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French Novels

ALEXIS RAGOUGNEAU



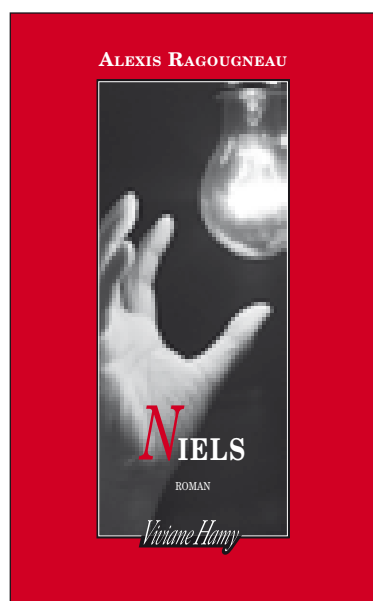
Alexis Ragougneau was born in 1973. He made a striking entrance onto the literary stage with his first two detective novels: *The Madonna of Notre Dame* and *The Gospel for Paupers*, which were published in the Chemins Nocturnes collection. Readers, bookshop owners and journalists received them with enthusiasm, both in France and abroad.

A brilliant craftsman in so many areas, he decided to break the rules to more freely explore novelistic creation. Hence, *Niels*, a singularly powerful novel, was born and caught the attention of the Prix Goncourt judges.

For the 2019 literary season, the author slides behind the scenes of classical music with *Opus 77*. To the rhythm of the five movements of Shostakovich's violin concerto, from where the book takes its name, he proposes a story of a family, shaped by silences and things unspoken, a portrait of woman, uniting strength and fragility, and a study of the links between the artist and the world.

He is also a playwright and has published several plays with Éditions de L'Amandier and La Fontaine.

Niels



Novel
French Literature
360 pages

Denmark, 1943. Niels Rasmussen meets Sarah, a reheated girl. He joins the Resistance and excels at being a saboteur who remodels the occupied city, one explosion after another. When the World War ends, Sarah is expecting a child and the heroes are lining up to collect their laurels. But a page of *Parisien Libéré* slipped into some anonymous mail will determine the course of destiny. Under the heading, "Épuration", Niels reads:

The theatre director, Jean-François Canonnier, currently detained in Fresnes, will come before the Seine Court of Justice on 7 May. He will be defended by Master Bianchi.

Overcome by bewilderment, he embarks on a journey to save his "soul brother", which will make him question all he holds true about heroism, cowardice, the Resistance and collaboration.

An adventure novel and an introspective inquiry, *Niels* shrugs off literary genres and asks us: And you, what would you have done?

"We can make out, under the novelist's talent, that of a man of the theatre. Ragougneau combines narrative art with a touch of epic "je-ne-sais-quoi". He presents a theatrical vision of heroism, in the noblest sense of the term."

Julie Malaure, *Le Point*

Rights sold in Spanish (Alianza) & Greek (Plethron)



Opus 77

Shortlisted for the prix Femina 2019

“In writing *Opus 77*, I initially wanted to do the work of a translator, but not to translate the music into words. Music is a universal language, sufficient unto itself and beyond words. The idea was rather to transcribe the emotion that can overwhelm us when we listen to a piece of music. Shostakovich showed me the way: his violin concerto, which is the cornerstone of the novel, is a theatrical work. The themes are universal and timeless, such as the individual against the totalitarian steamroller, and against the system and the collective.” **Alexis Ragougneau**

“A very great novel.”

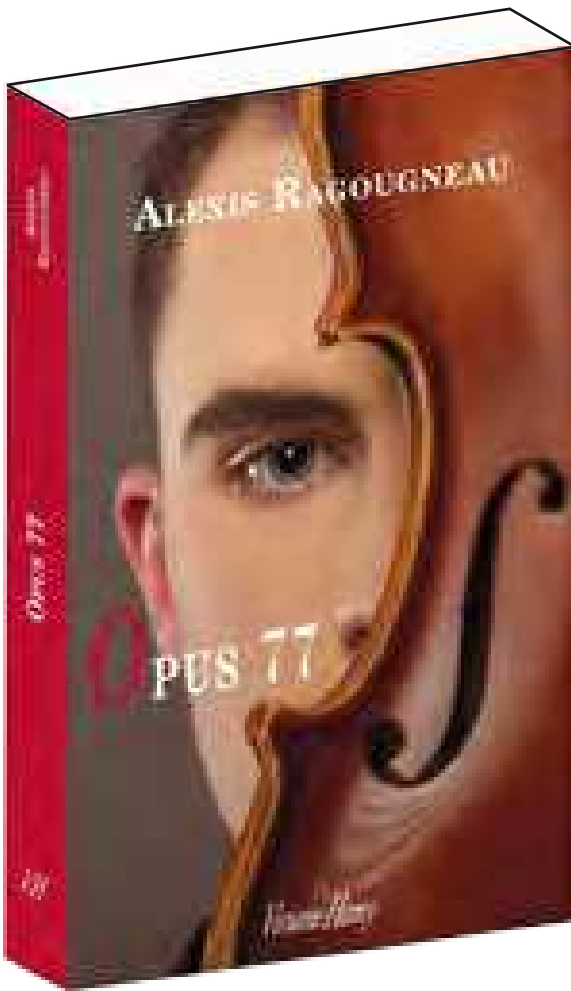
J.-B. Hamelin, **Librairie Le Carnet à Spirales**

“Masterfully written.”

Didier Jouanneau, **Librairie Les Oiseaux de nuit**

“We discover an artist, a girl, a sister: an exceptional woman in any case.”

Librairie de Port Maria



Novel
French Literature
256 pages

A family story · A portrait of woman ·
The relationship between the artist and the world · A love story

8 500 copies sold

In the end, silence always triumphs but we are left with one or two melodies in our memory that live on from generation to generation. Pressing these tired black and white keys is the best way that I have found to stop from collapsing. There is only music to face death.

The Claessens are a family with music in their blood. The father is a conductor who has sacrificed everything – including his wife Yaël, a singer from Israel – to work his way up to the highest echelons of the musical hierarchy, and finally hold the famous coveted baton in his hands.

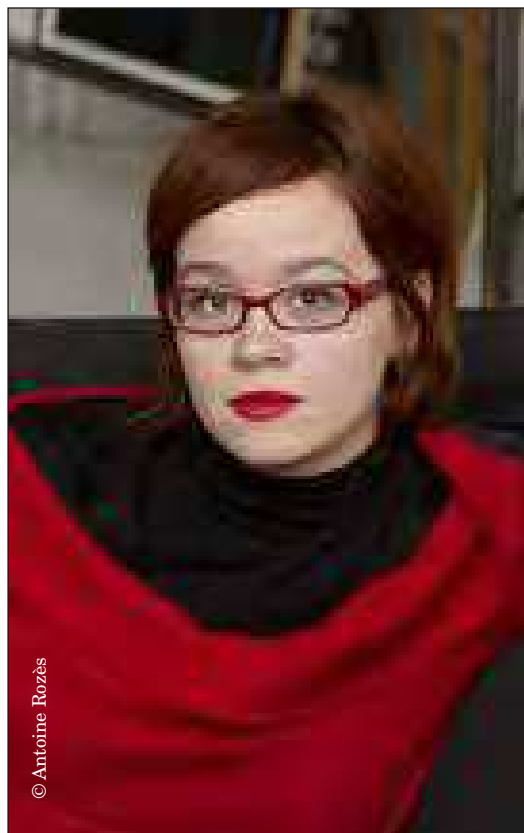
Ariane, the daughter, our narrator, is a gifted pianist. Her dexterity full of intelligence and subtlety, is known throughout the world. She lines up concerts and shoots for magazine covers, back to back.

But it is another member of the Claessens family that all music amateurs and professionals are talking about: David, the son, who dared to achieve the unimaginable at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth competition, which can launch the careers of young promising talent. After this event, the breakup with his father will be total, definitive and irreversible.

At the death of their father, while we expect her to play a hymn in honour of this great man, Ariane decides to deliver to us lay readers a confession that is both authentic and objective. Through her memories, she attempts to understand the reasons that pushed her brother to act the way he did. Why did he ruin his immense talent and years of practice in a fraction of a second? What could explain her shutting herself off in the role of a soloist with a cold and mysterious beauty that commands respect and intrigue?

Rights sold in Spanish (Alianza) & Greek (Stereoma)

CÉLINE LAPERTOT



Céline Lapertot teaches French in Strasbourg. She has been writing since she was nine years old. Through her three novels, *What my Silence Wrote*, *The Women who Dance under Bombs* and *Don't Choose Blood over Water*, unanimously applauded by readers, the media, such as *Le Monde des Livres*, *L'Express* and *Télérama*, and booksellers alike, she entered the literary scene as a promising, talented writer of French contemporary literature.

In *What is Monstrous is Normal*, her autobiographical account, she establishes a link between her past self (a child who smiled constantly to hide her distress and who would discover all too early that all mothers and fathers are not like other people's, full of love and goodwill) and the woman she is today. Through short chapters, she offers an intimate and unsentimental text, bringing the reader near to discover, up close and personal, a unique journey.

"Céline Lapertot excels in the art of working on her reader [...]. Her prowess consists of driving forward the narrative, not with action but with feelings, values, and emotional states that are endlessly kneaded together, merged and intertwined". Estelle Lenartowicz, *Lire*

What my Silence Wrote

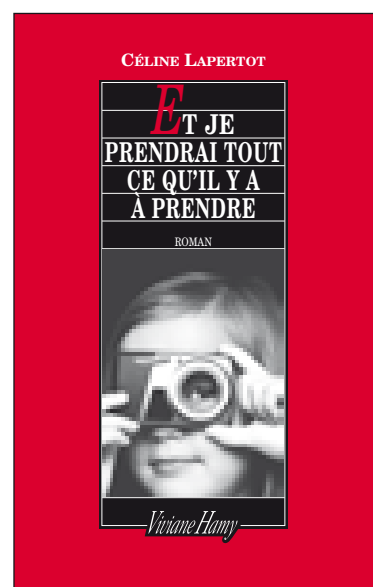
Charlotte killed her father...

A short time before her court appearance, where she will have to acknowledge her act and recount the ten years leading up to it, she writes the judge an open letter describing the hell she lived in, which led her to commit the irreparable.

She was seven years old when her father, who up until then had cosseted her, inflicting violence only on her mother, became her nightmare. At night he locked his daughter in the cellar and, by keeping a girl's bedroom upstairs, maintained the illusion, to the outside world, of the peaceful existence of a child. He would give his daughter a glimpse of the locked room to deepen her humiliation.

Her account is the scream that Charlotte cannot let out in front of the adults who question her and the peers who are disquieted by her difference.

This staggering novel is marked by an alarming rhythm and a dramatic suspense, delivered through accomplished writing.



First novel
French Literature
224 pages

"Impossible to forget this first literary cry."

Marine Landrot, *Télérama*



What is Monstrous is Normal



“What is monstrous is normal”... a line Céline Lapertot would often write, as she was growing up, without knowing that this litany would become the underlying theme of an account. Yes, what is monstrous is normal, for a young creature whose gaze becomes accustomed to the cracks in the white walls and the smell of urine in the corridors of buildings. Better to laugh than to cry about it, as the popular adage goes, hardly aware of its heritage. Laugh at the man who is bringing us up, look deep within ourselves for the respect we owe him, but laugh – a rictus that we’ll never wipe away – to forget that we would like to kick him hard in the back of the neck.

With three novels, all published by Editions Viviane Hamy, *What My Silence Wrote* (2014), *The Women who Dance under Bombs* (2016) *Don’t Choose Blood over Water* (2018) Céline Lapertot has entered the stage as a writer of contemporary French literature.

“The fourth book by Celine Lapertot is a flinty, dry text, telling the ugliness of a family that crosses the dirty places of a country that does not want to see them.”

Éric Loret, *Le Monde des Livres*

Story · Autobiography · Childhood · Incest · Family · Poverty · Help · School · Teacher · Career

How can you live - or survive - on a housing estate in ruins, wreaking of piss? How can you become a thriving little girl when your stepfather is slipping a finger into your knickers each evening? What kind of a woman can you become when you see your mother as weak, someone you’re ashamed of who chose to close her eyes to her husband’s actions?

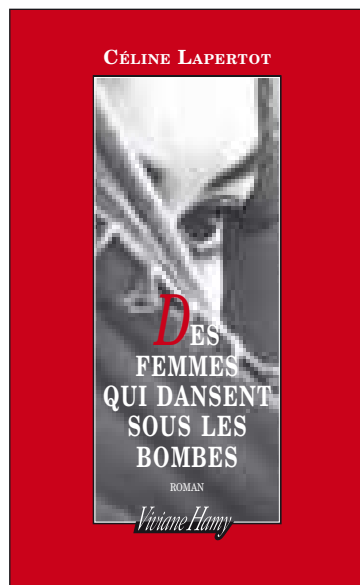
Telling the story of her childhood, the author establishes a link between who she used to be (a child who smiled constantly to hide her distress and who would discover all too early that all mothers and fathers are not like other people’s, full of love and goodwill) and the woman she is today (a young teacher passionate about her work, driven by a fierce desire to help and support her students every day, a mother of two children and a writer).

Thanks to the compassionate staff of the Department of Health and Social Services, who are full of humanity, learning at school, and reading (especially Semprun, Racine, Molière, Lovecraft, Du Bellay, Victor Hugo, and not forgetting Bergson), the hope of a better life would be kindled little by little.

Through short chapters, she offers an intimate and unsentimental text, bringing the reader near to discover, up close and personal, a unique journey that starts in “ruins” and finishes with a meeting with a “mother” which would overturn her life forever.

Autobiographical narrative · Out of collection · 96 pages

The Women who Dance under Bombs



Novel
French Literature
200 pages

When words cut like blades...

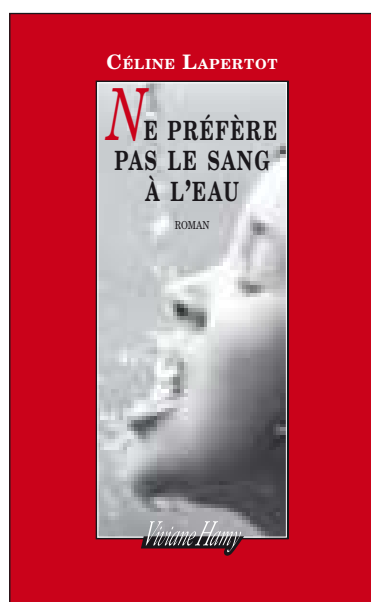
Somewhere in Africa, civil war rages. The militia opposes the armed forces. Seraphine is a young girl who witnesses the massacre of her family before being raped in front of her agonizing father. Nerine, a widowed peasant, owes her dignity to Seraphine, who stabs a mercenary about to rape her. And Blandine is a division chief, who immediately recognizes in Seraphine a future recruit for the armed forces.

These women are in turn victim and executioner, enemy and accomplice. Their voices alternate and form a moving chorus. They proclaim their hatred of men's violence and a rediscovered strength among sisters, and give voice to their song of fury which will not easily be forgotten...

"This novel is a long cry of fury, voiced with a subtle and almost sweet determination, that of an Antigone returned from the dead."

Olivia de Lamberterie, *Elle*

Don't Choose Blood over Water



Novel
French Literature
152 pages

Somewhere in the world, Cartimandua, a tiny industrialized country, harbours, without knowing it, a unique treasure that fascinates thousands of people: the Aquaneró water tank. It's the biggest ever built containing "a mind-blowing quantity of water".

Seen as a truly promised land, a sort of imaginary Eldorado, Cartimandua draws all those who, like the "green-noses", have only ever known drought, the power of the sun's energy and the inescapable dust that leaves your throat dry. Far from their desert of beauty and solitude, they have to walk for three long months to at last behold their new object of worship. This is the story of little Karole, 10 years old, who falls in love with the giant cistern. Her mother even claims, "we will drink up any humiliation, it doesn't matter. We shall live."

As with all treasures, the inhabitants of Cartimandua watch over it closely. Intolerant of these new emigrants, they show their true colours when the first water shortages start: selfish and xenophobic. They accuse the "green-noses" to be singularly responsible for their miseries. They even elect a tyrant who promises security and water.

But one day the giant cistern explodes...

"A carnal allegory of today's world. Magnificent."

Estelle Lenartowicz, *L'Express*



FRANÇOIS PIERETTI



Born in 1991, François Pieretti grew up in a little village, surrounded by fields and forests, deep in the Seine-et-Marne, near Paris. Incredibly well qualified thanks to many strategies that have little to do with learning, he is above all proud of his permit that allows him to go walking wherever he likes.

He likes late night and early morning radio voices, small towns, rivers, watching people go about their daily lives, reading novels by Jim Harrison, Julien Gracq, Patrick Modiano, Gabriel García Márquez and Paul Auster, and spending long moments with other people's dogs, while waiting for his own.

"I don't think you can be a good writer if you don't find a way to steal, in one way or another, eve-rything you can around you, the interesting moments and striking characters." François Pieretti

"Acrobats, dreamt up by a young author we were not expecting, François Pieretti, is an excellent surprise [...]. You need a certain talent and a mindful insouciance to go headlong into hackneyed topics, like family sagas, without falling into clichés."

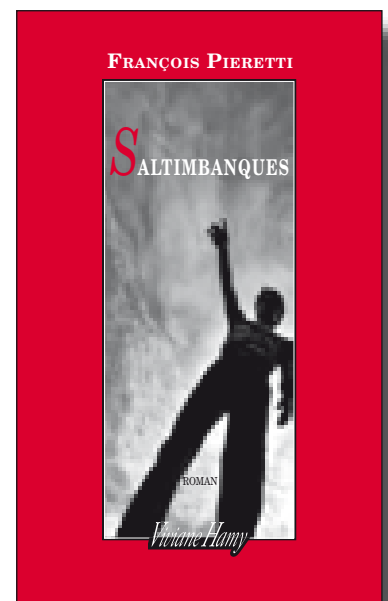
Rémi Bonnet, *L'Échos républicain*

The Acrobats

Nathan, the narrator, has lost his younger brother, Gabriel, in a car accident. A huge wave of sadness, powerlessness and incomprehension suddenly rises up over the everyday of his seemingly rather banal life.

Some ten years previously, Nathan had abruptly left the family home, no longer able to stand the endless fighting with his father, leaving everything behind him – his brother, friends, dreams of his youth – to try his chances in Paris. Now, his memory is bitter: his only memories of Gabriel go back to the past of their idealised childhood. He doesn't know anything about the man Gabriel became, who he didn't know and hadn't even see grow up. Regret is everywhere and remorse is powerful. Like a tapping music in his head, discovering who his brother was before he disappeared quickly becomes an obsession.

Thanks to the precision of the feelings and the exactitude of the emotions he depicts, the reader is bewitched by a modern and poetic language, a tribute to the unceasing power of love and life. With this book, the author presents us with a veritable ode to freedom and proves that the principle "Know thyself" is only possible through the eyes of an other.



First novel
French Literature
224 pages

Family · Brother · Death · Growing up · Meeting · Brittany · Acrobats

Hoai Huong Nguyen



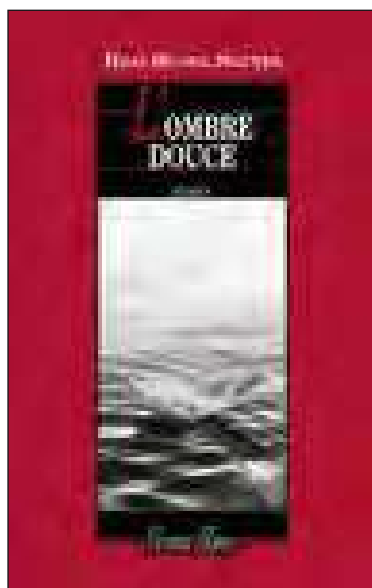
Hoai Huong Nguyen was born in 1976 in France to Vietnamese parents. Her name means “remember the country”, in connection with her family’s uprooting. With Vietnamese as her mother tongue, she learnt French at school. She has a PhD in modern literature on “Water in the poetry of Paul Claudel and in that of Chinese and Japanese poets”. She has already published two poetry collections entitled *Perfume* and *Deserts*. She currently teaches communications at a University Institute of Technology.

Her first novel, *Soft Shadows*, was acclaimed by the **prix Marguerite Audoux**, the **prix Première (RTBF)**, the **Geneva Book Fair prize**, the **prix Lire Élire** (North Flanders Libraries for All association), the **literary prix Asie (ADELF)** and the **prix Sablet** for a first novel.

Under a Burning Sky, published in 2017, is a heartrending ode to the French language and to the redemptive and life-giving power of words. The writer’s adoration of French and of Gérard de Nerval’s poetry would be her sustenance and talisman.

For the first time, in 2019, Hoai Huong Nguyen delivers an epistolary novel, *The Cry at Daybreak*. She proves to her readers that, like books and rays of hope, love transcends time and space, and survives beyond both distance and death.

Soft Shadows



First novel
French Literature
168 pages

It is Hanoi in 1954 and the war in Indochina is raging. Mai, a young Annamese girl, falls in love with an exiled French soldier from Brittany.

A border in a Catholic convent, Mai looks after wounded French soldiers. It is there that she meets Yann, shortly after he turns 18 years old. To prevent him from being sent back to the front, the young girl uses all possible subterfuges. Her behaviour stirs the attention and curiosity of the soldier.

The day of the festival of Têt (New Year), Mai refuses to marry the man that her father, a prominent judge, has chosen for her. Her stubbornness puts her beyond the pale of her family. Mai and Yann marry in haste on the edge of a beautiful lake, the day before Yann returns to the front.

This is a striking first novel which revisits the greatest myths of Eastern and Western cultures. A true and deeply human story, void of caricature. It is written in a language of suggestion, and set with delicate haikus.

“A vital moment of pure literature.”

Yann Moix, *Le Figaro littéraire*

Rights sold in Italian (Guanda)

11 000 copies sold



The Cry at Daybreak



An Linh does not exist. You can wander through its rice paddies, roam across its hills, feel its breeze at dawn and gather yourself in its cemeteries facing the ocean.

Nothing of what follows is real. The correspondence that you will read could have taken place two hundred years ago. Asleep for many years, Isey, Thanh and their companions awake. One by one, they get up to enter an imaginary scene, still steeped in darkness. They get ready, dress in colourful tunics, highlight their eyes with a line of kohl, take a feather and sheets of paper to play their part. The scenery lights up: they are going to open the ball. May Heaven give life to their words, clarity to their voices, and grant them the grace to meet you.

Hence begins the new work by Hoai Huong Nguyen, a vibrant epistolary novel where love permeates each page and each haiku. Confronted by distance and death, the power of this love – many loves – will be the light which will guide the characters step by step until their final act.

What colour sail will be raised?

“A beautiful and poetic text that is vibrant and inflamed, about the desire for freedom and love against all odds. And about this foolish hopes that resists and lives on in us. Highly recommended.”

Librairie Tonnet

Story · Love affair · Couple · Letters · Prison · Daring · Women · Courage · Beauty · Poetry

Isey and Thanh have all they need to be happy: he is a university professor and writer, she is expecting their first child. However, shadows fall over their future when soldiers turn up and handcuff Thanh. What is he accused of? Participation in activities aimed at overthrowing the royal State, a call to armed sedition, inciting anti-patriotic violence, and high treason. All of his writing is confiscated and a rumour spreads that he will be made an example of and sentenced. He risks capital punishment.

Isey understands none of it.

Convinced of his innocence, and because love is stronger than everything, she envisages a single solution: to arrange her husband's escape. Help comes first through Nem, a young man who deeply loved Isey's brother a long time ago. All in vain. An unexpected event upsets their plans.

It matters little. Ready to sacrifice anything, especially after the birth of her daughter, will Isey find an ingenious way to free the father of her child? Whatever it takes and despite her solitude? She devises a risky strategy which will require the help of Me Lan, her childhood friend, whose father is the king's minister and thus mingles with the royal elite.

She proves to her readers that, like books and rays of hope, love transcends time and space, survives distance and death. And what if love allowed these characters to be reborn?

Epistolary novel · French Literature · 96 pages

Under the Burning Sky



Novel
French Literature
170 pages

On New Year's Eve, 1954, Uncle Chinh informed his wife of his decision to join the people's army. She should be pleased to join the Revolution. He wanted his son and daughter to be brought up fighting for their country. He was their father and nothing stopped him from taking them with him – there was no escape for them.

The day of their departure, in a desperate gesture, Tuân had cried out in French, "You're a monster! Let me at least say good bye to my cousin". His uncle had held him in his icy stare and replied in Vietnamese, "You are but a traitor of your country" adding, "Because of what you have said, I will give her to a man who has not been poisoned by the West, even if he is illiterate".

If his choice of the coloniser's language made Tuân a "traitor", it also pointed to his destiny. His love of French and of Gérard de Nerval's poetry would be his refuge in the midst of the atrocities that he would endure in a bloody Vietnam, torn apart by war and partition.

This novel is an enchanting exploration through the green paradises of childhood love and a painful present, evoking the subtlest fragrances of the East and composing a staggering ode to the life force of words.

"How grace and poetry meet the turbulent history of Vietnam. An ode to the French language from the end of the world. Unforgettable."

Grégoire Courtois, *Librairie Obliques*

"An extraordinary and original work, and refined writing. War, poverty... this work is a gem. Tûan, Vietnamese, left his country for France, leaving behind the war and its madness."

Librairie de Port Maria

"Punctuated with poems, this book is a gem of writing, sensitivity and sweetness, in spite of the violence of war. An enchantment!"

Valérie Le Bras, *Librairie Ravy*

PRIZES :

La Renaissance Française 2018
Prix CCGPF Cheminots du deuxième roman

FRANÇOIS VALLEJO



© Patrice Normand

Francois Vallejo knows more and more where he comes from and seeks less and less to know where he is going.

Geographically and as his name suggests, he is at the intersection where travellers from the South and the non-nomads from the West meet. The only path he insists on following is that of the novel, which is for him a shortcut.

He has explored some ten unique itineraries, since *Ruckus in the Ballroom* in 1998.

Madam Angeloso and *Groom* constituted a few steps, followed by *Travels of Great Men*, which led him to Italy in the 18th century, before arriving at *West* in the 19th in 2006, and then the 20th with *The Breilan Sisters*.

These historical detours helped him to find his way in the 21st century, the *Metamorphoses* of which he tried to shed some light on in 2012. He took them further in *Blossom and Blood* in 2014, where two periods intertwine, two histories confront each other, and men and women are interlaced in time.

His insatiable appetite for all books prompted him in 2016 to write a novel where hunger competes with food, and tasting with devouring: *A Dangerous Pleasure*, a feast he'd like to share.

Hotel Waldheim 2018 allowed him to jump back in time and to go back to the period of his adolescence. The reason? An anonymous postcard which would unsettle his life. The narrator discovers a handwritten and, to say the least, sibylline message... "Remind you of sumfing?"

For Vallejo, on life's secret roads and through the novels he discovers as they unfold before him, the pleasure of leaving surpasses the joy of arriving.

"At the beginning of a novel, there is always for me a secret crossing between the most intimate details of my life and the taste of the most universal myths, and a crossing into historical time." François Vallejo

"A serious candidate for the Prix Goncourt. This Havre-based French teacher stands out with his intriguing power struggles, mysterious atmospheres and, above all, his nerving and dry humour [...]. For twenty years, under the rigidity of this rich and distinguished language, François Vallejo has been distilling captivating lessons of literary freedom." J.-C. Raspiengeas, *La Croix*

PRIZES: *Madam Angeloso*: Prix France Télévision 2001

***Groom*: Prix des Libraires 2004 – Prix Culture et Bibliothèques pour tous 2004**

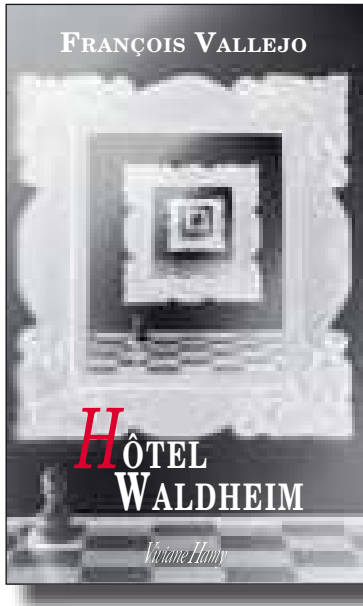
***Travels of Great Men*: Prix Pierre Marc Orlan 2005 – Prix de l'Académie du Maine – Prix du Roman du Var**

***West*: Prix du Livre Inter 2007**

***The Breilan Sisters*: Prix Marguerite Puhl-Demange 2011**

***A Dangerous Pleasure*: Prix de l'Académie Rabelais 2017**

Hotel Waldheim



Novel
French Literature
304 pages

11 000 copies sold

This novel featured on the first two lists of Prix Goncourt 2018

“Listening to her, it was quite a remarkable feat, at 16 years old, to have wiped everything out, and so it goes on. Yet, by mindlessly blathering on, I began to prove to her and to myself that I had got myself into some bizarre situations. If someone had said to me yesterday, “You behaved like the most despicable voyeur” because I walked in on a couple in bed, I would never have believed it. It all came back to me automatically, in front of this girl in her armchair. I felt her breath on my skin... incredible what she infuses in me. Almost without wanting to, I reconstructed the forgotten scene. And others. In the end she’ll convince me that I’m hiding something from her. That I’m hiding something from myself? It was like meeting a stranger called Jeff Valdera. And talking of strangers, she sits there too, with her persistent questions.”

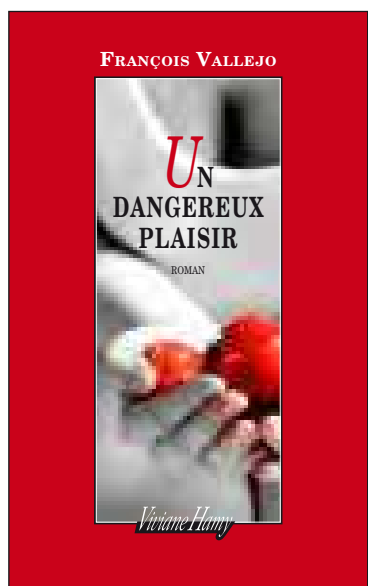
During his stays with his aunt in Davos, in Hotel Waldheim, had the teenager Jeff Valdera been nothing more than a pawn in a game of chess where the East and West were fighting it out during the Cold War?

Invent your memory or invent your life? That is the question Francois Vallejo tries to answer with *Hotel Waldheim*, his most intimate novel. But is this not the same quest that runs throughout his work of 20 years ?

“Imagine Perec writing a thriller for Hitchcock: it would be *Hotel Waldheim*.”

Alain Nicolas, *L'Humanité*

A Dangerous Pleasure



Novel
French Literature
320 pages

Élie Élian, the novel's hero, fulfils his destiny and becomes a talented chef. Cooking delivers him experiences of love and success, and then the fall...

Élie Élian is one of those children who pushes away the plate his parents give him. He lingers at the back of the newly-opened restaurant in his neighbourhood. The gestures he notices and smells from the kitchen reveal his destiny: he will be a chef.

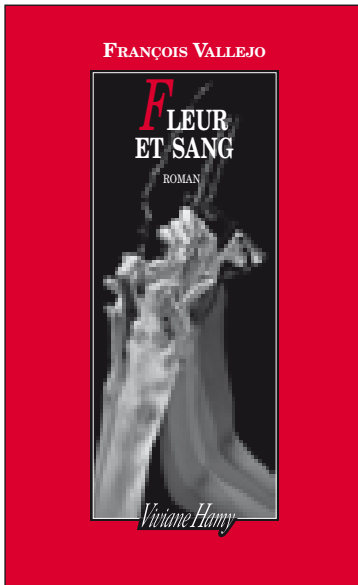
In the restaurants where he offers his services by scrubbing pots and pans, he continues to study and learn by what he sees. But, after breaking one too many dishes, Élie is shown the door. On the street, he mixes with shady characters who try to teach him the art of « dining and dashing ». His first attempt in a modest restaurant will lead to the meeting of a lifetime.

Jeanne Maudor, the widow of a great chef who died on the job, will help him to try out his most extravagant recipes while initiating him into love and sensuality.

“The plot is, as always with Vallejo, removed and hectic. [...] It is Vallejo's casual extravagance that makes a difference. And the scent of mystery present in all his books makes them so attractive.”

Claire Julliard, *L'Obs*

Bloom and Blood



Novel
French Literature
264 pages

5 300 copies sold

Our destinies have always already begun, continue elsewhere, start up again in another time, and never end.

Does François Vallejo believe in reincarnation? The destinies of two medical doctors, one in the 17th century and the other in the present day, are interwoven in time.

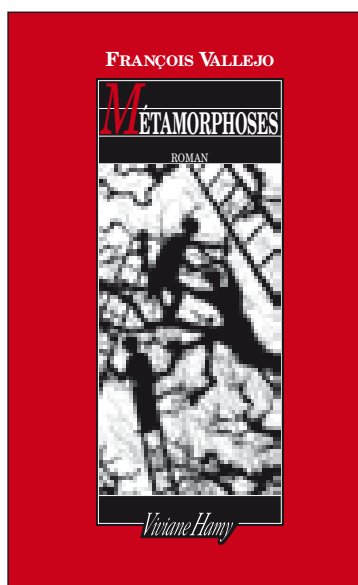
Urbain Delatour, born under the reign of Louis XIV, follows his father's teaching to become master surgeon-apothecary. He overcomes his fear of blood and, while assisting his father in treating the local sire, falls under the charm of the sire's daughter, Isabelle de Montchevreuil: a disturbing horse woman who frightens the region's countryfolk. She seems willing to do anything to prevent Delatour from getting near her father.

It is the 21st century, state of the art surgery has replaced naturopathy and Étienne Delatour has a brilliant future ahead of him. He excels at carrying out the most sophisticated operations. One day, he is offered the post of the chief of the cardiology department in a reputable Parisian hospital. It is said that Irene, the hospital director's daughter, and one of his former conquests, has some involvement in this surprising appointment.

"This lover of style, which he works with the meticulousness of a gatherer of medicinal plants, delivers us a magnificent novel."

Télérama

Metamorphoses



Novel
French Literature
336 pages

**Rights sold
in Greek (Polis)**

When the novel begins, Alix is learning that her half-brother, Alban Joseph, has changed his name to Abdelkrim Youssef and has swung over into Islamist extremism. She tries to grasp the "metamorphoses" of this individual to whom she is so close and to curb the process. Who is Alban? When did he change so radically and how far will his search for intense emotions lead him?

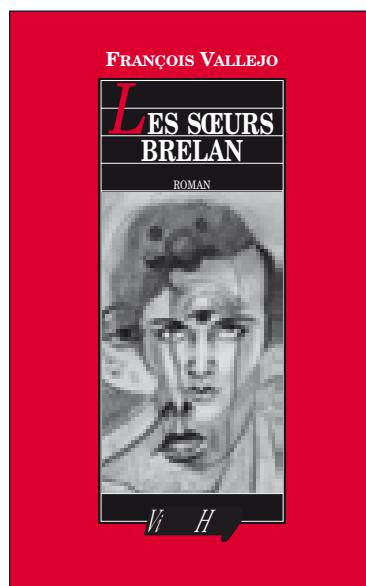
In order to understand, Alix keeps a kind of private diary. When she discovers that the computer she uses to write the diary has been hacked by the Central Domestic Intelligence Agency she decides to write an open letter about it and to manipulate her readers to save her brother.

Alban/Abdelkrim, monitored over many months, is arrested with a certain number of young people suspected of planning world-wide attacks. But, little by little, they are all released due to a lack of evidence.

"François Vallejo tackles the most perilous of subjects (Islamism and its sirens) and hones in on some of the evils gnawing away at our world heading towards cultural, civilizational and religious disintegration. This is a novel that will shock and unsettle, and yet reassure with its novelesque surety."

Jean-Christophe Buisson, *Le Figaro magazine*

The Breelan Sisters



Novel
French Literature
288 pages

Judith, Marthe and Sabine: the Breelan girls are three inseparable sisters. Shortly after the Second World War, their father dies, leaving them on their own in the beautiful house he designed. United by a fierce feeling of sisterhood – it seems they don't need to talk, one finishing the sentence of the other –, the Breelan sisters convince the judge to emancipate them.

Through these three characters, François Vallejo builds a brilliant portrayal of woman's condition as it emerges in its modernity aspect: Marthe is the devoted mother – to her sisters –, Sabine is the successful businesswoman and Judith is the idealistic childwoman.

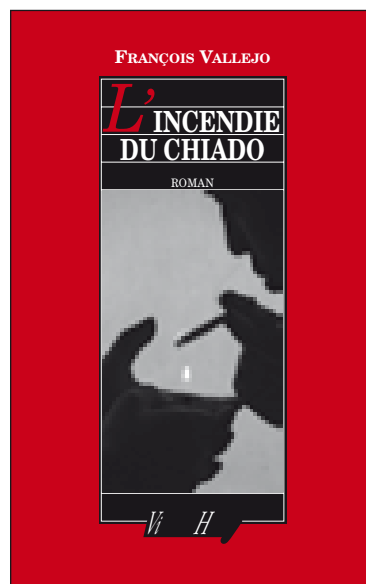
"The work of a high-flying writer."

Le Magazine littéraire

Rights sold in German (Aufbau)

10 000 copies sold

The Burning of the Chiado



Novel
French Literature
244 pages

On 25th August 1988, the magnificent city of Lisbon was burning. Through his hotel window, François Vallejo was one of the first to hear the rumbling flames, to see the sky transforming, to feel the colours of the fire.

A few people refuse to evacuate the flaming neighbourhood. Each one of them is seeking something – or someone – and losing part of their humanity by wandering the streets of Lisbon. But then comes Juvénal, a Lisbon inhabitant who is, quite frankly, too polite.

This mysterious and disturbing man has such an influence upon his "friends" that he is able to force them into confessing the profound and even unconscious reasons of this sudden clandestinity.

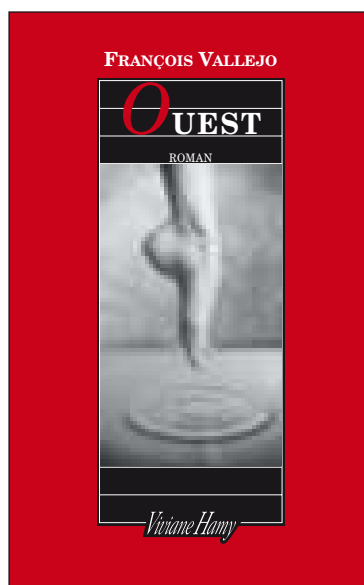
François Vallejo delightfully describes how a certain savagery takes over his heroes, how hunger, thirst and fear alter their identity, reveal them. The "crescendo" is set by the day's light in which they really see each other, and the darkness of night – total darkness, since there is no electricity – in which.

"A true master of his novelesque visions: spellbinding."

André Rollin, *Le Canard enchaîné*

Rights sold in Portuguese (Quetzal, Portugal)

10 000 copies sold



Novel
French Literature
272 pages

70 000 copies sold

**This book was awarded the “Prix du Livre Inter 2007”,
“Prix du jury Jean Giono 2006” and the “Prix Millepages 2006”.**

Halfway through a restless 19th century, a scorned heir takes possession of his father’s land. The old Baron de l’Aubépine is dead; his twisted son replaces him. Enthusiastic about revolutionary ideas and haunted by unexpressible phantasms, the new lord finds an ideal nemesis in his land keeper, a humble man still attached to the idea of honor. While the Young Baron soils the name of his family, Lambert (the land keeper) tries to maintain his own dignity, to protect his wife and daughter, and the other workers.

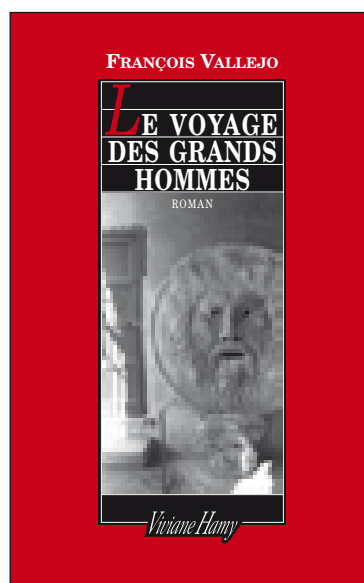
A complex and violent story, born of the only tension between two forces, in an exceptional writing form, dry and without rest.

“In *West*, François Vallejo tells us the story of a stand-off, a secret meeting, a duel in the shadows. A human situation packed full of explosives. The writing is sophisticated and infused with tension. The sentences are combed through with the help of a sharpened pen. You are captivated, from the opening lines, by the singularity of the story, the images of landscapes and the complexity of the characters.”

Marie-Laure Delorme, *Le Journal du dimanche*

**Rights sold in Spanish (Salamandra), Hebrew (Babel),
Romanian (Historia) & Korean (Woongjin)**

Travels of Great Men



Novel
French Literature
256 pages

Rousseau, Diderot and Grimm went on their Italian voyage in the mid-1750s. Nothing was known of it until the discovery of a manuscript in which their valet – a certain Lambert – tells, in his own manner, of this philosophical venture.

Between the gastric problems of the first, the incessant “urgent desires” of the second and the libidinous needs of the third, the three accomplices evoke the existence of any old God, the notions of humanity and democracy.

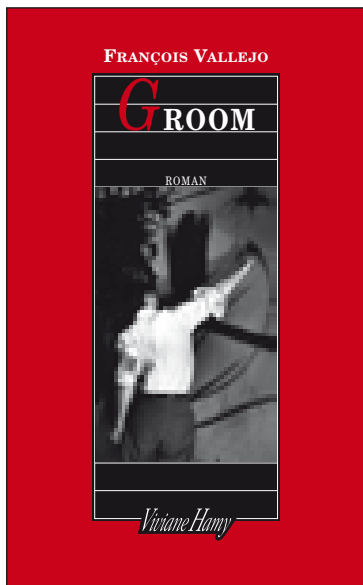
“Capable of renewing his imagination with each novel, François Vallejo offers us, with *Travels of Great Men*, a brilliant and playful work that makes us happier and more intelligent.”

Christine Ferniot, *Télérama*

Rights sold in Chinese (Horizon) & Romanian (Historia)

5 200 copies sold

Groom



Novel
French Literature
256 pages

“But what could he be doing at the national art museum during work hours?” she repeated to herself as she walked along, blinded. ‘Antoine, a regular at art exhibitions?’ That was news to her.”

Véra Carmi doesn’t manage to ask the right question, the simplest of questions. And this inability carries her down into the spiral of Antoine’s history, of Ms. Rotheim and her guesthouse worthy of Balzac, and of a series of Soutine paintings, where the shiny red stain of the bellboy explodes.

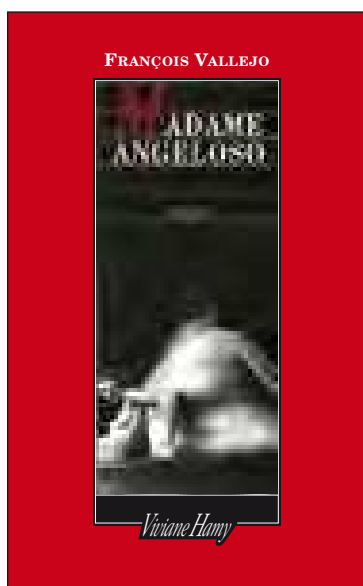
“The further we delve into Vallejo's *Groom*, the more reasons we discover to be admiring.”

Le Canard enchaîné

Rights sold in Chinese (New Sprout, Taiwan), Romanian (Historia) & Italian (Sellerio)

10 000 copies sold

Madam Angeloso



Novel
French Literature
224 pages

Constance Angeloso died in his car, hit by the train carrying the Dalai Lama. The R5 was her home from the day she left his family to go on the roads. The news is being read by the newspapers, along with Angelino Angeloso, son of Madame, M. Coquemar, a former guest of the hotel Madame held at Dunquerke, and Danuta, a little Polish cousin collected by Madame.

Before the burial, each one evokes the epic figure of this big, fat woman, disappeared for fifteen years, whom he rubbed shoulders with, loved, hate... Will these crossed memories solve the “angelosian” mystery?

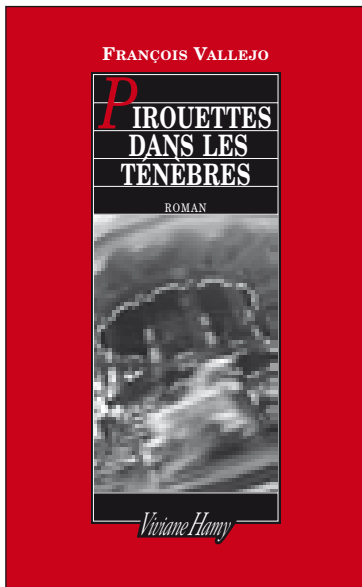
“With a stitch of love and respect, and a purl of terrifying aversion, throughout the pages, the characters reconstruct the dark, very dark, fate of an extraordinary figure of a woman.”

Annie Coppermann, *Les Échos*

Rights sold in Italian (Sellerio)

6 900 copies sold (hardback and paperback)

Pirouettes in the Darkness



Novel
French Literature
256 pages

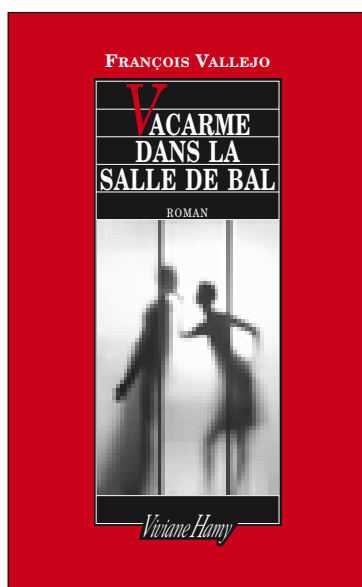
Paul, alias Gibbon, is a young man who looks like a monkey - his arms are so long ! His life is made of sorrow and of unluckiness. Being an orphan, he is taken in by a psychiatrist who teaches him life's basics as well as he can. Without any qualifications, Gibbon becomes a removal man, finds balance, and then love. But his mental instability — or his strangeness — makes him sink once again into a world of trafficking and dishonesty. This story resembles an infernal spiral into the abyss of madness.

Is it sad ? No, for the author serves us insanely funny desperation.

“Utterly delightful. Injected with a touch of erudition and humour, with only the unforeseen and unexpected to trick us. A gift out of the ordinary.”

Jean-Claude Renard, *Le Magazine littéraire*

Ruckus in the Ballroom



Novel
French Literature
160 pages

To avoid becoming an enemy, the narrator – a disillusioned doctor responsible for the health of all the sailors of the globe passing through the port of Le Havre – has the absurd idea of “begging” Mr. Emile's silence so that he can write his pseudo-thesis on balls!

Anodyne and zany, full of misunderstandings, the narrative very subtly touches the shores of the “conflict” between body and mind, between the one who dances and the other who only “thinks” the dance, the difficult communication between humans.

“Written to enthrall, with simplicity and elasticity, *Ruckus in the Ballroom* is a complex and subtle novel, despite its linear presentation. With great vivacity, the finale is stunning.”

Laurand Kovacs, *La Croix*

CÉCILE COULON



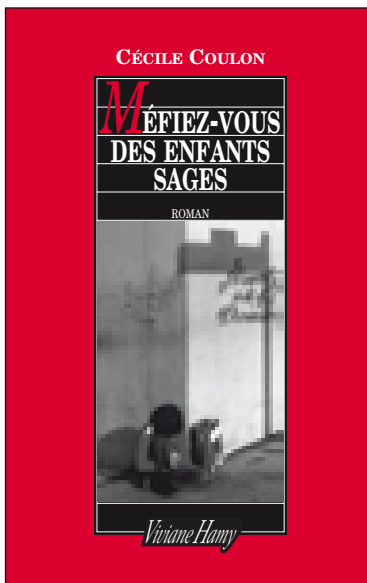
Cécile Coulon was born in 1990. After doing an intensive foundation course in literature at Clermond-Ferrand after secondary school, she went on to study modern literature. She is currently dedicated to her thesis on “sport and literature”.

Her first novel, *The Thief of Life*, and her collection of short stories, *The Wild*, were published by Éditions Revoir.

In addition to her heightened taste for literature, from Steinbeck to Luc Dietrich, Nathalie Sarraute to Marie-Hélène Lafon, including Tennessee Williams, Stephen King and Prévert, she is passionate about cinema (*The Night of the Hunter*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Last Year at Marienbad*, Pasolini, Bruno Dumont, Duncan Tucker, Larry Clark, and John Waters) and music (Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Ramones, Lesley Gore, Otis Redding and John Legend).

Five of her novels have been published by Éditions Viviane Hamy : *Beware of Well-Behaved Children* (2010), *The King is not Sleepy* (2012), awarded the **Prix Mauvais Genres** (France Culture and *Le Nouvel Observateur*) the same year, *The Sufferer's Laugh* (2013), *The Heart of the Pelican* (2015) and *Three Seasons of Thunderstorms*, awarded the **Prix de Libraires** in 2017.

Beware of Well-Behaved Children



United States, late 1980s.

A young woman leaves her native town to run away from boredom and find her place elsewhere, somewhere where dreams are possible. When she gets to San Francisco she becomes a waitress, makes friends with the young skaters of the neighbourhood and relentlessly reads and rereads *Lord of the Flies*. A simple, honest and, most of all, free life. But the dream ends when she receives a phone call: her mother has just died. Forced to go back to her town, she meets her future husband, with whom she will have a daughter, Lua.

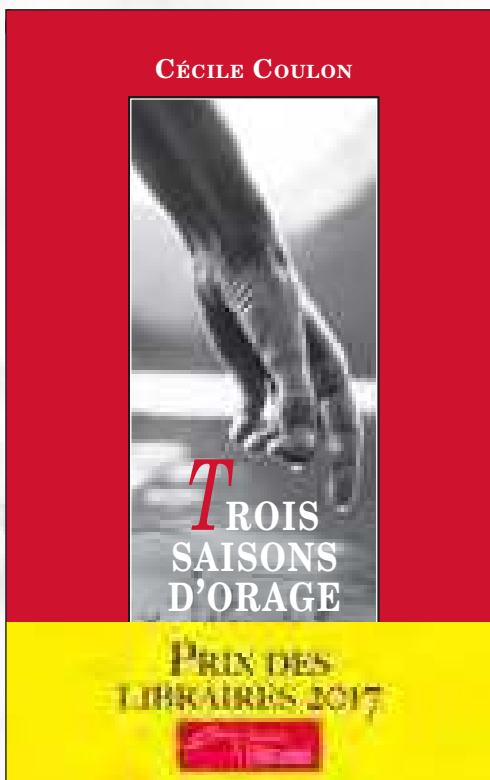
A short novel with engaging characters, in the same vein as Raymond Carver or Carson McCullers' stories.

“Cécile Coulon is obsessive about detail. Each character is keenly described, even if they only make one appearance. The maturity and humility of her writing is astounding.”

Elvire Emptaz, *Elle*

First novel
French Literature
168 pages

Three Seasons of Thunderstorms



Novel
French Literature
272 pages

20 000 copies sold

A powerful family saga, written by one of France's rising literary voices.

At the foot of the million-year-old cliffs nests a remote village, made up of farmers and workers making a living from quarrying stone.

It is here that after World War II, Andre, a doctor, visits once a week to treat the workers and their families. He slowly learns to love this desolate place and becomes attached to the inhabitants, until one day he settles here to continue his work. He buys a superb property on the outskirts of the village, where he had been called to years before to try to save a newborn, without success.

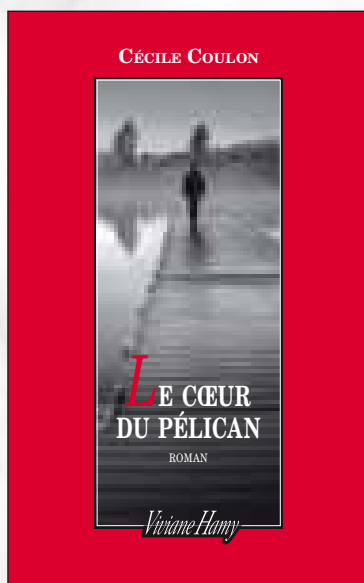
Andre belatedly learns about the existence of his son Benedict who he decides to take under his wing. Once he completes his studies, Benedict marries Agnes, a sublime creature from the city. He takes on the work at the doctor's surgery and has his own family. The arrival of their first daughter, Bérengère, and her first love, seems to challenge the fragile harmony that had been created.

Love affairs · Family · Village · Lands · Farms · Doctor · Inheritance

"Steeped with sensuality, *Three Seasons of Thunderstorms* is a powerful novel of secrets [...] Cécile Coulon infuses her works with her mastery and the extent of her novelesque palette."

Raphaëlle Leyris, *Le Monde des Livres*

Rights sold in Italian (Keller)



Novel
French Literature
240 pages

13 000 copies sold

The Heart of the Pelican

An injured champion will have to give his all to win the race against mediocrity.

Anthim and Helena are an inseparable brother and sister. When their family moves to a small town, they have to find their place in the community. One day at the village fair, while taking part in a game, Anthime beats all the children his own age when he runs with lightning speed, so becoming part of the group. From that moment on, it is his racing that will set him apart. Under the heel of Brice, his personal trainer and a round-bellied chap, he becomes a champion, named "the Pelican" and admired by all, including Joanna, a neighbour who loves him from afar, and by inaccessible Béatrice...

Pelican is about glory and fragility, about sport and its pain. It is the story of courage and life, both banal and extraordinary, of a man who becomes great, falls and picks himself up again.

"A lively and intense novel: asphyxiating like a thriller and oxygenating like a road movie."

François Busnel, *L'Express*

Rights sold in Italian (Keller)

The Sufferer's Laugh



Novel
French Literature
136 pages

**Rights sold in
Italian (Keller)
& Greek (Polis)**

In a disquieting world, with overtones of 1984 and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, the authorities have found a way to ensure social order: public readings have become an ideological tool to manipulate the masses.

Stadiums are packed with people starved of intense emotions and greedily listening to the various state-authorized genres: thriller, horror, drama or romance.

A man, with a mere number for a name, 1075, works within the security department. To fulfil his task, he himself undertakes to read nothing, not on any account... Trained in excessively extreme conditions, he becomes one of the most efficient and respected Internal Security agents.

The life of 1075 takes a turn the day he is bitten by a guard dog set loose onto a hysterical spectator, which the guards were unable to control. Confined the hospital, he is immersed in boredom until he attends, by chance, a reading lesson given in the pediatric department. Caught in his own trap, he is to develop a taste for reading...

"A satire of a society where the cult of entertainment destroys freedom and condemns culture [...] The writing, one page dry as wood and the next a mouthful of sap and fire, is admirably mastered."

Catherine Simon, *Le Monde des Livres*

8 000 copies sold

The King is not Sleepy



Novel
French Literature
200 pages

18 000 copies sold

**Rights sold
in Italian (Keller)**

The story of the tragic destiny of a cursed child, Thomas Hogan. It is a tale whose poetic charm works itself irreversibly on the reader.

William Hogan, who is to become Thomas's father, inherits a fortune when his father dies. He buys a piece of wild and captivatingly beautiful land: two hectares of forest where wild raspberries flourish and deer graze.

After squandering his fortune he works relentlessly: by day at the village sawmill and by night at the police station where he files the most sordid cases. What comes of this proximity to crime? He is sombre, doleful and violent. But he works hard and is a good catch. One evening at the village ball he seduces the beautiful Mary and marries her.

From this union Thomas is born. He is a delightful child, and unlike his father he is fragile and vulnerable. But his life is overturned the day William gashes his right hand at the sawmill. The wound becomes gangrenous and kills Thomas's father, as there is nothing the family doctor, O'Brian, can do. From that moment on, the accident casts a shadow over Thomas's destiny like a bad omen.

In a direct but imaginative style Cécile Coulon leads us a universe of emotion which blends tranquillity with unspeakable melancholy.

"Cécile Coulon's talent is staggering."

Olivia de Lamberterie, *Elle*



French Suspense



DOMINIQUE SYLVAIN



Dominique Sylvain was born on September 30, 1957 in Thionville in Lorraine.

She worked for twelve years in Paris, first as a journalist, then as head of internal communication and patronage at Usinor.

For thirteen years she lived with her family in Asia. Tokyo, where she spent ten years, inspired her first novel *Baka!* (1995). *Blood Sisters* and *The Lizard King* (1997 and 1998) were written in Singapore.

She currently lives in Paris but remains very attached to Asia and visits regularly. An unconditional fan of Murakami and an insatiable reader, she continues to reinvent herself with great creativity.

Winner of many awards, including the Grand Prix of *Elle* readers in 2005 for *Passage of Desire*, she now devotes herself exclusively to writing. Her seventeen novels have all been published in the Chemins Nocturnes collection by Éditions Viviane Hamy.

“To anyone who wants to write a novel (and why not a thriller?) I would advise that you look for your own voice. It is not a matter of overflowing with self-confidence by seeking in yourself your own vision of the world, as strange as it may be. It is even encouraging to have moments of idiocy and naivety. If we do not understand the world rationally, this is good news: it means that we can try to understand it artistically.”
Dominique Sylvain

“Dominique Sylvain puts the spotlight on very steady and ambivalent characters, who are also potential suspects [...]. The novelist has not lost her gift for contriving vigorous dialogues.”

Delphine Peras, *L'Express*

PRIZES:

Vox: Prix Sang d'Encre 2000

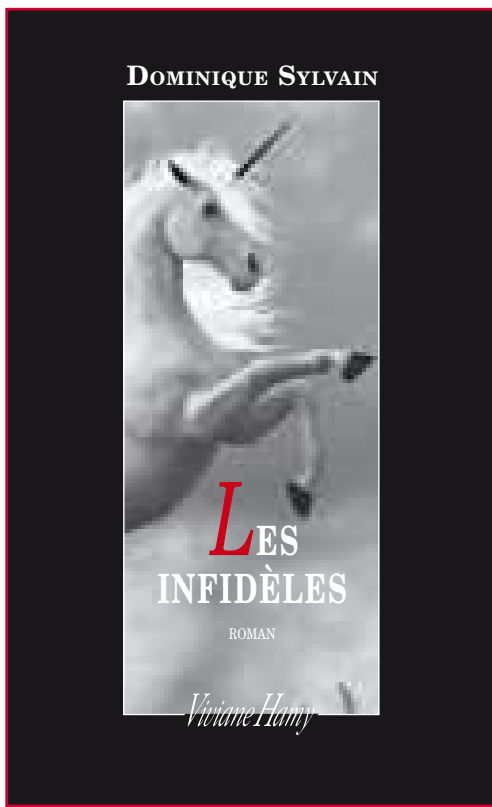
Strad: Prix du polar Michel Lebrun 2001

Passage du désir: Grand Prix des Lectrices de *Elle* 2005

Guerre sale: Meilleur polar français 2011 par la rédaction du magazine *Lire*

Kabukicho: Prix Roman Interpol'Art 2017

The Unfaithful



Novel
French suspense
368 pages

5 100 copies sold

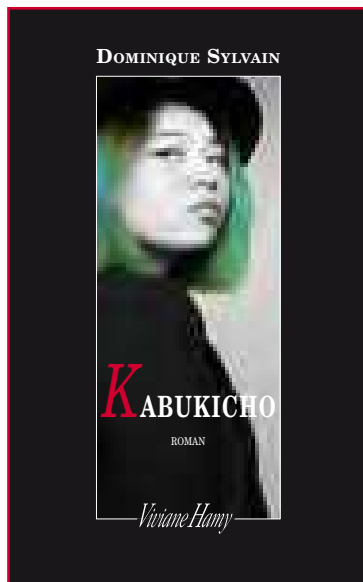
While she is preparing a documentary on adultery, Salomé Jolain, a young journalist and rising star for TV24, was brutally murdered. Her body was found in a bin in a square in the xv arrondissement in Paris, a stone's throw away from the Licorne hotel. Disturbingly, her mobile phone and handheld camera had disappeared. The investigation is entrusted to commanding officer Gabriel Barnier, a brave bobby with a complicated private life, and his Superintendent Gabriel Maze, whose "astounding physique unsettles both the sexes equally".

The list of suspects contains all the friends and family of the young girl, but one name stands out for the investigators: Alice Kléber, the victim's aunt and the creator of the website *lovealibi.com*, which provides amateurs of extramarital affairs with excuses and easy key evidence to justify their absences... a link that cannot be a mere coincidence.

Enquiry · Murder · Paris · Extramarital affair · Website ·
Journalist · Hotel · Family · Suspect · Gay man

"An explosive crime about love, adultery and infidelity in the internet era, through the portraits of three women."

François Busnel, *La Grande librairie (France 5)*



Novel
French suspense
286 pages

7 100 copies sold

Kabukicho

Deep in Tokyo's red-light district, Eros and Thanatos are closely entwined: a heinous murder takes place and an investigation is conducted at lightning speed.

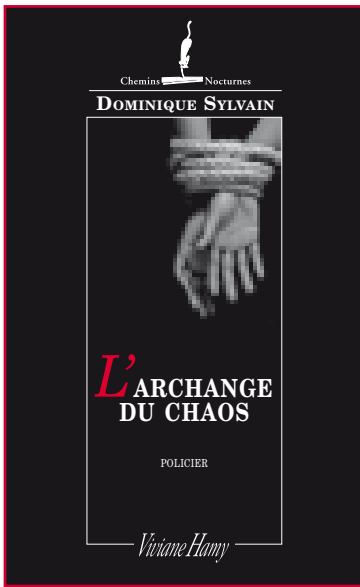
The seductive Yudai is a talented gigolo of Kabukicho. In this universe full of appearances and false confidence, he has made a friend, Kate Sanders, a young British woman and hostess at the Gaïa Club owned by the elegant Sanae. When Kate disappears in mysterious circumstances, Yudai, and her flatmate and colleague, Marie, are overcome with worry.

The Kabukicho trap seems to have closed over her.

"This thriller is an amazing dive into the pretense and human misery of Kabukicho, a place of pleasures, including the unspoken ones."

Alexandra Schwartzbrod, *Libération*

The Archangel of Chaos



Franka Kehlmann tracks a serial killer who takes his victims through the Gehenna of their worst nightmares.

Franka Kehlmann started out with a shining career in finance. When she joins the world of crime there is nothing to predict that she will find her place in Commandant Carat's section. As a protégé of Chief Superintendent Christine Santini, she will have to prove herself in the field.

Novel · French suspense · 366 pages

Rights sold in German (Piper)

9 000 copies sold

Darkness and Light

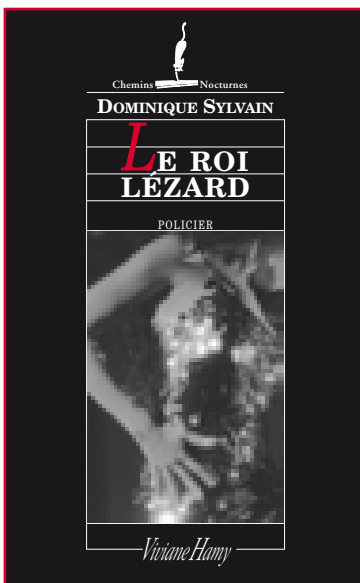
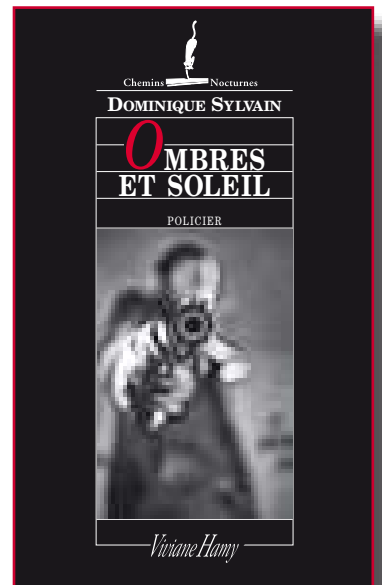
Main characters: Ingrid Diesel & Lola Jost

In this devilishly well-crafted crime novel, neither the guilty nor the innocent are quite what they seem. Political-legal scandals intertwine in a way reminiscent of those thousand-piece puzzles that superintendent Lola Jost is fond of. She will have to piece this one together time and again before being able to make out the whole picture... In Paris, Sacha Duguin is accused of the murder of his superior who had dabbled in insider influence linked to arms contracts and suspicious retro commissioning processes in Africa.

Novel · French suspense · 304 pages

Rights sold in Russian (Ast)

8 000 copies sold



The Lizard King

Main character: Louise Morvan

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

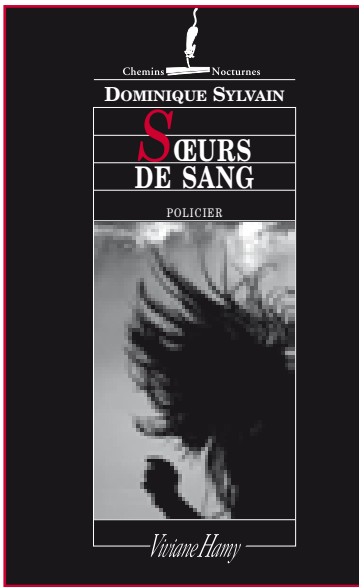
Novel · French suspense · 366 pages

New edition in 2007

Rights sold in English (MacLehose Press)

9 000 copies sold

Blood Sisters



Main character: Louise Morvan

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

Novel · French suspense · 256 pages

Rights sold in German (Rotbuch) & Portuguese (Livros do Brasil)

Dirty War

Main characters: Ingrid Diesel & Lola Jost

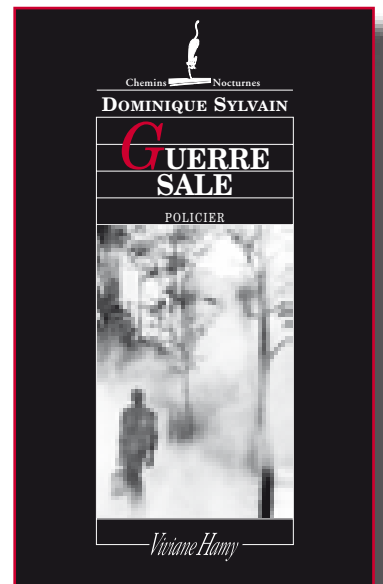
The atrocious death of Florent Vidal opens this fifth adventure with Ingrid Diesel and Lola Jost. Burned alive, with a tyre around his body, two steps away from a pool, Vidal used to be a business lawyer, specializing in Franco-African relations and arms contracts.

This horrible murder strangely resembles the assassination of Kidjo, Lola Jost's former partner when she was a police captain. The case has never been solved and still weighs on Lola's shoulders and conscience.

Novel · French suspense · 350 pages

20 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (MacLehose Press) & Russian (Corpus)



In the Deep Night of Geronimo

Main character: Louise Morvan

“Geronimo didn't kill anybody, but who killed Geronimo?”

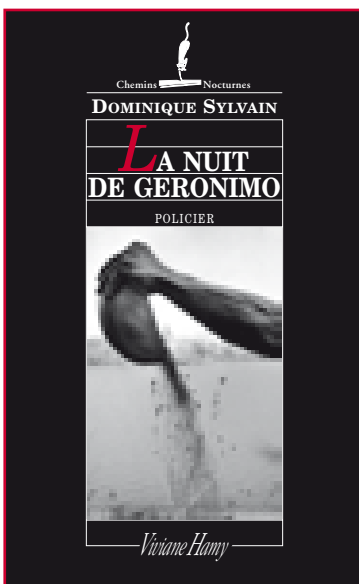
Philippine is perplexed by this anonymous email. Her father was called “Geronimo” long before he committed suicide. He used to be a well-known scientist in molecular and cell biology in the USA.

All the members of the family – or rather of the Domeniac dynasty – also received the email.

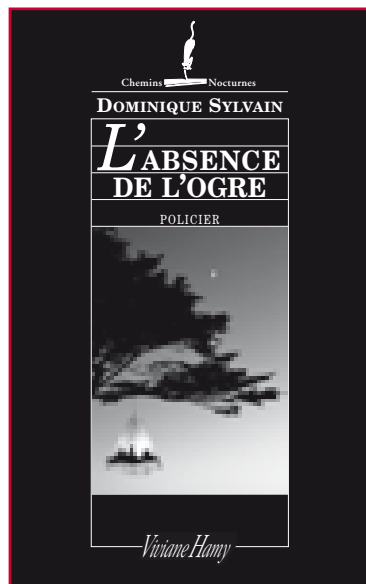
Philippine asks a private investigator recommended by the superintendent Clémenti for help: Louise Morvan. And even if it was in another life that those two were lovers, the wound remains quite fresh for Louise.

Novel · French suspense · 368 pages

11 000 copies sold



The Missing Ogre



Main characters: Ingrid Diesel and Lola Jost

Lou Necker is found murdered in a Parisian park. A gardener has gone missing, and thus is considered to be the principal suspect for the murder investigation. He was about to contact Ingrid, as they were friends in New Orleans, and was working with a false identity. Ingrid then decides to find him to prove his innocence with her friend Lola, refusing to believe that he might be the culprit. He might look like an ogre, but he's so sweet and loyal. He couldn't hurt a fly.

While following a lead, Lola and Ingrid discover a wonderful hidden garden, next to a convent and a squat, that is being threatened by a mysterious and suspicious operation.

Novel · French suspense · 300 pages

22 000 copies sold

Rights sold in Spanish (Santillana)

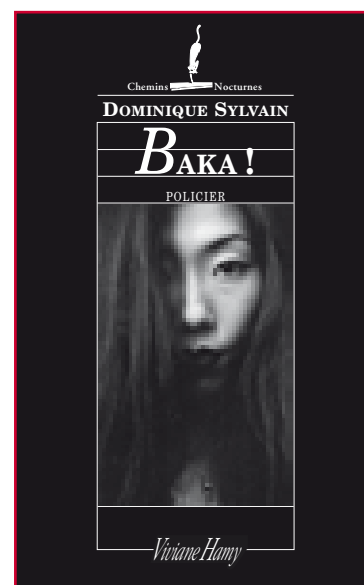
Baka!

Main character: Louise Morvan

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

Novel · French suspense · 220 pages

New edition in 2007



Manta Corridor

Main characters: Ingrid Diesel and Lola Jost

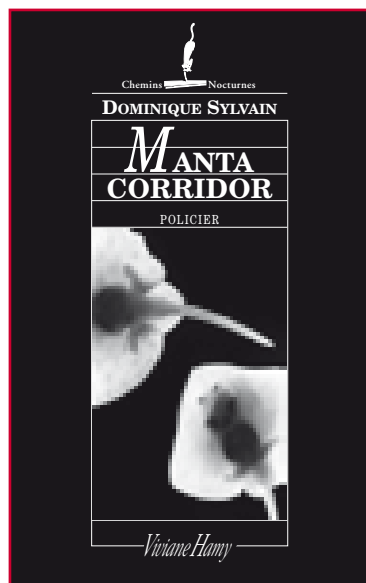
In this third episode of the adventures of Lola Jost and Ingrid Diesel, Dominique Sylvain takes us into a picturesque and mysterious Paris, peopled with strange and colourful figures. Her sharp, entertaining and gloriously cynical style is shot through with humour, while she deals with the most disturbing of subjects.

Manta Corridor is an undercover police investigation, a treasure hunt and a voyage of self-discovery rolled into one and undertaken at breakneck speed by a sparkling duo of characters.

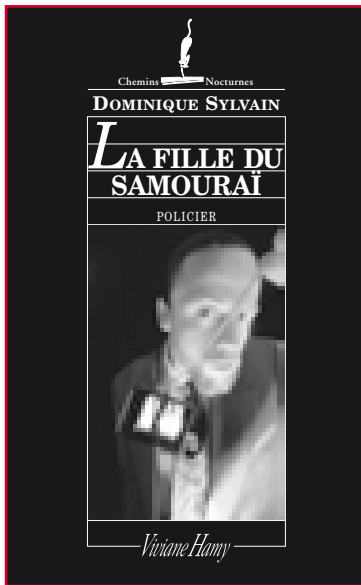
Novel · French suspense · 288 pages

12 000 copies sold

Rights sold in Spanish (Santillana) & adapted in French Telefilm (Jérôme Foulon)



The Samurai's Daughter



Main characters: Ingrid Diesel and Lola Jost

Ingrid Diesel and Lola Jost, the whacky duo from *Passage of Desire*, come back to lead the investigation after the mysterious death of Alice, a friend's daughter.

While getting ready for her act as the double of Britney Spears, she “fell from the 34th floor”. A videographer shot everything, and all the television channels fight to get the images of the pseudo suicide.

Novel · French suspense · 284 pages

13 000 copies sold

Rights sold in Russian (Inostranka), Lituanian (Baltos Iankos), Romanian (Universal Dalsi) & Spanish (Santillana)

Passage of Desire

Main characters: Ingrid Diesel and Lola Jost

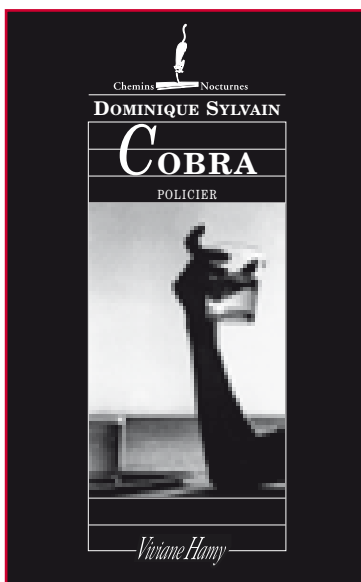
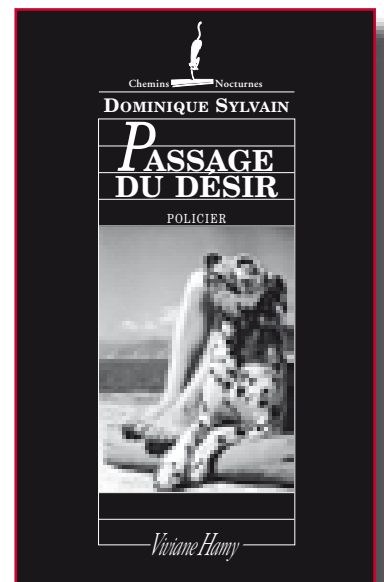
To save their neighbour, two women: Lola, a retired police Inspector and Ingrid, an American masseur, are investigating a strange crime.

In the alley where they all live “Passage of Desire”, a young woman with a doll-like face is found strangled, her feet cut at the ankle. This mismatched and very funny couple (old Europe against the energetic beauty of the new world) will discover that the whole neighbourhood is involved in this strange event.

Novel · French suspense · 300 pages

36 000 copies sold

Rights sold in Russian (Inostranka), Romanian (Universal Dalsi), Spanish (Santillana), English (MacLehose Press) & adapted in French Telefilm (Jérôme Foulon)



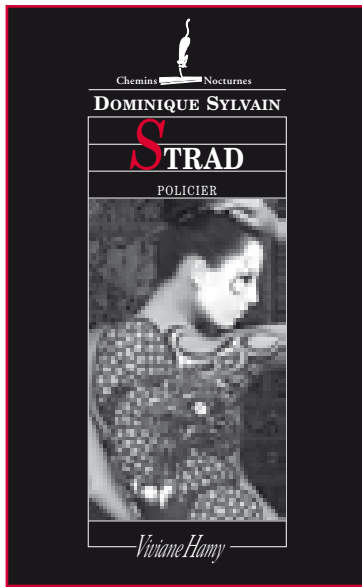
Cobra

Alexandre Bruce investigates with Martine Lewine. Paul Dark, the director of a scientific research laboratory, is found dead at home, poisoned by strychnine, a poison which causes horrible pain. The murderer photographed his agony and signed his crime in the victim's blood: Cobra... At the same moment on the Seine, his ex-wife Ophélie Rex, an extremist artist, is assassinated while floating on an inflatable mattress and making a mythical communion with her namesake. Commissioner Serge Clémenti investigates the murder.

Novel · French suspense · 256 pages

Rights sold in Russian (Inostranka)

5 500 copies sold



Strad

Main character: Louise Morvan

A Stradivarius worth more than 24 million francs is stolen from Meyer, a brilliant young violonist murdered in the middle of the street. Louise Morvan, commissioned by the owners of the unique instrument, hides out across the street from the apartment of a dealer, Christian Donovan, an antique instrument specialist.

Novel · French suspense · 256 pages

6 500 copies sold

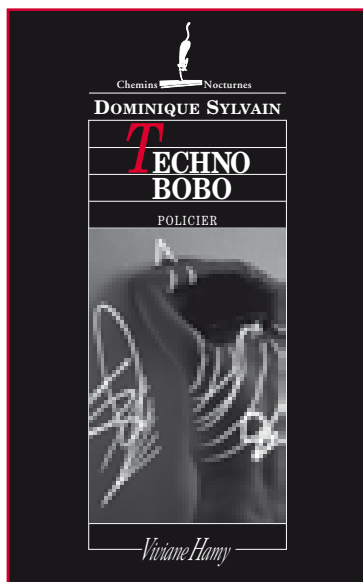
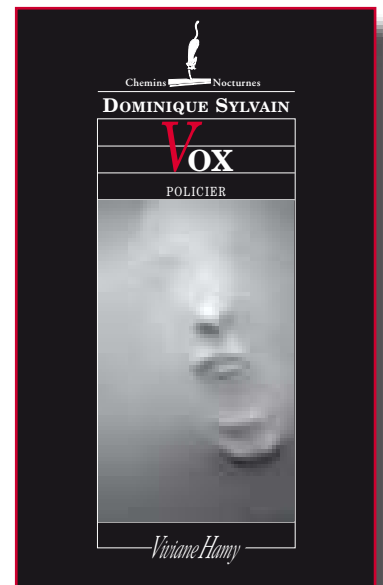
Vox

Isabelle Castro, the star of a late night show on Radio France, is dead, assassinated by a psychopath. Because her voice tweaked his desire. Because he needed to destroy her. Because she was the seventh in his series. For three years, Commander Alex Bruce has been tracking the psychopath rapist and killer of seven women, nicknaming him "Vox". Obsessed by the killer, he gets help from Martine Lewine, cop and sharpshooter whose magical voice could overcome the crazy man. She will serve as bait.

Novel · French suspense · 256 pages

6 500 copies sold

Right sold in Russian (Inostranka)



Techno Bohemian

Main character: Louise Morvan

During a rave party organized on private property, two young girls are seen jumping off a cliff together. The autopsy reveals that they had been drugged to the bone: an explosive cocktail of ecstasy and ketamine. The police conclude suicide, beyond a shadow of a doubt.

In Paris, the body of a young Asian woman is found with her throat cut and vitriolized; thirty tablets of ecstasy are hidden in her belt buckle. Nothing helps to establish her identity.

While commissioner Clémenti does not want to make a link between the two cases, Louise Morvan unravels the status quo by showing that suicide is not part of the story.

Novel · French suspense · 336 pages

5 500 copies sold

ERIC TODENNE



This pseudonym brings two promising authors together for the first time and heralds the beginning of a team of delightful investigators, with unusual characters who sometimes resort to expeditious and the most sophisticated of techniques.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of writing "two brains"?

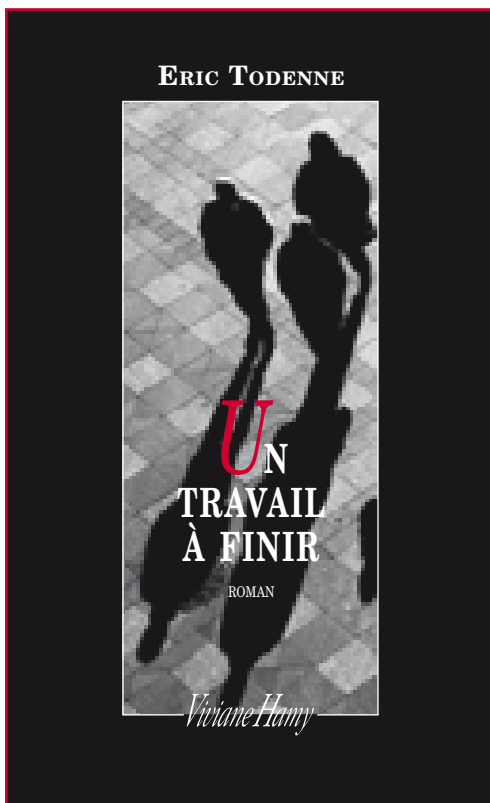
The advantages: bipolarity, one plus one is three and not two. The different origins give sometimes surprising but concordant points of view.

The disadvantages: it happens that some of our discussions give scenes that would be worthy of adaptation in the collection Chemins Nocturnes...

Do we have a chance to meet Andreani and Couturier again?

We hope! The quadriga composed of Andreani, Couturier and Francesca – not to mention the moral and gastronomic support of the Grand Sérieux – is again surveying the region in search of remedies for injuries caused by men and history.

A Job to Finish



Roger Lourdier, a resident of the Cornflowers who suffers from Alzheimer's, fell awkwardly against the corner of his bedside table, and died. It can only have been an accident. But a small detail attracts the attention of Lisa, the young girl who is carrying out voluntary community service in the retirement home: the old man has no social security number.

How is that possible, in France, today? Lisa tells her father about it. Her father is commanding officer Andreani, who, dismissed for serious misconduct by his superior, Nancy, has to report to Francesca Rossini, the psychiatrist in charge of deciding whether he can return to his post.

Andreani, an archetypal old fashioned policeman, and his acolyte Couturier, are determined to shed light on this mystery. Could it be an administrative error? Unlikely. And, what does the inscription "SO.3-02.AB+", tattooed on the back of his neck, mean?

It's heavy stuff. He knows it, senses it...

Novel
French suspense
286 pages

"A complex and seductive plot."

Pierre Maury, *Le Soir* (Belgium)

ESTELLE MONBRUN



A former student of Léonard Limosin secondary school and with a PhD in literature from Paris, Estelle Monbrun (the pseudonym of this Proust expert) began her career as a professor of contemporary French literature in the United States, in New York then Saint-Louis. She has become a world-renowned specialist in the works of Marcel Proust and Marguerite Yourcenar. Alongside her teaching profession, Estelle Monbrun writes detective novels published by Éditions Viviane Hamy. Her texts mix the crispness of writing, through the playful and parodic aspect of her literary production, and depth, through the scientific and documentary quality offered by those genres.

With *The Murder of Aunt Léonie*, Estelle Monbrun inaugurated the Chemins Nocturnes collection of Éditions Viviane Hamy. Other “murders” would follow. She is often compared with David Lodge and Agatha Christie: “First, is this author’s use of sarcasm when referring to the university world, which is represented with pitiless, if touching, humour. Second, is her art of narration, the false leads and dramatic twists.” René de Ceccatty, *Le Monde*.

“My books can be read as mere detective novels but, if you know the source I am drawing from, you can have fun recognizing hidden quotes, stylistic references and coded characters’ names... It’s a kind of constant wink, a three-sided complicity between a writer, a novelist and a reader.” Estelle Monbrun

Good to know

Because legacy is essentiel for her, she has published with Éditions Viviane Hamy, in collaboration with the designer Stéphane Heuet, *The Ghost of Little Marcel*, a book that introduces *In Search of Lost Time* in a fun and original way for all ages.

What could that sound of wheezing possibly be which little Alix can hear in the middle of the night, in the Illiers household? And there, sitting on the floor, she comes across a little boy who seems to have come straight out of the Belle Epoque and who is having trouble breathing. On his lap is an open book. Bravely, Alix Begins to talk to him. She finds out that Marcel is looking for a title for his book and that he has asthma. But their conversation is cut off abruptly when the boy vanishes in the blink of an eye! Intrigued by Marcel’s search, she starts thinking about helping him to fin the words for the title of his book...

The Ghost of Little Marcel is a funny and tender story, and introduces us to the fantastical and playful heart of Proust’s tale.



Murder in Montaigne



Novel
French suspense
224 pages

**Rights sold
in Spanish (Siruela)**

The bright red lips briskly pursed together would have told anyone less naïve than Mary that her presence was not really welcome. But her proposal was accepted and, in the process, she learned that Caro was studying at the School of Fine Arts and lived in the university residence. After a kiss on each cheek French-style, which the Americans call “air kisses” and which commit a person to nothing, Mary kept her eyes on her new acquaintance, who turned into Avenue Foch after giving her a falsely-casual wave. A few moments later, Caro sent this message from her mobile to an encrypted address: “The cod will be a scorpion fish. Veronica.”

What can connect the allegedly accidental fall of a young student from one of the tallest windows in Montaigne Castle, an enigmatic woman with strange behavior who claims to be called Caroline Martin and the kidnapping of two granddaughters of diplomat Michel Lespignac, in broad daylight, on a beach of Oléron?

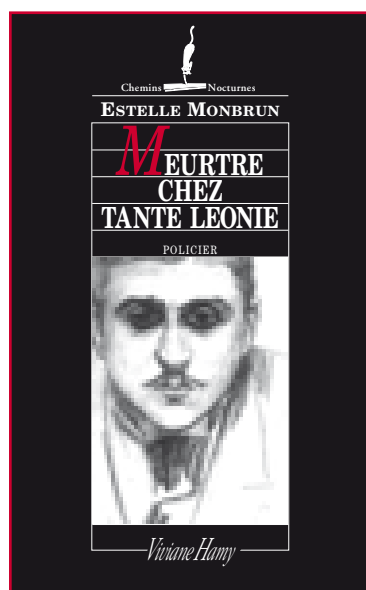
The answer is almost obvious, although surprising: Montaigne.

Murder · Castel · Montaigne · Discovery · New manuscript · Kidnapping · Childs · Descendants · Inheritance · Manipulation

“Breathtaking suspense and an academic setting that make you want only one thing: to get back to reading Montaigne!”

Rémi Bonnet, *Le Populaire du centre*

Murder at Proust's



Novel
French suspense
256 pages

Adelin, the self-appointed directress of the Marcel Proust association, is found murdered on the eve of the society's annual convention. Inspector Foucheroux is called from Paris to investigate. He soon discovers that the victim was a ruthlessly ambitious as the pretentious intellectuals on his list of suspects, and that almost everyone who knew her had a motive to kill. When published, this book caused a scandal for its merciless treatment of the world's most sensitive egos: the academic elite.

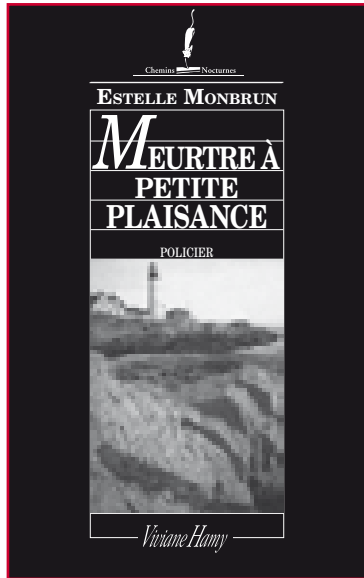
“A remarkable English-style thriller, a vivid portrait of university campuses, concocted under a pen-name, by a Proust expert.”

Le Monde des Livres

Rights sold in English (Arcade Publishing), Italian (Robin), Russian (Ast), Chinese (PRH), & Danish (Samleren)

23 000 copies sold

Murder at Petite-Plaisance



Visitors flock to Petite-Plaisance, a villa belonging to Marguerite Yourcenar, an island off the coast of Maine. One morning, the body of a French journalist is found, and the island's quiet community is thrown into turmoil. Commissaire Fouchoux, a regular character in Estelle Monbrun's books, and federal agent Bradford take on the investigation as a team, and uncover the incredible truth of the Yourcenar affair.

Novel · French suspense · 240 pages

7 500 copies sold

"Estelle Monbrun wrote *The Abyss* in her own way and it's exciting from start to finish."

Catherine Simon, *Le Monde des Livres*

Rights sold in Russian (Ast), Italian (Robin) & Chinese (PRH)

Murder at Colette's

Working for the glory of literature can be extremely risky, especially if you are a specialist in Colette's novels. Developing a plot with the literary set of themes of a great writer, Estelle Monbrun – helped by Anaïs Coste who was in charge of the complete works edition of Colette – parodies Colette's style with a great sense of humour, making fun of university teachers. Funny and cruel, half-way between Agatha Christie and David Lodge.

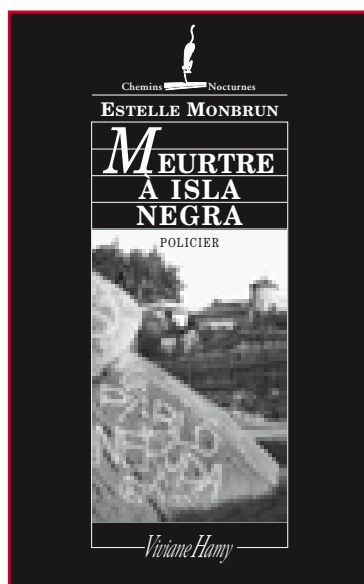
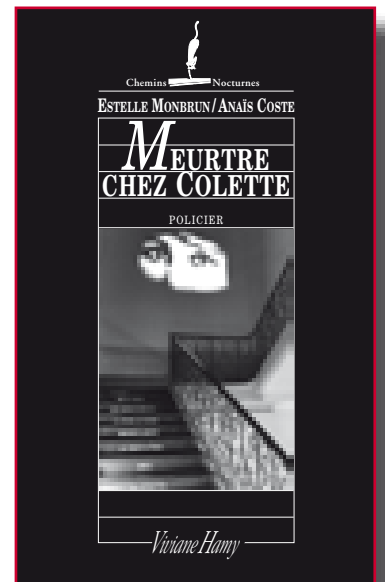
Novel · French suspense · 223 pages

6 500 copies sold

"Page after page, the intrigue is wonderfully interwoven with skilfully controlled measure, which keeps the reader in breathless suspense."

Le Journal du Centre

Rights sold in Russian (Ast), Italian (Robin) & Chinese (PRH)



Murder on Isla Negra

On this island, la villa "Pablo Neruda", "built as a P on a promontory overlooking the house of Chile's most famous poet", welcomes artists of all kinds. One morning, Maria Loncomilla, the unhappy chambermaid, is forced to confront the formidable manager of the villa to inform her of the disappearance of Celia Martin, one of the guests...

Novel · French suspense · 224 pages

"In this book, the characters are complex with poetry and history as guardrails."

A.-M. Koenig, *Le Magazine littéraire*

KARIM MISKÉ



Karim Miske was born in 1964 in Abidjan to a Mauritanian father and a French mother. He grew up in Paris before leaving to study journalism in Dakar. Back in France, he has been making documentary films for twenty years on subjects as diverse as bioethics, Jewish neo-fundamentalism, Christian and Muslim, and deafness (for which he learns sign language).

His films are broadcast on Arte, France 2, Canal +, Channel Four and many other television channels around the world.

From 2010, he writes several forums on the racialization of the French society for *Rue 89* and *Le Monde*.

Arab jazz is his first novel.

16 500 copies sold

Arab Jazz

Kosher sushis, kebabs, a second hand bookshop and a bar in front of which small groups of young people gather: the 19th arrondissement in Paris is a cosmopolitan neighbourhood where Jews, Arabs, blacks and whites live together.

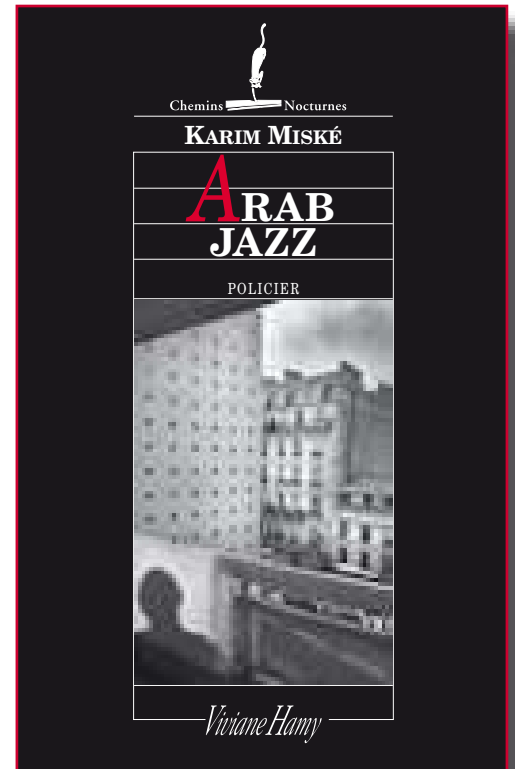
Ahmed Taroudant, a day dreamer and crazy about crime novels, which he stacks up to the ceiling of his studio flat, is not one of them. But it is he who makes the horrifying discovery of the body of his neighbour, Laura Vignola, hanging from her balcony.

This crime scene is part of an appalling mise en scene. A bloody roast pork has been laid next to her body with its brutally mutilated sex. There are enough symbols for the inhabitants to label her “a woman stained by impurity”.

Rachel Kupferstein and Jean Hamelot are put in charge of the inquiry by the very charismatic Inspector Mercator. The pair stands out against the backdrop of the Parisian crime world. She is a vivacious Jew and he is the son of a rationalist-communist. Together they hold all the cards to decode the signs of this mysterious crime.

“An author is born. And it’s good news: once he gets going, it won’t be easy to catch up with him.”

L'Express



First Novel
French suspense
350 pages

Rights sold in
English (MacLehose Press),
Spanish (Adriana Hidalgo
Editora, Argentina),
German (Lübbe), Italian (Fazi),
Dutch (De Geus),
Danish (Rosinante),
Polish (Sonia Draga),
Turkish (Tekrar)
& Greek (Polis)

ALEXIS RAGOUNEAU



Alexis Ragouneau was born in 1973. He made a striking entrance onto the literary stage with his first two detective novels: *The Madonna of Notre-Dame* and *The Gospel for Paupers*, which were published in the Chemins Nocturnes collection. Readers, bookshop owners and journalists received them with enthusiasm, both in France and abroad.

Even if everything points to the alleged culprit in *The Madonna of Notre-Dame*, we discover the puny Father Kern. A character attached to the painful past and who will decide to lead his own inquiry twice, not to challenge the official – and spiritual – authorities or to gain glory, but rather to opt for altruism and compassion. His sincere amateurism will allow him to capture minute details that escape the police.

In *The Gospel for Paupers*, the author goes further by making unexpected but terribly credible homeless heroes: a thriller that he decides to defy the rules of the genre.

A brilliant craftsman in so many areas, he decided to break the rules to more freely explore novelistic creation.

Alexis Ragouneau represents upcoming young contemporary authors. His voice is lucid and out of the ordinary, animated by a relentless and fair language that is at the service of romance and therefore life.

“Notre-Dame de Paris is at once deeply rooted in reality and a powerful place of fiction [...] I am also a great admirer of Simenon because Maigret lets things ripen and waits for confidence, without provoking it.” Alexis Ragouneau

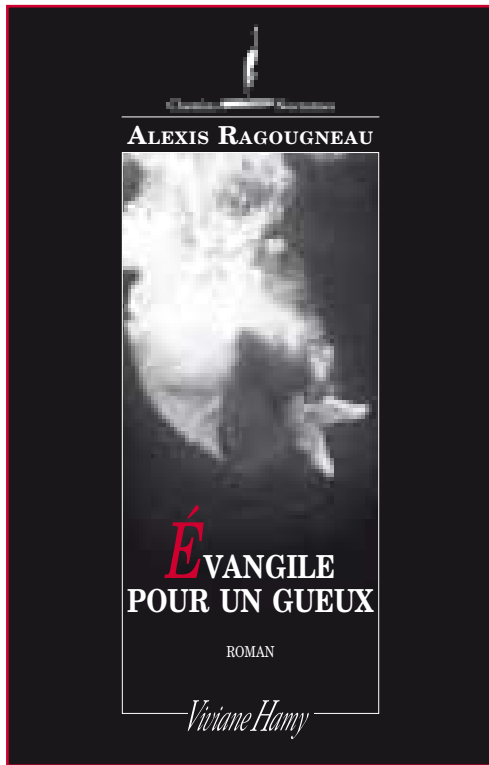
“What talent! Ragouneau's first bold move is to make Notre-Dame Cathedral the scene of a murder and criminal intrigue. This plot is captivating to the end. The French thriller may have found its new Pope.”

Bernard Lehut, *Laissez-vous tenter* (RTL)

The Madonna of Notre-Dame: 7 000 copies sold

The Gospel for Paupers: 6 000 copies sold

The Gospel for Paupers



Novel
French suspense
367 pages

Rights sold in German (Ullstein)

The body of a homeless man is discovered in the River Seine. A verdict of suicide has been ruled out because the victim's hands have been pierced and his side sliced open with a knife.

Lieutenant Gombrowicz attends the autopsy, his throat tight with disgust, while the coroner delights in a body that reminds him of the Italian painting of Andrea Mantegna. The victim's name was Mouss. He had made the headlines shortly before Christmas as he and other homeless had flooded the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral to shelter from the cold. The police had eventually used a heavy hand to evacuate the homeless.

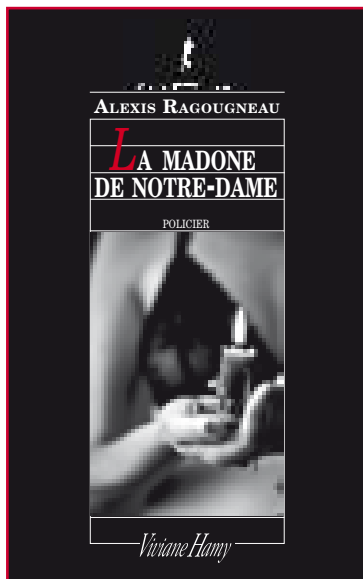
The examining magistrate, Claire Kauffmann, is responsible for shedding light on the murder. In an effort to find out what happened to poor Mouss, she contacts Father Kern. He had been in charge of the cathedral that Christmas and had in the end stood up for Mouss and his horde of social outcasts.

In this new investigation, each protagonist is backed into a corner and the oldest preconceptions are shaken. No one gets out unscathed... not even the reader.

"Blessed is Kracauer for launching Ragougneau in the world of the crime novel where he develops a fair and singular writing."

Alexandra Schwartzbrod, *Libération*

The Madonna of Notre-Dame



Novel
French suspense
250 pages

It is the day after 15 August in Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. A beautiful young woman, clothed in white, is kneeling in one of the side chapels. But when an American tourist knocks against her, her body collapses : she has been murdered.

Commanding officer Landard and lieutenant Gombrowicz, together with the young and sensitive acting prosecutor, Claire Kauffmann, are leading the inquiry. The autopsy reveals that the victim's sex had been sealed with wax, as if to reconstruct her virginity. Father Kern is questioned from all sides...

The Madonna of Notre-Dame is a dazzling dive into the mystery of good and evil but is also a comic and quirky novel which shows the cathedral of Paris in a new light.

"Here is a thriller beyond all others. You have to read this book because Alexis Ragougneau shows an undeniable and promising talent as a writer of crime fiction and novelist."

Jean-Louis Debré, *Le Point*

Rights sold in English (New Vessel Press), German (Ullstein), Spanish (Siruela), Greek (Stereoma), Italian (Ugo Guanda), Polish (Sonia Draga) & Swedish (Sekwa)

MAUD TABACHNIK



Maud Tabachnik is a devoted and passionate reader, who also likes the cinema, nature, cities and, above all, animals. With *A Rotten Summer*, she was, along with Estelle Monbrun, one of the very first published authors in the young Chemins Nocturnes collection in 1994.

Often considered as one of the leading authors of modern crime fiction, she stands out through her dry, punchy and concise style, which allows her to transcribe tremendous vitality and rage. Each cinematographic scene, with no dead time, lingers enduringly in the reader's mind. Add a touch of humour and you have one of these thrillers, the secret of which only Maud Tabachnik knows.

Her modernity has often been compared with that of Dashiell Hammett or Chester Himes. She also uses her novels as a means to defend the causes close to her, which is to say the fight against antisemitism, homophobia and violence.

“With my thrillers, I felt free, free to express what I wanted, with the tone that suited me.” Maud Tabachnik

A Rotten Summer

98 ° Fahrenheit. Boston suffocates. Men are slaughtered and emasculated. A handsome cop, disturbed by the women and his Yiddishé mamè, is conducting a blind investigation.

Maud Tabachnik puts her name to a thriller where the tension never slackens. And gives birth to a detective whose name sounds like a trap: Goodman.

Novel · French suspense · 300 pages

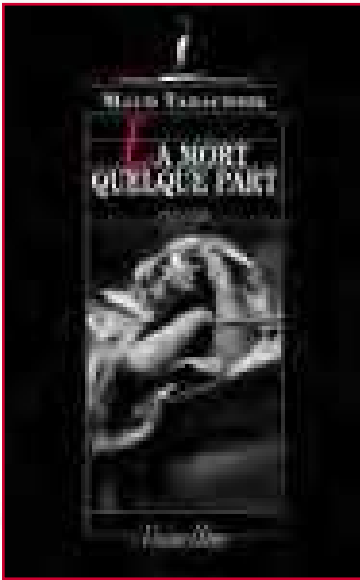
13 000 copies sold

“The author braves all taboos, delivers us fiery scenes in a sweltering Boston and scares us on every second page. This is the typical thriller that the reader cannot put down from the first page.”

Bernard Arbogast, *L'Écho Républicain*

Rights sold in Greek (Patakis)

Death Somewhere



After his failure in *A Rotten Summer*, Sam Goodman is sent on a mission to Paris. Hateful crimes set the Quai des Orfèvres on edge. Little by little, blackmail on a national scale is transformed into a tussle between two individuals: the “fool with the bomb” and the American Jewish cop.

Novel · French suspense · 256 pages

7 200 copies sold

“An atmospheric novel, with the accumulation of corpses and psychological analysis of a meticulous and unsuspected madman.”

Maurice Chavardès, *Témoignage chrétien*

The Spider's Feast

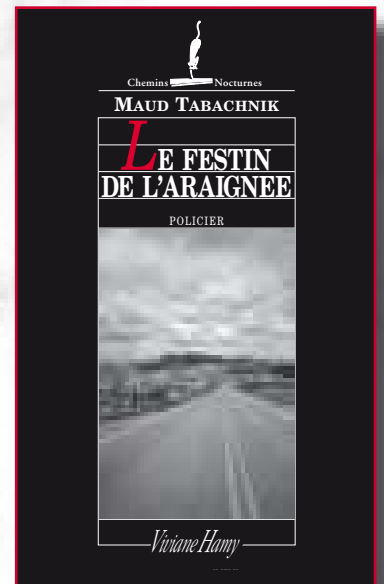
Panic rises over Bolder City on the border of the Mojave Desert. Everyone is watching, but all are sticking together.

Sandra Khan searches, persists, despite the clues she discovers: a doll found in the desert, brown spots on a floor. The fear is increasing and the silence is oppressive.

Novel · French suspense · 288 pages

14 000 copies sold

Rights sold in Greek (Patakis)



“For our happiness, Maud Tabachnik's heroically dilapidated modernity awakens the memory of Dashiell Hammett and Chester Himes.”

Pierre Billard, *Le Point*



The Star of the Temple

1306: Aaron Mayerson, a Jewish jeweller settled in Troyes, must polish the diamond that the Republic of Venice offers to the King of France to make it his ally against Genoa. On the Silversmith's property, after a stormy night, we find the tortured corpse of Templar Agnetti. He was carrying the stone, and this stone has disappeared. Will Rachel Mayerson prevent the evil trap from closing in on her father?

Novel · French suspense · 320 pages

9 500 copies sold

“Her writing is breathtaking. 100% explosive!”

Le Figaro

ANTONIN VARENNE

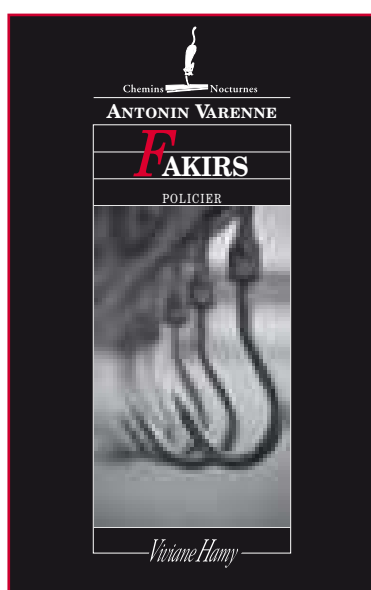


Antonin Varenne was born in Paris in 1973. He spent only a few months there before being taken by his parents to live in the four corners of France, and then on a yacht. He returned at the age of 20 to study at the university of Nanterre.

After completing a Masters in philosophy, specializing in “Machiavelli and the political illusion”, he left university and became a building climber, lived in Toulouse, worked in Iceland and Mexico and, in 2005, laid his hat at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains where he decided to put pen to paper for his first story. After returning to France with an American woman, a bilingual child and a Mexican dog, he settled in Creuse, in central France, where he dedicates his time to writing and building timber frame houses.

“Many readers tell me about my unusual, marginal characters. But they are very close to people I know.”
Antonin Varenne

Fakirs



First novel
French Literature
300 pages

13 000 copies sold

It's as if he's being mocked from beyond the grave. When John Nichols arrives to identify the body of an old friend, he is immediately caught up in the detritus of Alan Musgrave's life, the side of Paris the tourists don't see, where everyone has a past but very few count on a future.

But what can he expect from a man who bled to death in his own excruciating S&M stage show?

Now there's a maverick police lieutenant on the prowl who thinks that Musgrave's suicide was murder. Guérin might not look like much, but he's one of the few honest officers on the force. As the horrific extent of police abuse is revealed, the race is on to find the link between a slew of recent suicides – and the key to it is buried deep in Nichols's past.

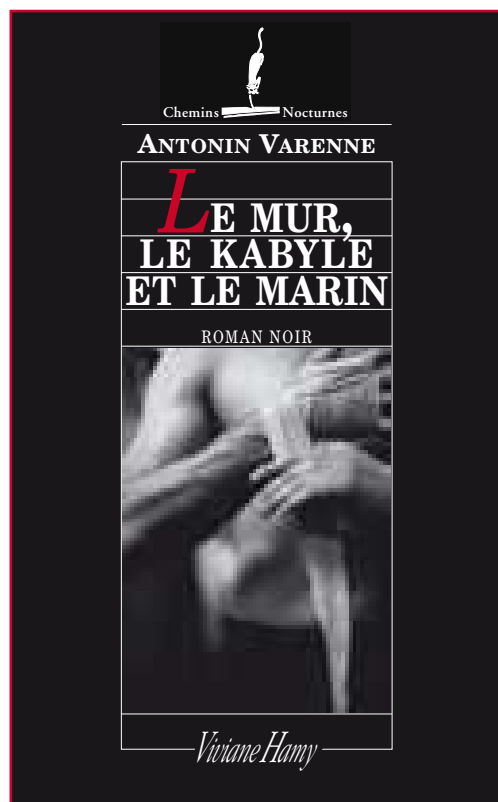
Fakirs does for Paris what James Ellroy did for vintage America, shining a light as never before on the seedy underbelly of La Ville-Lumière.

“A black and white atmosphere, superb portraits of battered characters, realistic dialogues, and curious situations: Antonin Varenne has that spark which gives meaning to the words.”

Le Figaro

**Rights sold in English (MacLehose Press), Italian (Einaudi),
& Turkish (Doğan Egmont)**

The Wall, the Kabyle and the Sailor



Novel
French suspense
286 pages

8 000 copies sold

This is the story of a good cop who people call “The Wall”. He only thinks about boxing, going up into the ring again and again, even in the shabbiest of places, facing less honourable opponents. One victorious evening (but at a price!) someone suggests that he takes care of a “client’s” business.

The weary cop agrees to kick butts for 500€, no questions asked. With blood on his hands but an almost clear conscience, he begins to understand that he has been beating up intellectuals and journalists who could never defend themselves. When he realizes who the “client” is, the story takes a different turn...

One night, he decides to ask his victim some questions before laying in to him. He understands some of it and ends up traveling to Marseille, looking for a veteran from the Algerian War. The novel turns into a road-movie, at the same time as a story of a barracks during the dirty war: a microcosm of tension and horror.

Men · Fighting · Boxing · Travel through time · Algeria ·

“This is a boxing ring you are unlikely to escape without being KO’d.”

Le Canard enchaîné

Rights sold in English (MacLehose Press) & Italian (Einaudi)

PRIZES :

***Fakirs*: Prix Michel Lebrun 2009, Grand prix du Jury Sang d'encre 2009**

30 000 copies sold

***The Wall, the Kabyle and the Sailor*: Prix des Lecteurs Quais du Polar – 20 minutes (2012),
Prix du Meilleur polar francophone (2011)**

8 000 copies sold

FRED VARGAS



Although, at the start, she was taken for a man because of her pen name, Fred Vargas has invented a literary genre belonging only to her: “Rompol” (we might say “Noviller” in English). “An essentially poetic genre, it is not black but dark, which is to say it plunges the reader into the oneiric world of those childhood nights when you play at scaring yourself, but in an oh-so-serious way, because the power given to the freed imagination is total. It is this freedom of tone, this capacity to once again find the fragile grace of our primordial emotions, this verbal alchemy that breaks apart the heaviness of the real that are the trademarks of a writer with a unique voice in crime fiction today. The characters that populate her books are as anarchist and outlandish as wise. Be they passionate about Antiquity or oceanographers, the way they look at the world combats conformism and the established order, using fantasy and humour as their weapons”. (Jeanne Guyon, *Le Magazine littéraire*)

There's no more to say.

A true literary success both in France and abroad, Fred Vargas has a solid and loyal readership throughout the world that awaits each new novel with eagerness and excitement. Her novels have been translated in 40 countries.

The crime fiction category of *Elle's* Grand prix des Lectrices was invented with *Have Mercy on us All* in 2002, which had already been awarded the Prix des Libraries that same year.

Since showered with various awards, in 2018, Fred Vargas received the prestigious Princess of Asturias Award for literature for the entirety of her works. For the first time, a French woman writer was honoured and, what's more, a writer of crime fiction.

“The thriller is the moment of my life when I stop all research and all analysis. When I write a novel, I do not want to overthink, I try to be as passive as possible, to let myself go, to simply write a good story.” Fred Vargas

Foreign rights : 40 countries

Armenia (Apollon)
Brazil (Companhia das Letras)
Bulgaria (Colibri)
Canada (Knopf Canada)
Cataluna (Ara Llibres)
China (Citic P.H.)
Croatia (Bozicevic)
Czech (Republic Garamond)
Denmark (Rosinante)
Estonia (Varrak)
Finland (Gummerus)
Germany (Aufbau)
Georgia (Agora)
Greece (Livanis)
Hungary (Europa kiyado)

Iceland (Bjartur)
Israel (Keter)
Italy (Einaudi)
Japan (Tokyo Sogensha)
Lebanon (Cadmus)
Lithuania (Baltos Iankos)
Netherlands (De Geus)
Norway (Aschehoug)
Poland (Proszynski)
Portugal (Porto Editora)
Romania (Editura Trei)
Russia (Inostranka)
Serbia (Hedone)
Slovakia (Slovart)
Slovenia (Mladinska)

South Korea (Woongjin)
Spain (Siruela)
Sweden (Sekwa)
Taiwan (The Commercial Press)
Thailand (Nanmeebooks)
Turkey (Pegasus)
Ukraine (Port-Royal)
UK (Harvill Secker)
USA (Penguin US)
Vietnam (Nha Nam)

PRIZES :

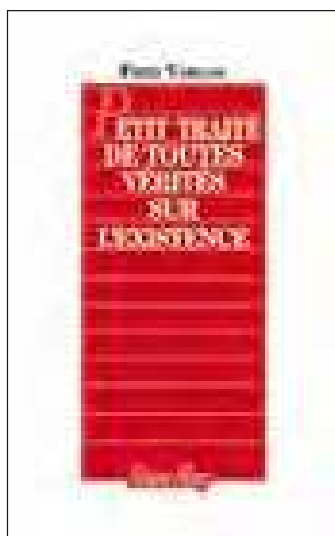
***The Three Evangelists*: Prix Mystère de la Critique 1996, prix du Polar de la ville du Mans 1995, Duncan Lawrie International Dagger (Cwa 2005)**

***The Chalk Circle Man*: Prix du Festival de Saint-Nazaire 1996**

***The Four Rivers*: Prix Alph'Art 2000**

***Have Mercy on us all*: Prix des Libraires 2002, Grand prix des lectrices de *Elle* 2002, prix du meilleur Polar Francophone 2002, Deutscher Krimipreis 2004 (Germany)**

***Wash this Blood Clean from my Hand*: Duncan Lawrie International Dagger (CWA 2007)**

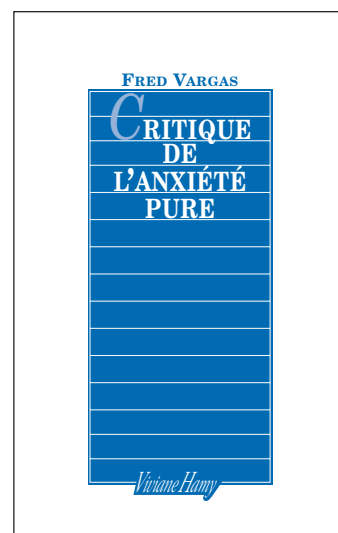


Literary Essay
112 pages

**Rights sold in
German (Aufbau),
Italian (Einaudi)
& Spanish
(La Umbria y La Solana)**

15 000 copies sold

Non-Fiction



Literary Essay
144 pages

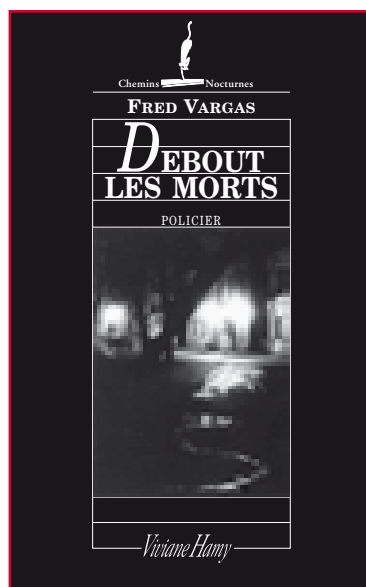
**Rights sold in German
(Aufbau) & Italian
(Einaudi)**

15 000 copies sold

"This is how Fred Vargas becomes the repository of a wisdom that is all the more rare given that she doesn't take herself at all seriously."

Témoignage chrétien

The Three Evangelists



Sophia Siméonidis, a Greek opera singer, wakes up one morning to discover that a tree has appeared overnight in the garden of her Paris house. Intrigued and unnerved, she turns to her neighbours: Vandoosler, an ex-cop fired from the police for having helped a murderer to escape, and three impecunious historians, Mathias, Marc and Lucien – the three evangelists. A few weeks later, Sophia disappears and nobody worries too much until her body is found burned to ashes in a car. Who killed the opera singer?

Novel · French suspense · 288 pages

The Evangelists series

54 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Italian (Einaudi), Spanish (Siruela and Punto de Lectura), Chinese (Xinhua), Dutch (De Geus), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha), Korean (Viche), Finnish (Gummerus), Hungarian (Europa Könyviado), Czech (Garamond), Greek (Libro), Armenian (Appolon) & Estonian (Varrak)

The Chalk Circle Man

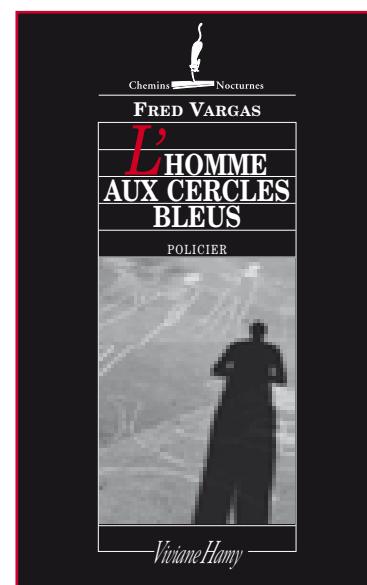
When strange blue chalk circles start appearing overnight on the pavements of Paris, the press take up the story with amusement and psychiatrists trot out their theories. Adamsberg is alone in thinking this is not a game and far from amusing. He insists on being kept informed of new circles and the increasingly bizarre objects which they contain: a pigeon's foot, four cigarette lighters, a badge proclaiming "I Love Elvis", a hat, a doll's head. Adamsberg senses the cruelty that lies behind these seemingly random occurrences.

Novel · French suspense · 224 pages

Main character: Adamsberg

73 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Portuguese (Companhia das Letras), Spanish (Siruela), Chinese (Xinhua), Dutch (De Geus), Catalan (Arras), Latvian (Zvaigzne), Galician (Kalandraka), Italian (Einaudi), Finnish (Gummerus), Czech (Argo), Swedish (Sekwa), Danish (Rosinante), Estonian (Varrak), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha), Georgian (Agora), Bulgarian (Colibri), Korean (Woonjin), Lithuanian (Baltos Iankos), Slovenian (Mladinska Knjiga), Romanian (Editura Trei), Arabic (Cadmus), Slovak (Slovart) & Croatian (Bozicevic)



Dog will have this Day

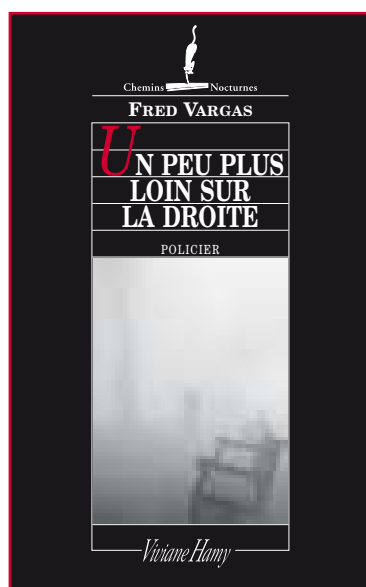
How do you solve a murder without a body? Keeping watch under the windows of the Paris flat belonging to a politician's nephew, ex-special investigator Louis Kehlweiler catches sight of something odd on the pavement. A tiny piece of bone. Human bone, in fact. When Kehlweiler takes his find to the nearest police station, he faces ridicule. Obsessed by the fragment, he follows the trail to the tiny Breton fishing village of Port-Nicolas – in search of a dog. But when he recruits "evangelists" Marc and Mathias to help, they find themselves facing even bigger game.

Novel · French suspense · 256 pages

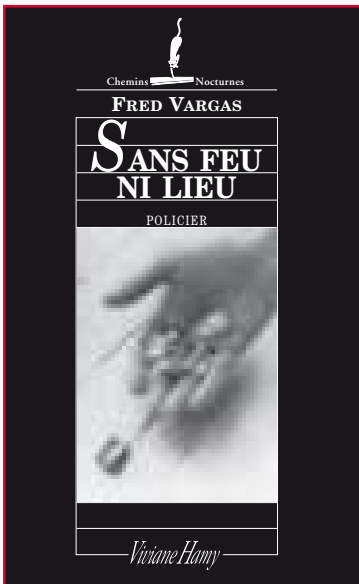
The Evangelists series

42 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Italian (Einaudi), Spanish (Siruela), Chinese (Xinhua), Dutch (De Geus), Finnish (Gummerus), Greek (Libro), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha) & Czech (Garamond)



The Accordionist



Why are Louis Kehlweiler (alias the German) Marc, Lucien and Mathias – hidden away in their run-down shack on the rue Chasle in Paris – interested in a simple-minded fool who seems blatantly unlikable, and who everyone is sure is guilty, including them? Why are they so keen on saving this Clément Vauquer, a maniac wanted by all the police forces in Nevers and Paris for the hideous murders of at least two young women?

Novel · French suspense · 288 pages

The Evangelists series

47 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Spanish (Siruela), Finnish (Gummerus), Italian (Einaudi), Dutch (De Geus), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha), Estonian (Varrak) & Slovak (Slovart)

Seeking Whom He may Devour

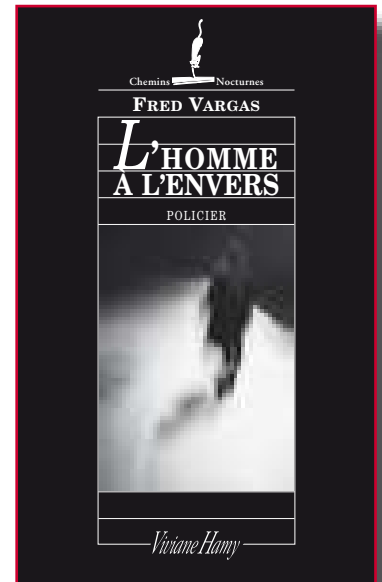
In this frightening and surprising novel, the eccentric, wayward genius of Commissaire Adamsberg is pitted against the deep-rooted mysteries of one Alpine village's history and a very present problem: wolves. Disturbing things have been happening up in the French mountains; more and more sheep are being found with their throats torn out. The evidence points to a wolf of unnatural size and strength. However Suzanne Rosselin thinks it is the work of a werewolf.

Novel · French suspense · 302 pages

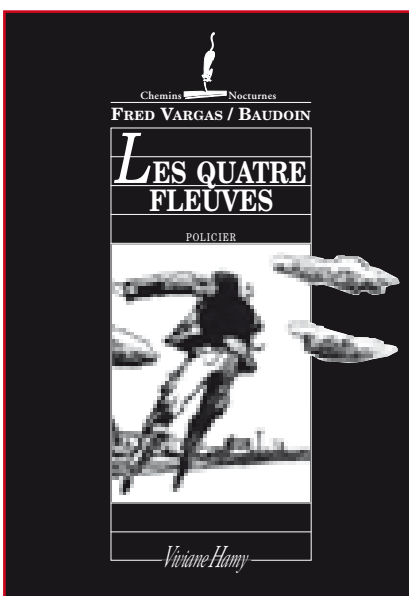
Main character: Adamsberg

90 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Italian (Einaudi), Spanish (Siruela), Chinese (Xinhua), Finnish (Gummerus), Estonian (Varrak), Swedish (Sekwa), Icelandic (Bjartur Bókaförlag), Dutch (De Geus), Portuguese (Companhia das Letras, Brasil), Hungarian (Szó Kiado), Croatian (Bozicevic), Lithuanian (Bozicevic), Slovenian (Mladinska knjiga), Slovak (Slovart), Hebrew (Babel), Bulgarian (Colibri), Czech (Argo), Georgian (Agora), Greek (Livanis), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha), Vietnamese (Nha Nam) & Korean (Woongjin)



The Four Rivers



Always perched on his roller blades, the young Grégoire Braban and his friend Vincent are dedicated, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, to pick pocketing. On this day in Saint-Michel, they make off with an old man's satchel. 30 thousand. The jackpot. But something else is weighing down the satchel.

Something quite disgusting. The old man's bag is like Pandora's box. It contains all the sins of the world.

That evening Vincent is killed. His thigh is lacerated with four knife cuts. Superintendent Adamsberg is disturbed by this strange design. Has the machete-bearing killer, who rumour has named "The Ram", just signed his fourth murder?

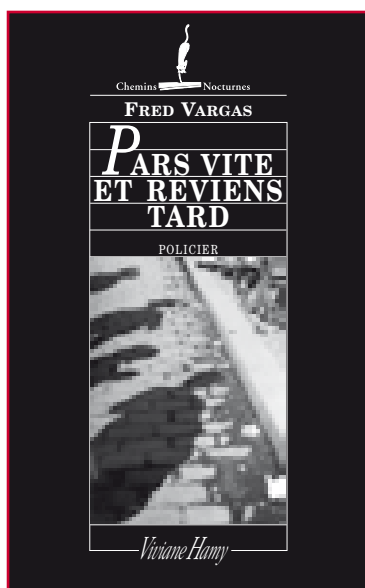
Novel · French suspense · 224 pages

Main character: Adamsberg

52 000 copies sold

Rights sold in German (Aufbau), Spanish (Astisendo Grupo Editorial), Italian (Einaudi), Dutch (Sherpa) & Portuguese (Martins Editora, Brasil)

Have Mercy on us All



Each day, in honour of a Parisian tradition, a town crier calls out the local news to all who will listen. Over the course of a few days a number of disturbing messages are slipped in to his box, messages of portentous and malicious intent referring to the Black Death. Strange marks have also appeared on the doors of several buildings: symbols once used to ward off the plague. Detective Commissaire Adamsberg begins to sense a connection, even a grotesque menace. Then charred and flea-bitten corpses are found. The press seizes on their plague-like symptoms, and the panic sets in.

Novel · French suspense · 352 pages

Main character: Adamsberg

360 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Italian (Einaudi), Spanish (Siruela), Chinese (Xinhua), Dutch (De Geus), Portuguese (Companhia das Letras, Brasil & Dom Quixote, Portugal), Swedish (Sekwa), Polish (Sonia Draga), Greek (Livanis), Thai (Nanmeebooks), Bulgarian (Colibri), Finnish (Gummerus), Latvian (Vaga), Danish (Rosinante), Slovak (Slovart), Icelandic (Bjartur Bókaförlag), Ukrainian (Book Club Family Leisure Club), Romanian (Humanitas), Serbian (Hedone), Hebrew (Babel), Slovenian (Mladinska knjiga), Korean (Minumsa), Hungarian (Europa), Croatian (Bozicevic), Czech (Argo) & Georgian (Agora)

Coule la Seine

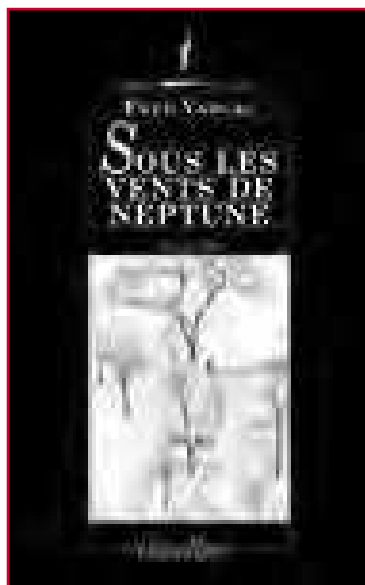
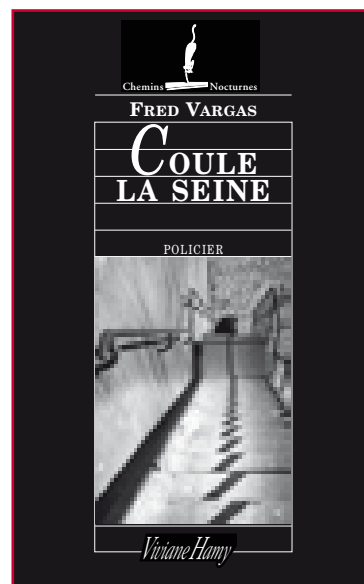
Published separately at different times, these three short stories bring together Commissioner Adamsberg in the face of the homeless, the “clodos”. They have been slightly reworked, but Fred Vargas was anxious to keep them their original form and substance. The drawings of Baudoin are unpublished and were made specifically for this edition.

Novel · French suspense · 120 pages

Main character: Adamsberg

115 000 copies sold

Rights sold in German (Aufbau), Spanish (Siruela), Italian (Einaudi), Dutch (Sherpa), Georgian (Agora), Lithuanian (Baltos Inakos) & Czech (Garamond)



Wash this Blood Clean from my Hand

Between 1943 and 2003 nine people were stabbed to death with a most unusual weapon: a trident. In each case, arrests were made, suspects confessed their crimes and were sentenced to life imprisonment. One slightly worrying detail: each murder suspect lost consciousness during the night of the crime and has no recollection of it. Commissaire Adamsberg is convinced all the murders are the work of one person, the terrifying Judge Fulgence...

Novel · French suspense · 450 pages

Main character: Adamsberg

325 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Spanish (Siruela), Italian (Einaudi), Dutch (De Geus), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha), Finnish (Gummerus), Catalan (Ara Llibres), Danish (Rosinante), Czech (Argo), Polish (Sonia Draga), Chinese (Xinhua), Georgian (Agora), Hungarian (Europa), Icelandic (Bjartur Bókaförlag), Vietnamese (Nha Nam), Latvian (Baltos Inakos), Romanian (Editura Trei), Bulgarian (Colibri), Slovenian (Mladinska knjiga), Greek (Diamantis) & Korean (Gimm Young)

This Night's Foul Work

On the outskirts of Paris, two men have been found with their throats cut. In Normandy, two stags have been killed and their hearts cut out. Meanwhile a seventy-five-year-old nurse who has murdered several of her patients has escaped from prison. Is there a connection between the three cases?

In this mystery, Commissaire Adamsberg is pitted against nemeses past and present: Ariane Lagarde, France's foremost pathologist and Adamsberg's enemy since they argued over a case twenty-three years earlier, and Louis Veyrenc, a new recruit with a grudge, who has been assigned the job of protecting the Commissaire's ex-girlfriend. As the different strands of Vargas's compelling story begin to intertwine, events move towards a gripping climax...

Novel · French suspense · 450 pages

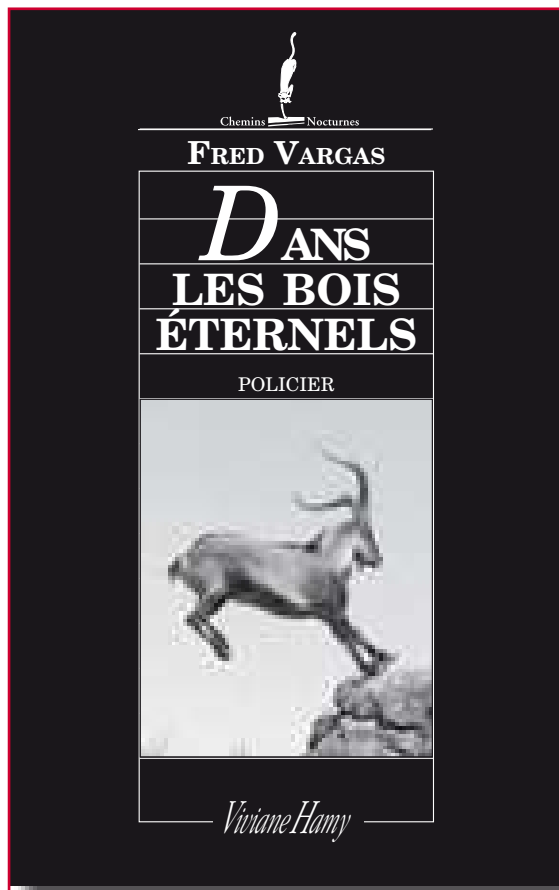
Main character: Adamsberg

395 000 copies sold

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), German (Aufbau), Italian (Einaudi), Spanish (Siruela), Portuguese (Porto Editora, Portugal & Companhia Das Letras, Brasil), Catalan (Ara Llibres), Chinese (Xinhua), Dutch (De Geus), Swedish (Sekwa), Danish (Rosinante), Finnish (Gummerus), Czech (Argo), Georgian (Agora), Vietnamese (Nha Nam), Hungarian (Europa), Bulgarian (Colibri) & Greek (Diamantis)

"True to her style, Fred Vargas has just conquered her title as the French queen of the thriller."

J.-C. Buisson, *Le Figaro magazine*



First novel
French Literature
168 pages – 18 €

The Dying Send their Regards

Michelangelo's drawings were stolen from the Vatican Library! Henri Valhubert, the Parisian art expert, is assassinated on a festive evening in front of the Palais Farnese. What was he doing in Rome and how could he drink hemlock?

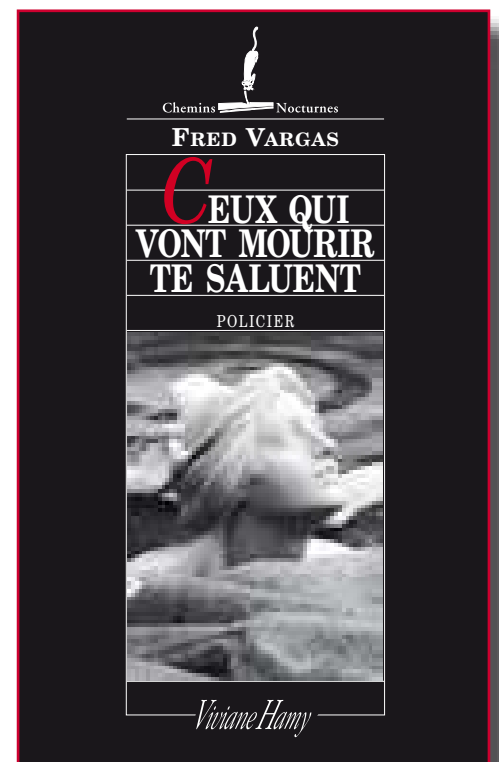
"With a quiet elegance, Fred Vargas weaves, in the drowsiness of the Eternal City, with frequent deviations into the hushed world of the Vatican Library, a subtle canvas, delivering top-notch entertainment to the reader."

Le Monde

Novel · French suspense · 208 pages

50 000 copies sold

Rights sold in Italian (Einaudi), German (Aufbau), Spanish (Siruela) & Slovak (Slovart)





Foreign Literature

Did you know?

In January 1990, Viviane Hamy founded her publishing house with her name. She focused on European books, particularly those from Eastern Europe.

The first three books published were
Tranquil Earth by Armande Gobry-Valle (French),
Girl of Stone (translated from the Hungarian)
and *The Memories of Captain Alonso de Contreras* (translated from the Spanish).

At that time, the cover was identical for all books, with only the colour (exclusively bright Pantones) changing, based on the language translated.

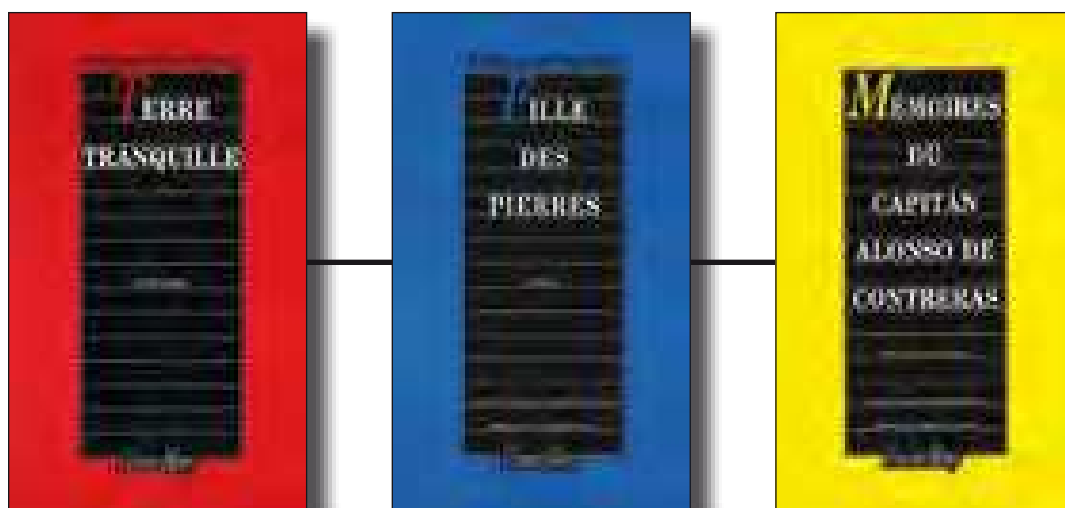
Red: French
Blue: Hungarian
Yellow: Spanish
Pink: Serbo-Croat
Teal: German
Grey: nordic languages (Swedish, Russian, ...)
Green: Italian
Purple: English

Europe was thus cloaked in a thousand colours.

The press and bookshops of the time, stupefied, hesitatingly welcomed this decision: the bright colours were incongruous on bookshop shelves, where white dominated. No publisher before Viviane Hamy had dared to create such book covers.

In 2003, the colour code disappeared in favour of red for all books, which explains why the Portuguese and Hebrew works are in this colour in our catalogue.

In 2020, thanks to a new model designed for the “bIs” paperback collection, Éditions Viviane Hamy, proud of its past, will reunite with these subtle and elegant colours.



MAGDA SZABÓ



Magda Szabó was born in Debrecen in 1917 to a highly educated family of the elite.

Considered a real living classic of Hungarian literature, some called her the “protestant Mauriac” as she often depicted the repressed desires of the inhabitants of the Grande Plaine, who were mainly protestant or parpaillots.

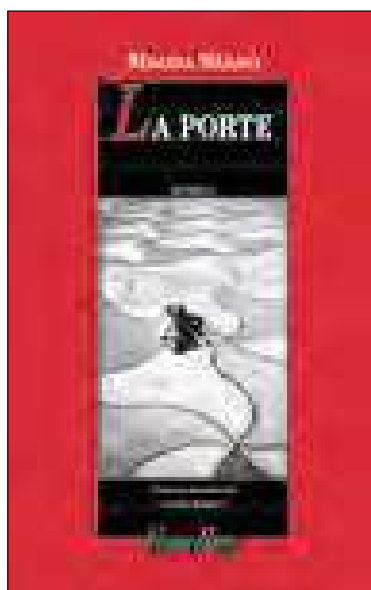
Her first books were published just after the Second World War, when she was celebrated as one of the great literary hopefuls. After 1948, for political reasons, she disappeared from the literary scene. For many years, she made a living by translating and teaching.

It was at the end of the 1950s that she met with huge success. In 1959, she received the Attila Jozsef prize and in 1978, the Lajos Kossuth prize. And her reputation only continued to grow.

In 1987 her novel *The Door* was an international success. Although this work of art was not immediately translated in France, where it appeared in 2003 and was awarded the Prix Femina étranger, it was translated in Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In 1992, she was awarded the Betz Corporation prize in the United States.

The Door



Hungarian novel
Foreign Literature
286 pages

International success

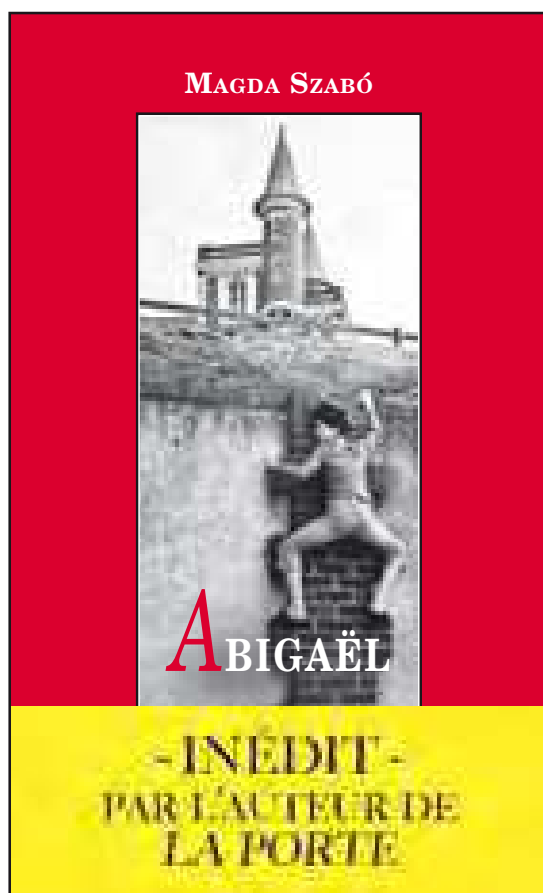
A duel between two very different women: an explosion of the mistress-servant relationship. Emerence is a servant, generous as only a queen without a kingdom can be. Naturally unselfish, she is deeply concerned by every living thing around her, but she has a strong character and keeps her flat like a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

Rights sold in German (Insel), English (Penguin Random House UK), Spanish (Penguin Random House), Italian (Einaudi), Chinese (Shanghai 99, China & Chi Ming, Taiwan), Korean (Psyche's Forest Books), Portuguese (Intrinseca, Brazil), Bulgarian (Colibri), Danish (ArtPeople), Hindi (Prashakran), Hebrew (Keter Publishing House), Norwegian (Aschehoug), Dutch (Prometheus), Russian (Sindbad), Slovenian (Ebedese), Swedish (Nilsson) & Icelandic (Dimma)

120 000 copies sold (hardback and paperback)

“An original book, superb, moving. Excellently translated.”

Le Figaro



Hungarian novel
Foreign Literature
420 pages

8 300 copies sold

“The school is also massive, Gina thought. Massive, austere, white. The windows are small, the carriage door reinforced with hardware, and there are grids on the windows. This place must be very old, and does not look like a school, but something else. At a fortress.”

Gina is being sent away to boarding school. Her adored father has announced it without any explanation. “Don’t say goodbye to anyone, not friends or acquaintances. You must tell no one that you are leaving Budapest. Promise me!” She must forget her old life and join, in a faraway province, Matula, a very strict Calvinist school, renowned for its quality education.

A spoilt child, who stubbornly resists rules and rituals, she is soon set apart. The only way she can survive is to make an escape... which ends in pitiful failure.

In despair, the teenager turns to Abigaël, the statue at the bottom of the garden, and confides her sorrows in her. According to an old Matulian tradition, Abigaël helps all those who ask. And, miraculously, the guardian angel comes to them! A series of fantastical adventures lifts Gina from purgatory and helps her understand both her father’s painful decision and the meaning of the words “honour”, “solidarity” and “friendship”.

“I have a huge crush on this extraordinary and initiatory novel, finally translated into French.”

Librairie Le Cyprès - Gens de la Lune

Gina · Child · Childhood · Boarding school · Hungary · Escape · Confession · Abigaël · Statue · Garden · Power · Guardian angel · Help · Adventures

Abigaël, a rite-of-passage novel, was published on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Magda Szabó, the great woman of Hungarian literature. Since 2003, when *The Door* was unanimously awarded the prix Femina Etranger, Viviane Hamy strives to ensure that the works of this exceptional writer and woman, who was among the first to resist the communist regime, are read and re-read.

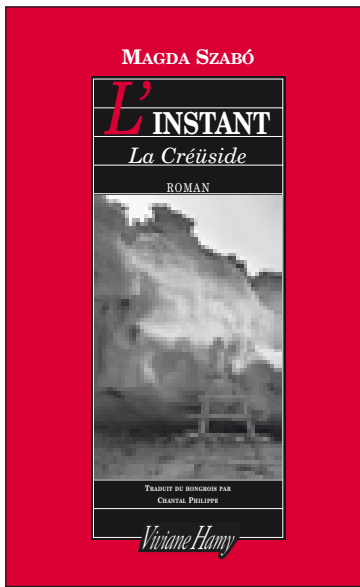
Abigail is the most widely read novel among secondary school pupils in Hungary. It is a real page-turner which was adapted for a mythical television series, and a rock opera of which is still performed in Budapest theatres.

Lately, in 2016, the English translation of *The Door* was warmly welcomed and was nominated as the best book of the year by the *New York Times*.

When asked “Which two adjectives describe you?”, Magda Szabó answered unhesitatingly “brave and fair”.

Rights sold in English (MacLehose Press and NYRB) & Turkish (Yapi Kredi Kültür Sanat)

The Moment



3 700 copies sold

With a nerve that only great novelists have, Magda Szabó reinvents the universal literary masterpieces: *The Aeneid*. The author's father would tell her every night about Aeneas' exploits, and it was this familiarity with the text that allowed her to free herself from it, and rewrite it. Why should Creusa – Aeneas' first wife – die? Why shouldn't she survive the fall of Troy? It is a reconstitution, a profound rewriting, but also a modern interpretation. What we have here is a political novel as well as a mythological one: power, totalitarianism...

Hungarian novel · Foreign Literature · 360 pages

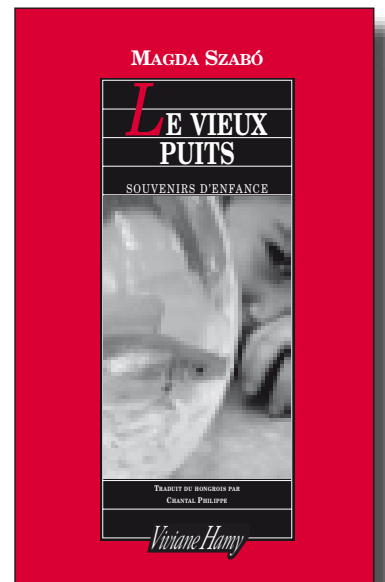
Rights sold in Latvian (Jumava Publishing House)

The Old Well

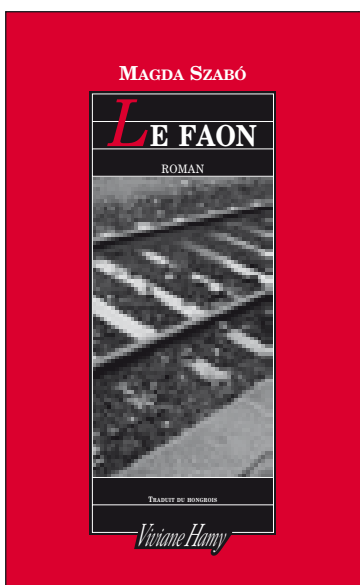
Descended from a poor aristocratic family, Magda Szabó is raised in a magical environment that charms a rather rough life. One of the bastions of her universe was imagination: "when you are not pleased with how a story ends, reinvent its ending", her mother would say, and it was the whole *Aeneid* she ended up rewriting! In short chapters, she narrates her findings, her disappointments and her sweet and tender life. These recollections are like a tale, an initiation story, a story of origins. *The Old Well* recounts the author's path in life: as a reader, a dreamer and then as a writer.

Childhood memories · Foreign Literature · 260 pages

Rights sold in Italian (Einaudi)



The Fawn



13 000 copies sold

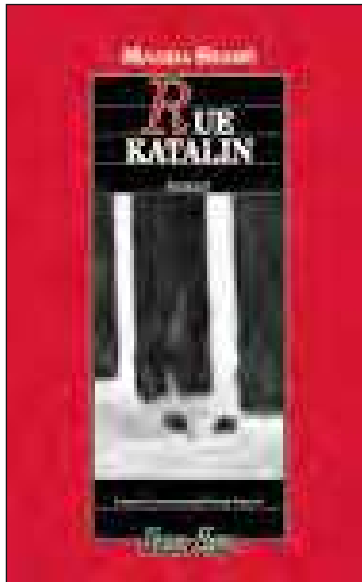
Eszter is a famous actress. Her poor and frustrating childhood suddenly resurfaces the day she discovers that Angelina, the perfect little girl from her village, has married the man she loved.

In the form of confiding in the man, she recounts the moments when she had to earn a few pennies everyday. She also tells of the jealousy that haunts her: Angelina had everything, including a fawn given to entertain her...

Hungarian novel · Foreign Literature · 220 pages

Rights sold in Spanish (Minúscula), Italian (Einaudi), & Turkish (Yapi Kredi Kültür)

Katalin Street



11 000 copies sold

Katalin Street was the place, the time of happiness, the space of love. It was before the war, in Budapest.

There were three neighbouring houses, three gardens side by side, belonging to the Birós, the Helds and the Elekes, which formed a paradise.

The children played together and all the girls were in love with Balint.

The war did not succeed in breaking this harmony, and even though the Helds were deported, fragile Henriette continued to live with the others – hidden in the attic. Until the unfortunate day when a soldier flushes her out.

Hungarian novel · Foreign Literature · 250 pages

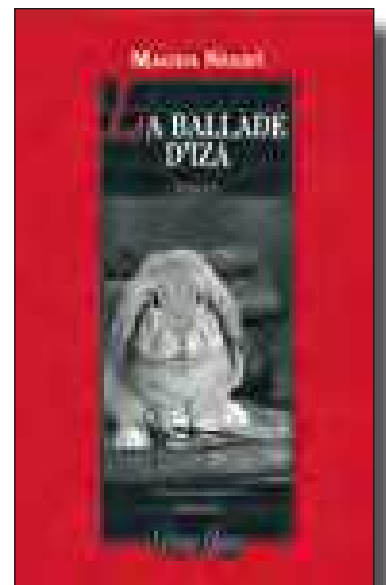
Rights sold in English (MacLehose Press), Spanish (Penguin Random House), Italian (Einaudi), Portuguese (Theoria), Serbia (Strik), Turkish (Yapi Kredi Kültür), Croatian (Disput) & Hebrew (Keter)

Iza's Ballad

When Ettie's husband dies, her daughter Iza insists that her mother give up the family house in the countryside and move to Budapest. Displaced from her community and her home, Ettie tries to find her place in this new life, but can't seem to get it right. She irritates the maid, hangs food outside the window because she mistrusts the fridge and, in her naivety and loneliness, invites a prostitute in for tea. Iza's Ballad is the story of a woman who loses her life's companion and a mother trying to get close to a daughter whom she has never truly known. It is about the meeting of the old-fashioned and the modern worlds and the beliefs we construct over a lifetime.

Hungarian novel · Foreign Literature · 256 pages

Rights sold in English (Harvill Secker), Spanish (Penguin Random House), Italian (Einaudi), Korean (Moonji), Latvian (Jumava), Serbian (Strik), Croatian (VBZ), Bulgarian (Colibri), Danish (ArtPeople), Portuguese (Theoria, Portugal), Swedish (Nilsson Forlag) & Turkish (Yapi Kredi Kültür)



35 000 copies sold
(hardback and paperback)

PRIZES :

The Door: Prix Femina étranger 2003

30 000 copies sold

Kataline Street: Prix Cénennes 2007

10 000 copies sold

RÓBERT HÁSZ



Róbert Hász was born in 1964 in Doroslovo, Vojvodina, in the north of Former Yugoslavia (today in Serbia). After completing secondary school in Zombor, he did a degree in Hungarian language and literature at the university of Vojvodina.

In 1991, when the serb-croat conflict reached the region where the Hungarian minority was living, he emigrated to Hungary with his family. He currently lives in Szeged, where he has been contributing since 1996 to the literary review *Tiszatáj*, which has been published without interruption in Hungary since 1947, and of which he became the chief editor in 2012. The same year, he received the Sándor Márai prize from the Hungarian Minister of Culture. He is the perfect example of the hybrid and unique identities engendered by the Balkans.

The author holds dear certain questions: What is freedom? What is free will? How do we find inner peace when we feel we do not belong anywhere? Is it possible to choose between a social life, with all its obligations, and a spiritual life, beyond time?

Foreign rights : Éditions Viviane Hamy represents this author for : China, Denmark, Finland, Greece, United-Kingdom, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Thailand.

“With *The Prince and the Monk*, Róbert Hász has written a book based on the historical fiction, the chanson de geste and sometimes the theological thriller, such as *The Name of the Rose*.”

André Clavel, *Lire*

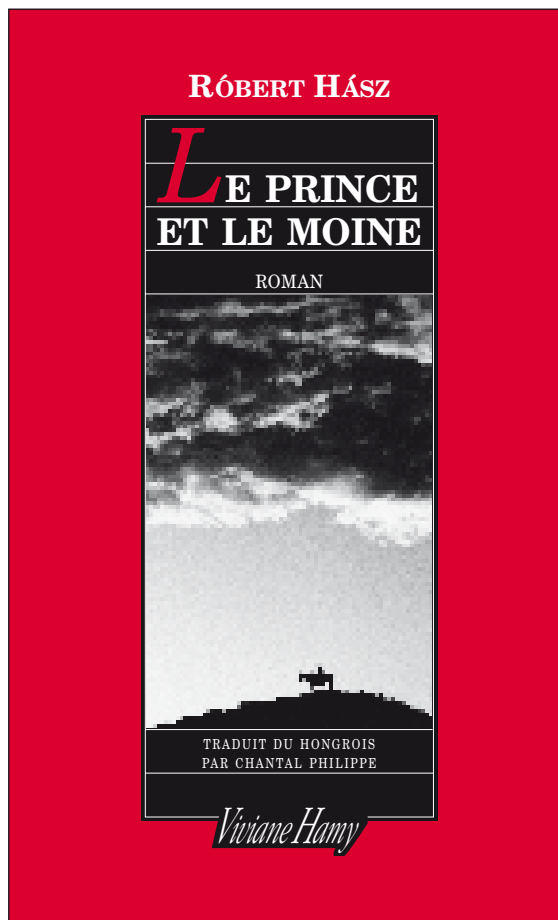
“A singular story, carried by a breath of beauty and romance.”

J.-C. Buisson, *Le Figaro magazine*

“A grandiose chanson de geste.”

C. Lesegretain, *La Croix*

The Prince and the Monk



Hungarian novel
Foreign Literature
430 pages

An epic portrait of the days of knights and plots between princes and popes: a genuine rite-of-passage adventure novel.

In the 10th century, in central Europe, a monk is sent as a secret emissary of the pope. He must convince the Magyars to form an alliance with the pope, while Byzantium on one side and the Emperor Oton on the other divide up the Carpathian Basin territories.

Upon his arrival at the frontier of the Christian world, the monk Stephanus is quickly taken prisoner and various clans trade him like a precious object. He is obviously being taken for a descendant of a prince, the Künde, who, according to the ancient order, was linked to the Ancestor-God and incarnated religious power.

At first reluctantly, Stephanus slips into his new identity, letting himself be convinced to abandon his initial mission and reestablish the ancient order. But a mystery surrounds him: he seems to understand the “barbaric” language, easily rides horseback and remembers being taken in as a child at the monastery. Could it possibly be that he is indeed the Künde?

An historical tale with a clear message: “When a people loses its sacred roots, it is condemned to disappear.”

6000 copies sold

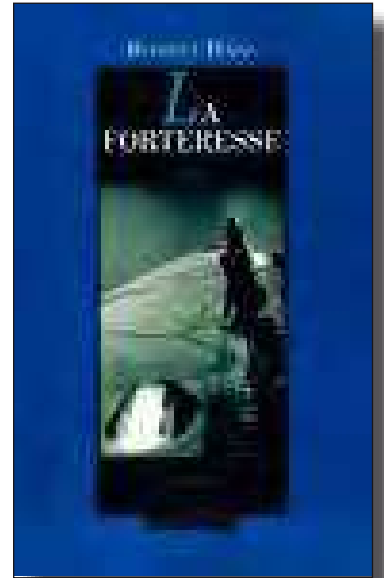
The Fortress

Maxim Livius is a young reserve officer whose military service is ending. His country is disintegrating, and there are unmistakable signs of decay in the army as well. Shortly before his discharge, he is sent to a fortress in the mountains. Cut off from the outside world, nothing appears as it should: the food is excellent, commands are largely ignored, the soldiers mustn't carry weapons... and no one can understand the reason why. The language can be compared to Kafka, Borges, and Eco, and the story to Buzatti's *The Tartar Steppe*.

"A masterpiece by the European writer, Róbert Hász."

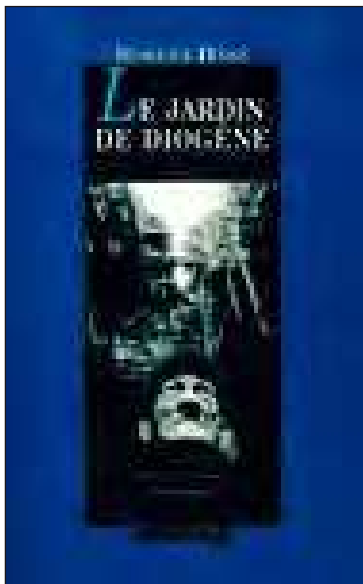
Edgar Reichmann, *Le Monde*

Rights sold in German (Klett-Cotta Verlag)



Hungarian Novel
Foreign Literature
256 pages

The Garden of Diogenes



Hungarian Novel
Foreign Literature
192 pages

The narrator of this novel (clearly autobiographical) abandons his country ripped apart by civil war and goes to the neighbouring country. However, the uprooted feeling creates a heavy atmosphere around him. He lives from hand to mouth and takes refuge in the wait and inactivity.

He is torn between two worlds : the real one, incarnated by two strange individuals, Zénon and Simon, who try to pry him away from his lethargy; and a spiritual one, which a bum, named Diogenes, pushes him to enter. The narrator hesitates, but when he realizes that he is no longer able to integrate into society and that his marriage is a failure, he joins Diogenes, with his car cemetery and his strange stories.

"What interests me, he says, is man himself and his role in History. In other words: man, slave to the materialist world, in antiquity as in the present, and his connection with the transcendental world." Róbert Hász

"A first novel full of imagination and skilfully mastered. Discover it without delay."

Page des libraires

MIRA POPOVIĆ



Mira Popović was born in Belgrade, where she studied Journalism at the faculty of political sciences. She completed a PhD in sociology and political communication, studying first at the Sorbonne in Paris and then in her home town. She has been living in France for some 15 years. For many years, she was a correspondent for Yugoslav and Serbian media, and continues to report to the Belgrade press on literary and cultural events in France. She also carries out literary translation from French into Serbian. Alongside her work in journalism, Mira Popović has over many years built up a short story repertoire, recognized and admired by her fellow writers and published by the top Serbian literary reviews. Her first collection, entitled *Beograd-Pariz*, was released in 2007. Another collection, *Harmonija*, was published in February 2012 (Editions Akademska knjiga, Novi Sad, Serbia).

The narrated world of Mira Popović is characterized by a recurring questioning of the deceptive nature of reality, detection of misleading appearances, revelation of psychological simulacrum and tendency towards harmonious paradoxes. A subtle and unique dynamic is born from gently ironic mirages and slight distortions of our perception of the world, which weaves astonishingly luminous and enigmatic stories.

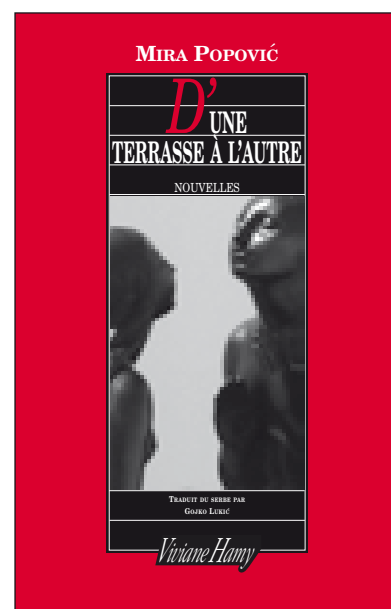
Paris-Belgrade

Mira Popović tells us stories of her childhood, love stories, and pure fantasies which take a different view of the everyday. This collection vigorously unites burlesque, tenderness and humour.

A great voice of Serbian literature to be discovered.

We meet a man fascinated by a pair of subtle grey-black shoes, as well as a pitcher patterned with kitsch flowers and despised by a whole family, which is nevertheless stolen by a thief.

Childhood memories float to the surface during a meeting or a situation. Such as the deaf-mute boy from her village in Serbia who was run over because he did not hear the horn of a truck coming hell for leather towards him; or the woman who, on a drive through Paris, is fixated by the back of the taxi driver's neck because it reminds her of her lover. She asks the driver not to turn around to prolong the pleasure of this ambiguity and imagine that the couple's dream trip to Paris has indeed become reality.



Serbian short stories
Foreign Literature
176 pages

"To read the Serbian Mira Popović is like travelling between Belgrade and Paris; but also to a land of fairy tales or to the heart of magical realism: fantasy casts its light over life."

Marie France

GAÏTO GAZDANOV



Gaïto Gazdanov was born in 1903 in Saint Petersburg. In 1917 he interrupted his studies and enrolled in the White Army. His exile took him to Turkey and then to Paris where he arrived in 1923. By night he worked driving taxis and by day he became a fiction-writer. In 1953, he moved to Munich where he worked for *Radio Liberty*. He died in 1971 without ever seeing his country again. His works, less publicized but contemporary with Nabokov's, has been completely forgotten and are now being rediscovered.

A Russian-language writer in exile

"I speak only a little Russian, and badly, as I was sixteen years old when I left the country. But it's my home and I cannot and will never be able to write in any language other than Russian."

The writer Gaïto Gazdanov was born in France but would never be a French writer. In contrast with his literary rival Vladimir Nabokov who, with already a great body of Russian works behind him, switched languages and set about writing in English, Gazdanov himself never took that step. Gazdanov drew inspiration from two sources. Russian: his childhood, his early youth, the Civil War. And the other: French or, more precisely, Paris. These two currents, whose waters interflow but are always discernible, make up the distinctive character of his work.

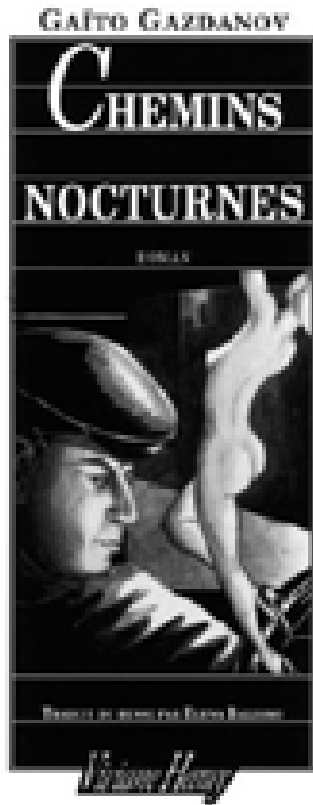
A deeply ethical stance

Gaïto Gazdanov was contemporary with the great existentialists for good reason. He must have recognized himself in them. The sequence of events and their consequences are unforeseeable; no one is master of their destiny and only fate decides. But in his novels, more explicitly from *The Ghost of Alexander Wolf* onwards, we witness a total reversal of existentialist discourse. It is not that Gazdanov rejects its relevance but rather that he decides, given the consequences it engenders, to fight against it. Of course, chance is always there ready to destroy the best laid plans; but we nevertheless remain entirely responsible for our actions.

Many consider him to be the Marcel Proust of Russia.

Foreign rights: Éditions Viviane Hamy administers the rights for it worldwide, with the exception of Poland.

Night Roads



After having experienced the vast spaces of his native Russia and fought with the White Army, Gazdanov, like thousands of his compatriots in 1920, went into exile and became the fascinated and horrified observer of the shady neighbourhoods of Paris. At the wheel of his taxi every night, he follows the labyrinthine streets of the capital and his suburb, at the same time as those of his memory.

Hence, a surprising saga is contrived where individual destinies intersect that should never have met. Tragicomic characters emerge: Raldi, the deposed courtesan, Fédortchenko, the Russian worker satisfied with his lot, Vassiliev, his damned soul, Suzanne with a gold tooth and lastly, Platon, the drunk philosopher, who is the teller of this tale.

These nightly drives, which capture the shadow and light of souls, resonate with nostalgia and hope, as generous as a Russian spring.

Russian novel · Foreign Literature
270 pages

Rights sold in German (Hanser), Spanish (Sajalín, Spain), Italian (Fazi), Dutch (Lebowski), Bulgarian (Aquarius) & Russian (Azbooka)

“Thanks be given to Editions Viviane Hamy who, attentive, discovered in the early 1990s, one of those meteor authors invisible to most contemporaries.”

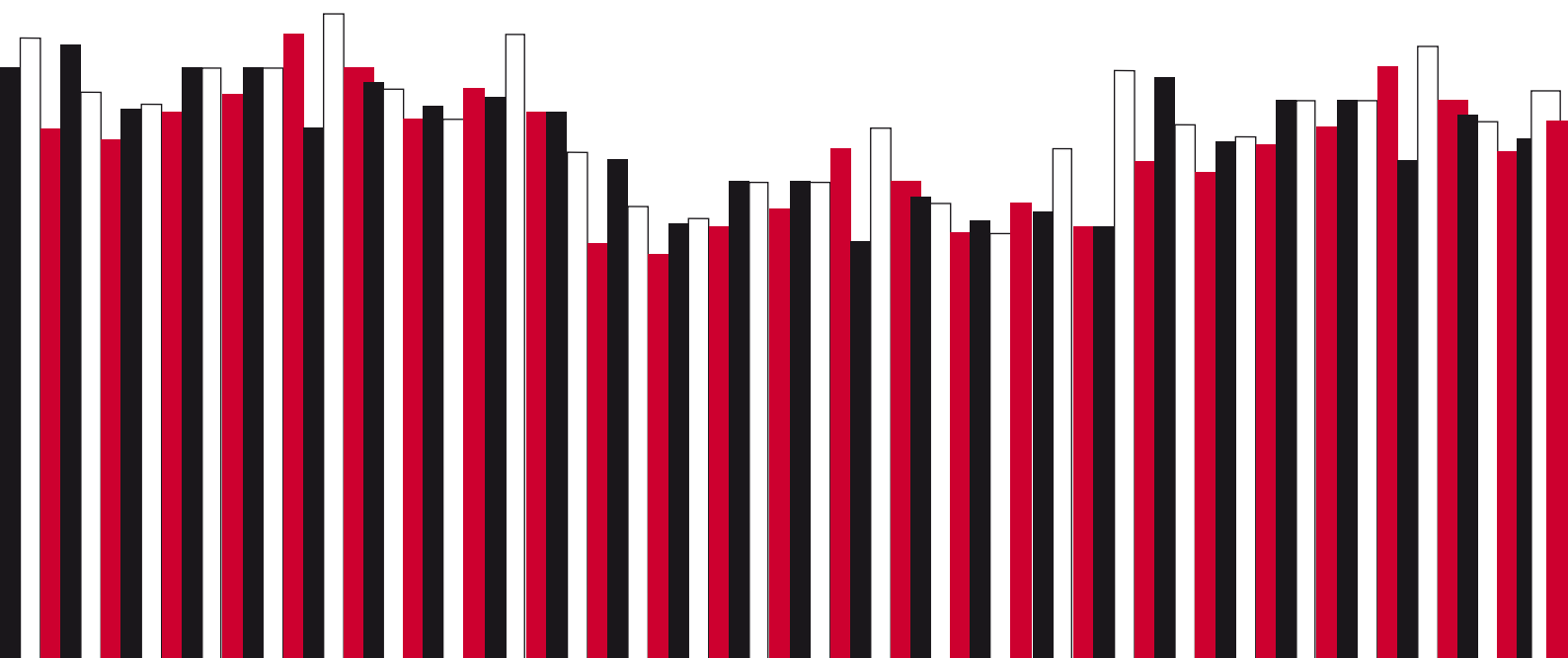
Edgar Reichmann, *Le Monde*

Exile · Observation · French rough area · Taxi driver · Paris · Nostalgia · Hope · Unforgettable characters



Classic books, Curiosities and Memoirs

Publishing the memoirs of witnesses to the 20th century is not only a tradition at Éditions Vivane Hamy, it is also the mark of a commitment, a search for different points of view and a curiosity for what is going on behind the scenes of History.



LÉON WERTH

THE SYMBOLIC FIGUREHEAD OF ÉDITIONS VIVIANE HAMY



Léon Werth (1878-1955) was a journalist, critic, writer and politician for the first half of the 20th century. His writing testifies to the ideas of those times, of the political problems (colonialism, wars, etc...), and of the social environment.

AN INDEPENDENT SPIRIT

Léon Werth was born in 1878, the son of a Jewish draper. He became an art historian and critic and led a Bohemian lifestyle. As a young man, he started long-lasting friendships with some of his most illustrious contemporaries such as Octave Mirbeau, Paul Signac, Lucien Febvre, Pierre Bonnard, Colette and many others.

In 1913, his novel *The White House* narrowly missed winning the Prix Goncourt. In 1914 he was called up and spent fifteen months in the trenches. After being wounded, he left the front and was from that moment a committed pacifist. In the 1920s and 30s, Léon Werth was just as harsh in his condemnation of French colonialism, Stalin's totalitarianism and the rise of Nazism. He died in Paris in 1955. The independent spirit that runs through his works – a virulent antimilitarism in *Clavel the Soldier* or a not-so-fashionable anti-colonialism, when *Cochinchine* was published – still causes intense controversy.

THE GREAT FRIEND OF ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

In 1931, while visiting friends, Léon Werth met Saint-Exupéry. Werth and Saint-Exupéry's friendship never faltered. And in 1943 «Tonio» dedicated *The Little Prince* to him. What is more, *Letter to a Hostage* was first written as a preface to the American edition of Werth's *33 Days*. For unknown reasons, the American edition was never published by Brentano's. But Antoine de Saint-Exupéry mentioned *33 Days* as one of the greatest books he had ever read. Nevertheless, Werth's work had remained quite unknown; his refusal of parties frightened publishers who feared that "this fierce independence" would not be defended by the press.

2015 WERTH EVENTUALLY DISCOVERED ABROAD

But a fantastical story around a great author never ends. In 2015, Dennis Johnson, director of Melville House, decided to publish *33 Days* in the USA. He managed to find the unpublished preface to *33 Days*, *Letter to the friend*, which is a first version of *Letter to a Hostage*. The American press was enthusiastic and foreign publishers began to rediscover Léon Werth.

LÉON WERTH



Narrative
166 pages

16 000 copies sold
(hardback and paperback)

33 Days

A 200-paged account of the exodus of French citizens when the German army entered Paris in 1940: 33 days of chaos when the French are on the road with all their belongings.

Once their cars run out of gasoline, they continue on foot or by bike... People talk on the road, and choose sides. 33 days is the time Léon Werth needs to get to a modest house in the Jura Mountains, a few hundred kilometers from Paris. Léon Werth is a first-hand witness to this history-in-progress. His account is at once sharp, moving and funny.

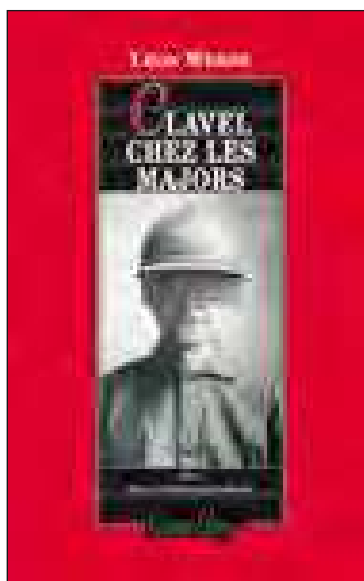
The story of the manuscript of *33 Days* is also a novel in itself: Viviane Hamy, curious about the dedicatee of *The Little Prince*, contacted the rights holder of Léon Werth, who found the manuscript amongst medical prescriptions in the office of the writer's son, Claude Werth, who was an established doctor.

In the newly published American edition, Malville Press has for the very first time published the preface, *Letter to the friend*, which was written by Saint-Exupéry specifically for the American edition of *33 Days*.

"This story is also a hymn to the close friend, Saint-Exupéry, whose splendid preface unpublished, found in the United States, gives full value to this republication."

Le Canard enchaîné

Rights sold in English (Melville House), German (Fischer Verlag), Italian (Bompiani), Swedish (Bakhall) & Dutch (De Geus)



Narrative
300 pages

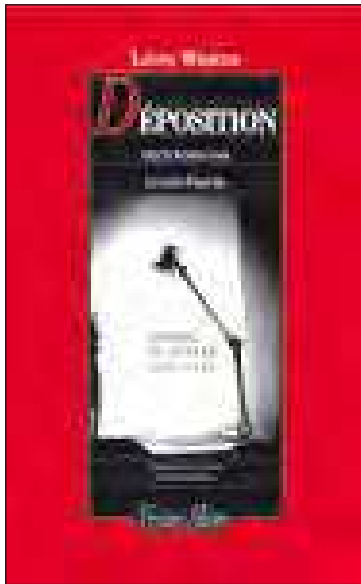
Clavel with the Majors

A rebel spirit against all commitments, he bears witness with objectivity and finesse to the events of the first half of the 20th century: the First World War, the Parisian exodus at the approach of the Nazi army in 1940, occupied France during the Second World War, the trial of Marshal Pétain, as well as the chronicles of a courthouse and numerous art critiques.

He goes against the current of all the prevailing ideas of his time, lucid and uncompromising.

"Clavel the Soldier and Clavel with the Majors are among the most superb books written on the troubled times of the Great War."

Pierre Maury, *Le Soir*



Deposition (War Journal)

During World War II, while Léon Werth was in hiding, he wrote a poignant journal depicting the life of the French population under occupation. As a writer, journalist and an essayist, he became a great observer of history in the making and of customs and society. He was a sometimes sarcastic critic, a visionary, a humanist; impertinent, nonconformist, antimilitarist, independent, and not much of a talker... Léon Werth was a fundamental witness of the first half of the 20th century: this journal has been highly praised by major historians from Lucien Fevre and Jean-Pierre Azéma to Robert Owen Paxton.

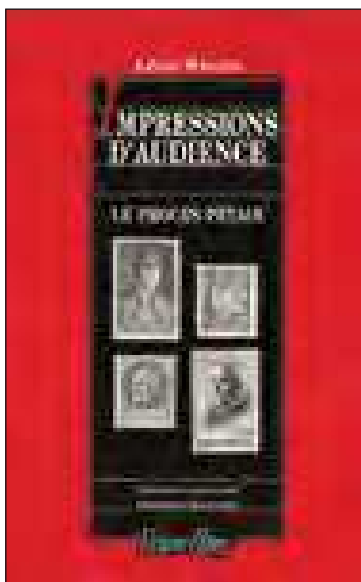
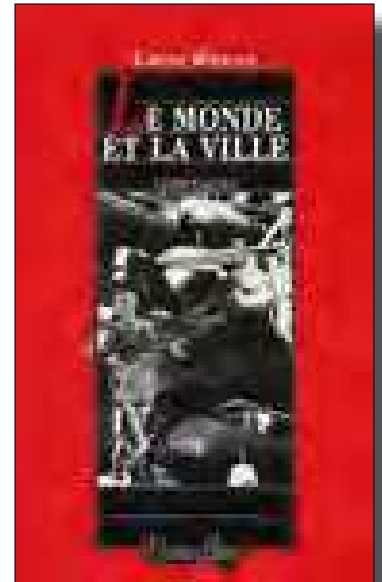
Memoirs · 736 pages

Rights sold in English (Oxford UP), German (Fischer Verlag) & Spanish (Veintisiete Letras)

The World and the City

Chronicles on childhood, dance (Werth was an emeritus dancer of tango), music, cities of France in the 1920s, with the weight of the post-war and the perceptible and imperceptible changes of a society after the horror of the trenches.

Chronicles · 256 pages



Impressions from the Trial - Pétain's Hearing

At the request of the review *Résistance*, Léon Werth wrote his “impressions” after each court hearing in Pétain’s proceedings. “The drive for truth never was intrusive”, he remarked ironically. He gave free rein to his brilliant writer’s hand, producing a unique and surprising text.

Narrative · 160 pages



Cochinchine

Léon Werth left for Cochinchine in 1925. Out of his extensive and magnificent travel log he creates, without the spell-bound reader even realising, a raging statement against the stupidity of colonialism. When it appeared in 1926 this book caused an enormous scandal.

A timeless story.

Narrative · 256 pages

Clavel the Soldier

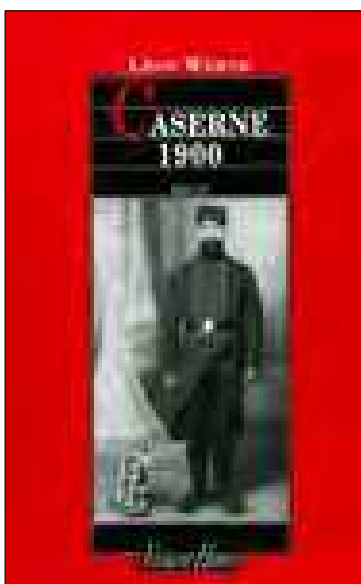
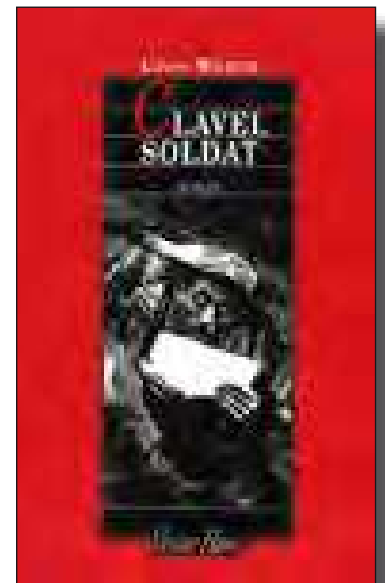
In 1914, Werth was 36 years old. He was a libertarian, anti-militarist and firm supporter of Jean Jaurès, and he believed in internationalism. However, like many of his comrades, he left voluntarily for the front to defend his ideal of a free man who would wage “war on war” - this war, the latest one.

He would remain there for 15 months.

But as autobiographical as it is, *Clavel the Soldier* (drafted between 1916 and 1917) is above all a magnificent novel. The scenes the author describes are surprisingly evocative of the works of the great painters he spoke so well of.

Novel · French Literature · 384 pages

9 000 copies sold (hardback and paperback)



Barracks 1900

Around 1950, Léon Werth goes back to the ferocious notes he had taken, on the hoof, over the 12 months of his military service.

Through them we discover “the barracks around 1900 and the behaviour of the officers and soldiers, their feelings and their “psychology”, if you will. There is no allusion to this entity (the army) which, at the beginning of the century, some praised while others denigrated. A pathetic or comic account? The author is not at all sure. He wanted to be “objective”, to paint a landscape and a period, and it is not at all his fault if reality is both comic and dramatic.”

Narrative · 128 pages



Travels with my Pipe

"I almost have the illusion of being invisible. I am a character of the Arabian Nights. I was given a talisman that allows you to see everything without being seen. I can know the city; she does not know me."

Break through the secrets without ever revealing themselves: everything is said.

The paintings of Leon Werth (Paris, Suresnes and Charenton, the province, Holland, Europe...), half-tone or flamboyant, betray the art lover and offer us the pleasure of an admirable language.

Narrative · 219 pages

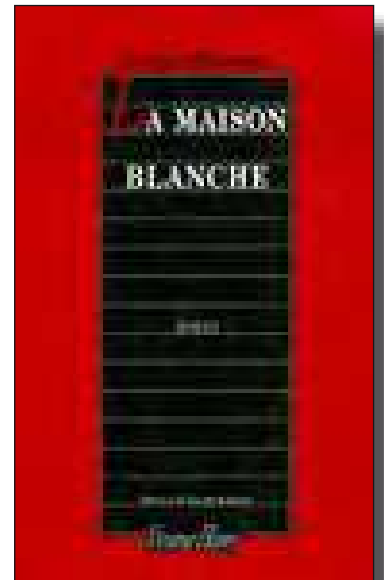
The White House

When diving off a rock during his holidays, Leon Werth was injured. He savoured his injury the way a food-lover delights in a new flavour. He welcomed pain with joy. And was even sorry when it left him.

When it appeared in 1913, this novel narrowly missed being awarded the Prix Goncourt.

Novel · French Literature · 176 pages

Rights sold in German (Klett-Cotta Verlag)



Werth's works, his novels, stories and essays on art, have remained overly hidden away. Éditions Viviane Hamy strives to reveal the writer, who has been unfairly misunderstood, by republishing his books and publishing his unpublished works.

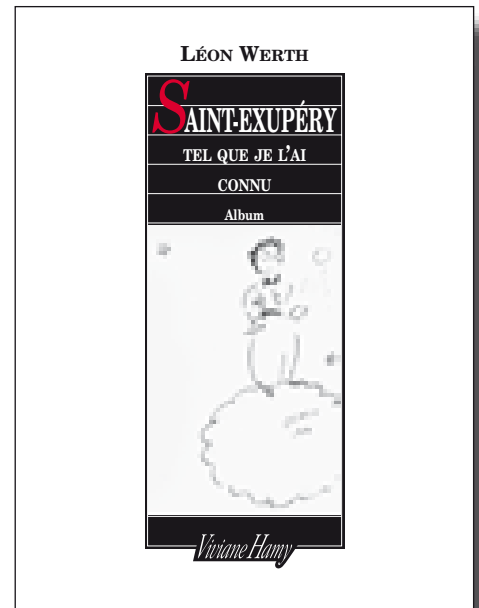
Saint-Exupéry as I know him

The friendship of Saint-Exupéry and Léon Werth is illustrated by 100 documents and previously unpublished drawings.

This book gives an unusual and original insight into the man and the writer, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The iconography is just as significant as the texts: letters in facsimile, drawings, photos taken by the Werth family, Tonio and his plane (Claude, Léon Werth's son, flew for the first time in Saint-Exupéry's cabin!), all sorts of tickets, etc.

But it also gathers unpublished texts by Léon Werth about his friend, in which he focuses on Tonio's last years. If he chose to speak up, it is because people had often made a monolithic portrait of Saint-Exupéry, relying on stereotypes of all sorts. Saint-Exupéry is very much alive in Werth's text and the author devotes himself to showing the strengths of Tonio's thoughts on death, God, honor, morals, war and justice. The interwoven texts and illustrations reveal the depth of Saint-Exupéry's thought and give us a very intimate interpretation of the man he was: warm, considerate, brave.

I find that the readers of a great writer are entitled to the truth, even if it lies in detail writes Léon Werth, as he offers to decode the anecdotal in the light of History.



**Rights sold in German (Aufbau), Chinese (Modern Press), Italian (Eliott),
Russian (Eksmo) & Japanese (Otsuki)**

I ask the indulgence of the children who may read this book for dedicating it to a grown-up.

I have a serious reason: he is the best friend I have in the world.

I have another reason: this grown-up understands everything, even books about children.

I have a third reason: he lives in France where he is hungry and cold. He needs cheering up.

If all these reasons are not enough, I will dedicate the book to the child from whom this grown-up grew. All grown-ups were once children-although few of them remember it.

And so I correct my dedication:

TO LÉON WERTH WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BOY

The Little Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

ÉDITH THOMAS



Édith Thomas was born in Montrouge in the Parisian region in 1909. She was a novelist and essayist. In 1933, she was awarded the prix du Premier Roman for *The Death of Marie*.

As a journalist for *Ce Soir* and for the magazines *Vendredi*, *Europe* and *Regards*, she reported on the Spanish Civil War, events in Austria and various other social issues. She joined the Communist Party in 1942 and left abruptly in 1949 after the Tito affair. From 1948 until her death on 7 December 1970, she was the curator of the National Archives. From 1942, she contributed to the clandestine magazine *Les Lettres Françaises* and to Éditions de Minuit with her *Contes d'Auxois*.

Her diaries and memoirs, key accounts of the intellectual Resistance movement and the immediate post-war years, remained unpublished at that time.

Her novel, *The Game of Chess*, will be released on 12 April 2018. "The grace and strength of Édith Thomas stem from her Cyrano-like bravery and her respect for all those she has loved." Geneviève Brisac, *Le Monde des Livres*

The Game of Chess

One evening in front of the fire, Claude said to me, "If I were a man, I would marry you". And I heard myself answer her, "If I were a man, I would marry you; but not if I were a woman". Why? "Because we are inside time. Because we can't detach ourselves from time and we wouldn't be able to build anything enduring together. If you were a man and I were a woman, I couldn't accept to be defined by you". It was painful for me to say these words which shattered the enchantment. But the price of our encounter was that no lie could slide itself between us, even at the cost of heartbreak.

In this *Game of Chess*, first published in 1970, the writer undertakes a multilevelled excavation of herself, her era and psyche. The alchemy between sensitivity and intelligence that sits on the surface of the words shocks and dizzies us.

Édith Thomas was involved in all the combats of the 20th century: the Spanish Civil War, communism, the Resistance, Algeria. Unlike Dominique Aury, her lover, and Simone de Beauvoir, her modesty buried her in anonymity. Republished, *The Game of Chess* finally brings her justice, especially by shedding light on her prophetic prose on women's fight for their identity, their independence and their rights.



Novel
French Literature
210 pages



Memoirs
450 pages

4 October [1940]

The first measures against the Jews: the census. It made me weep. I almost wept this afternoon at the dentist's when he said, with indignation, "How is it possible, here, in France?" It seems that all the measures provoke disgust, even the most reactionary. Maybe one day there will be something we can do against all this. But still. Live for this. And nothing more.

Édith Thomas was one of the main actors of the intellectual resistance during the Occupation. The mainstay of *Lettres Françaises*, she published her *Contes d'Auxois* with the clandestine Éditions de Minuit and three of her poems appeared, under the name of Anne, in the anthology *The Honour of Poets*. Her rigour, her prophetic lucidity and her training as a historian (after the Ecole des Chartes she was the holder of the national archives under the end of her life) make first-class testimonials of the *Journal* and the *Journal intime de Monsieur Célestin Costedet*, which Thomas ran from October 1940 to May 1941 and which we are publishing as the second part of this work. Both works, written from day to day, are based on the same events in time and their simultaneous reading proves to be engaging and rich with lessons.

"Very beautiful writing on the exodus and the appearance of the yellow star."

L'Humanité du dimanche

The Compromised Witness

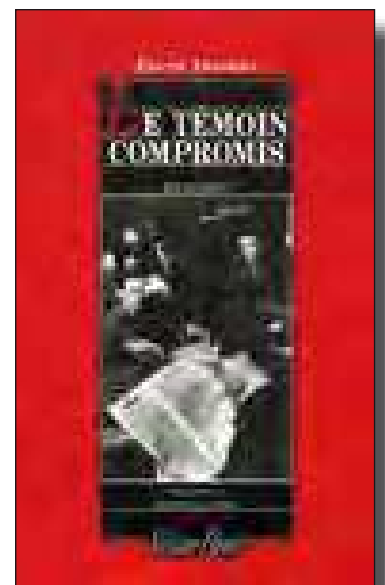
Édith Thomas, student, historian and novelist, was a full being, in love with truth and an unsullied freedom that she claimed for herself. Is that why History did not do her justice?

In 1952, Paulhan published her *Letter to the Resistance Leaders*. Édith Thomas, herself, drafted *The Compromised Witness*. In it she closely analyses her political and existential trajectory throughout the previous decade. What of the Resistance? What of communism? What led her to the brutal separation from her "camarades", when her membership to the Party had meant so much to her?

It is therefore essential to re-edit these Memoirs in order to better understand, 70 years after the events, the major role that this exceptional woman played in the intellectual Resistance and the immediate post-war years.

"Édith Thomas believed in communism. She gave it up without betraying it. This is the portrait of an admirable woman."

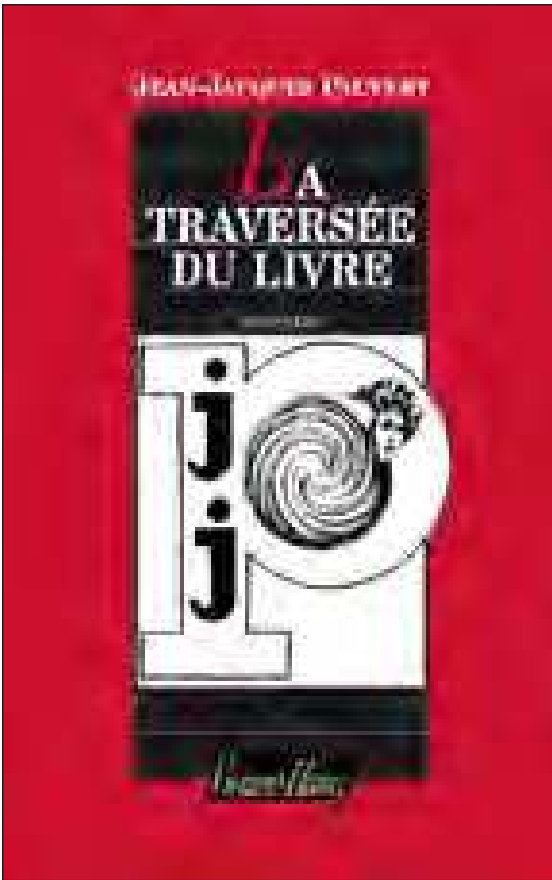
Mona Ozouf, *Le Nouvel Observateur*



Memoirs
300 pages

MEMOIRS...

Through the Book



Memoirs · 450 pages

Rights sold in English (The Paris Writers Press) & Spanish (Trama Editorial)

6 000 copies sold

Jean-Jacques Pauvert tells us the story of how he became a publisher, through a series of lucky events, to become, at the end of the 1960s, the owner of a large publishing house, then of another and then of a bookshop selling by mail-order worldwide.

Boris Vian, that's him. *The Story of O*, that's him. At 19, he published his first book: a text by Sartre. He published Malraux, Gide, Marcel Aymé and Raymond Queneau. At 20, he was the first publisher internationally to publish the entire works of Sartre, putting his name and address on the covers (hence the seven-year process). He was the last publisher of André Breton; he published André Hardellet, Albertine Sarrazin. He discovered *The Council of Love* by Oskar Panizza, and *The Thief* by Georges Darien. He put Georges Bataille in the place befitting him. He resuscitated Raymond Roussel, among others. He revolutionized publishing in the 1960s by launching an unprecedented authoritative French language dictionary, surprising book covers and the famous collection: *Libertés*. Deprived of his civil rights, he has fought against absurd laws which, since 1945, have been the framework of French censorship.

“In fact, you have to read *Through the book* because it is an essential testimony to the literary life of the mid-twentieth century and because Jean-Jacques Pauvert portrays a self-taught book, a bulimic of words, of an enraged nonconformist of literature.”

Bernard Pivot, *Le Journal du dimanche*

The Budapest's Parrot

Born in Budapest in 1933, André Lorant grew up in an upper class family. He escaped the mass murder of Hungarian Jews, and then fled Communism in 1956. He emigrated to France where he became a scholar specializing in Balzac's novels. He came back for the first time to Budapest in 1997, but felt nothing. Once he comes back from his trip, the old Budapest emerges from him.

Memoirs · 288 pages

Rights sold in Hungarian (Kijarat)

