 8
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 cosmopolitism, 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.

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.

Allan and Daniel Knoll

Mireille Knoll, Our Mother

October 2018
270 pages

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 March 23rd 2018 for being Jewish.
Education is not an Exact Science

Juliette Perchais

Montessori here, Freinet there... Over the last ten years, alternative schools have flourished, promising to educate and encourage the development of children and adolescents. Down with authority and order, long live the Finnish method and learning through play!

Juliette Perchais carried these ideas. As a young French teacher in the suburbs of Paris, she designed her first colourful classroom, in which everything was thought out for students to feel good; square tables to encourage small group work, a reading corner and library, yoga mats for relaxation, and even a comfortable armchair... Four years later, the tables are arranged into sensible rows of two facing the board, with a back-to-school speech extolling the virtues of hard work and high standards.

What happened between these two school years? Juliette Perchais embarked on a long journey of initiation, exploring education around the world. Initially, the project belonged to a groupie of Montessori-style teaching methods, eager to see how the Japanese, Americans, Indians or Finns invented a more humane and fair school. But doubt sets in along the way, and the idea arises that the changes to which we aspire will not come about through the revolution of so-called innovative teaching methods, even if they are a century old, but rather through the search for simplicity and common sense. The teachers and adolescents, who have been left behind, need to be taken care of, listened to with genuine kindness, trained to high standards and then given the autonomy everyone needs. Only then can school become what it has ceased to be for so many; humane and optimistic.

Juliette Perchais is a 30-year-old French teacher. Teaching has always been a true calling for her. Frustrated by her first few years within the education system, she decided to travel the world in search of new solutions. After spending a year visiting 18 different countries, she returned to teaching, shaken in her certainties, but convinced that school in France is still capable of beautiful stories.
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.
“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.
Following a decade long international career in fashion between Dubai, Milan and Paris, as a Sales and Marketing Director, Fanny Auger became a fashion consultant for startups, and a valued contributor of the very popular French blog “My Little Paris” since 2010. She has recently and very successfully founded the School of Life in Paris where she notably teaches classes on “How to have better conversations”, “How to reinvent yourself after a failure”, “Finding a job you love”. An increasing number of brands and companies are requesting her services to develop well-being and learn how to live wisely.

Between our addictions to everything digital, the unbridled rhythms of our lives and the constant hubbub surrounding us, our discussions are put into sequence and increasingly depleted. We feel like we are running in circles, repeating the same things over and over, bored, not understanding each other and not making ourselves understood. Yet, throughout History, the French have always cultivated the art of conversation and have endeavoured to place the exchange of ideas at the heart of their lives.

In this first publication, Fanny Auger not only proves that true conversation is embedded in our culture, but also helps us to enrich and stimulate our exchanges so as to put an end to meaningless rhetoric. What defines a good conversation? How do we become better listeners? How do you break the ice without bringing up the weather? How do we take the time to really talk to each other? As the text unfolds, in a mischievous and good-natured tone, we come to discover that conversation is an art form in its own right that might well just change our lives, and even the world, if we practice it with the necessary ingredients: desire, open-mindedness, fortitude, and attention.

What if we were to change the world, one conversation at a time?

Fanny Auger
Stop the Blabla
Trève de bavardages
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 indivisible 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.
Carlos Ghosn’s arrest is the ineluctable completion of two trajectories.

The first is one of a CEO who gradually lost a sense of scale in his financial demands. Ghosn projected an image of an unparalleled leader, working day and night. In reality, we have discovered a man increasingly detached from day-to-day business whose lifestyle was defined more by his frequent trips to Beirut than his two firms’ schedule constraints. He got lost in this double game in which Nissan felt betrayed.

The other follows the relationship between Renault and Nissan, the growing disconnect, harboured by a mutual distrust between the Japanese system and the French state, one of Renault’s shareholders. Believing himself to be the glue holding everything together, Ghosn did not see the deepening divide. He let himself be trapped by Nissan, who methodically planned its CEO’s expulsion, and was betrayed by those most loyal to him.

Alongside Ghosn, Emmanuel Macron, another key figure in this affair, also found himself in a difficult position. As Minister of the Economy in 2015, he is the one who accelerated the cataclysmic process. Obsessed by his ambition to gain the upper hand over Carlos Ghosn, he paid no heed to Nissan’s desires for independence. Three years later, the backlash is brutal. Beyond Carlos Ghosn, who is now grappling with an extremely rigorous Japanese judicial system, the fate of the Alliance, the world’s leading automotive group, is at stake. Between Paris and Tokyo, a power struggle has begun...
A former journalist at France Culture, and editor-in-chief for Radio Nova, Thomas Baumgartner has written half a dozen books.

In a world where everyone speeds to get everywhere and no one has time to get bored anymore, this book is the much-needed guideline to stop and do nothing – in the best possible manner. Nourished by those who have pondered over the power of doing nothing (Seneca, Paul Lafargue, Bertrand Russell, Mona Chollet...), Doing Nothing provides tips to earn the title of lazy, despite all the obstacles.

For doing nothing IS a serious matter. Since the dawn of time, from one nap to the next, between renouncements and procrastination, anonymous idlers, loafers and lazy beings of all kind have shaped a forgotten history. Without leaving a trace, obviously. This book seeks to do them justice by giving everyone the opportunity to join their ranks; all together, without lifting a finger.

Lighthearted cynicism and great authors are the salutary combination of this gently subversive method.
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.

The "Why" Illustrated
Les pourquoi en images
Illustrations by Cathy Karsenty and Madd

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" of Sports
Les pourquoi du sport
Illustrated by Martin Vidberg, cartoonist for L’Équipe.

Following the success of The “Why” 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.