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Éditions Calmann-Lévy
## Table of contents

**CALMANN-LÉVY**

**Highlights Literary Fiction**
- Christine Desrousseaux - *Waiting for the Snow* • 4
- Johann Guillaud-Bachet - *Thirsts* • 5
- Julien Guerville - *Amanita* • 6
- Philippe Hayat - *Where the World’s Heart Beats* • 7
- Léa Herbreteau - *The Contours of Melancholy* • 8
- Camille de Peretti - *The Blood of the Mirabelles* • 10
- Yann Queffélec - *Tomorrow is Another Night* • 11
- Guillaume Sire - *Before the Long Red Flame* • 12
- Olivier Weber - *Hinterland* • 13

**Highlights Commercial Fiction**
- Jean-François Chabas - *The Gift of Skullars Newton* • 14
- Roxane Dambre - *Signed Sixtine T3 - Signed Sixtine T2 - Signed Sixtine T1* • 15
- Marie-Bernadette Dupuy - *Lara - Volume 01* • 17
- Marie-Bernadette Dupuy - *Manhattan’s Orphan - The Lights of Broadway - The Hudson River’s Tears* • 19
- Laurent Gounelle - *I Promise You Freedom* • 20
- Nathalie Hug - *As if by Magic* • 21
- Karine Lambert - *All the colours of the night - Once Upon a Tree* • 23
- René Manzor - *Apocryphal* • 24
- Laurence Peyrin - *The Burning days - My Darling* • 25
- Julien Sandrel - *Sparks - The Life I Was Meant To Live - The Room of Wonders* • 27

**Highlights Territoires**
- Yann Le Rest and Pascale Tamalet - *The Brest Puzzle* • 28
- Hélène Legrais - *Face to the Blue Sky* • 29
- Jean-Paul Malaval - *Such a Beautiful Marriage - Blue Fountain Street* • 30
- Agathe Portail - *The year of the frost* • 31

**Highlights Suspense Fiction**
- Marlène Charine - *Angels Falling* • 33
- Jacques Expert - *Stronger than her* • 34
- Pierre Lemaitre - *Blood Wedding - Inhuman Resources* • 35
- Jérôme Loubry - *The Refuges - The Twelfth Chapter* • 36
- Guillaume Musso - *La vie est un roman - The Writers’ Secret Life - Gone in the Night* • 39
- Elsa Roch - *The Ogre’s Kiss - Behind Closed Doors - Forgetting What We Promised* • 41
- Niko Tackian - *Avalanche Hotel* • 42
- Niko Tackian - *Toxic - Fantazmë - The girl who cried underwater* • 43

**Highlights Graphic Novel**
- Victor Hugo & Damien Macdonald - *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* • 45
L’Homme étoilé - To Life!

Highlights Biography
Nicolas d’Estienne d’Orves - Marthe or the Beautiful Lies
Jacqueline Fleury - Fighter of the Resistance
Nora Fraisse - Marion, Forever 13
Sarah Kaminsky - Adolfo Kaminsky, A Forger’s Life
Bernadette Pecassou-Camebrac - Geneviève de Gaulle, An Inspiring Woman
Alain Quella-Villéger - Pierre Loti, a Fabulous Life
Pierre Vasarely & Philippe Dana - Vasarely, a Saga in the Century

KERO
Laurent Gounelle - The Philosopher Seeking Wisdom
Laurent Gounelle - And You Will Find The Treasure Within You - The Day I Was Taught How To Live
Lucile Paul-Chevance - Nassim’s Journey
Alexandre Debouté & Véronique Richebois - Pierre Bergé. The Pygmalion
Béatrice Huret & Catherine Siguret - Calais, My Love
Allan & Daniel Knoll - Mireille Knoll, Our Mother
Fanny Auger - Stop the Blabla
Lionel Coudron - The True Word For Happiness Is Serenity
Bertille Bayart & Emmanuel Egloff - The Trap
Vincent Coquaz & Ismaël Halissat - The New Star Wars
Philippe Vandel - The “Why” Illustrated - The "Why" of Sports
Highlights

Literary Fiction
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.

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
Ludo is small and clever, David, a naïve giant. They have been friends since childhood. Every night, they drive snow groomers up and down the slopes for the Cornado brothers, who run the ski resort and the town.

When David finds a half-eaten dead body in the woods, Ludo decides to hide it. He is worried that the police will suspect his friend, a recluse surrounded by wild animals he understands so well, and already perceived by others as an outcast.

David gets into the habit of confiding his worries to the dead body, buried under a thick layer of ice at the bottom of a well in his garden. That winter, as an unprecedented drought grips the region, a strange rage takes hold of the forest; what the giant calls the Iron, turns animals into wild beasts and pushes them to attack humans. Tensions mount in the town as people begin to wonder how the resort can still produce artificial snow when the taps are running dry.

When Ludo hears that an inspector from the National Water Office has gone missing, he sees an opportunity to make money by blackmailing the ones he suspects guilty of that murder. He wants to offer his wife and two daughters a better future. But at what cost?

Between thirst for profit and thirst itself, a noose tightens around these men and animals, causing them to lose all reason.
Julien Guerville

Amanita

A unique debut novel, with a promising and incisive style.

Julien Guerville was born in the mid-1980s. He stopped writing when he was 13 years old after reading *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Ten years later, he returned to writing following the discovery of *37.2° le matin* by Philippe Djian. He is a beekeeper and lives in the South of France. *Amanita* is his first novel.

Calvin works night shifts at ProSol, a petrochemistry factory at the bottom of a valley. A mind-numbing job that glues a taste of burnt plastic in his mouth that he cannot get rid of.

During the day, he hangs out at the brothel, walks his dog in the snowy mountains, drinks with his colleagues at Nutts – a makeshift bar in a pre-fab –, visits his mother and produces Mô, a drug made out of fly agarics and helps the locals cope with the air, polluted by the plant’s chemical emissions.

This sums up Calvin’s life until his brother’s wife, Kimiyo, knocks on his door with a broken nose and a split lip. And the television announces the closure of ProSol.

As winter descends on the valley and tensions grow between employees, managers and environmentalists, Calvin is proclaimed mediator by his colleagues, in a final bid to save the factory that is slowly destroying them, but without which they cannot survive.

A dark and social novel, with a brilliant interplay between form and content.
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.”

Philippe Hayat

Where the World’s Heart Beats
Où bat le coeur du monde

WINNER OF THE PRIX FILIGRANES 2019
LONGLISTED FOR THE PRIX DES LIBRAIRES 2020

From French Tunisia to segregationist America, passing by liberated Europe, a magnificent coming-of-age novel, to the sound of jazz.

Philippe Hayat shares his time between writing and entrepreneurial activities. His debut novel, Momos des Halles (2014), winner of Chambéry’s First Novel Festival, has been translated in several countries. Where the World’s Heart Beats is his second novel.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Léa Herbreteau
The Edges of Melancholy

Contemporary realism meets nightmarish imagination, to show what love looks like when caught in the web of depression.

Léa Herbreteau is 30 years old. Her many travels have taken her from China to New Zealand, passing through Central Europe. She now lives in the West of France, where she shares her time between work and writing. Les Contours de la mélancolie is her first novel.

Before, Elena was a philosophy consultant, she was even writing a thesis, until one day everything fell apart. Since then, she has stopped going to work and spends her days curled up beneath the covers, a Sauvignon flavored coffee close to hand, thinking about Theo.

Theo who left but is still everywhere.

One morning, her neighbor Madeleine knocks on her door. Her hair is long and grey, her clothes are black. Her skin is speckled with liver spots and she reeks of medicine. She says that she has come for a coffee. Just to chat.

But hours and days go by and Madeleine is still there, determined to stay, to insinuate herself into Elena’s life, whispering ever more dark thoughts into her ear.

An original and accurate debut novel about depression, ably juggling between dark humor and moments of raw emotion.
Camille de Peretti

The Blood of Mirabelles

Le Sang des Mirabelles

Longlisted for the Prix Evasion 2020

Navigating with delight between the chivalric and courtly novel, Camille de Peretti plunges the reader into Medieval Times, with all its habits and customs, alongside two sisters on a quest for emancipation. A magnificent exercise in style.

March 2019
342 pages

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 Adélaïde in an apothecary’s teachings, with whom she learns about anatomy and the art of preparing remedies. A quest for freedom that is not without danger, at a time when trials for heresy are commonplace…

Camille de Peretti continues in her vast project exploring literary genres with this new novel. After trying her hand at autobiographies or the epistolary novel, she now tackles the historical novel, enthralling and joyful, delivering a rich tale in both form and detail.

“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
Yann Queffélec, a writer, is the author of many books. His second novel, Les Noces barbares, was awarded with the Prix Goncourt in 1985.

“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.
Guillaume Sire is an author and lecturer at the Toulouse I Capitole University. He has published essays and three novels, Les Confessions d’un funambule (La Table ronde, 2007), Où la lumière s’effondre (Plon, 2016) and Réelle (L’Observatoire, 2018).

Before the Long Red Flame
Avant la longue flamme rouge

LONGLISTED FOR THE PRIX DES LIBRAIRES 2020

Inspired by a true story, Before the Long Red Flame is not a book by a journalist or a “docu-drama”, but an authentic novel, epic, violent, tragic. Like his main character who makes up an inner “kingdom”, Sire summons the great stories, myths, tales, the Iliad and the Odyssey. We cannot stop reading this story, both realistic and phantasmagoric, until its striking epilogue. – Christian Authier, Le Figaro magazine

When war and imagination meet in the depths of the Cambodian jungle. A hard-hitting and intense novel, inspired by a true story.

Saravouth Inn is eleven years old with an unusually powerful imagination. He shares his life in Phnom Penh between his family, school and his “Inner Kingdom”, an imaginary land built upon stories told by his mother and what he observes in his surroundings. Passageways between his Inner Kingdom and the “Outer Empire” can be found in his bedroom, the paediatrician’s waiting room, the playground, the backseat of the car… When they are open, Saravouth’s eyes are a refracting telescope, pointing from one place to the other.

Until the war comes knocking at his door and the Inner Kingdom’s foundations begin to tremble… While the Khmer Rouge fight General Lon Nol’s army throughout the Cambodian forest, Phnom Penh, besieged but spared, purges itself of the Prince’s partisans and its Vietnamese and Catholic citizens. Resentment and jealousy lead to denunciations.

Saravouth’s family is no exception. A man wearing a blue suit, along with two young heavily armed soldiers, lead them into the forest. Wounded and separated from his loved ones, Saravouth seeks refuge in the jungle, and must survive in a country plagued by chaos, driven by a fierce will to be reunited with his family.

A child’s journey through the depths of darkness, fiercely determined to live to find those dear to him.
Olivier Weber, a great reporter, director and author, has written several novels and short stories, including *Le Barbaresque* (Amerigo Vespucci award), *L’Enchantement du monde* (Prix des Romancières et European and Mediterranean Book award), and *Lucien Bodard* (Joseph Kessel prize, Prix de l'Aventure award). His books have been translated into a dozen languages.

Jonathan lives in the back-back-country, in a forgotten land amidst the peaks, alongside his goats, neighbours and fellow mountaineers. For a few years, he descended to the coast to study law but never found his place. After graduating, he sought refuge in the mountains once again to continue working as a shepherd. But love and death will soon force him to return to civilisation.

First, the body of a renowned mountain-climber, one of Jonathan's close friends, is found on a glacier and everything suggests he was murdered. The young man, an environmental activist, had exposed a scandal on the pollution of the seabed. Then, Jonathan meets Léna, a young humanitarian rebelling against her father, a corrupt businessman. In an attempt to cleanse her conscience and her family, Léna has thrown herself wholeheartedly into the organisation she works for, Integrity Without Borders, risking her own safety.

A combination of factors forces Jonathan to leave his animals for the coast and its casinos. His best friend, who over the past few years has adopted the riviera lifestyle, finds him a job as a pool boy at a prestigious hotel. He is soon offered a position as a croupier to replace his friend who is promoted elsewhere. Torn between the evolution of his professional life and Léna's anti-corruption activism, Jonathan discovers the flip side of the idyllic coastal setting.

Through the journey of a young shepherd captivated by the lights of the city, between impunity and humiliation, Olivier Weber depicts a large fresco of the corruption on the French Riviera.
Highlights

Commercial Fiction
Skullars Newton, a Rastafari from the poor neighbourhood of Tivoli Gardens in Jamaica, was born with an extraordinary gift: he can read bodies, decipher the workings of a living organism with a mere glance. But this gift is also a curse, for some people do not appreciate their intimacy and weaknesses to be exposed as such. And would be ready to kill to ensure his silence.

Forced to flee his country, Skullars travels the world, seeking the solitude of the desert and mountains. But his past is never far behind. For years, he is pursued by Jay-Jay “Fyah”, his childhood friend turned godfather of Kingston, and his henchmen. Consumed by violence and bitterness, Jay-Jay vowed to eliminate his former friend, the only witness to what he carries deep within. Another presence also latches on to each of Skullars’ steps, Sissi – Jay-Jay’s sister -, a solemn and mysterious prostitute, who has always loved him.

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A fast-paced, mysterious adventure novel, moving from the poor neighbourhoods of Kingston to the splendid mountains of Switzerland.
Now the proud author of two successful articles in the renowned Actu-Paris newspaper, Sixtine is tasked with writing the next issue’s feature article. Could this be a test by her manager, or another Marcus Meilleur trap? Either way, the impetuous journalist, accompanied by her photographer Melchior, rises to the challenge. And this time, they are joined by Maminou too! They head to Angers to cover an exhibition on visions of the Apocalypse throughout the ages. The highlight of the event involves a tour of King René’s castle, where the Tapestry of the Apocalypse, a grandiose medieval masterpiece, is displayed.

While talking to Florent, a young man fascinated by zombies and the end of the world, Sixtine is struck by an idea: to write an article on the different harbingers of the Apocalypse throughout history. Her article takes an even more interesting turn when a mysterious little girl shares an astonishing theory with her... What if Humanity had escaped all the Apocalypse predictions (epidemics, wars, etc.), because “someone” had managed to neutralise them?

An investigation full of humour and plot twists, drawing the series to a perfect end!
Roxane Dambre

Echos From Beyond,
Signed Sixtine Book 2

Signé Sixtine T2 - Les échos de l’au-delà

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...

Behind the Stars,
Signed Sixtine Book 1

Signé Sixtine T1 - Derrière les étoiles

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?
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!

AMONG THE 20 FRENCH BEST-SELLING AUTHORS IN 2019!

Lara - Volume 1

Lara - La Ronde des soupçons

The first volume in the new series by Marie-Bernadette Dupuy, the French saga queen.

September 1946. France is struggling to recover from the Second World War. Lara, a passionate 18 year-old, is also trying to forget the terrible years that have just passed, marked by the death of her father, who was deported. After a violent dispute with her mother, Lara has a bad fall on her bike, leaving her unconscious for several long minutes. She has a near-death experience, during which a woman with blurry features appears. The silhouette tells her she must live to ensure justice prevails.

That same day, a couple discovers the body of a young girl under a dolmen in a neighbouring town. The unfortunate victim is dressed in a white tunic and her throat has been slit.

Could this horrific murder and the mysterious apparition be related in some way? This marks the beginning of a long series of crimes, devastating many families in the region.

In this series, Marie-Bernadette Dupuy returns to the crime genre, with mystery and breath-taking suspense from the very first volume, around an unforgettable love story.

A brand new, addictive series, set against the backdrop of a police investigation, in a France still scarred by the hardship and abuse suffered during the war.
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...

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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 in love, 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 her seems to have the answer. When she meets him unexpectedly, the man in front of her seems to be a completely different person from the one she remembers: Sybille does not even recognize him at first. He tells her about a mysterious man, the leader of a secret society, who masters an ancient knowledge capable of giving you a brand-new personality. Sybille is intrigued. After all, what does she have to lose?

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

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

For more information on Laurent Gounelle’s previous books, see our Kero Rights section (pages 56, 57 and 58).
Nathalie Hug

As if by Magic

Comme un enchantement

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.

Nathalie Hug, an author and screenwriter, has written three novels (L’Enfant-rien, La Demoiselle des tic-tac, Un, rue des petits-pas, all published with Calmann-Lévy) and several novels with her other half, Jérôme Camut. This bright and hopelessly romantic novel marks a radical shift in her career.

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-Cœur’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...
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...
Once Upon a Tree...

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.
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).

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.
How could a loving wife and doting mother choose one day to disappear?

A subtle and profound novel portraying the beautiful story of a woman.

It is the end of the 70s. Joanne, 37 years-old, leads a peaceful life in Modesto, a pretty little town in California. She is married to a caring husband and they have two children: a moody teenage daughter and a happy and sensitive son. Joanne watches over them all with great affection. And then... the balance is broken by a gratuitous act of violence. As she cycles back from the library, Joanne is attacked by a man. He bursts out of nowhere, knocking her off her bike, insulting her, and hitting her repeatedly until she lets go of her bag. Joanne is badly bruised but has no serious injuries. In appearance at least, for on the inside, Joanne is in pieces. She replays the scene over and over again. She spirals out of control, lying, stealing and hiding things, without even knowing why. A few weeks after the incident, she is but a shadow of her former self. And the day her husband has to pick her up drunk from the police station, he says worriedly: “You're scaring me, Joanne, you're scaring the children.”

So, Joanne leaves. With near to nothing, she flees to Las Vegas where she hopes to disappear. There, in the City of Sin, a hand reaches out to her and offers her unexpected refuge in a strip club. The girls who work there, each more colourful than the next, form an eccentric but tight-knit family, who know not to ask questions. It is not impossible that Joanne may find a taste of happy innocence once more in this unlikely place... But will it be enough to give her the strength to get back to her real life?

“...A brilliant and passionate novel to be devoured in one sitting.” Le Parisien

My Darling

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

She had escaped the dismal life that should have been hers ten years ago, thanks to her beauty. 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.
Julien Sandrel

Julien Sandrel was born in 1980 in the south of France. His first novel, *La chambre des merveilles*, was a foreign rights phenomenon at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2017.

**Sparks**
*Les étincelles*

A moving family quest for the triumph of truth, a luminous heroine, and a novel full of courage and hope.

Small sparks start big fires.
Phoenix, a talented 23 year-old musician, has a depressed mother, a gifted brother, a taste for the provocative, and well-buried dreams beneath the outer layers of her appearance. Ever since her father died in an accident, she had given up on everything, moving from one odd job to the next.
One morning, she discovers a distressing message in her father’s belongings, written in a foreign language, literally meaning: “We’re being killed in silence. Help us.” An enigmatic message, similar to the one found two years earlier in a pesticide bottle cap by some gardeners in the South of France, which had sparked all kinds of speculation. Only her father died three years ago. How had this piece of paper ended up here, in a box that had not been opened since? Phoenix’ certainties are shaken… What if her father’s death was not accidental?
Armed with her dark sense of humour and unwavering determination, Phoenix decides to follow the clues in the message. But she is far from imagining the dangerous and emotion-fraught path this decision will lead her to… What started as a personal and family investigation will soon turn into a broader fight. A fight against an unscrupulous pharmaceutical industry. A fight to regain hope, a fight for truth.

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

What would you do if life offered you a fresh start?

Option on TV adaptation - ADL TV

Romane, 39 years old, lives alone in Paris. A family doctor with paranoid tendencies, Romane is not very happy. One day, Mme Lebrun, a long-standing patient, announces that she saw her coming out of the pulmonology department at the Nord Hospital in Marseille, and that she looked very ill. Mme Lebrun is absolutely certain and appears sound of mind. Yet Romane is perfectly healthy and has never stepped foot in Marseille. Who did Mme Lebrun see?
Romane is troubled, obsessed by this other person, apparently so similar. What’s more, the lookalike is a redhead: Romane’s natural hair colour, that she has dyed for years. On a whim, she decides to go to the South of France to look for her. Her inquiry leads her to a certain Juliette, a bookseller in Avignon. When the two women meet, there is no doubt: the stranger is her twin sister.
The ground shifts beneath their feet. How is this possible? Who lied to them? What secrets are both their families hiding?
As they progress towards a thunderous truth, the two sisters unite their destinies and throw themselves headlong into a surprising journey, oscillating between laughter and pain, that could very well change the course of their existence...

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

SOLD IN 26 TERRITORIES:

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

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

OPTION ON MOVIE ADAPTATION: JERICO PRODUCTION

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

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

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.

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.
Territoires
Series
Hélène Legrais
Face to the Blue Sky
Le Front dans l’azur

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.

Yann Le Rest & Pascale Tamalet
The Brest Puzzle
Puzzle de Brest

A wave of panic takes hold of the Oceanopolis Aquarium in Brest, Brittany, when human remains are found floating in a tank.

Captain Hadrien Fox, head of the police station at the port, is in charge of the investigation. When he learns about the recent disappearance of two crew members of the Sea Paradise, a cruise boat stuck in Brest due to damage, he is sure that he is on to something. Especially when a homeless man claims to have seen some men dressed in black, by the Maritime Affairs Office, carrying two bags, large enough to hold dead bodies.

But if the two cases are linked, how did parts of a corpse end up in the Oceanopolis Aquarium? To find out, Hadrien Fox must plunge into troubled waters, at the heart of a terrifying traffic, causing quite a stir amongst the highest authorities...

Behind the pen name Yann Le Rest lies an experienced novelist, who made Brittany her home many years ago.

Pascale Tamalet is currently a journalist with Télégramme, after several years working in the Judicial Police.
Jean-Paul Malaval

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.

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 Conserveries 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.

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 Frédérik, 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.
Crime pervades a château in Bordeaux

Summer 2017, Bordeaux. To upkeep the old family château and overcome the difficulties they face on their vineyard, exacerbated by the devastating frosty spell of last Spring, Bernard and Alexane Mazet decide to start a bed and breakfast business. They are fully booked thanks to the arrival of a group in their thirties, two couples and two singles, whose friendship goes back to their student days. Between Olivia the “artist”, Vincent the car salesman, and Clara the temp worker, their lives have taken very different paths, but they are clearly happy to see each other again.

Yet three days later, Clara is found dead after being intentionally locked in the château’s cold room. Police officer Major Dambérailh, in charge of the investigation, must untangle a web of unsuspected passion and resentment to uncover the truth.

Agathe Portail is in her thirties and works in communications in the wine-growing industry. She lives in the Bordeaux region. L’Année du gel is her first novel.
Suspense Fiction
Truth be told, Cécile Rivère dreads her night shifts with Lambert, a fellow police officer as idiotic as he is sexist. Just that evening, in front of a closed apartment door, he claims to have heard nothing, whereas Cécile is sure that a woman cried out for help. So, the next day, Cécile returns to the scene, just to be sure, and finds the door open, the apartment teeming with police officers from another department. The tenant was murdered last night, but hundreds of kilometres away. How could Cécile have heard her?

Mocked, accused of paranormal delirium or even hysteria, the young woman finds herself ostracised from her unit. Unable to explain herself what happened, she retreats into a state of denial. Only Lieutenant Kermarec, in charge of investigating the crime, does not seem to think she is crazy. He even brings her back from the imposed leave forced upon her while waiting for the strange episode to subside. He has a new case and wants Cécile’s help, for her to use her “prescience” instead of rejecting it entirely. Cécile agrees to join Kermarec’s team and help him to investigate the suicide of a nurse described by her colleagues as the gentlest woman. However, in the retirement house the nurse used to work, Cécile discovers that several elderly people died at her cares. What happened? Who was that woman? Was she an angel of death?

A complex investigation begins, and Cécile understands she needs to let go of her worries and embrace her strange abilities if she wants to get to the bottom of it. And the feelings growing between Cécile and the lieutenant will make it all the more difficult…
One night, Cécile Maisonnave is murdered. Hit on the back of the head and pushed down the marble stairs leading from her bedroom to the living room. Clearly, she knew the killer.

In the style of an investigation file, an account peppered with police interview reports, *Plus fort qu’elle* looks back at the origins of this murder. At the passionate affair between Patrick, Cécile’s husband, and his assistant Raphaëlle. A two-year long liaison, that had driven Raphaëlle to leave her husband and children, to try and convince her lover to do the same. How did the young woman reach this point? Throw everything away in the name of love? Even Geneviève, her best friend, who has followed the story from the beginning, does not understand. The passionate Raphaëlle has distanced herself from everyone she knows. Her love is stronger than she is.

But then who killed Cécile? Was it Raphaëlle? If you can walk away from your children, what else are you capable of?

Little by little, the trap into which Raphaëlle has fallen takes shape before our eyes. Terrifying. Oppressive. Unstoppable. Could the trap be stronger than her too?
Pierre Lemaitre


Blood Wedding

Robe de marié


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

A MASTERPIECE TRANSLATED IN 21 LANGUAGES!
OPTION FOR A TV SERIES ADAPTATION:
POMME PRODUCTION AND LA COMPANY DE LA SEINE

Inhuman Resources

Cadres Noirs

February 2010 - 350 p.

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

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

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

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

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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

Prix du meilleur Polar Francophone, Cognac Festival

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. In order to retrieve Suzanne’s belongings, Sandrine makes her way to the grey and cold island, off the Channel coast where she lived. She discovers a handful of inhabitants who had settled there at the end of the Second World War. Like them, her grandmother 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. 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. 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...

The Twelfth Chapter
Le douzième chapitre

“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

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.
The 18th novel by Guillaume Musso, France’s #1 bestselling author!

Following the great success of *La vie secrète des écrivains*, #1 bestselling title in France in 2019, Guillaume Musso comes back this spring with an exciting new novel: *La vie est un roman*.

“One day in April, Carrie, my three-year-old daughter, disappeared while we were both playing hide-and-seek in my flat in Brooklyn.”

This is how Flora Conway’s story begins, a renowned novelist known for her secrecy.

*With Life is a Novel*, Guillaume Musso immerses us in an astonishing story, drawing its strength from the power of books and his characters’ fierce will to live.

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

« Musso remains unbeatable since 2011. » Le Figaro Littéraire, Mohammed Aïssaoui, 2020

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.

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

Foreign sales: Kinneret Zmora (Hebrew), Piper Verlag (German)
Guillaume Musso

The Writers’ Secret Life

La vie secrète des écrivains

SOLD IN 28 TERRITORIES:

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

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

“Everyone has three lives:
a public life, a private life, and a secret life…”

Gabriel García Márquez

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

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

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

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

Gone in the Night
La Jeune Fille et la Nuit

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

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)

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


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

French Riviera, Spring 2017.

Once inseparable, Manon, Thomas and Maxime (Vinca’s best friends) haven’t spoken to each other since they finished high school. They see each other for the first time in 25 years at their high-school reunion. Back when they were students, under terrible circumstances, the three friends committed murder and hid the corpse in a wall of their high school gym. Now the gym is about to be demolished to make way for a new building. Suddenly nothing can prevent the truth from coming out. The disturbing, painful, diabolical truth...
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.
Niko Tackian

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

Avalanche Hôtel

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

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

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

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

“Niko Tackian 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
The Girl Who Cried Underwater
Celle qui pleurait sous l’eau

On a stiflingly hot July day, a lifeguard discovers a woman floating near the surface of the water of a swimming pool, surrounded by large swirls of blood. Police Commander Tomar Khan and his team are dispatched to the scene. In his mind, the case is tragically very clear; the young woman, Clara Delattre, entered her local swimming pool in the middle of the night and slit her wrists. Why? Nobody knows. But does anyone ever know why people commit the irreparable?

Rhonda, his second-in-command, refuses to accept this conclusion. A standard visit to the deceased’s home leads her to believe that Clara was a passionate and brave woman, hiding a great deal of pain. A secret, maybe? Clara “cried underwater”, one witness says, an expression used in swimming competitions for a swimmer facing difficulties in their personal life. Rhonda is convinced that if Clara was crying underwater, it was because of something. Or someone. Perhaps someone pulling the strings of her distress. Stubbornly, Rhonda investigates this alleged suicide. And leads her entire team in pursuit of a psychic murderer, of whom Clara is far from being the first victim… In *The Girl Who Cried Underwater*, Niko Tackian tackles a very topical social issue, too often silenced; that of femicide and violence towards women, whether physical or psychological. An intelligent detective novel in which emotion rises to the surface with each passing chapter.

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. Revenge, justice and resilience intermingle with panache in this new brilliant thriller by 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. As if this was not enough, ghosts from his past start to resurface in Tomar’s life. A painful start to the New Year for Tomar, stuck between raging internal battles and open conflicts.
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!

Already reprinted 7 times!

“The nurse who transforms palliative care into bubbles of love.”
Sarah Dumont

“À la vie !”

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.

“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 130 000 subscribers.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)

Foreign Sales:
Rancom Comics (Spanish)
Offer (Italian)

So you work in palliative care, right?
- Yes!”
Highlights

Biography
Nicolas d’Estienne d’Orves
Marthe or the Beautiful Lies
Marthe ou les beaux mensonges

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

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.

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.

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.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Marion Fraisse was a good student. Cheerful, engaging and openhearted: she had a bright future ahead of her, with dreams of becoming an architect. She lived a happy home life with her parents and her brother and sister in the suburbs of Paris. On February 13 2013, at the age of thirteen, she committed suicide by hanging herself in her bedroom. She left a note behind for her classmates, explaining that, this time, the insults and violence had gone too far. In this poignantly sincere letter, the teenager is almost apologetic: “I guess I wasn’t able to tell you how heavy-hearted it all made me feel, but I’m telling you now, though my heart has stopped beating.”

Could this terrible loss have been avoided? Nora Fraisse, Marion’s mother, is convinced it could have been. Her daughter had been complaining about the atmosphere at school. After asking the others kids to quiet down in class, Marion got booed. This incident led her mother to request her daughter’s transfer to another class, which was denied. The school system proved unable to deal with bullying, the teachers disengaged, the Principal in complete denial. After the death of their daughter, in addition to their grief, Marion’s parents – who filed a complaint – had to face the indifference, incompetence and inhumanity of the educational institution.

At all costs, Nora Fraisse tried to understand how her daughter could have chosen to take her own life. She poured through the Facebook messages and text messages Marion received from her 8th grade schoolmates. She gleaned bits of information here and there from the parents and teachers - though generally reluctant - who were willing to share it with her. Nora Fraisse’s ordeal kindled an urge to write, and denounce society’s blindness to the growing phenomenon of bullying at school, worsened by social networks. Her testimony is a call for vigilance and for concrete action, but it is also a personal response, the voice of a mother speaking to her daughter.
Sarah Kaminsky

Adolfo Kaminsky, A Forger’s Life

‘If you’re doubting whether you’ve done enough with your life, don’t compare yourself to Mr. Kaminsky.’
- The New York Times

«...I’ve got to stay awake, as long as possible. Fight off sleep. The math is simple. In one hour I can make false papers for thirty people. If I sleep for an hour, thirty people will die.»

This is the incredible story of Adolfo Kaminsky’s life as a counterfeit artist, active from 1943 to 1971. His convictions lead him to spend his entire life in hiding, guided by survival instincts, necessity and danger alone. A race against the clock – and against death – in which every minute truly counted.

A genius forger, he devoted his life to aiding the great opposition movements of the 20th century, working for the French Resistance and the Algerian FLN, providing false papers for Jews emigrating to Palestine, teaching counterfeiting techniques to the combatants of repressive regimes in Spain (under Franco) and Greece (during the Regime of the Colonels), and aiding the freedom movements of Latin America and Africa.

This book questions the notions of commitment, destiny, free choice and consequences. When Kaminsky, at the age of 17, begins making forgeries for the Resistance, little does he realize that he is already caught up in an inexorable mechanism: that of his own sense of duty towards fellow man. This is also a dialog between a father and a daughter: Sarah, born in 1979, attempts to understand her father’s unusual destiny, giving us the account of a man whose very existence was a secret and who accepts, at last, to speak of the past.

Option on a movie adaptation
Bernadette Pécassou - Camebrac

Geneviève De Gaulle, An Inspiring Woman
Geneviève de Gaulle, les yeux ouverts

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.

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.

French sales:
Paperback (Le Livre de Poche)
Large Print (Éditions La Loupe)
Book-Club (France Loisirs)
One hundred years ago, after bringing the personal diary he had held his whole life to an end, Pierre Loti (1850-1921) published through Calmann-Lévy; *Prime jeunesse*, a remarkable autobiographical account of his adolescence. 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.

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”...
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.
Laurent Gounelle is a writer and a specialist in 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) - The Philosopher Seeking Wisdom

French Sales:
Pocket (Paperback)
Audiolib (Audiobook)
GLM and France Loisirs (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...

And You Will Find The Treasure Within You

Et tu trouveras le trésor qui dort en toi

Rights sold in 19 territories:

Alma Littera (Lithuanian), Azbooka-Atticus (Russian), Baldini Castoldi (Italian), Beijing Red Dot (Simplified Chinese), Centre culturel Arabe (Arabic), Citadella (Slovakian), Colibri (Bulgarian), Corsair (United-Kingdom), Droemer Knaur (German), Hemiro Limited (Chypre), Ho Chi Minh City Culture Literature and Arts Publishing House (Vietnamese), Little, Brown (English US), Pegasus (Turkish), Roca Editorial (Spanish), Rybka (Czech), Trei Editura (Romanian), Trivium Kiado (Hungarian), Ucila (Slovenian), Yolimwon (Korean)
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.
Lucile Paul-Chevance

Nassim’s Journey
L’Enfant de la Source

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

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)

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.
Pierre Bergé died in 2017, leaving behind a life of “stories within a story”. The exceptional journey of a teacher’s son, who left home before finishing school to try and make it in Paris, where he would become one of the richest, most powerful and formidable men in the city. Openly gay, he was both lover and agent to two gifted artists, Bernard Buffet in the 50s and Yves Saint Laurent up until the designer’s death in 2008. He was a ruthless businessman, patron of the arts, friend of President François Mitterrand and president of the Paris Opera.

Véronique Richebois and Alexandre Debouté follow in the footsteps of a secretive man, who said to never look back, yet owed a lot to his past. Gathering dozens of exclusive accounts from different stages of Pierre Bergé’s life, the authors offer a complete and detailed biography, from the 17 year old young man’s little-known debut in Paris to the good and bad of his passionate relationship with Yves Saint Laurent through the highs and lows of his life with the tortured painter Bernard Buffet.

A portrait depicting a complex, determined, ever-valiant and acerbic Pierre Bergé, until the end of his life, through the eyes of those who greatly influenced his existence.

Véronique Richebois is a journalist for the Échos newspaper. She previously worked for L’Obs and the Nouvel Économiste. She published L’Histoire secrète d’Endemol (Flammarion) in 2006.

Alexandre Debouté is a journalist for the Figaro. This biography of Pierre Bergé is his first book.
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.
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 Belarusian, 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 & Daniel Knoll
Mireille Knoll, Our Mother
C’était maman

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.
Fanny Auger

Stop the Blabla
Trève de bavardages

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

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.
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, divi-
ding the body and mind and thus doing little for psychosomatic troubles,
these alternative methods consider man as an undividable entity, to be
treated as a whole.

Lionel Coudron, a doctor and yoga instructor for over thirty years, believes
that our bodies and minds are in constant interaction with one another,
and must therefore be treated simultaneously. Rather than some miracle
solution, this book lays out tools from different ancient cultures, enriched
with the most recent scientific discoveries, to act upon the five aspects
that shape us: our environment, our body, our emotions, our mind and
our relationship with others and the world. Tips and simple exercises that
call upon our natural resources, such as breathing, stretching or positive
thinking, in order to return to what should be our natural state of being: a
calm mind and a peaceful body.
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...
How many times have you been asked to give something, someone, a rating or stars? Think about your last online purchase, the score you gave your taxi driver, a telephone operator or a deliveryman. And do you know your own rating? Sometimes, these scores are barely noticeable anymore, they blend into the background. A silent yet irresistible trend, the ratings business is booming. Hospitals, public services... all are set to become rated and ranked. On paper, the idea is enticing, but as in the private sector, such a system carries the seeds of serious misuse. And this is just the visible tip of the iceberg. Some of the ratings given are completely invisible.

From 16th century Jesuit colleges where the system was born to this day, ratings systems raise a number of questions that urgently need answering. Vincent Coquaz and Ismaël Halissat set out to investigate; from the American e-commerce giant Amazon, to TripAdvisor, Uber or Free, they delved into the tangled web of customer reviews, where a star can make or break a reputation and jeopardise jobs. Invented by an American marketing guru, the modern-day satisfaction survey has become, at best, an absurd end in itself. At worst, a terrible source of stress for employees. In some companies today, employees also rate each other. And, just like at school, the temptation to cheat to improve your own score is often great... The business of fake reviews has become particularly lucrative. Their investigation leads them all the way to China to discover how local governments are experimenting individual good conduct scores, where every aspect of a citizen’s life is scrutinised. Or how reality has morphed into the Black Mirror series.

As consumers and perhaps in the future, citizens, we are currently completely unequipped to face these new star wars.
Philippe Vandel

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’Equipe.

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.