

Foreign rights

# catalogue 2014-2015



É D I T I O N S

*Viviane Hamy*

Magda Szabó - Gaito Gazdanov -  
François Vallejo - Fred Vargas -  
Dominique Sylvain - Karim Miské -  
Alexis Ragougneau - Cécile Coulon




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# French Novels

# Cécile Coulon



## Pelican

Novel, 250 pages - To be published in January 2015

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

Anthime and Hélène 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 Joana, a neighbour who loves him from afar, and by the inaccessible Béatrice.

But his downfall, just as he is about to win a deciding race, is thus made all the harder. Seriously injured, Anthime gives up both competitive sport and Béatrice, who he is sure to have disappointed, and marries Joana, embracing a mediocre life. Some ten years later, when he is invited to the funeral of his trainer Brice, who dies lonely and poor, everything is once again thrown into the air. Will “the Pelican” find the strength to be a champion once more?

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



### GOOD TO KNOW

Cécile Coulon was born in 1990. She is studying and working on a Phd on Sport and Literature. She has already published three novels at Viviane Hamy and is considered as one of the raising talent of contemporary French fiction. She has a keen interest in running and rock n’ roll music.

### *Press reviews about **The Sufferer's Laugh**:*

*«A satire of a society where the cult of entertainment sabotages freedom and condemns culture: outstandingly crafted.»*

*Le Monde des Livres*

*«An impeccable parable on a totalitarianism bereft of memory.»*

*L'Express-Styles*

*«She effortlessly gathers her readership from adolescence onwards, without deterring older readers.»*

*Figaro littéraire*

# The Sufferer's Laugh

Novel, 192 pages - September 2013

*A fascinating tale about the consumer society and literature.*

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.

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...

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** GREECE (POLIS), ITALY (KELLER).



# The King is not sleepy

Novel, 120 pages - 2012

*The story of the tragic destiny of a cursed child, Thomas Hogan.*

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...

It is a tale whose poetic charm works itself irreversibly on the reader.

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*Prix Mauvais Genres France Culture - Télérama*

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** ITALY (KELLER EDITORE)

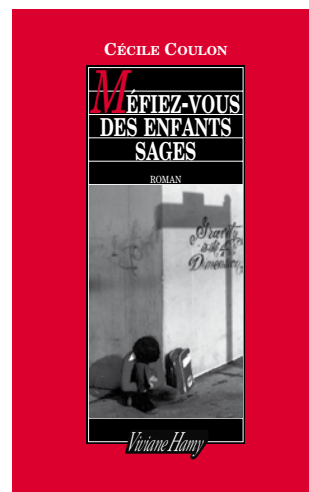


# Beware of well-behaved children

Novel, 112 pages - 2010

United States, in the late 80's. A young woman leaves her native town to run away from boredom and to find her place elsewhere, somewhere where dreams were possible.

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



# Hoai Huong Nguyen



## Soft Shadows

First novel, 150 pages - January 2013

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** ITALY (GUANDA EDITORE) - SPAIN (DESTINO).



*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.

Hoai Hong Nguyen reveals the horror, the Dien Bien Phu hills, heaven-on-earth turned into a mass grave where Yann is fighting. In Hanoi, Mai will go to hell and back to save Yann.

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.

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*Prix Première 2013 (RTBF) - Geneva Book Fair Award 2013 - Shortlisted for Livre de Poche readers' award*

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*11,000 copies already sold*

### GOOD TO KNOW

Hoai Huong Nguyen was born in 1976 in France to Vietnamese parents. Her name means "remember the country", a reference to the uprooting of her parents. Vietnamese is her mother tongue and she learnt French at school. She has already published two anthologies of poetry: *Parfums* and *Déserts*. She currently teaches communication in a University Institute of Technology. *Soft Shadows* is her first novel.

### Press reviews

*«On a weft a thousand times wound, with the subtlety of a silk weaver, she unfolds the treasures of the poetic imagination to tell the most tragic of stories.»*

*Le Figaro Magazine*

*«Adevastating and strangely tranquil beauty.»*

*Elle*

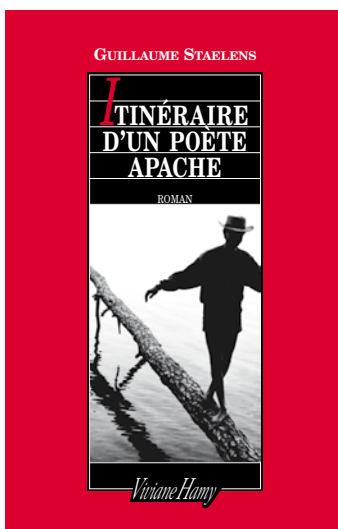
*«The shadow of pure literature.»*

*Figaro littéraire*

# Guillaume Staelens

## The Trail of an Apache Poet

First novel, 388 pages - September 2013



*The 90s, Seattle in the USA.* Nicholas Stanley, born of a Native American Indian mother and an American father, the heir of an aeronautics company, embodies the American dream of ethnic intermixing.

But Nick feels out of place. He leaves the family nest and meets Pearl Van Leu – a lesbian artist of Vietnamese origin who is 10 years his senior – and follows her from San Francisco to New York. The young woman introduces him to the world of experimental art and sexual pleasure, and leads him into the underworld of drugs and alcohol. When he wakes up to the destructive side of their relationship, he flees for the northern lights of Canada.

His quest does not end there. His father passes away, leaving him his share of the family estate, but instead Nicholas leaves everything once again, this time for Latin America. From there, his dream of setting foot in Patagonia is within his reach. How far will he go to fill his hunger for discovery, knowledge and revolt?

### Press reviews

*«A brilliant first novel, merging the destinies of Kurt Cobain and Arthur Rimbaud. A political and poetic pursuit, and a tour de force..»*

*Lire*

*«A descent into an underworld on the edge of madness and a motive for revisiting 20 years of pop culture, political uprisings and libertarian dreams..»*

*Technikart*



### GOOD TO KNOW

Guillaume Staelens was born in 1973 in Seine-Saint-Denis. As a teenager he studied law at the Sorbonne. But his discovery of Rimbaud led him to abandon any career plans. A lover of literature and traveling, he set out for North and South America. He is a nomad in body and above all in mind, and has worked in many different areas. *The Trail of an Apache Poet* is his first novel.

# Céline Lapertot

## What my Silence Wrote

Novel, 170 pages - January 2014

*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.



### Press reviews

«Céline Lapertot softly scorns a whole society that can no longer see or hear the flagrant despair of living beings. Reading this debut novel leaves you in a state of shock: the shock of discovering new writing that is unaffected and hugely dignified.»

*Télérama*



### GOOD TO KNOW

Céline Lapertot is 27 years old and a French teacher in Strasbourg. She has been writing since she was nine years old.

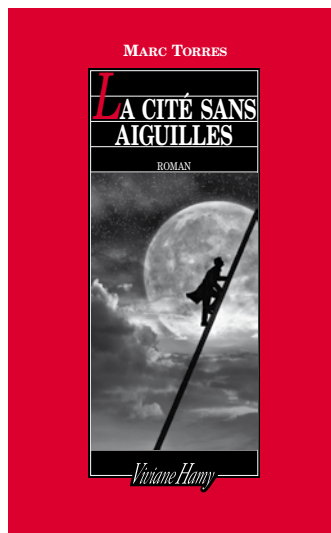
Her deep knowledge of classical literature, particularly of Racine, Corneille and Hugo, endows her character with a power that raises her up sometimes to the level of those from ancient tragedy, such as Iphigenia or Phaedra.

# Marc Torres

## The City that didn't tick



First novel, 224 pages - May 2014



*Once upon a time there was the City that didn't tick...*

So what do the watchmaker, writer and warrior have in common? The same destination that none of them know about: the City that didn't tick. At first, each one, prompted by his own experience, makes his way to the legendary city until the day they meet to pursue their plans together. The city is a prosperous kingdom governed by the very wise White King.

But his destiny is soon thwarted and takes a different turn. What disaster provoked the immeasurable suffering of the king and the anguish of his subjects? The account contains journeys, battles and legends to engage us throughout the story, which unveils an indisputable and irreversible reflection on time.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Marc Torres was born in Carcassonne in 1962. He lives in Tours and has been writing for 25 years. He practises aikido and aims to endow his writing with the same demands and values of this martial art. *The City that didn't tick* is his first published novel.

# François Vallejo

## Blossom and Blood

Novel, 264 pages - August 2014



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

Does Francois 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 Etienne 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.

A secret sails through these two stories. It is in reading between the lines that the reader will discover it.



### ***Press reviews :***

*« François Vallejo interweaves two stories (superbly alternating language registers), while merging them through a heightened suspense. Incomparable craftsman of human passions.»* **L'Express**

*« Immense story-telling talent. A surgeon of words, breathing life, passion and substance into his characters with that subtle touch of irony which has always been the charm of his writing.»*

**Page des libraires**



## GOOD TO KNOW

François Vallejo teaches Literature. He has been published by Viviane Hamy since 1998. His novel *West* (2006), won the famous Radio Prize : **Le Prix du Livre Inter**, and stayed on the bestsellers'lists for one year (135,000 copies sold, all editions together).

François Vallejo is not one of these writers who embroider all their work with the same subject. On the contrary, it is a matter of honour for him to explore entirely different universes in every single one of his novels.

Only the elegance of his writing and the subtlety of the portraits can make the link between his stories.

### *About the author of the Prix du Livre Inter 2007:*

«Who wouldn't trust such a well-dressed man?»

*Le Magazine littéraire*

«Fireworks in black.»

*Le Journal du Dimanche*

«A rare science of an economy of verbs»

*Figaro littéraire*

# Metamorphoses

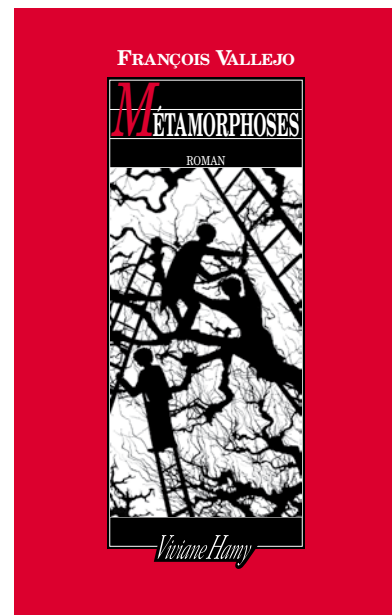
Novel, 336 pages - August 2012

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.

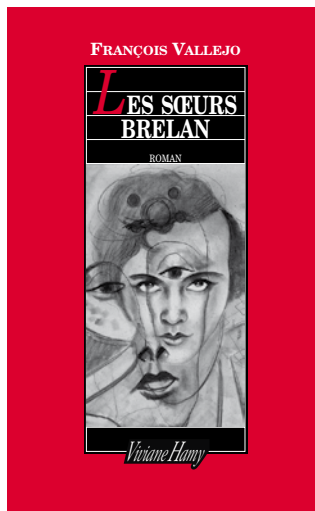
She tries to grasp the “metamorphoses” of this individual to whom she is so close and to curb the process. Who is Alban? When did he change so radically and how far will his search for intense emotions lead him?

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 DCRI 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.



**FOREIGN RIGHTS : GREECE (POLIS)**



## Press reviews

«Once again, François Vallejo's caustic and joyfully lit pen does wonders. We find in these Breelan sisters the dark imaginativeness which so characterizes the author.»

**Les Échos**



## Press reviews

«With West, François Vallejo has perhaps written his most accomplished book. The most dreadful in any case. (...) A novel that shakes things up without proposing any comfort, isn't this one of the vital forces that only literature brings?»

**Le Monde**

# The Breelan sisters

**Novel, 288 pages - 2010**

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 designer house he conceived. United by a fierce feeling of fraternity – 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 gives a brilliant portrayal of woman's condition as it emerges in its modern aspect: Marthe is the devoted mother – to her sisters –, Sabine is the successful businesswoman and Judith is the idealistic child-woman.

**FOREIGN RIGHTS : GERMANY (AUFBAU VERLAG) - ITALY (DEL VECCHIO EDITORE)**

*15,000 copies sold*

# West

**Novel, 256 pages - 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.

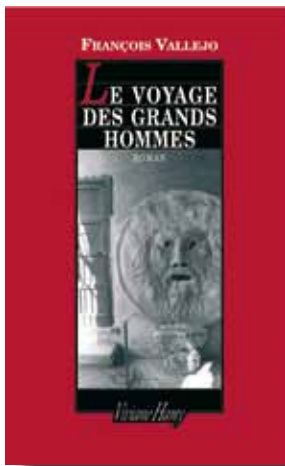
A complex and violent story born of the only tension between two forces, expressed in an writing form, dry and without rest.

**FOREIGN RIGHTS : GERMANY (AUFBAU VERLAG) - ITALY (SELLERIO) - ROMANIA (HISTORIA) - SPAIN (SALAMANDRA) - SOUTH KOREA ( WOONGJING)**

*185,000 copies sold, all French editions together*

*Short-listed for the GONCOURT and the RENAUDOT*

*Prix du Livre Inter 2007 (National Radio)*



# The Journey of the great men

**Novel, 256 pages - 2005**

Rousseau, Diderot and Grimm went on their Italian voyage in the middle of the 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 wants » of the second and the libidinous needs of the third, the three accomplices evoke any old how God's existence and the notions of humanity and democracy.

Desecrated Great Men....

## Press Review :

«François Vallejo gives us a great 18th century novel, a sort of philosophical farce in which he places in the same coach three great minds of the era: Diderot, Grimm, Rousseau, flanked by their valet Lambert.(...) A delight!»

**L'Express**

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*Prize Mac Orlan (2005)*

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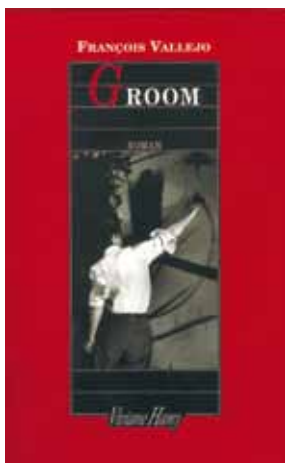
*Prize Académie du Maine (2005)*

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*Prize Roman du Var (2005)*

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*Shortlisted for the Jean Giono Prize (2005)*



# Groom

**Novel, 256 pages - 2004**

Vera and Antoine lead separate lives. Antoine is flighty, distant, secretive. Concerned, Vera decides to investigate. Following the trail leading from a painting, Soutine's 'Groom', she discovers her husband's dark past, and his vampirist family.

## Press Review :

«François Vallejo crosses destinies and characters with masterly skills, blending daily life and absurdity.»

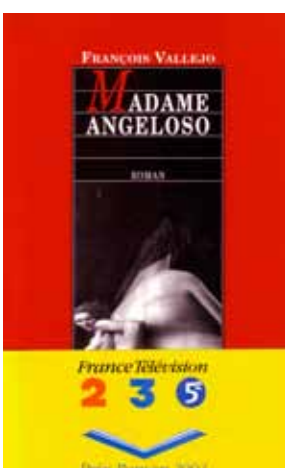
**La Vie**

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*15,000 copies sold, all editions together.*

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*Booksellers'Prize 2004*



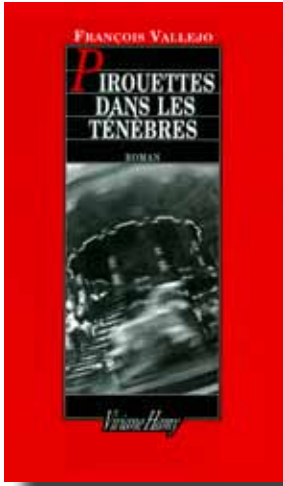
# Mrs Angeloso

**Novel, 224 pages - 2001**

Mrs. Angeloso was the owner of a small and ordinary hotel. Ten years after she mysteriously disappeared, she makes the front page of all the daily papers : run over by the Dalai Lama's train. Now it's time for her friends and relatives to think about who she was and mourn her.

Yet it doesn't seem possible to draw a faithful and coherent portrait of Mrs. Angeloso from the different testimonies. Did anyone really know her or figure out for instance what she was running from ?

One main character evoked by others. The entire scale of human feelings is deployed to describe a single person, bringing to light the complex issue of identity.



# Pirouettes in the Darkness

Novel, 256 pages - 2000

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 weirdness – makes him sink once again into a world of trafficking and dishonesty.

The story resembles an infernal spiral into the abyss of madness.

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

## Press Review :

*«In this novel, Death is a burlesque guest that shows in every corner.»*

**L'Humanité**

*«A real delight, with a touch of erudition, of humor, relying on the single clever device of the unforeseen, the unexpected. Here is a gift far from ordinary.»*

**Le Magazine littéraire**

# Hullabaloo in the Dance Room

Novel, 160 pages - 1998

Neighbours can be a real plague. This one is not only awkward and freakily secretive, but he also constantly and loudly listens to traditional folk music. Quite amused at first, the couple living above takes a chance and spy on him. The joke will take a bad turn.

## Press Review :

*«A first novel built on elegance and intelligence, ability and lightness.»*

**La Vie**

*«Despite its linear construction, this novel is complex, has tremendous liveliness and ends with in the most exhilarating way.»*

**La Croix**



# Claire Wolniewicz

## The Lady of Tears

Novel, 267 pages - 2011

Adam Volladier is a well-known painter, who lives with Rita and their son Félix. His art work is unfolding thanks to the constant support of Emile Deltim, his loyal art manager.

This harmony is mysteriously shattered when his grandmother Josephine dies. Our hero loses all motivation. Nothing moves him, neither his love for Rita and Felix nor his driving need to paint. His imagination vanishes like a cloud in the sky, leaving only indifference in his soulless being.

He roams the streets alone and has sleazy encounters in bars. Over many heavy, sleepless nights strange things begin to happen: in his workshop he discovers paintings which he does not remember painting. They show a woman with her back turned surrounded by scenes depicting the various stages of a murder.

The canvases continue to accumulate until the day he recognizes the character that endlessly emerges from under his brush. It is the young girl Josephine, as she appears in old photos Volladier has seen of her.

Who was she? Who is he?

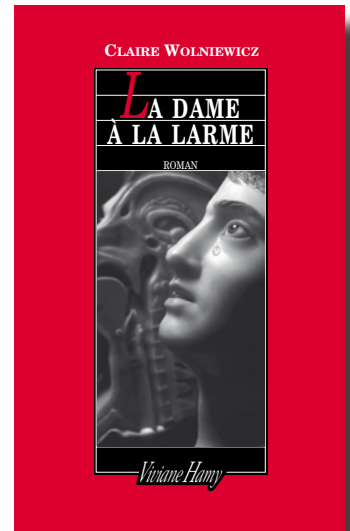
### ***Press reviews :***

*«Claire Wolniewicz is an exceptional story teller. It is indeed rare to pick up a book by chance to be led without hesitation from beginning to end.»*

***Le Monde***

### **GOOD TO KNOW**

Born in 1966, Claire Wolniewicz is a freelance journalist. She has worked as a TV series scriptwriter. After writing short stories (*Sainte-Rita*, *Finitudes*, 2003), her first novel *Ubiquity* published in 2005, is warmly acclaimed by the press. In *The Lady of Tears*, Adam Volladier, *Ubiquity*'s hero and his wife, Rita are back. Their couple is facing difficulties and Adam is no more able to paint...



# The Time of a Fall

Novel, 162 pages - 2008

Madelaine is 11 years old when her father abandons her at the orphanage. Rebellious against all authority and alone amongst the other girls, sewing becomes her only refuge.

The nuns place her in a dressmaking workshop and very quickly she creates her first designs. Customers stream in, discover her creations and order them: the workshop overflows with activity. Her designs are a smash hit.

From then on, the couture house carries her name: « Madelaine Delisle ».

Fashion takes off and the century passes by with its inventions and destructions, such as the war which brings her Tadeusz, a survivor of the camps.

From this union comes a girl, Lucie whom she is incapable of cherishing. Her old demons prevent her from being happy.

## Press reviews :

«With this second novel Claire Wolniewicz proves her unique talent as a storyteller. A fresco of the 20th century, an original and delicate novel. The story of a passionate love affair. Magnificent.»

### Questions de femmes

*Rite-of-passage novel of abandonment, novel of gift, or story of a life, The Time of a Fall is a portrait of fashion and the 20th century.*



# Ubiquity



Novel, 144 pages - 2005

Adam Volladier leads a gloomy life, the life of a supermarket accountant without any curiosity for the world around him. One fine day, he discovers a knack for social ubiquity : an astonishing number of people recognize in him an old friend, a lawyer, a tennis partner... Amazed, Adam begins to play with these quite seductive identities. Until the day he becomes Georges Fondel, a known swindler...

## Press reviews :

«The author delivers a cruel and hilarious description of the life of a 33-year-old loser in search of who he really is. Short, written in a straightforward style serving the plot, Ubiquity sweeps you away, persuades and entertains.»

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10,000 copies sold

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Prix Librecourt

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Prix des Grandes Ecoles

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Short-listed for the Touquet Book Prize

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Film rights sold

Elle

# French Suspense



Chemins  Nocturnes

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# Alexis Ragougneau

## The Madonna of Notre-Dame

Suspense novel, 202 pages - January 2014

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** GERMANY (ULLSTEIN) - ITALY (GUANDA) SPAIN (SIRUELA) - SWEDEN (SEKWA) GREECE (STEREOMA)- POLAND (SONIA DRAGA).

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.

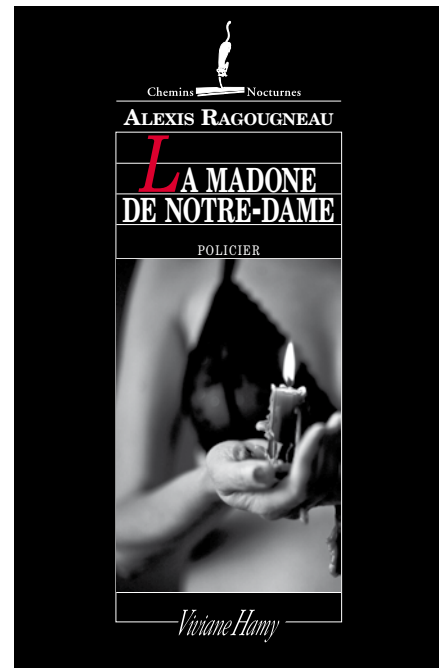
### Press reviews :

*«The inquiry dives into the painful past of the protagonists, takes us behind the masks and appearances, and swings between shadows and light. The style is racy and the humour subtle. It is one of those exceptional novels to which Viviane Hamy has the key.»*

*Télérama*

### GOOD TO KNOW

Alexis Ragougneau, is a playwright and this is his first novel. He worked for a few months in Notre-Dame cathedral. He knows well its infinite secrets and the forgotten people who linger there who he calls 'the strayed souls of Notre-Dame'.



**BESTSELLER IN GERMANY!**  
SEVERAL WEEKS ON THE SPIEGEL  
CRIME BESTSELLERS' LIST





# Karim Miské

## Arab Jazz

Suspense novel, 320 pages - 2012

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** GERMANY (LÜBBE) - GREECE (POLIS) - UNITED KINGDOM (MACLEHOSE PRESS) - ITALY (FAZI) - ARGENTINA (ADRIANA HIDALGO)

«A dramatically contemporary crime novel about new Muslim and Jewish fundamentalists.» **Le Point**

Paris: in the cosmopolitan 19th arrondissement, Ahmed, a daydreamer addicted to thrillers, is horrified to discover his neighbour's body hanging from her balcony. The crime scene has been laid out for gruesome effect: alongside the corpse, with its savagely mutilated genitals, someone has placed a bloodstained joint of pork. Symbols that label her, in the eyes of the local residents, as a 'woman tainted by impurity'.

Rachel Kupferstein and Jean Hamelot – she, a fiery Jewish woman, he the son of a rationalist communist – are put in charge of the investigation. Are they dealing with a religious crime, carried out by a fanatic from the Lubavitch or Salafist communities? Should they listen to idle tittle-tattle from a neighbourhood barber who points the finger at Ahmed? What should they make of Laura's strange family, Jehovah's Witnesses whose influence extends as far as New York? Is this act connected with the appearance of a particularly powerful drug in the area?

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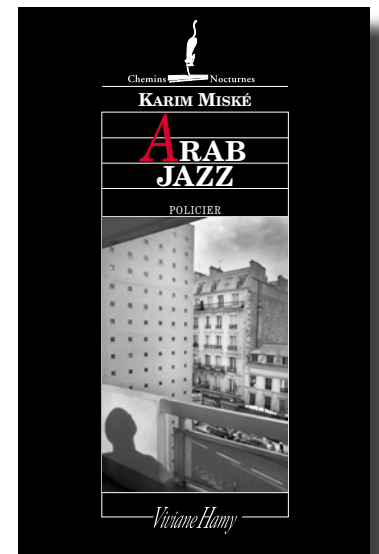
*Grand Prix de Littérature Policière 2012*

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*Already 17,000 copies sold in Hard Cover in France*

### GOOD TO KNOW

Karim Miské was born in Abidjan in 1964 to a Mauritanian father and a French mother, and grew up in Paris before leaving to study journalism in Dakar. After returning to France, he spent twenty years making documentaries on a range of subjects including bioethics, deafness (for which he learnt sign language) and neo-fundamentalism in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths. *Arab Jazz* is his first novel.



**INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER:**

**ON THE ZEIT-BESTSELLER LIST IN SPRING 2014**

### Press reviews :

«Arab Jazz, Karim Miské's new French noir novel, is a stark break away from most French crime fiction writing. Taking its title from James Ellroy's *White Jazz*, this is a brilliant and promising piece of work.»

**Le Monde**

«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**

# Unbelonging



Testimony, 150 pages - 2015

*To refuse to belong to a religion, a social class, a “race”.*

To never choose a side. Woman, poor, black or enslaved: this is a book for all those who feel “outside” and who, instead of suffering, decide to make an identity out of it.

«Of Franco-Mauritanian origin, Karim Miské grew up in the more affluent 5th arrondissement of Paris at a time when the influence of the French Communist party was strong in certain circles of the intelligentsia. While some might imagine Miské spending his childhood puzzling over the complexities of his mixed heritage, he was, in fact, accompanying his intellectual mother on missions to Albania. The totalitarianism there came as a shock but it was through that discovery that the author learned about the masks people wear. And, he believes, it is precisely the loss of ideological masks that has led people to value religious and ethnic identities over political ones.»

[Ben Faccini, Interview on *Arab jazz*]

Unafraid of taboos, funny, thought-provoking and one of a kind:

*Unbelonging* intertwines childhood memories and socio-political analyses and mixes together topics of our time. A book about diversity and a must-read!



# Dominique Sylvain

## The Archangel of Chaos

Suspense novel, approx. 300 pages - To be published in January 2015

*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.

The martyred body of a nurse is found in a Parisian warehouse: the victim has been chained up and tortured to death, and her tongue torn out. But the killer has carefully prepared and laid out the body post-mortem. The torturer's obsessive profile suggests he will not stop there...

Under pressure, Franka Kehlmann turns out to be an excellent sleuth. But the demons of her past catch up with her: the memory of her mother, a singer who committed suicide, and the burden of her psychologically traumatised little brother. Not to mention her father, a historian specialising in punishment who she avoids but will have to cooperate with to carry out the investigation.

Will she discover the Archangel of Chaos?



*“The new figurehead of French detective fiction”.*

***Lire***

## **GOOD TO KNOW**

Dominique Sylvain has been a detective novel writer for over twenty years.

According to Christopher MacLehose in the Independent, Dominique Sylvain is among the 6 Crime authors that matter in France today. *Passage du désir* was translated into English by MacLehose Press, in 2013. Her work is currently being adapted into films.

She is definitely one of the raising French Crime talents abroad: "a real writer and a storytelling genius".



Discover her new character :

## **FRANKA KEHLMANN**

This work announces the birth of a new character created by Dominique Sylvain: Franka Kehlmann, a heroine with an austere, masculine appearance, and a velvety voice. From East-German grand-parents who had fled East-Berlin and daughter to a mother, singer who committed suicide and a father, historian, she is in charge of her brother, an amateur photographer delivering pizzas.

In this adventure, she tracks a serial killer who takes his victims through the Gehenna of their worst nightmares.

## ***Foreign Press about D. Sylvain : Quotes from the Herald Scotland***

*“There is an echo of Chandler's gallant, world-weary Philip Marlowe in grumpy former police commissioner Lola Jost.”*

*“There is a salute to Agatha Christie.”*

*“There is also a strong flavor of Simenon in the way she evokes Paris through the inviting fug of its glowing cafés, after-hours clubs and shady denizens with guilty secrets they are reluctant to share.”*

## Main characters : INGRID DIESEL & LOLA JOST

On the one hand, there is Lola. She is a grumpy retired police inspector who would never spend a day without her best friend: red wine. On the other hand, there is Ingrid, an American girl in love with Paris. She gives massages at day and does stripteases at night. This mismatched and funny duo lives in a Parisian working class district, and never refuses to help a friend in trouble.

### Passage du désir

**Suspense novel, 300 pages - 2004**  
**60,000 copies sold in France**

«Brilliantly put together, this novel exercises an irresistible charm on the reader. Intelligence from the heart, distance and humor, punchy writing, where fantasy rhymes with poetry, *Passage du désir* lives up to its promises.»

*Télérama*

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*60,000 copies sold*

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*Elle readers book prize*

### The Samurai's Daughter

**Suspense novel, 300 pages - 2005**

«Incisive dialogue and a corrosive style that scoff at the tf1 [television channel] motto: 'what we sell to coca-cola is available human brain time.»

*L'Est républicain*

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*30,000 copies sold*

### Manta Corridor

**Suspense novel, 300 pages - 2004**

«In Dominique Sylvain's novels, the dialogue evokes Audiard's best films, the supporting roles are terrific and the intrigue is sufficiently twisted to hold spellbound the most listless of readers.»

*Marie France*

---

*15,000 copies sold (first edition only)*

### The Missing Ogre

**Suspense novel, 300 pages - 2005**

Lou necker, a young underground rocker, was found dead in the most beautiful park in paris. One of the gardeners is missing, the big and kind brad – the one who looks like an ogre. While summoned to the police station, ingrid discovers that brad, her childhood friend, was on the verge of contacting her. He is the ideal suspect...

#### *Press reviews :*

«*She knows how to catch the everyday life of a working-class district (...) with accuracy, and without affected pathos(...). Her paris is alive. »*

*L'Humanité*

---

*20,000 copies sold (first edition only)*

### Dirty War

**Suspense novel, 256 pages - 2011**

The atrocious death of Florent Vidal opens this 5th 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, specialized in franco-african relations and arming contracts.

Willing and full of energy, Lola takes over this new investigation with her friend Ingrid, parallel to the police.

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*20,000 copies sold (first edition)*

### Darkness and Light

**Suspense novel, 298 pages - March 2014**

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.

## Main character : LOUISE MORVAN

A private detective and glamorous woman passionate about body art, Inoshi Iii - the biggest Japanese tattoo artist - and Stradivarius violins.

### **Baka !**

**Suspense novel, 256 pages - 2000  
and 2007 (new edition)**

Louise is sent to Japan by a French bishop. His 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 badly murdered.

### **Blood Sisters**

**Suspense novel, 256 pages - 1997  
and 2012 (new edition)**

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 reality and the virtual, dreaming of victim art, the art of the future.

### **The Lizard King**

**Suspense novel, 272 pages - 1998  
and 2012 (new edition)**

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.

### **Strad**

**Suspense novel, 256 pages - 2001**

A Stradivarius worth more than twenty four million Francs is stolen from Meyer, a brilliant young violinist 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 an antique dealer, Christian Donovan, an antique instrument specialist.

### **Techno Bohemian**

**Suspense novel, 336 pages - 1999**

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 concludes suicide without 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 explodes the status quo by showing that suicide is absolutely not a factor in this story.

### **In The Deep Night Of Geronimo**

**Novel, 368 pages - 2009**

"Geronimo didn't kill anybody, but who killed Geronimo?». Philippine is perplexed with this anonymous email. We used to call her father "Geronimo" – that was long before he committed suicide, back from a brilliant career in molecular biology in the USA. All the members of the family – or rather of the Domeniac dynasty – have also received this email. Philippine asks a private investigator recommended by the superintendent Clémenti for help: Louise Morvan. And if those two have been lovers in another life, the wound remains quite fresh for Louise.

An extremely dynamic investigation in the heart of the family secrets, a series of characters, one stranger than the other, involving drug dealing and GMO.

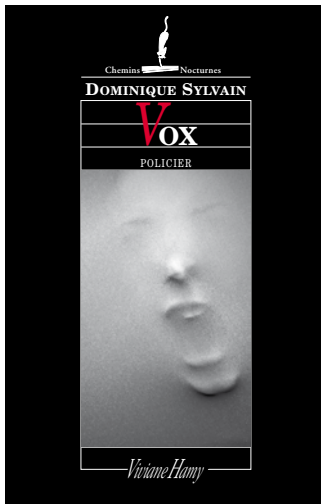
## Press reviews about D. Sylvain : Quotes from Le Monde

«In her crime novels, the intrepid women who lead the investigations are epicureans who never reject love, if it should come to them.»

«Rich prose and earthy dialogue, diverse language registers and heroines who are as gourmand as the Spanish writer Manuel Vazquez Montalban's Pepe Carvalho form the essence of this noir novel.»

«A series of breath-taking developments imbibe rhythm into this work whose plot lines are mercilessly engineered.»

## Main characters : ALEX BRUCE & MARTINE LEWINE

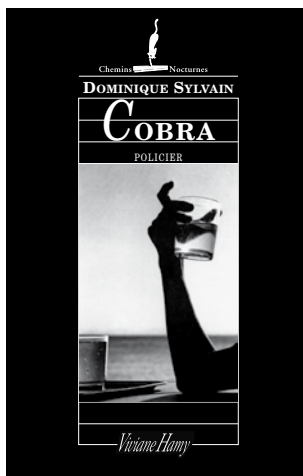


### Vox

Suspense novel, 256 pages - 2000

FOREIGN RIGHTS : PORTUGAL (PERGAMINHO) - RUSSIA (INOSTRANKA) - FINLAND (LIKE)

Isabelle Castro, the star of a night time 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.



### Cobra

Suspense novel, 256 pages - 2002

FOREIGN RIGHTS : RUSSIA (INOSTRANKA) - FINLANDE (LIKE)

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.

# Fred Vargas



*"The French Queen of the detective novel". Lire*

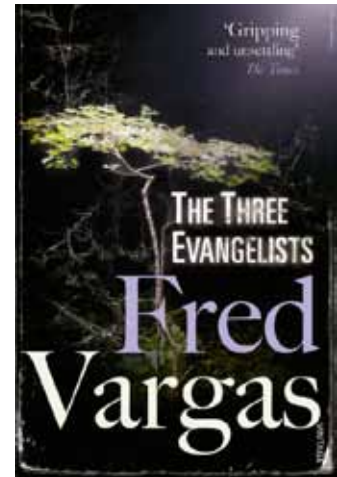
*After Adamsberg, discover the Evangelists series !*

An ex-cop fired from the police investigates with a team of three historians, Marc, Mathias and Lucien.

## Debout les morts

**Suspense novel - Dcwa 2005 (original edition in 1995)**

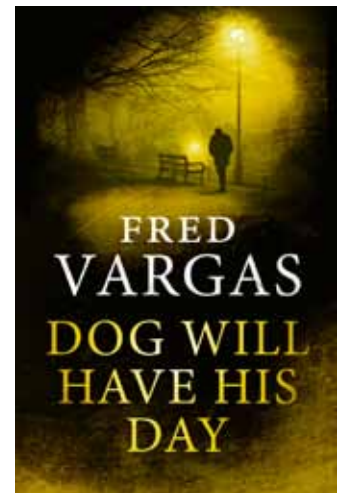
Sophia Siméonidis, a Greek opera singer, wakes up one morning to discover that a tree has appeared overnight in the garden of her Paris house. Intrigued and unnerved, she turns to her neighbours: Vandoosler, an ex-cop fired from the police for having helped a murderer to escape, and three impecunious historians, Mathias, Marc and Lucien - the three evangelists. They agree - both because they need the money and out of sheer curiosity - to dig around the tree and see if something has been buried there. They find nothing but soil. 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?



## Un peu plus loin sur la droite

**Suspense novel, Shortlisted for Dcwa 2014 (original edition in 1996)**

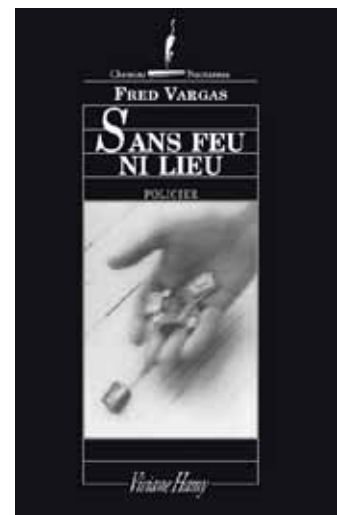
How do you solve a murder without a body? Keeping watch under the windows of the Paris flat belonging to a politician's nephew, ex-special investigator Louis Kehlweiler catches sight of something odd on the pavement. A tiny piece of bone. Human bone, in fact. When Kehlweiler takes his find to the nearest 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.



## Sans feu, ni lieu

**Suspense novel, to be published in the UK in 2016 (1997)**

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?



## Main character : ADAMSBERG

### **L'HOMME AUX CERCLES BLEUS (1996)**

Duncan Lawrie International Dagger (CWA 2009)  
Prix Du Festival de Saint-Nazaire 1992

### **L'HOMME À L'ENVERS (1999)**

### **LES QUATRE FLEUVES (2000)**

[Graphic novel] Alphart Du Meilleur  
Scénario – Angoulême 2001

### **PARS VITE ET REVIENS TARD (2002)**

Prix Des Libraires 2002 – Prix Des Lectrices  
Elle 2002 Deutscher Krimipreis 2004

### **COULE LA SEINE (2003)**

[Three short stories]

### **SOUS LES VENTS DE NEPTUNE (2004)**

Duncan Lawrie International Dagger (CWA 2007)

### **DANS LES BOIS ÉTERNELS (2006)**

### **UN LIEU INCERTAIN (2008)**

### **L'ARMÉE FURIEUSE (2011) Duncan**

Lawrie International Dagger (CWA 2012)

## Main characters : THE EVANGELISTS

### **CEUX QUI VONT MOURIR TE SALUENT (1994)**

### **DEBOUT LES MORTS (1995)**

Duncan Lawrie International Dagger (CWA  
2005) – Prix Du Polar De La Ville Du Mans  
1995 - Prix Mystère 1996 De La Critique

### **UN PEU PLUS LOIN SUR LA DROITE (1996)**

### **SANS FEU NI LIEU (1997)**

Grand Prix Du Roman Noir Cognac 2000  
Prix Mystère De La Critique 2000

## NON FICTION

### **PETIT TRAITÉ DE TOUTES VÉRITÉS SUR L'EXISTENCE (2001)**

### **CRITIQUE DE L'ANXIÉTÉ PURE (2003)**



## GOOD TO KNOW

She compares the detective novel to a Greek tragedy which, orchestrating good and evil, helps to purge passions, our passions, through the delusion and anguish of the characters. From the ancestral fear of the werewolf to that of the plague, the catharsis is as effective for the characters as it is for the readers.

«Vargas's novels are comic without being funny, in the sense that she moves characters around in a narrowly defined artificial world with more purely authorial intent than realism, as well as the sense of her narrowly defined and rigidly maintained character portrayals.» (Glenn Harper).

# GRAPHIC NOVELS

## LES QUATRE FLEUVES

224 pages - 2000

Prix Alph-Art 2000

## LE MARCHAND D' PONGES

62 pages - 2010

A new graphic novel based on «Cinq Francs pièces», one of the short-stories of «Coule la Seine», and titled «Le Marchand d'éponges» : a homeless is the witness of a crime...

Edmond Baudouin is a drawer. He already worked with Fred Vargas on « Les Quatre Fleuves ».



## 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 (DIAMANTIS)

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)

## Press reviews :

« Poetic, offbeat and gently addictive. Her prose has an unusual deftness, a wry humour. A unique voice. »

**The Guardian**

« Faithful to her style, Fred Vargas has definitively conquered her status as French queen of the detective novel. »

**Le Figaro magazine**

« (This last novel) concentrates the literary qualities of a writer who has arrived at maturation, still so brilliant in her dialogue and sketches of characters, but even more impressive in the handling of intrigue. »

**L'Express**

« A Vargas novel is as good as a trip to Paris. The style has the same hyper-real quality as all her writing - the real world, but filtered through a strange prism - but it's the plotting that really hits the spot: ingenious and eccentric. »

**Daily Express**

« One of the most unusual voices in European crime fiction »

**The Sunday Times**

« One of France's most original crime writers. »

**Sunday Telegraph**

« Fred Vargas has everything: complex and surprising plots, good pace, various and eccentric characters; a sense of place and history; individualised dialogue, wit and style. »

**Times Literary Supplement**

**Her work has been awarded by The Finnish Whodunnit Society**

# Antonin Varenne

## Loser's Corner

Noir novel, 256 pages - 2011

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** ITALY (EINAUDI) -  
UNITED KINGDOM (MCLEHOSE PRESS)

*A boxing ring you are unlikely to escape without being KO'd.*

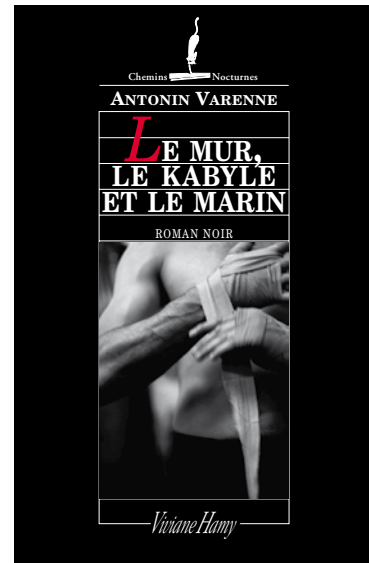
It's the story of a nice cop whom people call «Le Mur» [The Wall]. He only thinks about boxing, going up on the ring again and again, even in the shabbiest places, facing less and less commendable opponents. During an evening of victory - but at what a price! - someone suggests that he takes care of a «client's» businesses.

The tired cop accepts to kick people's butts for 500 €, no questions asked. With dirty hands but an almost clear mind, he begins to understand that he has been beating up intellectuals, journalists, who never defend themselves. When he realizes who the "client" is, the case takes a different turn...

One night, he decides to ask his victim some questions before beating him up; he understands some of it and ends up embarking to Marseille, looking for a veteran from the Algerian War. The novel turns into a road-movie, concurrently with the story of a barracks during the dirty war: a microcosm of tension and horrors.

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*Prix Quai du Polar 2012*



### *Press reviews :*

*«One of the ten best detective novels [...]. A dark text of incredible force [...]. A resounding success and confirmation of a leading author.»*

**Lire**

*«Remember his name because Antonin Varenne is among the reigning French crime fiction writers of the new generation [...]. His hard-hitting and bitter prose competes with a backstory that never excludes reflection or humanity. This is great and very noir art.»*

**L'Express**

## GOOD TO KNOW

United States, Mexico... Antonin Varenne travelled a lot before he settled down aside from the world. Having obtained a master's degree in Philosophy in Paris, he wanted to write... At 33 years old, he publishes his first novel: *Le Fruit de vos entrailles* [The fruit of your loins] with the publisher *Toute Latitude*. Noticed by detective novel experts around the world and then selected for the Prix Polar Cognac 2007, he continues to give us these stories that "people will like to read instead of stories we would like to tell ourselves". In 2008 he published his second thriller: *Le Gâteau mexicain* [The Mexican cake].



# Fakirs

Suspense novel, 256 pages - 2008

## FOREIGN RIGHTS :

FINLAND (WSOY) - GERMANY (ULLSTEIN) - ITALY (EINAUDI) - TURKEY (DOGAN) - UNITED-KINGDOM (MCLEHOSE PRESS) - CROATIA (FRAKTURA)

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.

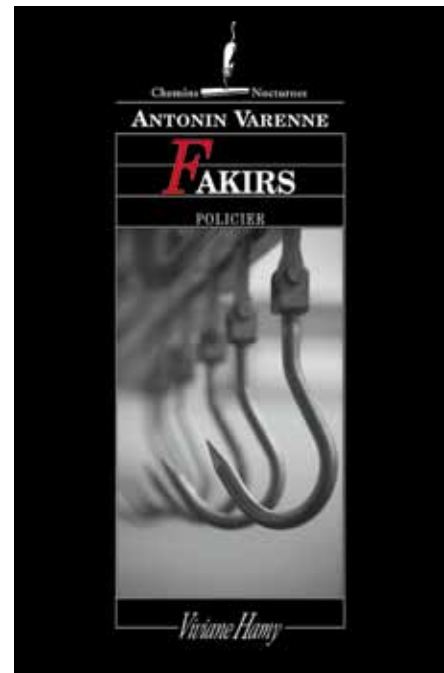
But what can he expect from a man who bled to death in his own excruciating S&M stage show?

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.

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*30,000 copies sold, all French editions together*



## Press reviews :

« *Imaginative and disturbing* »

**The Times**

« *The superb Bed of Nails by Antonin Varenne has a strikingly original plot and characters, and its pessimism is balanced by Varenne's inexhaustible human sympathy* »

**Sunday Times**

« *An excursion into Fred Vargas territory with a fair dollop of self-conscious eccentricity* »

**The Guardian**

# Estelle Monbrun



*When Crime meets with Literature...*

**L'Express**

## GOOD TO KNOW

Estelle Monbrun is a French professor teaching Literature at Washington University (Missouri). She is an acknowledged Proust and Yourcenar specialist.

She writes Crime novels which give an insight in Literature. All her novels are carefully documented and read wonderfully well.

## Murder at Isla Negra

**Suspense novel, 224 pages - 2006**

After Proust, Yourcenar and Colette, Estelle Monbrun once again gets inspiration from a writer's universe to write a detective novel over an historical backdrop : Spanish political refugees who arrived in France after the fall of Barcelona in 1939 and were dumped in camps, while Neruda chartered a boat, the Winnipeg, helping them to get back to Chili.

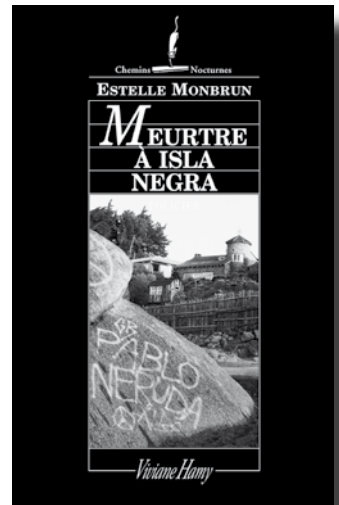
On this island, la villa Pablo Neruda, « built as a P on a promontory overlooking the house of Chili's most famous poet », welcomes artists of all kinds. One morning, Maria Loncomilla, the unhappy chambermaid, is forced to confront the formidable Villa director to inform her of the disappearance of Celia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

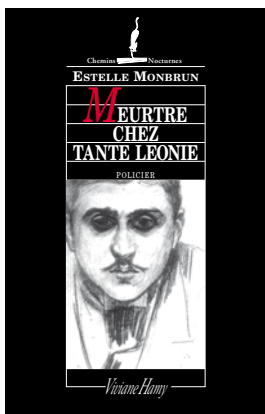
### **Press review :**

« Like tasting fine jam, one takes a delectable pleasure in following this story in which all the complex and fragile characters, speaking in their own voice, each seem to want to catch the attention of the reader.

*The narrator, diabolically skillful, quite talented in exploring souls and decrypting the twists and turns of history, builds a real suspenseful thriller tinged with a keen irony for the environment she describes and a true tenderness for others. We warmly recommend this novel as well as all her previous works (...).* »

**Playboy**





## Murder chez Proust

**Suspense novel, 256 pages - 1994**

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 as 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.

### *Press Review :*

*« A crime, manuscripts lost, then found, Proust becomes breathless, a tasty detective novel like a madeleine soaked in hot liquid in the autumn. It's so thrilling that we won't tell you anymore about it. »*

*Le Journal du Dimanche*

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*40,000 copies sold*

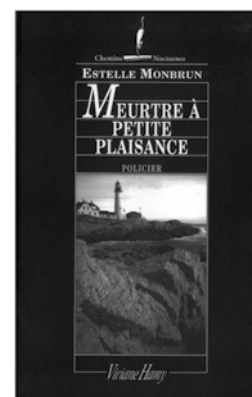
## FOREIGN RIGHTS

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## Murder at Petite-Plaisance

**Suspense novel, 240 pages - 1998**

Visitors flock to Petite-Plaisance, a villa belonging to Marguerite Yourcenar, on 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 Foucheroux, a regular character in the books of Estelle Monbrun, and federal agent Bradford take on the investigation as a team, and uncover the incredible truth of the Yourcenar affair.



## Murder at Colette's

**Suspense novel, 256 pages - 2001**

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, and makes fun of university teachers. Funny and cruel, half-way between Agatha Christie and David Lodge.





# Foreign Literature

# Gaïto Gazdanov

FROM RUSSIA

«If Proust had been a Russian taxi driver in Paris in the 1930s...» *L'Express*

## GOOD TO KNOW

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, have 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 other language than Russian.»

The writer Gaïto Gazdanov was born in France but would never be a French writer. In contrast to 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.

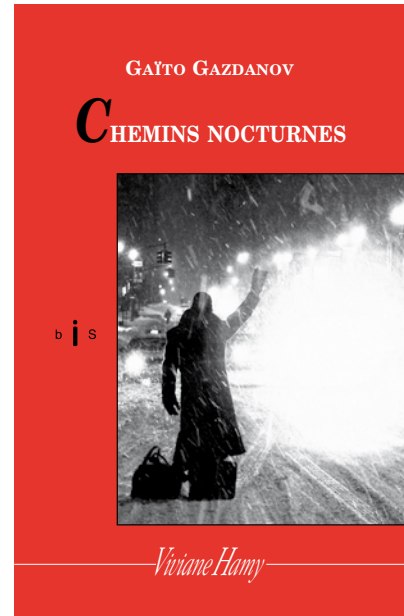


# Night Roads

Novel, 272 pages - 2008

To escape the Communist revolution, Gazdanov, as well as thousands of 'white' Russians in 1920, fled to Paris. At the wheel of his taxi, every night he follows the labyrinth of streets in the capital and its suburbs, as well as in his memory. This nocturnal drive reveals the shadows and lights of souls; and Gazdanov becomes the fascinated observer of his compatriots, exiled Russians and the dregs of Paris

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** *NIGHT ROADS*, WHICH FIRST APPEARED IN 1941, IS A MAJOR WORK OF RUSSIAN EXILE LITERATURE. VIVIANE HAMY ADMINISTERS THE RIGHTS FOR IT WORLDWIDE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF POLAND. ALREADY SOLD IN GERMANY (HANSER) - NETHERLANDS (LEBOWSKI PUBLISHERS)



## GOOD TO KNOW

*Night Roads* gave its name to our French suspense series.



# Dimitris Stefanàkis

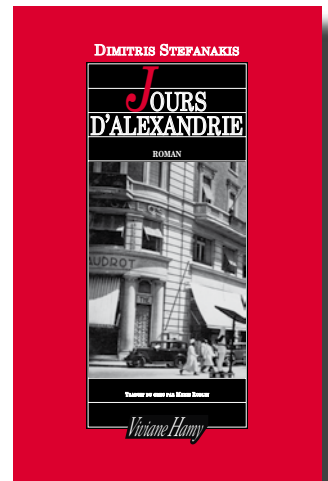
## Days of Alexandria

Novel, 640 pages - 2011

Yvette, the young French woman who has just arrived in Alexandria through mysterious circumstances, has an affair with Antonin Haramis, the absolute master of the tobacco industry. However, Élias Hourì is a “Lebanese” man with shady activities whose presence beside the young woman allows us to foresee the subterranean developments: the young man is essential to anyone who wishes to do business with the standing forces.

The First World War breaks out. The two partners’ secret journey to Constantinople, to participate in a ball thrown by the embassy of Germany (the “Palais aux oiseaux” [Birds’ palace]), makes the tension grow. That’s when the “Lebanese” decides to make one of his oldest dreams come true: to open in Alexandria the biggest, the most chic brothel in all the Orient, the perfect place to get the most varied information...

War, espionage, love, jealousy, all sorts of trafficking, sensuality...: Alexandria is the cosmopolitan scene of an abundant time. The Orient in all its splendor meets the Occident in war. We witness the greatness and the decadence of a city and of its inhabitants.



*Prix Méditerranée 2011 — Foreign fiction*

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :** EGYPT (THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR TRANSLATION) - SPAIN (LUMEN)

### GOOD TO KNOW

Dimitris Stefanakis was born in 1961 in Kéa, Greece. He studied Law at the Athens University. He translated several great authors : Saul Bellow, John Updike, Margaret Atwood, E.M. Forster, Joseph Brontski and Prosper Mérimée.

### Press review :

«A striking invitation to go on a journey.»

*La Vie*

«This novel makes you feel like you are creeping through one of Cavafy’s fantastical poems, discovering the divinely exotic fragrances that Lawrence Durrell distils in his famous Quatuor. Cosmopolitan and multicultural: the city of Alexandria was in its time a model for tolerance, and Dimitris Stefanakis devotes a sublime book to it. It is an urban saga layered with a family chronicle and a tableau of all the Diasporas that come together on their way to this anchored Cytheraea of the Mediterranean.»

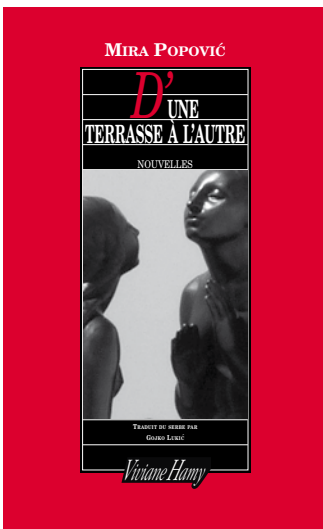
*Lire*

# Mira Popović

FROM SERBIA

## Paris - Belgrade

Shorts, 150 pages - 2012



A great voice of Serbian literature to be discovered.

Mira Popovic 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.

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. There is even an apparently useless key which the author decides to put into her text so as not to throw it away.

Mira Popovic latches onto the beings and objects spawned by our existences. She pulls surprisingly bright and enigmatic stories out of their apparent banality.

### Press review :

*«A beautifully strange voice has been born to us; be one of the first to hear it and defend it.»*

**Livres Hebdo**

*«To read the Serbian Mira Popovic is like travelling between Belgrade and Paris; but also to a land of fairy tales or to the heart of magical realism. There's a jug that disappears and a woman transfixed by the back of a taxi driver's neck: fantasy casts its light over life.»*

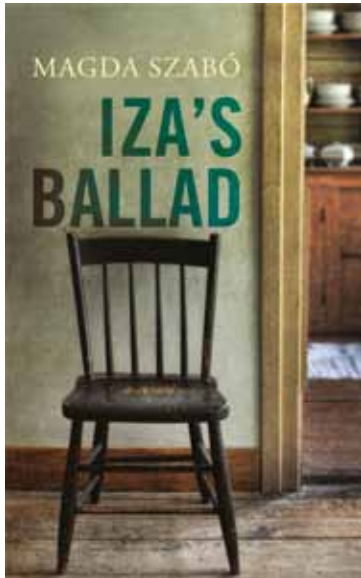
**Marie-France**

### GOOD TO KNOW

Mira Popovic was born in Belgrade. She has worked for many years as a Paris correspondent for the Yugoslav and Serb press. Alongside her journalistic work, Mira Popovic's work as a short story writer spans many years, and is recognized and admired by fellow writers. She is published by the best Serbian literary magazines.

# Magda Szabó

FROM HUNGARY



## GOOD TO KNOW

Magda Szabó is considered in Hungary as “a national treasure”. She was born in 1917 and started writing early. Her novels were immediately widely translated. In 1978, she was given her country’s highest honors.

## Iza’s ballad

Novel, 250 pages - 2006

*After The Door discover another gem by Magda Szabo : Iza’s Ballad (English and French translation available).*

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.

## Press Review :

«*Timeless.* »

**The Times**

« *Beautiful ballad of living in, and fleeing, the past.* »

**The Irish Times**

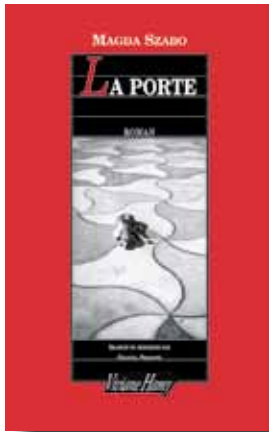
« *A ruthless exploration of the damage we inflict on one another in the name of love.* »

**Independent**

## FOREIGN RIGHTS OF *THE DOOR* :

ITALY (EINAUDI) - SPAIN (RANDOM HOUSE MONDADORI) - PORTUGAL (DOM QUIXOTE) - NORWAY (ASCHEHOUG) - ISRAEL (KETER) - GREECE (PSICHOGIOS) - TURKEY (KANAT KITAP) - NETHERLANDS (HOUTEKIET) - GERMANY (SUHRKAMP) - HUNGARY (EUROPA) - POLAND (PIW) - RUSSIA (MIK) - UK (HARVILL PRESS) - USA (EEM)

AVAILABLE : DENMARK, SWEDEN, FINLAND, JAPAN, RUSSIA



# The Door

**Novel, 286 pages - 2003**

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 preoccupied by every living thing around her, but she has a strong nature and keeps her flat as a sanctuary where no one ever enters. The mistress is an intellectual, awkward with everyday things and basic feelings. They share their universe amidst tension and misunderstanding, and their relationship smoothly turns upside down, until it reaches crisis point.

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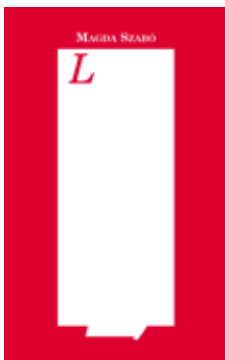
*130,000 copies sold*

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*Prix Fémina Étranger 2003*

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*Adapted into a movie starring Helen Mirren in 2012*



# The Fawn

**Novel, 220 pages - 2008**

*The Fawn is Magda Szabo's second novel, written in 1959 (nearly 30 years before The Door).*

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... Eszter will destroy this perfect little world just like the war destroyed her world. And years later, when they meet again, the same jealousy takes over her. A lively depiction of Hungarian society during the interwar years.

# Katalin Street

**Novel, 250 pages - 2006**

*Katalin Street is Magda Szabó's novel where political events, notably the 1956 Budapest uprising, are most present.*

Katalin Street was the place, the time of happiness, the space of love. It was before the war, in Budapest. There were three neighboring 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 flushed her out.



# The Moment

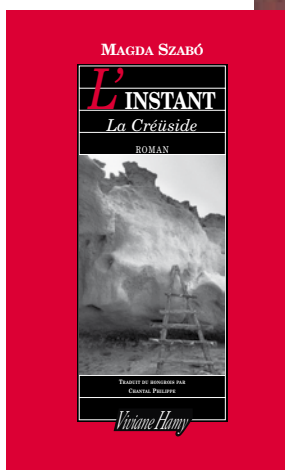
Novel, 360 pages - 2009

With a nerve that only great novelists have, Magda Szabó reinvents the universal literary masterpiece: *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...

## Press Review :

«The strange project that Magda Szabó cherishes throughout her life and executes in a more mature age resembles Marguerite Yourcenar's "Hadrien" and Virginia Wolf's "Orlando"»

*Le Monde des Livres*



# The Old Well

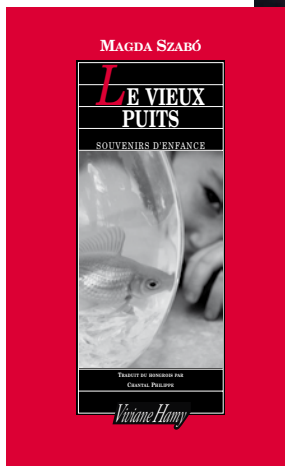
Childhood memories, 260 pages - 2009

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", would her mother 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: her mother – obviously, a fairy who had been transformed into a human being -, and her father – forever a child, etc... These recollections are like a tale: initiation story, origin story, *The Old Well* recounts the author's path in life: as a reader, a dreamer, and then as a writer.

## Press Review :

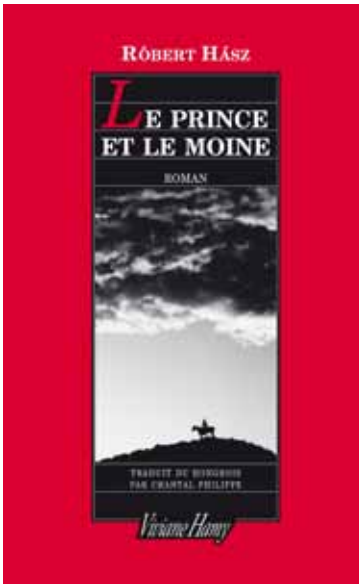
«Every single parent should read *Le Vieux Puits*: they knew how important it is to spend time making your children grow.»

*Le Point*



# Robert Hász

FROM HUNGARY



## The Prince And The Monk

**Historical novel, 424 pages - 2007**  
**Original publisher : Kortars (Hungary)**  
**rights sold to Germany (Klett-Cotta)**

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 Kunde, 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 Kunde?

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

### Press Reviews :

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

*«The geopolitical conflicts between Byzantium, Rome and the German Empire, their constant new developments, like an initiatory odyssey, and their medieval settings will please anyone who enjoys adventure and shamanic legends.»*

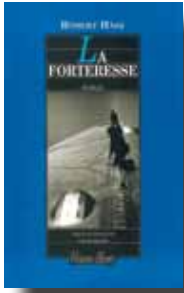
*Chronic'art*

*«A world of legend and heroism».*

*Témoignage chrétien*

### WE REPRESENT THIS AUTHOR FOR :

CHINA, DENMARK, FINLAND, GREECE, UK, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, SWEDEN, THAILAND



## The Fortress

**Novel, 256 pages - 2002**  
**Short-listed for the Femina Etranger**

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 be : 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 Tartares Steppe.

« *A masterpiece* » (*Le Monde*)

**FOREIGN RIGHTS :**  
**GERMANY (KLETT-COTTA) - ITALY (NOTTETEMPO)**



## The Garden Of Diogenes

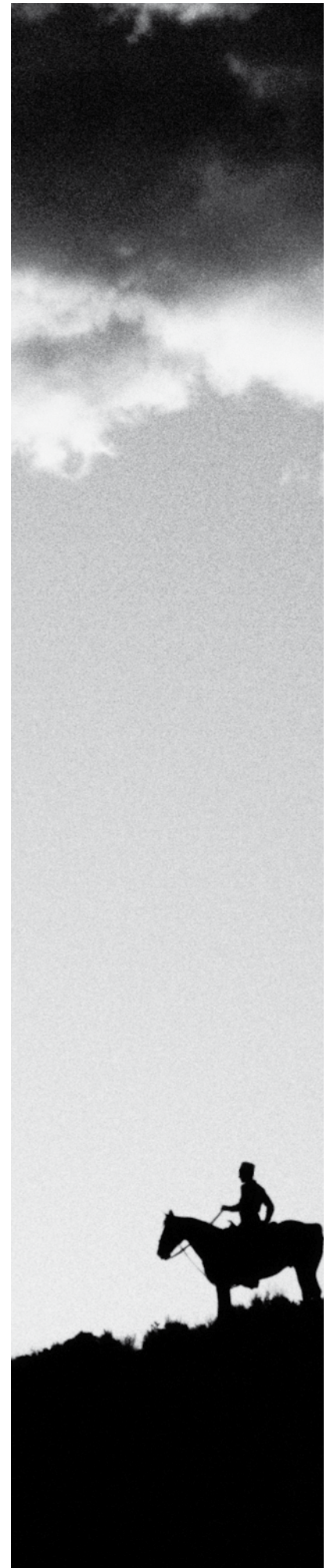
**Novel, 192 pages - 2001**

The narrator of this novel (clearly autobiographical) abandons his country ripped apart by civil war and goes to the neighboring 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 into 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, 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. »

Robert Hász



# Curiosities, 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. Some of these memoirs are poetic and funny; others, more realistic and sharp.

# Léon Werth

*The great friend of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.*



## A voice that deserves to be heard...

In 1931, visiting friends, Léon Werth meets Saint-Exupéry. The two men, seemingly far apart, become the best of friends. In 1943 «Tonio» will dedicate *Le Petit Prince* to him.

The independent spirit runs through his works and still causes intense controversy: a virulent antimilitarism in *Clavel soldat* (1919), or a not so fashionable anticolonialism in *Cochinchine* (1926).

This refusal of parties frightened publishers who fear that “this fierce independent”: he very early denounces the Stalinist imposture even though he was considered a man of the left.

Werth’s work has remained quite unknown, whether it be his novels, narratives or writings on art.

## 33 Jours

**Narrative, 160 pages - 2006**

Narrative about the exodus of Parisians in June 1940 at the approach of the German army.

Families, animals, furniture – everything is on the road. 33 days is the time Léon Werth needs to get to a discrete house in the Jura Mountains, a few hundred kilometres from Paris. Witness to this strange and wild caravan, he is at the heart of the frightened population.



## GOOD TO KNOW

Léon Werth (1878-1955) was a journalist, critic, writer, and a politician for the first half of the XXth century.

His writing testifies of the ideas of these times, of the political problems (colonialism, wars, etc.), and of the social atmosphere.

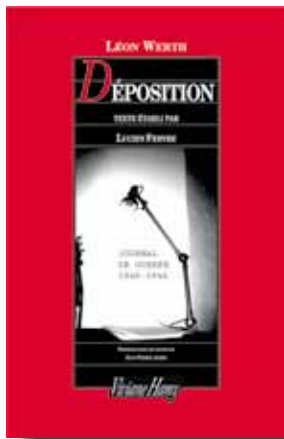
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## ABOUT LÉON WERTH ...

## Léon Werth, L'insoumis

**Biography by Gilles Heuré, 330 pages - 2006**



## Déposition 1940-1944

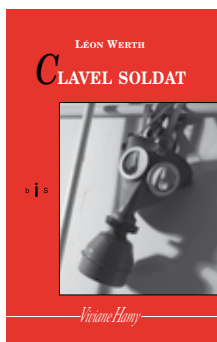
**Journal, 736 pages - 1992**

Straightforward testimony about the contemporary climate between the Armistice and Liberation. Essential to those who wish to understand the concrete meaning of an occupied country.

## Caserne 1900

**Narrative, 128 pages - 1993**

Narrative of a young intellectual during his military service  
Anti militarist novel



## Clavel soldat and Clavel chez les Majors

**Novels, 380 & 300 pages - 2006**

World War I antimilitarist novels

## Impressions d'audience, Le procès Pétain

**Narrative, 174 pages - 2011**

Léon Werth «covers» the trial of Marshal Pétain for the newspaper «Resistance»



## La Maison Blanche

**Narrative, 174 pages - 2006**

“Maybe men will someday be able to take a lesson of joy and serenity from illness?” is the first sentence of this strange, funny and caustic narrative.

## Le Monde et la ville

**Narrative, 256 pages - 1998**

After the horror of the trenches, chronicles on a society's changes



## Cochinchine

**Narrative, 256 pages - 2005**

Angry pamphlet against colonialism): idiocy, nastiness and ignorance of the French colonists. Timeless story.

## Voyages avec ma pipe

**Narrative, 224 pages - 1991**

Scenes by Léon Werth, from Paris to Amsterdam



# Saint-Exupéry as I knew him

Illustrated book - 208 pages - 2010 (new edition)

## FOREIGN RIGHTS :

GERMANY (AUFBAU) - CHINA (MODERN PRESS LTD) - JAPAN (OTSUKI SHOTEN) - ITALY (ELIOTT EDITORE) - RUSSIA (EKSMO)

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

Léon Werth is on the right of the picture. His son, Claude, is the kid watching closely St Exupéry and his bike. Souvenirs, drawings, notes, letters... A deep and intimate friendship told with a lot of decency, and a few words.



# Memoirs...

## A Foreign Policy

**The journal of Raymond de Sainte-Suzanne, (1938-1940)**

**Memoirs, 352 pages - 2000**

*The Quai d'Orsay and Saint-John Perse under a watchful eye.*

Between November 1938 and June 1940, Sainte-Suzanne was in the service of the Secretary-General at the French Foreign Office (Quai d'Orsay). These notes taken at the time of the war, completely rough, give this journal an invaluable perspective on a secret place of power, relatively unknown to the general public. It covers the period when the Quai d'Orsay played a fundamental and more than ambiguous role – notably during the signing of the Munich Accords (Mussolini, Hitler, Chamberlain and Daladier sign an agreement on the status of Czechoslovakia) – in world history.

## Walls and Men

**Jeanne Bouissou, a visitor to the Santé (1983-1997)**

**Memoirs, 160 pages - 2000**

Jeanne Bouissou visited the Santé prison for fourteen years.

Out of the question for her to judge or to denounce. Her account speaks crudely and simply of the daily life of these men.

At no moment do anger or dangerous pity rise to the surface.

## The Budapest's Parrot

**André Lorant**

**Memoirs, 280 pages - 2002**

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.

## Through the Book

**Jean-Jacques Pauvert**

**Memoirs, 465 pages - 2004**

Boris Vian, Jean-Paul Sartre, André Breton, Georges Darien, Georges Bataille.. Jean-Jacques Pauvert is a great French publisher, who fought against censorship while publishing Sade, and discovering Histoire d'O.

A novel of real-life, this book is also the history of the 20th French century up to May, 1968.

# Special project:



## Proust told to children

### The Ghost of Little Marcel

**Text by Elyane Dezon Jones**  
**Drawing by Stéphane Huet**



**Album, 84 pages - November 2014**

*Imagine that the child Marcel Proust comes back to see us in our time. What would he say to us? This is an album for children from 7 years old and for adults who haven't grown up.*

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 find 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.



## ÉLYANE DEZON-JONES ...

... has taught at Barnard College (New York) and at Washington University (Saint-Louis), and specializes in the work of Marcel Proust. Under the pseudonym of Estelle Monbrun, she has published four detective novels, including *The Murder of Aunt Leonie*.

## STÉPHANE HEUET ...

Stéphane Heuet was originally a sailor and came ashore in Paris to rediscover, at the age of 35, the work of Marcel Proust. He launched an ambitious project to adapt and illustrate *In Search of Lost Time*. These graphic novels have already been translated into 24 languages.

Cartoon book, 84 pages - November 2014





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