

French Fiction \ 2018



Éditions de l'Olivier

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AUTUMN LIST
2018

Agnès Desarthe

La Chance de leur vie The Chance of their Lives

novel 304 pages August 2018



© Patrice Normand

Hector, Sylvie and their son Lester are flying towards the United States, where a new life awaits them. Hector is a university professor and before long, his charisma is wreaking havoc on the women in his orbit. Fragile, dreamy Sylvie nonetheless observes the effects of husband's Don Juanism lucidly. Lester, meanwhile, leads a group of teenagers who, like him, have gone through a mystical crisis and for whom he has become a guide.

Elsewhere, deadly attacks have taken place in Paris and America, unwittingly, is on the brink of electing Donald Trump.

With Agnès Desarthe, every character seems to follow a double course. For if bodies give way to irresistible urges, it is quite the opposite for souls tormented by desire, shame and the demands of unfailing loyalty.

Yet, what is most striking about this admirable novel, wherein France is viewed, as if through a telescope, from distance, is how every character remains a stranger to their true nature, until life takes charge to reveal to them its meaning.

Agnès Desarthe was born in 1966. Novelist, she has published, notably: *A Secret of No Importance* (France Inter Book Prize, 1996), *In the Dark Night* (Renaudot Student's Prize, 2010) and *A Hunting Party*, amongst numerous other works for children. She also published an essay on Virginia Woolf with Geneviève Brisac, *V.W. The Mix of Genres* and the autobiographical essay, *How I Learned to Read* (Stock, 2013) which met with great critical and public acclaim. Her last novel, *The Changing Heart* (L'Olivier, 2015), won the Le Monde Literary Prize and was popular success in bookshops.

"A splendid novel" *Le Monde des livres*

"The talented Agnès Desarthe makes us laugh and cry in this beautiful novel of our time." *Elle*

LISTED FOR PRIX LANDERNEAU DES LECTEURS 2018

LISTED FOR THE GRAND PRIX DU ROMAN DE L'ACADÉMIE FRANÇAISE 2018

World rights available

Colas Gutman

Le Complexe d'Hoffman The Hoffman Complex

Debut novel 224 pages August 2018

Two children, Simon and his sister Delphine, have their lives turned upside down when their parents decide to separate. To cope with the situation, they invent cruel games, absurd pranks and even a quasi-clandestine life.

Simon, for example, writes a novel (*83 Years Old*) in which he portrays monstrous parents who torture a woman and her baby. A family in crisis, a psychoanalyst mother, Jewish and Arabic children confronted with the everyday racism of their comrades: comical, moving and irreverent, *The Hoffman Complex* is extremely realistic whilst resorting to the most unbridled imagination.

Between bawdy comic (of the style of Riad Sattouf) and surrealism (such as Vitrac's *Victor, or Power to the Children*), Colas Gutman delivers his version of the "family novel" and describes the schoolyard origins of racism and anti-Semitism.

Actor and author, Colas Gutman works in television and, since 2006, has written children's books. He is notably the author of the celebrated series *Rotten Dog*. *The Hoffman Complex* is his debut novel.

"A 3.0 family novel in Colas Gutman's inflammable, ebullient and moving version." *Le Point*

"It's a funny book." *Libération*

LISTED FOR PRIX STANISLAS 2018

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Catherine Poulain

Le Cœur blanc

White Heart

Novel 256 pages October 2018

It's a summer full of dangers for Rosalinde. In the village where her restlessness has lead her, somewhere in Provence, she picks fruit amongst others. Working in the fields until exhaustion; resisting the men's desire, and sometimes yielding to it; answering to their violence; getting dead drunk: all this if nothing compared to what lies ahead. Friendship—love?—another woman provides a moment in which relief seems possible. But it's only an illusion.

Before leaving for Alaska to share in the lives of fishermen, Catherine Poulain was a farm worker both in France and abroad. Her first novel, *Woman at Sea*, was one of the revelations of 2016. It has sold 230,000 copies and been crowed with several literary awards. Translated in 12 different countries, it is currently being adapted for the ci

LISTED FOR PRIX MÉDICIS 2018

LISTED FOR DÉCEMBRE 2018

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Emmanuelle Richard

Désintégration Disintegration

Novel 200 pages August 2018

Coming from a modest family, a young woman decides to go to Paris to turn over a new leaf and take control of her life. She settles in a flat share with some boys who are navigating the world of cinema. Shared between the desire to belong and the disgust inspired by these young people for whom money is not a problem, she strives, despite it all to find her place amongst them. But as humiliations accumulate, she is dragged into an implacable machine: her desire to integrate transforms bit by bit into a dull anger, which threatens to burst at any moment. In pure hatred.

Then, the success of her debut novel propels her to the other side of the looking glass. Invited by a filmmaker, she has her first glimpse of the world from which she has always felt excluded. Between them, they settle, into a game of seduction, attraction and repulsion, throughout which, over dinner, she attempts to analyse all the subtleties.

Disintegration is a lucid novel, without the least complacency; the springs of social domination exposed to raw light by the scathing writing of Emmanuelle Richard.

Emmanuelle Richard has published two highly acclaimed novels at Éditions de l'Olivier: *Lightness* in 2014 and *For the Flesh* in 2016, which won her the Anaïs Nin Prize.

“Like a perfect uppercut, Emmanuelle Richard’s text lets us impressed by its technique, stunned by its power.” *Les Inrocks*

“Emmanuelle Richard: a name to remember.” *Le Figaro*

LISTED FOR PRIX ROMAN FNAC 2018

SELECTED FOR JDD FRANCE INTER 2018

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Iris Brey

Sex and the Series

Essay 272 pages October 2018

Since the 2000s, TV series have increasingly portrayed female sexuality, or rather female sexualities, in all their forms. From *Sex and the City* (1998), to the most recent productions, many works (often conceived, produced and directed by women) have put the singularity of the female experience at the centre of their concerns.

From vampire bites to cunnilingus, losing one's virginity to BDSM, difficulties talking about pleasure and the clitoris on screen, Iris Brey sweeps the erogenous zones that challenge patriarchy. Taking us on a journey of the past two decades, which is full of humour and erudition, she questions the representation of the female orgasm, issues of consent and queer sexualities. What do these new representations mean? Are we at the dawn of a TV revolution?

Sex and the Series is, at the same time, an explosive essay and a celebration of our TV viewing pleasures.

Iris Brey has a PhD in film theory. She teaches on the French campuses of the University of California and New York University. A specialist in gender and its representations, she has collaborated in numerous magazines, such as *Cinémateaser*, *Soap*, *Cheek Magazine* and *Séries Mania*, in which she has a regular column. She lives in Paris.



BACKLIST

Jakuta Alikavazovic

Jakuta Alikavazovic was born in Paris in 1979. She grew up speaking several languages, including Bosnian, English and French. She has translated novels (Ben Lerner) and essays (David Foster Wallace). She published *Volatile Bodies*, which won the Goncourt Prize for a first novel in 2008. In 2012 she received special mention at the Wepler Awards for *The Blonde and the Bunker*, and was a resident at the Villa Medici in 2013.



© Maia Ffrench/VO

L'Avancée de la nuit The Night's Advance

Novel 288 pages August 2017

Paul, an architecture student by day, a hotel watchman by night, is fascinated by Amelia, the occupant of room 313. Everything about her is a mystery: her comings and goings, seen on the CCTV screens, no less than the rumours that surround her—a wealthy father, a poetess mother who disappeared, her striking independence. They will love each other passionately. Then Amelia disappears. Paul has no idea that she has returned to Sarajevo in search of her mother, a mysterious part of her history. Ten years will pass before the lovers find themselves together again.

In this incandescent novel Jakuta Alikavazovic evokes what is lost and what we manage to save.

Rights sold in World English (Faber), Chinese (Shanghai Wanyu Culture & Arts Ltd) and German (Nautilus)

Foreign Rights Laurence Laluyaux—Rogers Coleridge & White—l.laluyaux@rcwlitagency.com

**SHORT LISTED FOR MEDICIS PRIZE 2017
AND FEMINA PRIZE 2017**

La blonde et le bunker

The Blond and the Bunker

Novel 204 pages August 2012

Anna, the blond, a renowned photographer and her young lover Gray, live in a modern white house in Paris. Along with John Volstead, a writer that she just divorced who lives in the house's basement that forms a bunker. John, who experienced fame with his novel *Les Narcissiques anonymes*, has got back to writing again. His book will remain unfinished as he dies suddenly, entrusting Gray with a mythical collection of art works, which does not exist for sure. Gray has to lead two investigations—understand the origin of a mysterious picture that Anna keeps destroying and find the said collection. As a tribute to cinema and detective story, this *faux roman noir* stages a well-known trio—the femme fatale, the husband and the lover—in a scenery full of trompe l'oeil and pretenses. At the same time hypothetical (Borges-like), noir (Bolaño-like) and modern (Schuhl-like), *La Blonde et le Bunker* plays with literary genres.

Also available

Histoires contre nature (2006), *Corps volatils* (bourse Goncourt du premier roman, 2008), *Le Londres-Louxor* (2010, sold in Italian – Transeuropa)

Reviews for *The Blond and the Bunker*

“Clever and free, Jakuta Alikavazovic plays, in *La Blonde et le Bunker*, with literary genre.” *Le Monde*

Rights sold in Italian (66th and 2nd)

WEPLER - FONDATION LA POSTE SPECIAL PRIZE 2012

Florence Aubenas

Florence Aubenas was born in Belgium. She was international correspondent at *Libération*, where she covered the events in Rwanda, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, but also famous French trials. After working at *Le Nouvel Observateur*, she is now international correspondent for *Le Monde*. Her last book, *Le Quai de Ouistreham* was a huge commercial (300,000 copies sold) and critical success.



© Patrice Normand

En France In France

Stories 240 pages October 2014

Since 2012, when she arrived at *Le Monde*, Florence Aubenas has explored the country. Far away from the chic quarters, she went to different regions to meet the people forgotten by politics and the media, and to give them a voice, a face, a name.

En France is the collection of all these stories. Faithful to the spirit and tone revealed in *Le Quai de Ouistreham*, this book isn't only a portrait gallery. It is also a political book, in the noble sense of the word. Unemployed people, students parents, girls from suburbs and voters from different political parties draw the face of the France of today, a France in the adventure of everyday life—but also a possible France of tomorrow.

“An impressionistic passage through a France in crisis.”

Libération

“In France stands out as an essential book on the state of the country today.” *Le Journal du dimanche*

Also available

Le Quai de Ouistreham (2010)

Previous foreign publications

Germany (Pendo) – Italy (Piemme) – Netherlands (Altas) – South Korea (Hyunsil Cultural Studies) – Spain (Anagrama) – Sweden (Grate) – Taiwan (Ye-Rem) – United Kingdom (Polity Press)

World rights available

Julien Bouissoux

Janvier

Novel 176 pages January 2018

In the course of the restructuring of the large company for which he works, Janvier is left behind in his office at the dead-end of an alley. Rather than stay at home though, and keep getting paid for doing nothing, Janvier continues to go into work. He sets himself objectives to fill his days: watering a plant, vacuuming, initiating a correspondence with a supplier, making use of the facilities to attempt poetry, watching the comings and goings in the alley, pretending to smoke ... but how long will Janvier be able to enjoy the charms of office life before the company picks up his trace?

Julien Bouissoux's sober and precise writing explores the metamorphosis of a man who, thanks to a strange combination of circumstances, finally devotes himself to an ideal existence that he didn't know he wanted to lead.

Julien Bouissoux lives in Switzerland. He is a screenwriter and the author of several books included at Editions de l'Olivier: *Juste avant la frontière* (2004), *Une odysée* (2006), *Voyager léger* (2008).

"A mysterious and elegant novel." *La Liberté*

"With Janvier, Julien Bouissoux brings us into a poetic, sweet and funny bubble." *Libération*

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Patrick Bouvet

Born in 1962, Patrick Bouvet is a writer and musician. He has collaborated with musicians such as Avril and, in 2010, has recorded an album with Julie Delpy, Helena Noguerra and Elli Medeiros.



© Patrice Normand

Petite Histoire du spectacle industriel

Industrial Spectacle: A Little History

Story Poetry 176 pages March 2017

For fifteen years Patrick Bouvet has been exploring the impact of screens and modern communication in his books. After investigating video, television, fashion photography and music, he now turns his attention to mass media. Through far-reaching research, Bouvet shows us how, at the intersection of fear and fascination, a completely formatted, collective imagination has been created. Casting an accurate eye over our time, his poetry is political as much as it is artistic. It questions the "postmodern condition", becoming a manifesto against the entertainment industry and mass media.

Carte son

Soundcard

Novel 112 pages April 2014

After investigations into video, television and fashion photography, Patrick Bouvet now turns his attention to music.

Through the figure of a pop super star, who needs to be under the spotlight in order to exist, he analyses our relationship with musical entertainment. The music videos, online messages for fans and the public appearances, the love affairs in the tabloids and the talk-show confessions: all these things tread the line between transparency and opacity, creating a confusion between the public image and the private individual.

Written as a modern, musical score, this text is a poetical performance.

Also available

In situ (1999), *Shot* (2000), *Direct* (2002), *Chaos Boy* (2004), *Canons* (2007), *Pulsion lumière* (2012)

World rights available

Geneviève Brisac

Geneviève Brisac was born and raised in Paris in a left-wing, intellectual and anglo-philic family. Her books have been translated in many countries, including Great Britain. A novelist as well as an essayist, she has written more than ten books and essays (about Flannery O'Connor, Alice Munro, J. D. Salinger, Virginia Woolf and Karen Blixen). She also writes children books and screenplays.



© Opale

Dans les yeux des autres In The Eyes of Others

Novel 312 pages August 2014

Anna is an idealist. Molly, her sister, is pragmatic. One is looking for reality in words, the other in action. But both are fighting for the Revolution's victory, with their partners, Marek and Boris. Twenty years later: Anna is a writer; she found success before destitution and oblivion. Molly is a doctor and faces the world's misery. Marek died in jail in Mexico, when the struggle failed. Boris keeps fighting—in vain? Then Anna decides to read her notebooks again.

An eccentric mother, fickle lovers, the dream of a utopian community, the falseness of literary society, a ride through "Red" Italy, all these themes are part of this novel, in which humour can't always overcome melancholy. Knowing but fierce, Geneviève Brisac studies her characters' destinies, their commitment and their disillusion. This is a book which deals with an "education sentimentale".

"Sweet and cruel, melancholic but perennial, the Geneviève Brisac's novel analyses the way of ideals and dreams, measures the speed of existence, says how much the literature is important in life, and talks about relationships between brother and sisters, daughters and mothers, with an incredible accuracy." *Le Monde*

World rights available

Une année avec mon père A year with my father

Novel 180 pages March 2010

Survivor of a car crash, the narrator's father comes back home. His wife has died in the crash. He is alone. On the Place du Panthéon, life goes on and seasons go by: the daughter has to respect his freedom and yet to be by his side. She has to invent a new relationship with this magnificent rebel who had never talked about his role in the Resistance and his Jewishness. "Never explain, never complain"—that was his motto and it will remain so.

World rights available

Also available

Loin du Paradis, Flannery O'Connor (1991), *Voir les jardins de Babylone* (1999), *Pour qui vous prenez-vous ?* (2001), *La Marche du Cavalier* (2002), *Les Soeurs Délicata* (2004) *V.W. ou le mélange des genres* (2004), *52 ou la seconde vie* (2007).

Week-end de chasse à la mère Looking for Eugenio

Novel 208 pages September 1996

Eugenio drives his mother mad: he asks, he demands, and he gets what he wants. That's no big deal, but Nouk is worried: what if she were not be up to his son who is so lucid and so mature? Family and friends get involved: they blame her for divorcing, for raising a spoiled brat, for being too indulgent and not caring enough. But Nouk doesn't need anybody — except his son.

Rights sold in English (UK, Marion Boyars), Dutch (De Geus), German (Frankfurter Verlagsantalt), Chinese (Shanghai 99, Cent Fleurs), Grec (Patakis), Turkish (Can), Korean (Yolimon), Spanish (South America, Andres Bello), Vietnamese (La Femme), and Swedish (Lindhart of Ringhof)

FEMINA PRIZE 1996

Petite

Novel 128 pages February 1994

Nouk is anorexic. That's how you call her disease but how do you call her suffering? The worst might be the shameful pleasure of being the strongest and lying, lying her head off. One day, Nouk is locked up in a clinic where the doctors are determined to "break" her. She pretends to obey. But she remains untamed. If she recovers, it will be by other means.

With this pure and brutal novel, Geneviève Brisac has no other goal but to tell the truth, whatever the cost.

Rights sold in German (Dutch), Italian (Piemme), Spanish (South America, Andres Bello) and Korean (Mimumsa)

Belinda Cannone

Belinda Cannone is the author of several novels and non-fiction books. She teaches Comparative Literature at the University in Normandy.



© Pascal Héte

Nu Intérieur Nude Inside

Novel 114 pages February 2015

A man who loves two women and feels at ease with it — such a common way of living and loving nowadays... Adultery is not a sin anymore, and neither is it a subversive literary subject. But this novel shows quite the opposite: despite sexual liberation, psychoanalysis and feminist revolution, passion and infidelity are still topical subjects.

This psychological novel is about passion indeed. Obscenity meets elegant style, crude language is sharp, and feelings in turmoil never interfere with the purity of the syntax. As if Benjamin Constant's characters were meeting protagonists of an erotic novel in order to get to know them.

This *Confession of a Child of the Century*—of our century—is one of the “hottest” literary novels ever. Indeed: is there anything sexier than intelligence?

Bibliography

L'Homme qui jeûne, Entre les bruits (Éditions de l'Olivier, 2006 and 2009), *La Chair du temps, Le Don du passeur* (Stock, 2012 and 2013), *L'Écriture du désir* (Calmann-Lévy, 2000, prix de l'essai de l'Académie française), *Le Sentiment d'imposture* (Calmann-Lévy, 2005, “Folio” Gallimard, 2009, grand prix de l'essai de la Société des Gens de Lettres), *La bêtise s'améliore* (Stock, 2007) ; *La Tentation de Pénélope* (Stock 2010).

“Belinda Cannone doesn't give evidences, she shows, remarkably.” *L'Humanité*

“Belinda Cannone makes up a little girl, Jeanne, who is gifted for hyperacousia. A graceful and clever tale.” Emmanuel Carrère, *Le Figaro*

Press reviews for *Nude Inside*

“Beautiful and hot.” *Le Point*

Rights sold in English (India – Sampark)

Claire Castillon

Claire Castillon is the author of numerous novels and short-story collections, including: *Insect*, *Screams* (Fayard), *Miracles* (Grasset), *Them* and *The Peaches* (L'Olivier 2014 and 2015). Carried by a completely unique tone and perspective, her work stands out as one of the most original of her generation.



© J.F. Page

Rebelles, un peu Kind of Rebels

Short stories 192 pages May 2017

They want to be independent but depend on their parents 100%: the world from teenagers' point of view.

What can you do when your parents are hysterical? At what age is it normal to lose your virginity? How are you supposed to act when you get a text from your dad that was intended for his mistress? Is smoking spliffs bad for your memory? Are you allowed to have dreadlocks at college? Can you legally run away? In 29 monologues, Claire Castillon captures the mood of today's teenagers, detecting their pain, their anguish and decoding their secrets. Above all she reminds us that they spend their time watching adults and commenting on their activities, pulling no punches. Following the success of *Les Messieurs* [*Those Gentlemen*] this is a tender, cheeky book which fizzes with humour.

Les Messieurs Those Gentlemen

short stories 160 pages May 2016

Castillon returns to the genre in which she made her name: the short story. With *Insect* (her major success: 70,000 copies sold), she explored—amongst other things—the toxic aspects of motherhood. *Those Gentlemen* offers a series of variations on the theme of that classic couple, the young girl and the older seducer.

Each of these “contes cruels” is a comedy in which the spring of male desire and the disillusionment of the girls are unravelled, sometimes very bluntly. Brazen schoolgirls and romantic brides, Castillon's young lovers constitute a mixture of cunning and ingenuity against which men appear pathetically

cumbersome. And if the comedy sometimes turns to farce, it's all the better to disguise the melancholy that lurks in the corners of stories which are far more serious than they first appear.

“Crude words and a shocking imagination. A crazy talent.” Gilles Chenaille, *Marie-Claire*

“The singularity of the author’s tone fascinates... The terror does not prevent comedy.” Baptiste Liger, *L'Express*

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Les pêcheurs The Peach Trees

Novel 208 pages September 2015

Tamara is a prisoner: of her husband, who wants her to be the perfect wife; of Esther, Claude’s daughter, who is watching her; and of her lost lover, who she can’t stop dreaming of. Freedom frightens her but captivity is heavy. She can’t stay or go. Aimée, Esther’s mother, seems perfectly adapted to contemporary ways of life. But this material girl is hiding a real fragility. And lastly, there is Esther... Teenager, poet, spy, innocent. In love. Her look captures the adults, those strange people who are not able to see the violence inside them. What, if she was the real heroine of this story? She would be a perfect expiatory victim. Furious, moving, funny, necessary, Claire Castillon’s writing hits the bull’s eye in this new episode in the battle of the sexes, which she relentlessly provokes from one book to the next.

“A cruel lucidity and an extremely beautiful language.” *Lire*

“We don’t escape unharmed after reading this powerful book.” *Le Nouvel Observateur*

World rights available

Eux Them

Novel 156 pages March 2014

She is pregnant. She stays alone at home, embroidering, and she hears—or seems to hear—voices. These voices are the “hereditaries”, ghosts of her genealogical tree. They want to take control, to steal the baby. With the voices yelling in her ears, her mother gives her useless and insulting

advice; her father tries to reassure her without success. Her partner doesn't suspect a thing. Or is he in on the plot? As the story progresses, the fear is growing. Is she going to hold out until the delivery or will she go crazy before the end?

Reminiscent of *Rosemary's Baby*, the book is both an evocation of the toxic nature of the family and an allegory for maternity. Claire Castillon creates an intensely dark mental landscape, cut through with scathing humor.

“With her usual daring, Claire Castillon crafts a troubling novel.” *Elle*

“The singularity of the authors tone is fascinating. The terror doesn't prevent humour from emerging.” *L'Express*

“Brutal writing, crude words, shocking imagination. Great talent.” *Marie-Claire*

Previous Foreign publications

China (Yingpan Brother Publishing House), Czech Republic (Motto), Denmark (Per Kofod), Finland (Gummerus), Germany (Piper Verlag), Greece (Gialos), Italy (Bompiani), Japan (Hayakawa), Netherlands (Ambo/Anthos), Portugal (ASA), Poland (WAB), Romania (Univers), Russia (Ripol-Classic), South Korea (Munhakdongne), Spain (Inedita/Dedalus editores), Sweden (Sekwa), USA (Harcourt Brace), Vietnam (Da Nang lao Dong)

World rights available

Fanny Chiarello

Fanny Chiarello was born in 1974. She is the author of several novels and collections of poetry. She has published three novels at Editions de l'Olivier : *L'éternité n'est pas si longue* in 2010, *Une faiblesse de Carlotta Delmont* in 2013 and *Dans son propre rôle* in 2015, which won the Orange book prize. She is undoubtedly one of the most singular voices of the young French novel.



© Claire Fusaflo

La Vie effaçant toutes choses Life Erases Everything

Short stories 240 pages March 2018

Rose is old. Her last pleasure? An annual visit to her sister, a long drive that she makes by car. The tragedy arises at a junction when, at the fault of an imprudent cyclist, an accident is caused that will take his life. Janice, an illustrator whose projects are barely advancing, worries everyday about Rita, a homeless woman whom she has got it into her head to help. This decision will finally lead to Rita's imprisonment. Millie lives a well-ordered life. Perhaps too well-ordered. She decides to consult a psychiatrist at the hospital where she works. And we find, in that hospital, Rita and the young man in a coma as a result of Rose's accident.

Rose, Janice and Millie are three women who stage the subtle and remorseless short stories in this collection: they are vulnerable, aspiring some kind of absolute. But this is without taking into account the pranks of the author, who, through a skilled game of recurring motifs, throws troubles into their reality, and their destiny.

Fanny Chiarello is, undoubtedly, a singular voice of the French novel: she "doesn't want heroism in her pages, she wants them unresolved". She has the art of surprise, with an image, a game of echoes, music. This new book is criss-crossed by a veritable soundtrack, from Led Zeppelin to Meredith Monk, by way of Poulenc, from whom the collection's title is borrowed.

World rights available

Le Zeppelin The Zeppelin

Novel 224 pages Auguts 2016

This summer, the light is so raw that it makes everything glow. The House, for that is its name, is an ordinary provincial town, a picture-postcard place. Or almost. It is impossible not to mention the canal that runs through it and where the people have the strange habit of throwing everything they hold dear. Including loved ones. Perhaps this is due to the unfathomable boredom that seems to have taken hold of them. The passage of a zeppelin though will finally break the tedium of their daily, insignificant activities. As the shadow passes over their heads it results in the most unexpected and insane reactions, somewhere between panic and devotion.

The author fixes on twelve of the inhabitants: twelve characters whose stories, at once corrosive, zany and moving, invent a wacky world in the style of Brautigan.

“In a disturbing, funny and fanciful story, Fanny Chiarello imagines a zeppelin gliding over a fictional town. We could find no better way to talk about the world of today.” *L'Humanité*

World rights available

Dans son propre rôle Playing Her Own Part

Novel 240 pages January 2015

England, 1947. Fennella is a servant at Wannock Manor, an aristocratic house, and Jeanette works as a chambermaid at Brighton's Big Hotel. The two women have nothing in common — everything separates them in a society where class differences are a major obstacle to any relationship.

Fennella has become mute after a trauma. Jeanette is a young widow who has lost any hope in life. A letter with a wrong address and a common passion for opera will change their destiny.

This novel is about the quest for an ideal and emancipation. Chiarello's writing is as dark as the world where the two women evolve and as bright as the love that helps them to escape it.

LANDERNEAU PRIZE 2015

SHORTLISTED FOR THE RTL /Lire prize 2015

World rights available

Une faiblesse de Carlotta Delmont

The Weakness of Carlotta Delmont

Novel 192 pages January 2013

In April 1927, following the great success of the Parisian premiere of *Norma*, Carlotta Delmont, American diva, disappears. Fugue state? Kidnapping? Suicide? For two weeks the police, the press, the public and those close to the singer investigate. Only once she reappears do the questions shift to the reasons behind her absence. Where has she been all this time? And with whom? Against her will, Carla becomes a living legend, subject of all manner of comments and theories, the centre of attention and of desire. She pays dearly for her moment of weakness and is forced to sacrifice a part of herself for her freedom, just as her heroines did.

“A captivating novel about the temptation of becoming another.” *Le Figaro*

“On the trail of the mysterious, disappearing diva, Fanny Chiarello brilliantly explores soul blues brilliantly ... Magnificent.” *L'Express*

“A very contemporary, feminist book in which the author shows her incredible ease, without ever restraining the emotion one feels as she unmask this disenchanted diva.” *Elle*

Rights sold in Italian (Clichy)

Agnès Desarthe

Agnès Desarthe was born in Paris in 1966. She has written many books for children and young adults, as well as adult fiction. She has also translated the works of several British and American writers (Virginia Woolf, Cynthia Ozick, Jay McInerney). She has had four novels translated into English: *Five Photos of My Wife* (2001), *Good Intentions* (2002), *Chez Moi* (2008) and *The Foundling* (2011) which was awarded the Prix Renaudot des Lycéens. Her last essay *Comment j'ai appris à lire (How I learnt to read)* was a critical and popular success.



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Ce cœur changeant This Fickle Heart

Novel 336 pages August 2015

Born at the beginning of the xxth Century, Rose arrives in Paris at the age of 20. She finds herself in a completely new universe. The Dreyfus affair and the First World War break out. The Roaring Twenties follow: she wanders in places of ill repute, she experiments with the bohemian life and loneliness ... Rose could fall at any moment.

Full of fancy, Agnès Desarthe mixes the whisper of the intimate with the great events of History in this grand, baroque book, which signals her return to fiction.

“This Fickle Heart, revolutionary and feminist, is suffused with scents, terrors, sorrows but also sensuality. Agnès Desarthe recounts the end of recklessness trusting with an enthusiasm faith to the language.” *Elle*

“The spirit, beauty and originality of this novel set it apart as a great book amongst this Fall’s list.” *Le Monde*

AWARDED LE MONDE’S LITERARY PRIZE 2015

LISTED FOR THE RENAUDOT PRIZE 2015

World rights available

Ce qui est arrive aux Kempinsky What Happened to The Kempinskys

Short Stories 206 pages May 2014

Agnès Desarthe shakes readers up, choosing to show the “real” subject matter hiding behind the more evident theme of her stories. Her short stories use the same rule. Behind an apparent lightness, we discover serious subjects: a permanent threat, the tragedy of the Shoah. The comfort comes from nature, birds, rituals, things which bring delight to everyday life. The eruption of strange events and dreamlike reality disturb everyone’s existence and give a new sense of life. Each short story from this collection surprises us thanks to its unexpected turn of phrase and the audacity of its resolutions.

World rights available

Une partie de chasse The Hunters

Novel 156 pages August 2012

During a hunting party, a man falls into an underground tunnel. Tristan is designated to stay there with him while the others leave to get help. A long wait begins... While trying to emotionally support the injured man, Tristan recollects his own story. He thinks about how he met his wife Emma and how their relationship evolved. She was the one who convinced him to go hunting in order to be accepted into the men’s coven. He also think about his ailing mother, whose image still haunts him today, about the obedient little boy he was, and about the man inside him who always bends under women’s will. The rescue never comes, but a storm approaches. The nature rages in a salutary anger, and perhaps this downpour, that takes everything away in its path, fulfills Tristan’s dream to finally put the past behind.

Rights sold in World English (Unnamed Press, USA) and in Swedish (Sekwa)

Mangez-moi Chez moi

Novel 312 pages August 2006

Myriam is a bit lost, a bit of a fantasist and a bit of a liar. One day, she decides to open a restaurant and, to her own surprise, *Chez moi* becomes quickly very popular in the neighborhood – a hospitable harbor where everybody meets up. In her restaurant, Myriam can open up appetite as much as she can liberate minds – with instinct, grace and the sensuality of a great chef.

Rights sold in English (USA, Viking; UK, Portobello), German (Droemer Knaur), Italian (Bompani), Dutch (De Geus), Swedish (Sweka), Grec (Kastalia), Portuguese (Asa), Korean (Random House), Croatian (Faktura), Lituianian (Tyto Alba), Romanian (Curtea Veche), Finnish (Avain), Spanish (Baili del Sol) and Russian (Inostranka)

Un secret sans importance A Secret of No Importance

Novel 208 pages Janaury 1996

During a winter night, in a whirlwind of snow, Sonia, Violette, Harriet, Dan, Emile and Gabriel's life will be intertwined forever because of apparently unimportant secrets, of forgotten feelings, of human beings long-lost or long-desired. The natural and the supernatural, the mundane and the magic will combine to reveal every character's destiny.

Rights sold in English (USA, Viking; UK, Portobello), Finnish (Avain), German (Droemer Knaur), Italian (Bompani), Dutch (De Geus), Swedish (Sweka), Grec (Kastalia), Portuguese (Asa), Korean (Random House), Croatian (Faktura), Lituianian (Tyto Alba), Romanian (Curtea Veche), Spanish (Baile del Sol) and Russian (Inostranka)

Also available

Quelques minutes de bonheur absolu (1993), *Cinq photos de ma femme* (1998), *Les Bonnes Intentions* (2000), *Le Principe de Frédelle* (2003), *Le Remplaçant* (prix Version Femina – Virgin Megastore 2009), *Dans la nuit brune* (prix Renaudot des lycéens 2010).

Erwan Desplanques

Born in 1980, Erwan Desplanques grown up in Reims. He now lives in Paris and he's a journalist at the French magazine *Télérama*. He also has collaborated to the literary review *Décapage*. His first novel, *Get Lost*, was heralded by critics. *A Unique Opportunity* confirms his talent as a writer..



© Patrice Normand

Une chance unique A Unique Opportunity

short stories 160 pages March 2016

Two friends discuss the meaning of life while observing a suicidal bear in a Stockholm zoo.

A young filmmaker is fascinated by the sex life of jellyfish and seahorses.

A driver is abandoned by the hitch-hikers he has just picked up in a motorway service area.

A couple watches a live suicide during a live a TV show.

Ten short stories, marked by absurdity and incongruity: miniscule dramas, uncertain encounters, situations which on the surface seem ordinary.

A real *tour de force*.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE GONCOURT DE LA NOUVELLE PRIZE 2016

"A beautiful writing about loneliness and fragility of human being, a sign of a great writer". François Busnel, *Lire*

"The sense of fiction, the quality of the portraits, the artfulness of the ending, the originality: the book has a lot of class." *Livres Hebdo*

World rights available

Si j'y suis Get lost

Debut novel 112 pages January 2013

During the summer, devastated by the illness of his mother, the Parisian narrator escapes in the West Coast of France. The beach seems to be a place where everything is revealed but also where everything is going away. He comes back to Paris in order to reconnect to social life. But when his mother passes away, he needs to leave once more. From France to Hanoi, he tries to find himself again.

Mix of gentleness and implacable lucidity, this first book is condensing all the challenges of life in a few scenes. Everything in this impressive book tells us that a new literary voice is born.

“A first novel like an announcement of nostalgia, painting with a light gouache and some dark lines. We lift the veil to discover a certain reality... lightly flustered.” *Le Canard Enchaîné*

“A beautiful and delicate first novel, full of grace.”
Le Nouvel Observateur

“A beautiful book about loneliness and fragility of human being, a wonderful feelings novel, a sign of a great writer.” *L'Express*

World rights available

Jean-Paul Dubois

Jean-Paul Dubois was born in 1950 in Toulouse, where he still lives today. His novels are translated in many countries and the cumulative sales amount to over a million copies.



© Lee Dongsoob

L'Amérique m'inquiète et autres récits America Worries Me and Other Stories

Stories 400 pages June 2017

Jean-Paul Dubois' cult reporting on the American dream is being republished this year with a brand new preface by the author.

An estate agent sells parcels of land on the moon, a man invents self-service autopsies, executioners tell tales of the deaths they have doled out, a sadistic prisoner director makes his prisoners live under the crushing desert heat.

Throughout the Nineties, Jean-Paul DuBois criss-crossed the United States for *le Nouvel Observateur*. His mission? To observe how life went on in the police stations, hospitals, courts, churches and bars. In relating these chronicles, true little novels of America, he traced a portrait of a society where every excess could be found, and through which moral and racial fevers spread. The years haven't blunted their insight ... on the contrary!

La Succession The Succession

Novel 240 pages August 2016

Paul Katrakilis has lived in Miami for four years. He has never been so happy, but even *cesta punta*, the sport he loves and plays professionally, can't lift the weight from his shoulders.

When The French Consulate calls him to let him know his father has died, he decides to face up to the memory of his family, the one he tried to escape so long ago. Indeed the Katrakilis family are anything but banal. Each member of this dynasty seems, in one way or another, to passionately devote their life to its own extinction. Paul must come back to France to empty the house.

When he discovers two black notebooks written secretly by his father, he understands at last how to make sense of his inheritance.

With *La Succession*, Jean-Paul Dubois delivers a heartbreaking story in which the nostalgic evocation of happiness mixes with the sadness of loss. In this novel we discover that his elegance, his taste for the absurd and his obsessions have remained intact.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE GONCOURT 2016 PRIZE

“We laugh and we cry in this novel, and above all enjoy the high-wire act between lightness, humour and seriousness.” *Télérama*

“Jean-Paul Dubois, the French Philip Roth, has written a great crepuscular novel, as heartbreaking and enlightening as the best Cohen Brothers’ movies.” *Le Nouvel Observateur*

“*The Succession* is one of the most fascinating and successful novels in this brilliant Rentrée Littéraire.” Bernard Pivot, *Le JDD*

“Not to read Jean-Paul Dubois would be an insult to his talent and your own pleasure.” *RTL*

Rights sold in Italian (Gremese), Portuguese (Porto Editore), Romanian (Minerva), Russian (Eksmo) and South Korean (Balgunesang)

Le cas Sneijder The Sneijder Case

Novel 228 pages October 2011

“I should be dead since Tuesday, January 4th, 2011. And yet, I am here at home, in a house that feels stranger and stranger, sitting alone by the window, thinking about an infinity of details, thinking about all the little things put scrupulously together by chance and that have, on that day, allowed me to survive.” Paul Sneijder is a victim of a terrible—and extremely rare—elevator accident in a Montreal tower, who finds out, after a coma, that he is also the only survivor. This is the starting point of a strange spiritual retreat, which will lead him to challenge his whole life. His wife, his twin sons, his job—he gradually becomes indifferent to all of it. Until the day when, looking for a job, he finds a classified that might save his life. This melancholic novel is also a brilliant comedy. The author of *Une vie française* proves one more time and with talent, his taste for caustic humor.

50 000 copies sold

ALEXANDRE VIALATTE PRIZE

Rights sold in German (DTV)

Vous plaisantez, monsieur Tanner? Are You Kidding, Mr. Tanner?

Novel 200 pages January 2006

Before inheriting the family house, Paul Tanner had a peaceful life. But since he decided to restore it, everything goes wrong! Crazy masons, delinquent roofers and mad electricians, they seem to have conspired to make his life impossible. A chronicle of a painful fight, a gallery of terribly human portraits, this novel is a true story of a hellish renovation project depicted with a good dose of humor—black, of course!

Rights sold in German (Rowohlt), Dutch (Arbeiderspers), Portuguese (ASA), Korean (Balgunesa), Czech (CDZ), Basque (Spain, Alberdania), Dutch (De Arbeiderspers)

Une vie française A French Life

Novel 368 pages September 2004

Paul Blick is eight when his brother dies suddenly, on the day when France ratifies the Constitution of the 5th Republic. From Charles de Gaulle to Jacques Chirac, from his first kisses to his first white hair, Blick hesitates between his desire of revolt, a bourgeois wellbeing and the pursuit of a disillusioned absolute. Blick's life, that many French people can identify with, is part of History in progress and is shaped by the world as much as it shapes it.

Rights sold in German (Ullstein), Chinese (Horizon Media), Spanish (Tempora), English (UK, Penguin – USA Knopf), Greek (Digisi), Italian (Rizzoli/RCS), Japanese (Chikuma Shobo), Dutch (De Arbeiderspers), Portuguese (ASA), Polish (Forsal), and Korean (Balgunesa)

FEMINA PRIZE 2004

Also available

Compte rendu analytique d'un sentiment désordonné (1984), *Éloge du gaucher* (1987), *Tous les matins je me lève* (1988), *Maria est morte* (1989), *Les poisons me regardent* (1990), *Vous aurez de mes nouvelles* (1991), *Parfois je ris tout seul* (1992), *Une année sous silence* (1992), *Prends soin de moi* (1993), *La vie me fait peur* (1994), *Kennedy et moi* (1996), *L'Amérique m'inquiète* (1996), *Je pense à autre chose* (1997), *Si ce livre pouvait me rapprocher de toi* (1999), *Jusque-là tout allait bien en Amérique* (2002), *Hommes entre eux* (2007), *Les Accommodements raisonnables* (2008).

Dominique Fabre

Dominique Fabre was born in Paris in 1960. He produced an impressive body of work, including *La serveuse était nouvelle*, and more recently *J'aimerais revoir Callaghan* and *Il faudrait s'arracher le coeur* (2012). A collection of his poetry has been published by Fayard in September 2014. Fabre's novels and short stories have been praised by the press both in France and abroad.



© Patrice Normand

Les Soirées chez Mathilde Mathilde's Parties

Novel 240 pages February 2017

During the 80's, a poor student, who spends more time in bars than at university, is attending a party in the classy suburb of Sèvres. There, the young man discovers a group of people freely drinking, talking, flirting and dancing in a weightless atmosphere, where daily problems seem to completely disappear. Fascinated by the ambiance in this house, he goes back and mingles in a world far removed from his own.

With his delicate writing, at once highly sensitive and full of emotion, Dominique Fabre brings a time which has disappeared poignantly back to life.

Photos volées Stolen Snapshots

Novel 320 pages August 2014

A novel of incompleteness, *Stolen Snaps* tells us, with an extraordinary sensitivity, that the evocation of the past can make the present less volatile.

"We love the precise indecision in Fabre's novel. And, of course, the narrator. This 'I' lonely and melancholic, as an old fashioned detective, who circles in the lives of others without disturbing, who explores a suggested past and embodies various convincing roles." *Libération*

Rights sold in Spanish (Argentina – Beatriz Viterbo Editora, Chili – Lom, Uruguay – Trilce)

Des nuages et des tours Clouds and Towers

Story 160 pages March 2013

Dominique Fabre chronicles the life of his district, located at Porte d'Ivry, in the outskirts of Paris. He meets marginals and working people, men and women of each generation, from several origins. All these people are creating a fascinating microcosm. Season by season, the Paris he shares with us is a strange and beautiful mix between the Paris of Modiano and the Paris of Orwell. He reveals the mutations of the human comedy, people from everywhere pushed back to the outskirts, resisting to the gentrification.

World rights available

Il faudrait s'arracher le cœur

Novella 224 page January 2012

A fragile friend from that time, a father who leaves at night with his suitcase but without waiting for his wife to come back and Anna, the grandmother from Ménilmontant—the people gone and the words buried keep lighting our path and showing us the way. “After a number of years, all the words make you think about these people, and people will have disappeared but not the words. The words will never disappear completely.”

We need to keep loving, despite abandonments and sorrows. What were you reading in 1983—Duras or Albertine Sarrazin? Were you a fan of Pink Floyd or Keith Jarrett? Were you going out to L'atelier Renault (the bar on the Champs Elysee).

Il faudrait s'arracher le cœur whispers to our ear that our youth is eternal—a whole world that we thought buried, reappears. Actually, it never stopped existing.

“A short novel—genre where Henri Calet's and Bove's grandson Dominique Fabre excels—with a certain gracious and melancholic quality.” *Le Monde*

Shortlisted for the “Prix du roman France Culture—Télérama”

Listed for the “Prix RTL / Lire”

Listed for the “Goncourt de la nouvelle 2012”

World Rights available

Bibliography

Moi aussi un jour j'irai loin (1995), *Ma vie d'Edgar* (1998), *Celui qui n'est pas là* (1999), *Fantômes* (2001), *Mon quartier* (2002), *Pour une femme de son âge* (2004), *La serveuse était nouvelle* (2005), *Les Types comme moi* (2007), *J'attends l'extinction des feux* (2008), *Les prochaines Vacances* (2009), *Avant les monstres* (2009), *J'aimerais revoir Callaghan* (2010), *Il faudrait s'arracher le coeur* (2012), *Des nuages et des tours* (2013)

Thomas Flahaut

Thomas Flahaut was born in 1991 in Montbéliard. After studying theatre in Strasbourg, he took a writing course at the Haut Ecole de Arts in Berne. He lives, studies and works in Lausanne, where he co-founded the Franco-Swiss literary collective Heterotrophes. At the same time he has published short pieces in French language journals, focussing on the relationship between his generation and the workplace or the work of the factory.



© Patrice Normand

Ostwald

Debut Novel 172 pages August 2017

A factory closes, men and women lose their jobs, and sometimes families cannot survive the test. So Noel and Felix's parents separate. The mother stays in Belfort, the father leaves to settle in Ostwald, and their children float in between these poles without an anchor, except that of a certain nostalgia. Then what has long been feared comes about, a failure at the Fessenheim nuclear plant imposing an evacuation of the population. They find themselves in an improvised camp in the forest. For Noel and Felix, the catastrophe marks the beginning of wanderings in a devastated landscape. They cross a deserted Alsace in which only rare presences survive, tramps, a hoard of monkeys escaped from a zoo, a man in rags who babbles in the debris of a burnt down camp...

Ostwald is a narrative of their wandering in a fictional France: a first novel of rare originality.

“Ostwald is a debut novel which is gripping in its concision and its audacious style.” *Les Inrockuptibles*

“This debut novel is flawless.” *L'Humanité*

World rights available

SHORTLISTED FOR THE PRIX LITTÉRAIRE DE LA VOCATION 2017 AND PRIX STANISLAS OF THE BEST DEBUT NOVEL 2017

LISTED FOR PRIX REGINES DESFORGES 2018

LISTED FOR PRIX DE L'ÉCOLOGIE 2018

Philippe Fusaro

Philippe Fusaro was born in 1971. A bookseller, a writer, Philippe Fusaro has already published *L'Italie si j'y suis/Italy, if I'm there*, *Le Colosse d'argile/The Clay Giant* with "La Fosse aux ours".



© Patrice Normand

Aimer fatigue Love Is Tiring

Novel 160 pages January 2014

Summer in Tangiers. In the Minzah hotel, three characters take part in a strange play. There is Lulù, the beautiful actress famous for appearing in B-movie epics, in which she is often undressed; there is La Spia, an ordinary spy, with the good looks of a leading man. And there is Memphis, an American writer, a Tennessee Williams type, drowning his sorrows in alcohol and Seconal. Lulù becomes La Spia's lover. La Spia shares an intense and unexpected friendship with Memphis. Everything will come to an end when the summer is over. As a tribute to the literary and movie myths of the XXth century—the femme fatale, the great writer, the spy—, this sensitive and precise novel immediately creates a mysterious atmosphere. Another story is growing, under the words, through the silence shared during nocturnal conversations: the story of an irreparable mourning, the chronicle of an exile. But, also, the hope of a revival for a writer which literature seems to have abandoned.

Bibliography

En deux temps trois mouvements (1999), *Capri et moi* (2003), *Le Colosse d'argile* (2004), *Palermo solo* (2007), *Portrait de moi avec femme, enfant et personne d'autre* (2007), *L'Italie si j'y suis* (2010, rights sold in Italian – Barbès)

"The reader is lulled by the obsessing melody of the novel, magisterially orchestrated by Philippe Fusaro ." *Livres Hebdo*

"The story, with its singular charm, is a consummately graceful reflection on bereavement, friendship, love and sex." *Le Monde*

"A novel of exile and pain, this text is nevertheless full of wonderful hope." *L'Express*

"A novel full of charm." *Le Figaro*

"Aimer fatigue is a short novel whose name is pleasure." *Marianne*

Rights sold in Italian (Clichy) and Arabian (Almutassit)

Jean-Hubert Gailliot

Jean-Hubert Gailliot was born in 1961. For twenty years, he has been building a body of original work with novels which mix adventure stories and esthetical manuals, fiction and reality. He is also the co-founder of Editions Tristram.



© Patrice Normand

Le Soleil The Sun

Novel 544 pages August 2014

Alexandre Varlop is looking for *The Sun*, a manuscript stolen in 1961 by children in Mykonos. A legend was born during the surrealist period: this manuscript would be “an absolute piece of writing”.

Where is it now? What is it all about? Who is the author? Confused by all these questions, Varlop wanders. In Greece, a young woman diverts him from his investigation.

He finally decides to go to Palermo and loses himself in the slums of the city, where he meets two brothers, who are the owners of a strange cabaret. Always deluded, he has the feeling that everybody is playing with him. Yet, step by step, through unexpected ways, he finds what he is looking for.

A fabulous journey, written in a way that is new to contemporary French literature, this book takes up once again the magic of great adventures stories.

Also available

La Vie Magnétique (1997), *Les Contrebandiers* (2000), *30 minutes à Harlem* (2000), *L'Hacienda* (2004), *Bambi Frankenstein* (2006)

WEPLER-FONDATION LA POSTE PRIZE 2015

World rights available

Thierry Hesse

Thierry Hesse has published two novels with éditions Champ Vallon, *Le Cimetière américain*, in 2003 (prix Robert-Walser) and *Jura*, in 2005, that were both praised by the critics. He has published *Démon* in 2009 at Editions de l'Olivier, that was translated in several countries. He was born in Metz in 1959 where he still resides.



© Patrice Normand

Le Roman impossible The Impossible Novel

Novel 336 pages January 2017

“Every morning, waking up, my face would burn and I would run to look at myself in the mirror. I was going to reduce my social life, my parties with friends, my trips into the city; I would hide myself from others and familiar places; I would teach my students from behind tinted glasses and a scarf; I would afflict my family. It was the face of fear. Malik Oussekiné’s death, about which I wanted to write, would now plunge me in terror. I could see a darkness, a premonitory violence, something I had never felt before while writing a book. A very real darkness, threatening, set alight by current tragedies.”

The Impossible Novel is the captivating confession of a writer, Samuel Richard, who suddenly jeopardizes his vocation. Will he be able to write the book that has obsessed him for years? Will he be able to finish his complete and accomplished novel?

L’inconscience Reckless

Novel 336 pages August 2012

This is the story of two brothers. Marcus, the eldest, who is single, care-free and a seducer, after living many experiences, settled down in Roubaix, where he teaches ethnology and sleeps with his female students. Carl, after building a family and working at the same mutual insurance company for twenty years, found himself under the spell of a man named Stern and became in just a few weeks his business partner and lover. He lives—or *used to live*—in Metz, as he is in a deep coma since an unexplained fall from the window of his agency. Thierry Hesse describes the path of these two brothers as he tells us about

their love lives. He keeps going back and forth between the spheres of private and public life, unveiling the face of an era when the insurance companies have substituted the comfort of religion and where the power of finance is ubiquitous. From the streets of Roubaix to las Ramblas of Barcelona, Thierry Hesse captivates and captures his readers with his very own musicality, mixing the harmonics of the French sentence with the strident sounds of the Velvet Underground dear to his protagonists. Alternating brilliantly, between storytelling and thinking, emotions and irony, classicism and time-proof sensitivity, *The Unconsciousness* is a powerful novel.

Also available

Démon (2009, sold in Italy—Fazi, Israel—Modan, Norway—Agora, Spain—Duomo, Ukraine—Tipovit)

“Dense and ambitious novel, *The Unconsciousness* is more than a familial romance; it draws a fresco of a half-century social and cultural development.” *Le Monde*

World rights available

Juliette Kahane

Juliette Kahane lives in Paris. She has written several reviews and reports in magazines and two novels at Gallimard before joining Editions de l'Olivier with *Revivre la bataille* (2009).



© Patrice Normand

Jours d'exil Days of Exile

Story 192 pages March 2017

Entering a high school in which a large number of refugees have gathered, Hannah begins to doubt her motivations. As a feminist and libertarian during the 70's, what is she expecting to achieve by doing this volunteer work which she doesn't really believe in? Regardless, she does every job asked of her, especially the cooking. The kitchen becomes a strategic post, controlled by a woman, Mino. Despite her tyrannical authority, disorder is growing and getting out of control. The doors are broken, food supplies are stolen. There are whispers about fights, theft, rape; violence is spreading...

Between July and October 2015, more than a thousand refugees squatted a disused high school building in the North of Paris. *Days of Exile* shows us the momentum and the doubt of the author, who has a singular perspective on the occupation, thanks to her commitment to far left political organizations. Ironic and generous, Juliette Kahane's story spares nothing and no one, asking the difficult questions that cut to the heart of current political debate.

Une fille A Daughter

Novel 176 pages January 2015

She had been brought up by her grand-mother and her mother in a messy and melancholic flat. From time to time, a handsome man would take her to a club for dinner. He impressed her so much that he would make her mute. This man was her father, Maurice Girodias, a Don Juan, a dandy, and the publisher of Miller, Burroughs, and of Nabokov's *Lolita*; a hero of the fight against censorship for some, an unscrupulous adventurer for others.

Becoming a teenager, the girl understood that she could only trust herself. In the mid-60', she was seventeen and started travelling through California, a journey that became a rite-of-passage. Back in France, the teenager became

a woman who rebelled. It was May 68. In this book, Juliette Kahane confronts the past and the her father's story, opens his archives boxes that she had inherited and eventually reads his autobiography, *Une journée sur la terre*.

“A moving story.” *Le Figaro*

“An eye-opening and cathartic narrative, and above all a nuanced portrait of an extraordinary father.” *Les Inrocks*

Bibliography

Fabrique (2002), *Métropolitains* (2005) with Gallimard

Also available

Revivre la bataille (2009), *L'Inconnu* (2013)

World rights available

Gérard Lefort

After finishing his studies in philosophy Gerard Lefort joined the staff of *Liberation* in the 80s. In his thirty year career as a columnist for the newspaper he has held many positions, including head of the cinema section and editor-in-chief for culture.



© Patrice Normand

Le Commun des mortels Average People

Novel 176 pages March 2017

“For the last few days, there has been a black bird perched on the edge of the roof. This jackdaw disgusts him. At first he clapped his hands to ward it off. After that, at the risk of attracting the neighbours’ attention, he shouted, and then he threw pebbles and then he built a catapult. The beast always returns. They keep an eye on one another. What it would take to live better is to lie down in the grass, scrutinize the clouds and imagine how one could live differently.” Simon, Elisabeth, Benoît, Esther, Jean, Victor, Marie, Olivier, Antoine, Paul, Sophie, Stéphane, Mathilde, Nicolas, Hélène ... they are just “any” men, just “ordinary” women, anonymous people glimpsed through the window of a train gliding by at high speed, fleeting strangers, every-day passers-by.

The new novel by Gérard Lefort is fascinated by average people, by human race which is a funny one. He surfs on the froth of daydreams is more correct at random through imagined existences. And, as he does, a little universe within a greater one emerges, a series of singular lives that in being collected compose a cubist novel of our era. It is an era which is atomised, splintered and yet is animated by an encouraging ideal: the happiness, despite it all, of living together.

Les amygdales

The Tonsils

Debut novel 288 pages August 2015

“I am perpetually on the look-out, I am everything I see.”

Nothing escapes this young boy growing up in a big house full of servants, between a capricious mother, an insomniac father and troublesome siblings. Bursting with imagination, he goes over everything with a fine-tooth comb: family life, meeting friends, cinematic dreams, turbulent times at school, adventures and anarchic temptations.

The Tonsils is a dive into the intimate and the wild, into human stories and disorders. Because when you write, you have to face the chaos of the world. Gérard Lefort gets it all in order in this teeming coming-of-age novel.

“With this caustic and melancholy text, he has given us a brother to Tom Sawyer and Holden Caulfield.” *Les Inrocks*

World rights available

Julie Marx

La Journée de la Vierge The Day of the Virgin

Debut Novel 196 pages February 2018

August bank holiday in the big city. A woman on her last legs is granted 24 hours to take stock. She's a stand-up and an author going through a rough time, but she hasn't yet given up the ghost. Here she is, telling us of adventures and misadventures running on in a burlesque and melancholy cavalcade, which will not be done until the night is. This novel, in which loneliness is ever-present, is also a survival guide for all those for whom humour provides a compass. Julie Marx is firing on all cylinders and exposing her era with incredible virtuosity.



© Tarek Hanouy

Julie Marx lives and works in Paris. She ran “La Mouche et la Vitre”/“The Fly and The Windowpane” blog on the website of the newspaper *Liberation* from 2008 to 2012, and has published columns for *Causette* magazine. *The Day of the Virgin* is her first novel.

“Not only Julie Marx has a great sense of self-mockery, is very witty, and can play with a huge variety of literary forms, but she offers penetrating insights of the modern way of life too.” *Les Inrocks*

“Julie Marx’s debut novel explores with a tragicomic grace the conditions of our urban solitude.” *Le Monde*

World rights available

LISTED FOR PRIX ANAÏS NIN 2018

Christian Oster

Christian Oster is the author of 14 books, including *Mon grand appartement* (prix Médicis 1999), *Une femme de ménage* (2001), *Dans la cathédrale* (2010), published by Editions de Minuit and *Rouler* (2011) published by Editions de l'Olivier. He has also published thrillers and many books for children (by l'École des loisirs).



© Patrice Normand

Massif Central

Novel 160 pages March 2018

Maud left Carl Denver to live with Paul, a friend of the couple. When Paul, in turn, leaves Maud, realizing that he doesn't love her anymore, the situation becomes out of control. So much that Paul decides to flee for Paris to save his hide, imagining he is threatened by Carl. He settles down, for the time being, at a friend's place in the middle of countryside.

But hiding in the Massif Central is no solution when one is obsessed by a man for whom "kindness occurs so rarely that one receives it as a blessing". On the look out for any sign evoking the presence of Carl Denver, Paul makes moves to cover his tracks. He meets unusual characters (Antoine, a childhood friend, lives in the trees) who seem to emerge on the road to lead him to his destiny.

Finally, he finds refuge in a hotel and watches for the fatal moment when the threat will take form. He dreads as much as hopes for it, impatient to atone for the double wrongdoing of which he is guilty: to no longer love the woman for whom he betrayed a friend. Christian Oster delivers a captivating novel on the flight of a man in the face of the inevitable.

"With this nagging novel, Christian Oster creates a troubling atmosphere and makes it grow-up until the end. The result is as freezing as fascinating." *Lire*

"One of the most poignant and beautiful Christian Oster's novel." *Livres Hebdo*

La Vie automatique The Mindless Life

Novel 144 pages February 2017

To begin, there's a fire. Jean forgets to turn off the hob under a saucepan, but, as he deserts a house engulfed in flames, he sees a good opportunity to forget his life too. A B-movie actor, from now on he will only just get by. Fiction becomes shelter, real life only a backdrop.

In this atmosphere of disenchantment he meets a famous actress, France Rivière, who invites him to settle in her place. He then meets Charles, her son, a fascinating man who has just been released from a psychiatric hospital. Jean follows Charles until he disappears and remains fascinated by his disappearance, which has echoes of his own way of life.

Thanks to his tight writing, Christian Oster can relate the downward spiral of a man who questions his own renunciations with a touch of humour.

Le cœur du problème The Heart of The Problem

Novel 192 pages August 2015

Arriving home, Simon discovers a dead body in the middle of the living room. Diane, his wife, is having a bath. It seems that she pushed the man over the bannister. After announcing she is leaving, Diane refuses to say anything more. Simon, alone with the dead body, has to make the right decisions. When he goes to the police, he meets Henri, a retired policeman who likes playing tennis. A friendship is born. But Simon stays focused: every word, every gesture could be interpreted gravely. A surprising and funny game of chess has begun between the two men.

“The improbable adventures are savoured, woven together by beautifully rhythmic narration, in this book crime fiction-like, evocative of Ionesco and Queneau.” *Le Point*

Rights sold in Italian (Clichy)

En ville Downtown

Novel 180 pages January 2013

After meeting for dinner to choose the destination of their next vacation, five Parisian friends find themselves dealing with new circumstances: Georges (who has just been dumped by his girlfriend) falls in love again, William (who lives in front of an hospital) has a pulmonary embolism, Paul and Louise decide to break up (but not before the end of the vacation), and Jean learns that he is going to have a baby (with a woman he doesn't love). Despite these troubles, they decide not to cancel their travel. Disturbance seems to rule the novel. Christian Oster takes his characters at the exact moment where their life is falling over and is forcing them to confront themselves.

“Thrifty and modest, Oster is nevertheless able to produce sentences for which others could kill father and mother.”

Le Figaro

LANDERNEAU PRIZE 2013

World rights available

Rouler Driving

Novel 180 pages February 2011

On a sudden impulse, Jean goes away. He hits the road. The South of France seems like a promise, or maybe not. He chooses deserted roads and encounters only shadows. He wants to get to the sea, maybe Marseille. Driving. Escaping. Fleeing his monotonous life, living day by day, encounter by encounter, and waiting to see what tomorrow's world will hold for him.

“The fluidity of his style and the nonchalance of his narrative give the pleasant feeling of making the summer last longer and opening wider the parenthesis of the possible.” *Télérama*

World rights available

Bibliography

Volley-ball (1989), *L'Aventure* (1993), *Le Pont d'Arcueil* (1994), *Paul au téléphone* (1996), *Le Pique-nique* (1997), *Loin d'Odile* (1998), *Mon grand appartement* (prix Médicis 1999), *Une femme de ménage* (2001), *Dans le train* (2002), *Les*

rendez-vous (2003), *L'imprévu* (2005), *Sur la dune* (2007), *Trois hommes seuls* (2008), *Dans la cathédrale* (2010).

Previous foreign publications

China (Art et Littérature du Hunan, Discovery Culture), Croatia (Fraktura), Czech Republic (Albatros), Germany (Eichborn Verlag, Bloomsbury Berlin), Israel (Am Oved), Italy (Nottetempo, Barbès), Japan (Kawade), Korea (Hyundae Munhak), Russia (Inostranka), Spain (Losada), Sweden (Fischer), United States of America (Other Press, Object Press, University of Nevada).

Véronique Ovaldé

Véronique Ovaldé is a particularly imaginative writer. Book after book, she has made a name for herself in the French and foreign literary scenes. Her latest novel *Ce que je sais de Vera Candida* reached tremendous public and critic success (Grand Prix des lectrices de Elle 2012, prix France Télévisions 2009, prix Renaudot des lycéens 2009). She was born in 1972 and lives in Paris.



© Christian Kettiger

La grâce des brigands The Elegance of Thieves

Novel 288 pages August 2013

Maria Cristina Väätonen is 16 when she walks away from the city of her childhood, in the far North. She leaves behind her a taciturn father, a zealously religious mother, a jealous sister and moves to Santa Monica, Los Angeles. We are in the 70's, the beginning of a new era of freedom. She hasn't yet written the novel which will make her famous and she is not yet Rafael Claramunt's lover. Is he the Maria Cristina's Pygmalion or an impostor who is trying to take over her talent?

Rights sold in Korean (Mujintree), Italian (Minimum Fax), English (India, Full Circle Editorial) and Lithuanian (Gimtasias Zodis)

Des vies d'oiseaux Birds Lives

Novel 240 pages August 2011

When her daughter Paloma abandoned without notice the magnificent family villa, Vida Izzara thinks that she knows the reason—she has left with her lover to lead a less conventional life. Until the day she realized that Paloma had also fled her. With the help of Taïbo, who investigates a young couple living clandestinely in unoccupied houses in the region, Vida goes in search of her daughter. This journey will lead her from her childhood village of Irigoy to the secret recesses of her heart.

The characters in their own way are led to untie their marital, social and family bonds to experience their freedom to exist.

Véronique Ovaldé brings us into exploring a world filtered by her imagination. With *Des vies d'oiseaux*, she probes the relationships that unite men and women, but by planting in the heart of love the question of the freedom, which can be conquered only through talking, without caring about where we are from or where we are heading.

Rights sold in Italian (Ponte Alle Grazie) and Danish (Etcetera)

Ce que je sais de Vera Candida What I know about Vera Candida

Novel 300 pages August 2009

Somewhere in an imaginary South America, three women from the same family seem to be condemned to suffer the same destiny: having a girl and keeping silence about the father's identity. Their names are Rose, Violette and Vera Candida. They love freedom but are melancholic; they are brave but also dependent on their female condition. Only Vera Candida understood that fate can be broken. When she is 15, she escapes from Vatapuna Island and goes to Lahomeria, to start a new life. Ixtaga, a young journalist, is going to change her plan.

Rights sold in Chinese (Shanghai 99), Finnish (Werner Södrström), Grec (Gema), Hebrew (Kinneret), Italian (Ponte Alle Grazie/Adriano Salani) , Spanish (Salamandra, Alberdania) and Vietnamese (Nha Xuat Ban Thoi Dai)

82 000 hardcover copies sold

AWARDED THE GRAND PRIX DES LECTRICES DE ELLE 2009

PRIX FRANCE TÉLÉVISIONS 2009

PRIX RENAUDOT DES LYCÉENS 2009

Et mon cœur transparent My Heart, an Open Book

Novel 240 pages January 2008

Will we ever know who we live with? When Lancelot hears about his wife's death, his life falls apart. And he is about to endure a second big shock when he finds out that Irina had many secrets. Despite his deep sorrow, he decides to investigate that life he ignored everything about: the life of a woman who used to plant bombs, who was an orphan but whose father was alive, and who died in a car belonging to an unknown man.

Rights sold in Italian (Minimum Fax), English (UK-Portobello), Korean (Munjitree), Albanian (Toena)

Bibliography

Le Sommeil des poissons (2000), *Toutes choses scintillant* (2002), *Les hommes en général me plaisent beaucoup* (2003), *Déloger l'animal* (2005).

Previous foreign publications

Albania, Belgium, China, Finland, Greece, Korea, Israel, Italy, Spain, United-Kingdom.

Martin Page

Martin Page was born in 1975. He wrote six other novels including *Peut-être une histoire d'amour* (2008) and also a comic book, *Le Banc de touche*, éditions Warum (2012). His books are translated in ten countries.



© Patrice Normand

L'apiculture selon Samuel Beckett Beekeeping According to Samuel Beckett

Novel 96 pages January 2013

A young student in anthropology finds an incredible job: Samuel Beckett asks him to handle the classification of his papers and to become his assistant. He decides to write a day-to-day diary of this experience. And we discover an unexpected Samuel Beckett, who is very fond of hot chocolate, wears an extravagant suit, plays bowling and is a passionate beekeeper. With a high free fantasy, Martin Page makes us wonder about the writer as famous public figure and his literary heritage.

Bibliography

Comment je suis devenu stupide (2001), *Une parfaite journée parfaite* (2002), *La Libellule de ses huit ans* (2003), *On s'habitue aux fins du monde* (2005), *De la pluie* (2007)

Also available

Peut-être une histoire d'amour (2008), *La Disparition de Paris et sa renaissance en Afrique* (2010), *La Mauvaise Habitude d'être soi* (2011).

Rights sold in Italian (Clichy Edizioni), Spanish (South America, Edhasa), South Korean (Yolimwon), Georgian (Intelekti) and Turkish (Sel)

Translation rights

German translation rights © Martin Page

Previous Foreign publications

Germany (Thiele, Mertz & Solitude), Brazil (Rocco), Korea (Munidang, Yolimon), Greece (Patakis), Italy (Garzanti), Romania (Humanitas), Russia (Astrel), Serbia (Nolit), United States of America (Viking Penguin), and Azerbaijan (Alatoran)

Peut-être une histoire d'amour Maybe a Love Story

Novel 204 pages August 2008

Virgile is used to being left by the women that he loves. He even considers it a "certainty greater than gravity". But this time, he's about to experience something even more disconcerting: getting home after a long day at work, he discovers a message on his answerphone from Clara, who has called to announce that she's leaving him. He has, however, no memory of this girl. In vain he seeks a satisfying explanation, and ends up making an unexpected decision: to win back this woman who he doesn't know.

Maybe a Love Story is a romantic comedy, of which Virgile is the offbeat hero. Twists and misunderstandings are married with reflections on love, and add spice to this spirited fable.

Rights sold in World English (USA: Viking Press), in German (Thiele Verlag), in Portuguese (Brasil: Rocco), in Korean (Yolimwon), in Greek (Patakis), in Japanese (Kindai Bungei Sha), in Serbian (Noli), in Russian (Astrel), in Romanian (Humanitas), in Arabian (Centre Culturel Arabe)

Yves Pagès

Born in Paris in 1963, Yves Pagès has published several works of fiction, including *Petites Natures mortes au travail*, *Le Théoriste* and *Le soi-disant* (Verticales). He has also written essays on Louis-Ferdinand Céline, Victor Serge, the graffiti of 1968. He is the editor of the publishing house Verticales and runs a website of written and visual creations: www.archyves.net/html/blog



© Patrice Normand

Encore heureux I'm So Glad

Novel 320 pages January 2018

Bruno Lescot is on the lam. He spent his youth building up his rap sheet, until his final feat: a mock robbery gone wrong which costs the life of a police officer. Today, guilty in the eyes of the court, he prefers to disappear. It is therefore without him that his trial takes place, unfolding through the opinions and testimonies of those with whom he rubbed shoulders.

The portrait that emerges is one of a scoundrel, a man with multiple loyalties, ready for any adventure, provided that it defies the law and the guardians of order that he likes to flout. For Lescot is an ironist of a particular kind; valuing liberty to such heights, yet prepared to lose it for a witty remark. *Still Happy?* A literary bomb. It's left to the reader to light the fuse.

"The reader is really happy at the end of this astonishing novel." *Le Monde*

"Encore heureux is an exhilarating puzzle and a melancholic fiction about the end of political hopes and the sadness of a complex man." *Télérama*

Souviens-moi Remember Me

Novel 112 pages March 2014

Remember I is 270 sentences to capture ever failing and indistinct memory. "Remember I not to forget": with this refrain Yves Pagès draws out moments from the past, forgotten and rediscovered, which help him to arouse his senses

and his consciousness: a street juggler, the recipe for an explosive cocktail, the clandestine cigarettes of his mother, the dark petticoat of Louise Michel, and the first title of a manuscript sent to an editor: *Domestic Amnesia*... These *instantanés*—meetings, bereavements, plays, things seen or things read—share an openness of emotion and a bracing humor, providing an original perspective on everyday life and salutary insolence, reminding—of course—of Georges Perec and Joe Brainard.

“In engraving with a fine point these memories and observations on the blank slate of amnesia, Yves Pagès seems to tell us that it is its very insignificance which, paradoxically, renders every life precious and deserving of attention.”

Eric Chevillard, *Le Monde*

“A self portrait of Yves Pagès told in fragmented form, with poetic humour.” *Libération*

Bibliography

La Police des sentiments (1990), *Les Gaucher* (1993), *Céline, Fictions du politique* (1994), *Plutôt que rien* (1995), *Les Parapazzi* (1995)- *Prière d'exhumer* (1997), *Petites natures mortes au travail* (2000), *Le Théoriste L'Homme hérissé* (2002), *Portraits crachés* (2003), *Le Soi-disant* (2008), “De quelques façons d’en revenir au même” in *Anatopées* (2013)

Rights sold in Italian (L’Orma)

Shenaz Patel

Shenaz Patel was born in Rose Hill, Mauritius. She is a writer and a journalist. She lives in Mauritius. She has published several short stories and novels, including *Le Portrait Chamarel* (Radio France Prize for an Indian Ocean book) and *Sensitive* (L'Olivier, 2002) and *Le Silence des Chagos* (2005).



© Bruno Garcin Casser

Le silence des Chagos The Chagos' silence

Novel 152 pages January 2005

The harbour guard knows Charlesia very well. She often goes to the pier. She looks at the horizon, waiting for a boat which will never come to take her back to her native island. Diego Garcia is now only a memory, a sorrowful nostalgia for a simple life, with children's games, delicious traditional dishes and Saturday night "séga". For many years, Charlesia has been suffering, questioning herself and being questioned by others without any answer. The young boy, Désiré, could be her son. He also asks her questions that she can't answer. Confronting the mystery of his birth he is going to discover little by little the dramatic story of his parents and their people.

Charlesia and Désiré's voices are light and disturbing. Beyond their rebellion, Shenaz Patel tells us the tragedy of the Chagos, their deportation and their uprooted existence in Mauritius, since the day Diego Garcia became an American army base.

Bibliography

Le Portrait Chamarel (Indian Ocean book Radio France Prize), *Sensitive* (L'Olivier, 2002) and *Le Silence des Chagos* (2005).

Rights sold in World English (Restless Books), Italian (WIP), Spanish (Mexico, Libros Unam) and German (Weidle Verlag)

Emmanuelle Pireyre

Emmanuelle Pireyre was born in 1969 and resides in Lyon. She has written 3 books and various pieces presented through public readings, fictions for France Culture radio, and recently a theatrical play *Laissez-nous juste le temps de vous détruire*.



© Patrice Normand

Féerie générale General Enchantment

Novel 256 pages August 2012

Based on a few samples extracted from the media, this book mixes humor and erudition to broach inter alia the role of money, the demilitarization of Europe and the issue of the Islamic veil. She does all that through a modern, written and oral language, inspired by Internet forums: "Writing this novel, I often felt like I was borrowing stock phrases as you would rent a car just for the pleasure of returning it completely battered at the other end of the country", the author explained.

In this dazzling pastiche of scholarly, advertising and sociological speeches, Emmanuelle Pireyre twists clichés and continues her reflection on today's era. She addresses commonplace assertions with a communicative exultation and offers a X-ray of the European consciousness in the early 21st century.

Bibliography

Congélations et décongélations (2000), *Mes vêtements ne sont pas des draps de lit* (2001), *Comment faire disparaître la terre* (2006), *Féerie générale* (août 2012)

"Highly recommended reading." **Éric Chevillard, *Le Monde***

"This learned and crazy book is a modern novel in deep resonance with our times." ***Le Magazine Littéraire***

Rights sold in Italian (Gremese)

MEDICIS PRIZE 2012

SHORTLISTED FOR THE WEPLER PRIZE 2012

SHORTLISTED FOR THE ALEXANDRE VIALATTE PRIZE 2013

Catherine Poulain

Catherine Poulain has been living on the road and on the sea for most of her life. Employed in fish farms in Iceland and as a farm worker in Canada, she also worked as a barmaid in Hong Kong, and in naval shipyards in the U.S. She spent 10 years fishing in Alaska before coming back to France, where she was born. She now shares her time as a shepherd and a laborer in vineyards. *Le Grand Marin* is her first novel.



© Geoffroy Mathieu/Leemage

Le grand marin The Great Mariner

Debut novel 368 pages February 2016

All her life she had been dreaming of leaving for good.

Her family, her home, her life.

She became a runaway.

Now, at the end of a long journey, she is in Kodiak (Alaska), trying to embark on one of the ships which go fishing—black cod, crab, halibut—in the Bering Sea. And she does.

Sleeping on the deck; withstanding the freezing cold, the salt that eats her skin; facing fear, injuries, exhaustion. Roughing it.

When the boats come ashore, she stays with the men, in the bars, strip clubs and shabby motels where they use to hang around, waiting for the next voyage. And then she meets the Great Mariner.

100 000 copies sold

WINNER OF 8 PRIZES 2016 : PRIX ROMAN OUEST FRANCE ÉTONNANTS VOYAGEURS, PRIX COMPANIE DES PÊCHES, PRIX GENS DE MER, PRIX JOSEPH KESSEL, PRIX LIVRE & MER HENRI-QUEFFLEC, PRIX NICOLAS BOUVIER, PRIX PIERRE MAC ORLAN, PRIX ALBATROS

Rights sold in World English (Jonathan Cape), Italian (Neri Pozza), German (btb Verlag), World Spanish (Lumen Random House), Catalan (1984), Hebrew (Keter), Russian (Leisure Family Club), Dutch (Cossee), Chinese (Shanghai 99), Polish (Wydawnictwo Literackie) and Romanian (Polirom)

Barlen Pyamootoo

Barlen Pyamootoo was born in 1960 on the island of Mauritius where he spent his childhood and adolescence before leaving with his family for France in 1977. After studying the arts and several years of teaching in Strasbourg, he returned to Mauritius. Since 1995 he has lived in Trou d'Eau Douce, from where he imposes his singular voice.



© Patrice Normand

L'Île au poisson venimeux The Island of Poisonous Fish

Novel 176 pages August 2017

Anil and Nina have a well-regulated life, between their children and the clothes shop they own. Then one day like any other Anil leaves the shop at midday to go and have lunch with their son Rakesh and never comes back. It is as if he has evaporated.

Desperate, Mirna faces up to this absence, which feels like abandonment. Finally, battle-weary, she decides to remake her life. But her story does not end there, because we are in Mauritius, a small, closed world where it is difficult to hide...

Barlen Pyamootoo has an excellent ear. Nothing escapes him, neither the misery nor the grandeur of these people whose daily lives are woven of the grotesque and marvellous. Like in his previous novel, in *The Island of Poisonous Fish*, he leads us on an inner journey a long way from mere exoticism.

“We are really happy to see Barlen Pyamootoo again this fall with a tropical imbroglio he has patiently, mischievously woven.” *Livres Hebdo*

Also available

Benares (1999), *The Tower of Babylon* (2002) and *Salogi's* (2008)

World rights available

Emmanuelle Richard

Emmanuelle Richard was born in 1985 near Paris. Her first novel about the adolescence, *The Lightness* (Editions de l'Olivier, 2014) has been praised by the press. *Under My Skin* is her second novel.



© Patrice Normand

Pour la peau Under My Skin

Novel 224 pages January 2016

"The first time I see E. I find him ordinary if not ugly. He's got a gray complexion and he's smoking. These are the only things I notice." E. was leaning back against the green door of his real estate agency when Emma saw him. He was supposed to show her a flat. Since then, Emma can't stop revisiting this first encounter. In the meantime, both swept away by a passion they had never expected, they loved each other and then broke up.

Under My Skin is the story of this passion: violent, brutal, obsessive. Composed like a hyper realistic painting, Emmanuelle Richard's novel gives this story a hypnotic force.

ANAI NIN PRIZE 2016

MARIE-CLAIRE PRIZE 2016

SHORTLISTED FOR THE RTL/LIRE PRIZE 2016

"The book is original and brilliant, the writing is brave and mastered, and the author's singular voice is present from the beginning to the end, intensely." *Le Monde*

Rights sold in Danish (Etcetera)

La légèreté The Lightness

Debut novel 276 pages February 2014

She is fourteen years old. She is rough, nervous, twisted, electric. She can't wait anymore: she has to meet a boy. Wandering on a holidays island, in a village where she is not at her place. She's looking for other people, in order to be seen, at last. Because who can live without being seen, loved and desired?

Emmanuelle Richard marvelously reproduces the savagery of adolescence in this heartbreaking—but unsentimental—novel.

Reviews for *The Lightness*

“In this debut novel, the writer shifts between lightness and gravity, expressing the desires and fears of a young girl today with startling insight.” *L'Express*

“Emmanuelle Richard grasps with a amazing accuracy the savagery of this fraught age.” *Le Monde*

“An extremely refined and precise book speaking to the universal memory of the adolescent years of becoming.” *Libération*

“A magnificent book.” *Le Figaro*

Rights sold in Danish (Etcetera)

Florence Seyvos

Florence Seyvos was born in 1967. Her first novel, *Les Apparitions*, awarded the Goncourt prize for a first novel. Author of ten children's books, she has also written screenplays for films.



© Patrice Normand

La Sainte Famille The Holy Family

Novel 176 pages August 2016

Two children: Susanne and Thomas. A house of closed doors. Amongst the adults who surround them, a domineering mother, a weak, perverted uncle, and – later – a sadistic schoolmaster, are figures of worrying omnipotence. Only Odette, who is almost a simpleton – or perhaps a saint? – truly cares for them. And then there is Mathilde, the tyrannical cousin who lies all the time and yet tells the truth. “What am I missing?” Susanne asks herself.

Guided by this question, like Ariadne in the labyrinth, Suzanne revisits the moments and the places where everything played out: the failed divorce of her parents, religion and the taste of blasphemy, the first sexual games, summer nights on the lake shore, the cruelty and the stupidity. She hopes in vain to find again the path to a paradise that perhaps has only ever existed in her imagination.

Powerfully, yet gently, Florence Seyvos leads us into this world, which is that of the children of Henry James and Flannery O'Connor.

“Florence Seyvos gives the best of her writing with these very insightful, confidential words.” *Télérama*

“The great power of the novelist is knowing how, in the foot-steps of Flannery O'Connor, to paint all the nuances of childhood.” *La Revue des deux mondes*

“One of today's great novelists on childhood and its spells ... Florence Seyvos' characters, marked by the sacred, are the cousins of those of Henry James.” *Livres Hebdo*

LISTED FOR THE MEDICIS AND FEMINA 2016 PRIZES

World rights available

Le garçon incassable The Unbreakable Boy

Novel 176 pages May 2013

When the narrator arrives in Hollywood to make some research about Buster Keaton, she doesn't know yet that her investigation will become very personal. The memory of her lost brother, Henri, a "different" boy with whom she shared her childhood, reappears. What is the similarity between him and Buster Keaton? Henri always seems to be somewhere else. Prisoner of his own body, he has to follow every day a strict and painful reeducation from his father. Joseph Frank Keaton, nicknamed "Buster" is the star of his father's show: the little boy is thrown like a projectile without expressing any pain. From this terrible childhood, Buster Keaton will create, years later, burlesque and poetic movies. Gathering these two true stories together, Florence Seyvos writes a beautiful novel, full of contained emotions.

"A modest and graceful text, superbly obstinate." *Le Monde*
**"The Unbreakable Boy is a book incredibly moving and sober.
A vibrant novel, deeply distressing, that we cannot
forget." *Livres Hebdo***

**"The author gives us a story both intimate and movie-lover.
An emotional *transgenre* novel." *Les Inrocks***

**"What an incredible, enigmatic and heartbreaking character.
Henry is unforgettable." *Le Nouvel Observateur***

30 000 copies sold

Previous Foreign publications

Germany (Luchterhand), Netherland (De Geus)

RENAUDOT PRIZE 2014 FOR A PAPERBACK BOOK

World rights available

Shumona Sinha

Shumona Sinha was born in 1973 in Calcutta, India. In 1990, she received Bengali's best young poet award. She wrote several anthologies of French and Bengali poetry with the poet Lionel Ray. Her previous book, *Assommons les pauvres ! / Knock out the poor!* (2011) has been awarded the Roman populiste Prize and the Valéry-Larbaud Prize. She has been living in Paris since 2001.



© Patrice Normand

Apatride Stateless

Novel 192 pages January 2017

Esha leaves Calcutta to live in Paris, a city she has dreamt of. But, as time goes by, the disappointment grows; life becomes darker and more violent. She wears herself out in countless fights and doesn't feel safe anymore.

Mina comes from a poor farming family and lives in a village near Calcutta. Because of her incredulity or her ignorance, she takes part in a revolutionary farming movement, in the meantime falling into an irrational passion for her cousin Sam, who makes her commit an irredeemable act.

The destinies of Mina and Esha parallel one another in this novel which spares neither French nor Indian society. Shumona Sinha's writing, powered by an eloquent anger, is rich in fascinating and powerful images.

Rights sold in German (Nautilus)

AWARDED THE PRIX DES CINQ CONTINENTS

Calcutta

Novel 208 pages January 2014

"Trisha doesn't recognize the sky of her city anymore. In broad daylight, the light seems blurred and spotted with black." Trisha has always known that you have to be careful with darkness. The city where she returns to attend her father's cremation is Calcutta. She finds the neighborhood, the house, the furniture and all the things of her childhood: everything moves her. She remembers that the hibiscus oil was a medicine for her mother's insanity and that the red duvet in the attic used to hide her father's gun.

Writing in a powerful style, Shumona Sinha tells of the politic violence of Occidental Bengal, through a family story.

“Shumona Sinha gracefully glides between Bengali and French culture.” *Livres Hebdo*

“Belyind epic ambition, held together by writing rich with emotion and poetry, the story of a young girl unfold: a child waiting for her father, her hero.” *Télérama*

“Shumona Sinha gives us an inspired requiem.” *L'Express*

LONGLISTED FOR “ÉTONNANTS VOYAGEURS” PRIZE 2014

Rights sold in Italian (Clichy), German (Nautilus) and English (India: Social Science Presse)

Assommons les pauvres! Knock out the poors!

Novel 154 pages August 2011

“Words were added to words. Files were piling up. Men were coming in and out endlessly. They had to lie, to tell a different story than theirs to get asylum. We obviously almost never believed their stories. These stories, bought with a ride and a passport, were going to turn yellow and break into bits and pieces like so many other stories stacked up with the years.”

During one night, spent in custody for smashing a bottle of wine on an immigrant's head, a young lady tries to understand the reasons that led her to such a fury. A foreigner herself too, she makes a living as an interpreter for asylum applicants in the offices city's outskirts.

Assommons les pauvres !, which borrows its title from a Baudelaire's poem, is the story of a woman slowly contaminated by the violence of the world.

“It is through the poetic power of her sentences that Shumona Sinha brings the shattered world that she describes white-hot.” *Le Monde*

Rights sold in German (Nautilus), Italian (Clichy), Hungarian (Bookart) and Arabian (Al Kamel)

Bibliography

Fenêtre sur l'abîme (2008)

Marion Vernoux

Born in 1966 in Montreuil, Marion Vernoux has directed numerous films for television and cinema since 1991. Amongst them are *Nobody Loves Me* (1994), *Love, etc.* (1996), and more recently *Bright Days Ahead* (2013) and *Half Sister, Full Love* (2015).



© Emmanuelle Jacobson/Roques

Mobile Home

Debut Story 256 pages September 2017

Marion Vernoux is a film-maker. On the eve of her fiftieth birthday, the future appears to her to be particularly bleak: her last film was a failure. Finally in order not to give in to discouragement, she decides to undertake a survey of her furniture by photographing it. But the furniture is not only the subject of her photos, it tells stories: those of an eccentric mother who abandoned cinema to embark on a life making unwearable clothes, of her relationship with the father of her children, of her moves and her ruptures. Confronted with the imaginary patchwork of her life, the auteur revisits her childhood. It is in this way that the little girl raised in Paris by her parents, a communist Jewish couple, retraces the footsteps of Bala, her grandmother, who was carried away during the Occupation. Wielding humour and distancing with an art consumed by self-deprecation, Marion Vernoux takes us on a tour wherein parents, friends, lovers, and children seem to challenge, at every moment, the aging and death that threaten us all. A lesson in life and optimism.

SHORTLISTED FOR PRIX DE FLORE AND PRIX SGDL 2017

“Marion Vernoux has the infinite elegance of humour and authentic writer’s sense of rythm too.” *Livres Hebdo*

World rights available

Valérie Zenatti

Valérie Zenatti was born in 1970. With her family, she left for Israel in 1983, where she spent her teenage years, as Hebrew became her second language. Since 1999, she has been publishing books for children with l'Ecole des loisirs, including *Quand j'étais soldate* and *Une bouteille dans la mer de Gaza* (Tam-Tam award 2005 and movie adaptation 2012), which has been translated in several countries. She has also been the translator of Aharon Appelfeld since 2004. Her first novel *En retard pour la guerre* has been adapted for the cinema under the title *Ultimatum* by Alain Tasma.



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Jacob, Jacob

Novel 168 pages August 2014

Jacob is a young Jew from Constantine (Algeria). In June 1944, he is enlisted by the army in order to free France. His family doesn't know anything about the war he is fighting. These people, extremely modest and poor, are waiting impatiently for his return: he is their pride, he is a brave man. They still ignore that the acceleration of history will soon lead them to their own uprooting. Valérie Zenatti's bright writing, her vitality and her empathy for the characters, give this novel a density and a particular power.

“Valérie Zenatti says it all: the war, its atrocities and its waits; the absolute need for the past and for memory; but also the vital necessity of the present.” *Le Monde*

Also available

En retard pour la guerre (2006), *Les Âmes Sœurs* (2010), *Mensonges* (2011)

Previous Foreign publications

Lituanian (Gimtasis Zodis)


Rights sold in Hebrew (Sifriat Paolim Publishing House), German (Schöffling) and Spanish (Armaenia Editorial)

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