

RIGHTS
LIST



2021
LEMÉAC



FALL

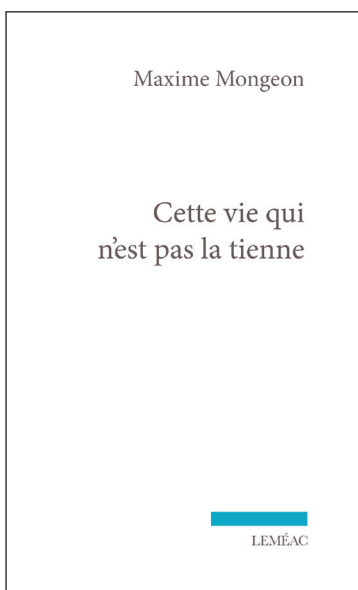
INTRO

We at Leméac have been doing well over the last few months making our way through messy pandemic times. It's our pleasure to share with you a few of our discoveries, favourites of sorts, vivid and serious pages, stories rooted in the new reality that seems to be here for a while, almost unbeknownst to us. Although we had to learn to work differently, we read more than before, for indeed literature is a vaccine against the viruses of the soul, and words are more than ever what we navigate home by. May reading be a cultural, political, sanitary, and healthy credo, a force of deconfinement for the mind.

Let's keep on,

Pierre Filion

NEW TITLES



**MAXIME
MONGEON**

FICTION
152 pages
September 2021
World rights available

NEW TITLE

CETTE VIE
QUI N'EST PAS
LA TIENNE

[A Life That's Not Your Own]

In the comfort of his bungalow, a man's life is turned upside down when he finds the body of his neighbour Sam, a little-known writer, drowned in his own pool. Both troubled by this tragic death and lost in his disillusioned middle-aged drift, he sets off alone for the South with Sam's works and his furtively stolen correspondence.

As Sam's writings mingle with his neglected reveries of youth and writing, he undertakes the painful and exhilarating exploration of lives that are not his own: the life of this missing neighbour whose commitment to the world he admires, but also his own love life, father's life and professional life, which he often keeps at a distance, out of focus. Through this process, the man begins to see an opportunity to reach his own truth...

Maxime Mongeon began his literary career in 2001 with Une seconde d'achèvement, a critically acclaimed debut novel, followed by Petite in 2004 and Magnitude 9,0 in 2006. With Cette vie qui n'est pas la tienne he continues his exploration of the fundamental questions and deceptions of love.



NEW TITLE

L'HORIZON DES ÉVÉNEMENTS

We knew the shit was going to hit the fan when the conference posters were vandalised across the campus. Blood red inscriptions had flowered all over. Theft is rape. Nationalism = Nazism. Saint-Jean-Racist. Quebec flags with swastikas in lieu of fleurs-de-lis had been stenciled.

Reprising the characters from his 2017 novel *La chaleur des mammifères* a few years later, Biz here casts a sociological look on academia, in the time of trigger warnings, snowflakes and cancel culture. With humour, he depicts the fear that grips those who are supposed to educate but who grovel to preserve what they have acquired, namely a job, and some power. The result is the portrait of a milieu that no longer knows what it stands for...

Filled with references to brilliant writer of ill repute Céline, this tragicomedy raises the question of teaching at a time when everyone's sensibilities mustn't be offended and when ignorance is bliss, always preferable to knowledge that hurts.

Biz is a member of the rap group Loco Locass. His work as an writer was awarded the Prix du livre jeunesse des bibliothèques de Montréal and the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec in 2012 for his YA novel La chute de Sparte as well as the Prix France-Québec in 2015 for his novel Mort-Terrain. L'horizon des événements is his eighth book published by Leméac.

BIZ

FICTION

224 pages

September 2021

World rights available



**SÉBASTIEN
HAMEL**

FICTION

320 pages

September 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

LA MAISON DES EMPAILLÉS

This hypnotic story begins in Maine, in the northern United States, where Emily C. Brown was born in 1972. She lives with her strange parents, Mary Clarkson and Jim Brown. Mary is melancholy and devout; Jim is cold and withdrawn.

Emily is fifteen, and her nights are filled with nightmares. On the eve of her departure for the annual summer camp in California, during a walk in the woods behind her home, she discovers what's hidden behind the silences of her father, a taxidermist and photographer, and realizes the nature of the anxiety that has always gripped her heart. The long train journey across the country will allow her to reflect, to finally gain independence, and to understand the tragedy that has kept her in a kind of stupor until now. Along the way, Emily befriends Stanley, the train conductor whose fate she will eventually embody. Once at the camp, protected by the healthy environment and a benevolent roommate, the teenager breaks away from her past life and finally manages to detach herself from her mother, her father and the dull pain that has made her up until now despite herself.

This poetic novel tells of an obsessive and sick America made up of obsessions one pays dearly to get rid of. Written in a haunting and implacable language, *La maison des empaillés* tells of a family life under tension that fluctuates between hidden horrors and overexposed pain.

Sébastien Hamel was born in Montreal in 1972. After studying literature at the Université de Montréal and McGill University, he has been teaching literature at Cégep Édouard-Montpetit since 1998. La maison des empaillés is his first novel.



**CAROLINE
RENÉDEBON**

FICTION

96 pages
September 2021
World rights available

NEW TITLE

LA PIERRE AU MILIEU D'EUX TOUS

[The Stone in the Midst of All]

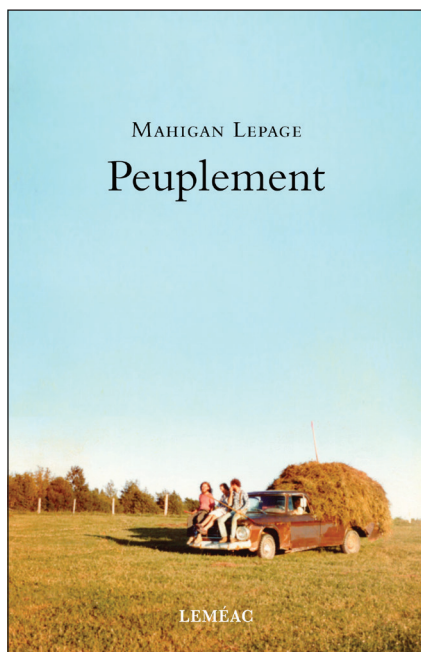
*Marie Armand, died on 23 March 1917
In her thirty-sixth year
Missed by her husband and daughter*

In the garden of her Parisian home, the narrator discovers by chance a modest tombstone. Haunted by the deceased's date of birth, which except for the year, is the same as her own, she becomes intimate with a discreet and disturbing presence that settles in her life.

A century after Marie's death, leaving Paris to settle in Quebec, the narrator feels more than ever the urgency to write in order to give back, fictitiously and with a moving respect, an existence to someone she knows nothing about. What to do with what is only a name but is nonetheless a life that ends in the middle of a war at the age of thirty-six?

Alternating between excerpts from notebooks written since 2017 and a story set against a historical background, *La pierre au milieu d'eux tous* is the imagined delicate portrait of a woman who escapes the shackles of early 20th century conventions through imagination, dance and the secret relationship she builds with her daughter.

Caroline Renédebon was born in 1975 in Paris. After Bien-Aimé Tcheychev (Éditions de la Différence, 2014), La pierre au milieu d'eux tous is her second novel.



**MAHIGAN
LEPAGE**

NARRATIVE FICTION

120 pages

September 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

PEUPLEMENT

[SETTLEMENT]

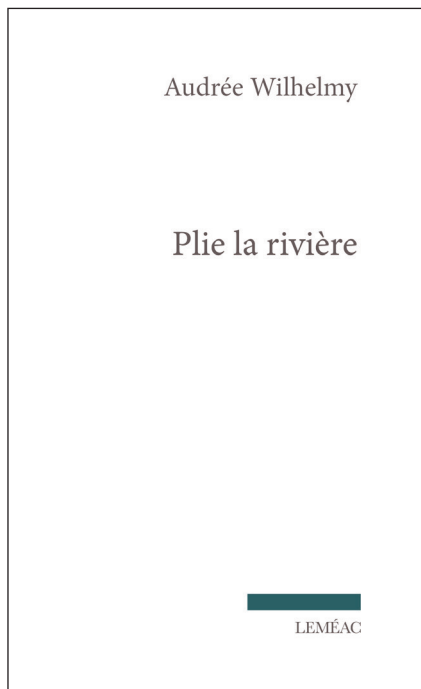
Outside were the war and the steep mountains, and the children were dust in the strides of the colossus.

Deep in the Gaspé Peninsula, at the turn of the 1980s, young people with long hair return to the land. Driven by the illusion of a world to be remade, they cultivate the soil, log the forest, refurbish houses, found a commune, plant recreational herbs, celebrate and write poetry.

The adventure lasts for barely ten years. In the meantime, children are born, who are given funny names. For them, the hippie era is not just a fad. It is a broken origin. A shattered memory. An antiquity.

Peuplement is the unfinished song of men made of dreams and dreams made of women. Magnified through the eyes of a "little one", the hairy men become gods, the inhabitants giants, the friends heroes, the girls nymphs, the machines monsters. Until the world falls apart and topples over, abruptly shattering the myth.

Born in Gaspésie in 1980, Mahigan Lepage is a writer and a traveller. From Relief (winner of the 2011 Émile-Nelligan Award) to Big Bang City. Voyages en mégapoles d'Asie, his writings explore how the territory is breaking up.



NEW TITLE

PLIE LA RIVIÈRE

With an ever powerful writing, carried away by the animal strength that takes her back to the raw world of Oss – where the uniqueness of her literary universe was revealed – Audrée Wilhelmy delivers a tale of full maturity whose erotic spell will bewitch readers. Noé, known as the Little One, leads this amoral story of male trinity – of father, son and bear – through her body, first as a child and then as a woman.

A fetish character in Audrée Wilhelmy's work, Noé, the untamable, the implacable, the insubordinate, meets young Emessie, a travelling candy salesman who criss-crosses the continent in his horse-drawn cart every year. This time, however, losing his virginity to Grumme – the obese shopkeeper – and magnetised by Noé, he'll serenely overcome the fear of the secret beast within him: perhaps this totemic bear that the little girl will have first tamed by the animistic impulses that make her an initiatory character through whom others are fulfilled.

This text, as delicate as amber, once again gives the measure of an immense writer.

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. Her work, also published in France, has so far earned her the 2015 Prix Sade and has been long-listed for numerous awards: Prix littéraire des collégiens, Grand Prix du livre de Montréal, Prix des libraires du Québec, Governor General's Literary Awards, Prix France-Québec. Rights to her previous novels were sold for French outside Canada, English (world), Spanish, and Galician.

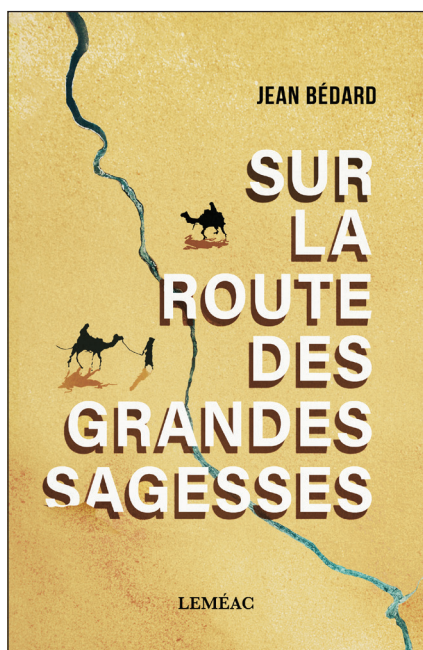
**AUDRÉE
WILHELMY**

A STORY

88 pages

September 2021

World rights available



NEW TITLE

SUR LA ROUTE **DES GRANDES SAGESSES**

[The Road to Great Wisdom]

The story begins in Galilee, around the year 30. Jairus, a young rabbi, questions his own religion as well as the Greek materialism preached by his wife, both of which only breed hatred. This is the time when a strange carpenter from Nazareth offers to stop the violence with love and reconciliation. “Good for the children”, thinks Jairus, choosing instead to take over his father’s business (trading in rare manuscripts on the Great Silk Road).

Across the deserts, mountains and vastness of Persia, Kashmir and Tibet, Jairus and his daughter will face the usual cruelties of civilisations, and encounter priests of Zoroaster, Buddhist monks, Taoist sages... The beauty of the world and the wisdom of a few masters will transform them. When Jairus returns to Galilee thirty years later, he will no longer be insensitive to the actions of the famous carpenter who has turned the whole of Jerusalem upside down, the same one who once brought joy to his daughter when she was in the throes of despair.

This story is based on a deep knowledge of history, customs, human nature and the main philosophies that still condition human existence. This novel, with well-crafted and engaging characters, offers unforgettable scenes where humour and love, depth and lightness give us hope. The author’s quest is expressed in simple, everyday, contemporary language. An ideal read for those who are not looking for life guides, but for an intimate metamorphosis that expands the heart.

Jean Bédard is a philosopher and novelist. He has written novels that link lucidity to hope and essays on ecology.

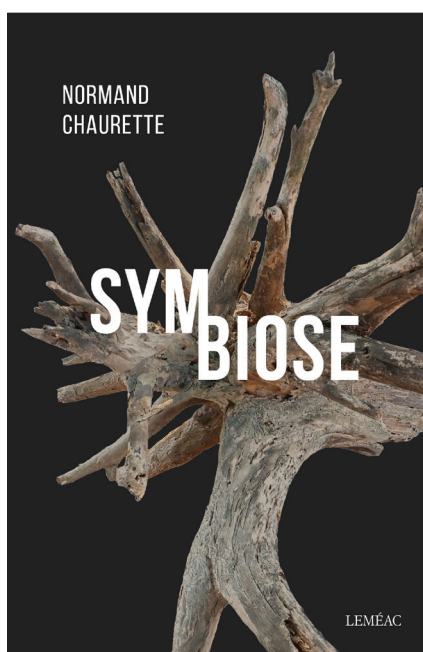
**JEAN
BÉDARD**

FICTION

448 pages

August 2021

World rights available



**NORMAND
CHAURETTE**

FICTION

240 pages

August 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

SYMBIOSE

[SYMBIOSIS]

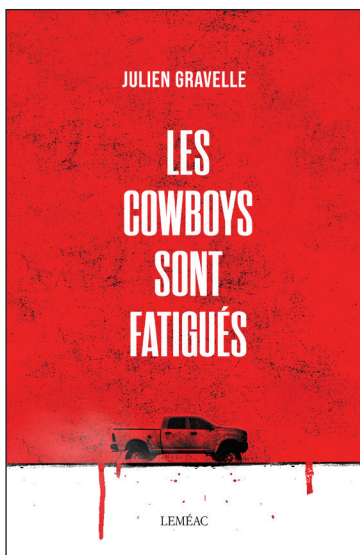
In the therapeutic world of Symbiosis, a workshop for personal growth that is still being developed, a dozen test subjects in their early thirties are brought together. During these experiments, physical aggression is encouraged in order to overcome the contradictory forces that coexist within each person. Based on the premise that each person is his or her own worst enemy, this form of art therapy promotes supervised partnerships between the trainees, aiming to explore their positive strengths in order to achieve recognition of their self-destructive instincts and reconciliation with themselves. However, this programme is compromised by the death of Michael Ropa, one of the participants, who is found brutally murdered on the workshop premises.

Through a detective story in which the main characters are suspected of murder, this novel tells the story of two brothers, Alex and Jay-Rémi, who were separated as teenagers and who meet again around the memory of a mysteriously suppressed childhood. Through the eyes of Alex, a visual artist trapped in the violence that runs through his work, *Symbiosis* depicts the distorted relationships that unite members of a struggling generation in their quest for light and salvation.

A renowned playwright whose work has been performed at the Comédie-Française, Normand Chaurette is a four-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, with Le passage de L'Indiana, Le petit Köchel, Ce qui meurt en dernier and Comment tuer Shakespeare.

JULIEN GRAVELLE 1/2

Julien Gravelle holds a master's degree in philosophy from the French University of Burgundy Franche-Comté. After *Debout sur la carlingue* and *Les cowboys sont fatigués*, *Nos renoncements* is his third book to be published by Leméac. He is also the author of *Musher* and *Nitassinan*, published in France by Éditions Wildproject.



NEW TITLE

FICTION

192 pages

March 2021

Rights sold:

French (Éditions du Seuil,
World except Canada)

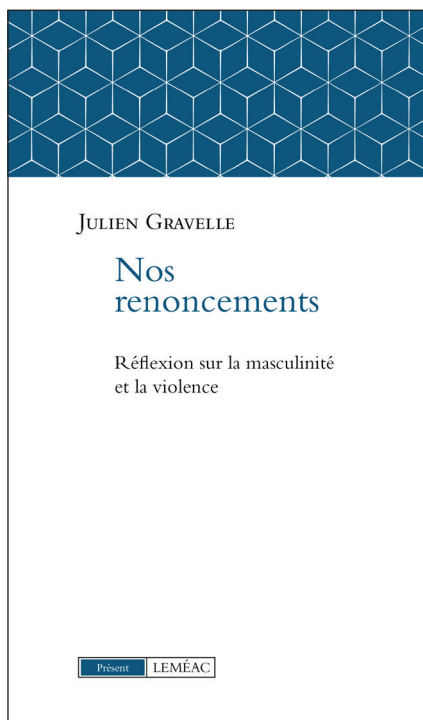
LES COWBOYS SONT FATIGUÉS

[No More Heroes]

Standing in front of the kitchen window, I peered outside at the old abandoned rusty machinery in the yard. [...] The carcasses stood motionless, hemmed in by dry grass and bleached by autumn, like sun-dried insect moults. Looking at them in the midday light, I thought that maybe I, too, was an endangered species.

At the end of an abandoned logging road, somewhere between the Mistassini and Ouasiemsca rivers – as close to nowhere as you can get – Rozie lives alone with his dogs. The place suits him very well, and so does the solitude. Yet he's far less enthralled by his work that consists in manufacturing amphetamines in his clandestine laboratory for a gang of drug dealers. He would like to move on. But his past catches up with him, and he's about to lose everything.

After his debut short story collection *Debout sur la carlingue*, Julien Gravelle tackles enthusiastically the detective story with the same colourful language, set in the same magnificent and sometimes overwhelming nature, but this time driven by a breathless plot and a wry sense of humour.



NON-FICTION

184 pages

September 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

NOS RENONCEMENTS

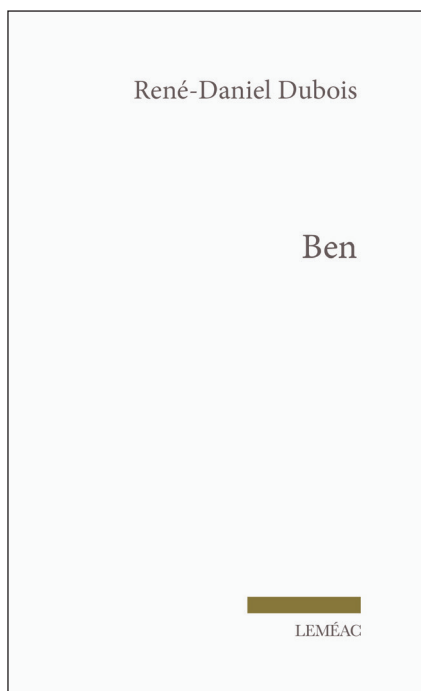
RÉFLEXION SUR LA MASCULINITÉ TOXIQUE ET LA VIOLENCE

[A War I Will Not Fight – Reflections on toxic masculinity and violence]

Opposing men and women is not only nonsense, but it more often leads us to a dead end than anything else. It de facto assigns to men, the designated losers in the struggle, the role of defending and counter-attacking, which we know how to do so well! If this book could contribute to only one thing, I would like it to be to some awareness of the shared interest of equal relationships.

After having been an outdoor guide for a long time in the Lac-Saint-Jean region, introducing tourists to wilderness camping or dog sledding, Julien Gravelle became a counsellor in a men's resource centre. This very different kind of "guide" job allowed him to observe, from an "incredibly privileged" point of view, what these men, who are said to be violent, primitive or inadequate, are going through, and how they adjust (or not) to new realities. Violence is not a loss of control, reminds Julien Gravelle, it is a taking of control. What characterises violent behaviour is that, rather than acting on a situation by reaching an agreement or explaining one's need, one uses fear or coercion. Why is this happening? How can this situation continue, despite the advances and gains of feminism? What if prevention was the key?

For Julien Gravelle, questions about masculinity are not just masculinist fads. "If we want male violence to stop, if we want men to isolate themselves less and communicate more, they must be heard."



NEW TITLE

BEN

Partly hidden by his guitar and the hood of his sweater, Tommy nervously approaches the microphone. After a short sound check, helped by Alain the sound engineer, he launches into a filmed and recorded “letter” where he evokes for Ben the stories of Mikael, Patrick, Stan, and then his own. All of them are stories of powerful and gentle encounters at the same time.

While *Being at home with Claude* was the play of impossible love, in which Bob showed the tragedy of a passion that came within a hair’s breadth of being able to be fulfilled, *Ben* – the last part of what can now be called a trilogy – tells of possible passionate love at its most selfless, love that lasts and is passed on.

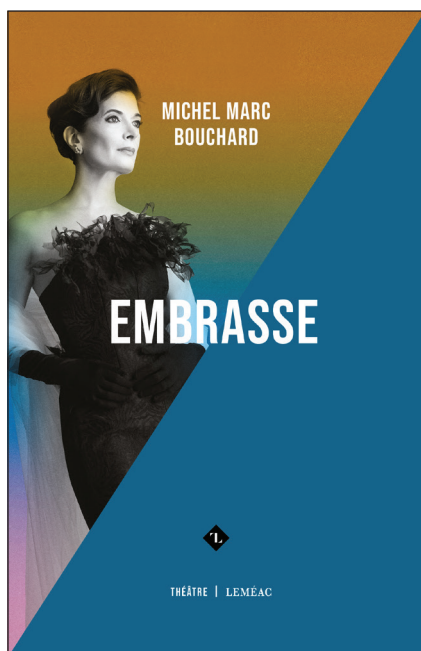
Taking the form of a story, this play is not intended for the stage; it is a play to be read in which the stage directions as well as the lines are carried by a true and strong narrative voice.

RENÉ-DANIEL DUBOIS

NARRATIVE DRAMA

160 pages
September 2021
World rights available

René-Daniel Dubois is the author of many plays, including Ne blâmez jamais les Bédouins (1984; Governor General’s Literary Award) and Being at Home With Claude (1986; adapted for the screen by Jean Beaudin in 1992). In 2005, Jean-Claude Coulbois directed the documentary One in a Thousand, dedicated to the playwright. Entretiens et Morceaux, vast dialogues between Daniel Dubois and his public mask, René-Daniel, were published in 2006 and 2009. Then Porte d’entrée (2013), Vestibule (2015) and Grand hall (2020) began Le livre inachevé de l’Orgueil des Rats, a work that has inhabited the author for over forty years.



MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD

DRAMA

80 pages

September 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

EMBRASSE

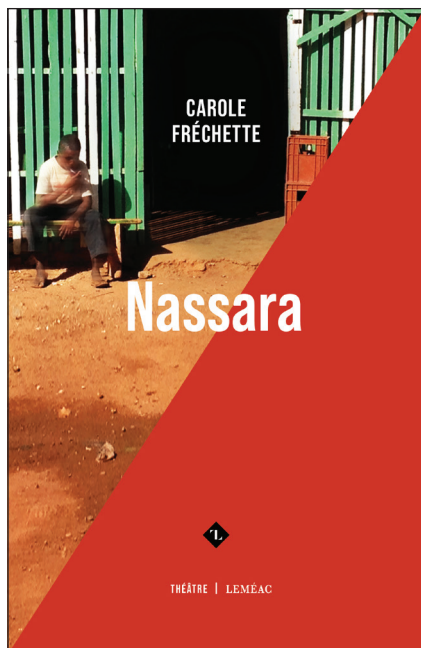
[KISS]

Young Hugo lives and works with his mother, Beatrice, who owns a fabric shop in a regional shopping centre. His world is turned upside down when Beatrice is arrested for publicly beating a young local teacher who accuses her of abusing her son. Rumour has it that Hugo is a victim of domestic violence, which the young teacher, a neighbour of their house, has repeatedly tried to denounce.

Hugo has a passion for fashion and dreams of studying at a top fashion school. He decides to create the garment that his mother will wear at her trial for assault. In his eyes, this suit will make her look like a perfect mother. He is guided in this project by a fantasy vision of French designer Yves Saint-Laurent and assisted by Sergeant Régis, the only black policeman in the area, who recognises himself in the young man's uniqueness.

Lovesick, Hugo kisses people, and his kisses, instead of offending, trigger ambiguous feelings in those who receive them. Can artistic creation be healing? Can it hide the ugliness around us, or is it the source of it? Can we find redemption in dreams and fantasy? Is art just a way of concealing the truth, and can it be forgiving?

Michel Marc Bouchard is a seasoned playwright and a great defender of the living arts. He is a prolific writer for the Quebec stage (Les muses orphelines, Les Feluettes). Several of his plays have been adapted for film and opera. His previous work, La nuit où Laurier Gaudreault s'est réveillé (The Night Laurier Gaudreault Woke Up), will soon become a TV mini-series directed by Xavier Dolan.



**CAROLE
FRÉCHETTE**

DRAMA

64 pages

September 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

NASSARA

Marie-Odile, a Montrealer, is in Ouagadougou to participate in an international conference on urban agriculture. As her turn to speak approaches, she tries to escape the emotion she has been feeling since the day before when old painful memories have resurfaced. Just as she's about to speak, the door to the hall opens violently, and a young man with a gun bursts in...

Marie-Odile and Ali are the only characters on stage, flanked by a narrator who follows their every intimate thought. In Burkina Faso, children welcome foreigners by chanting the word "nassara" – the white one – and running to hold their hands. These festive cries and furtive contacts are the source of this text, which, as is often the case with Carole Fréchette, combines private sorrows and the shocks of the world in a fine, nervous writing style and with constant sensitivity. What is this fire in the belly that gives rise to the explosions? And how to extinguish it?

Written after the author's stay in Ouagadougou, Nassara is a joint project of Les Récréâtrales, a pan-African festival held every two years, and the Centre du Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui, where it will be performed in the fall of 2021, directed by Sophie Cadieux.

Originally trained as an actor at the National Theatre School of Canada, Carole Fréchette was a member of the Théâtre des Cuisines collective until the 1980s. She has written some twenty plays, translated into more than twenty languages and performed on five continents. They have earned her numerous distinctions, both here and elsewhere: Governor General's Literary Award of Canada, Sony-Labou-Tansi Award, Prix de la Francophonie, Siminovitch Award (the most important theatre award in Canada). Her work is one of the most widely read and performed in contemporary French-language theatre. Carole Fréchette is also the author of a number of novels for young people.



NEW TITLE

UNE FILLE EN OR

[A Girl Made of Gold]

Mysterious metamorphoses take place in the everyday life of several characters: a girl made of gold, a girl made of earth, a girl made of pixels and a girl with her doppelgänger question their upside down existence.

Freely inspired by Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, *Une fille en or* intertwines the stories by drawing not on ancient mythology, but on contemporary mythology, namely its images, its collective unconscious, its grey areas. At the crossroads of the strange, the fantastic and the philosophical, Sébastien David's text sparkles with humour.

This play will premiere at the Théâtre du Double Signe in Sherbrooke from November 17 to December 4, 2021, directed by the author.

**SÉBASTIEN
DAVID**

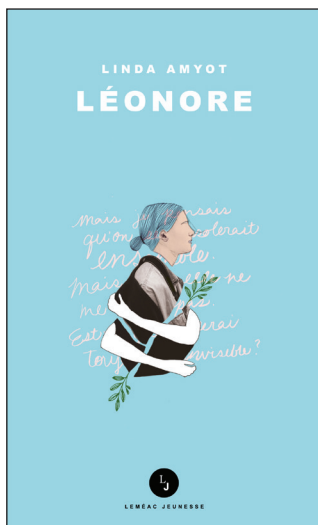
DRAMA

96 pages

November 2021

World rights available

An extremely active actor, writer and director, Sébastien David founded his own theatre company, La Bataille. He also teaches at the National Theatre School of Canada and at the Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe Theatre School. Leméac has published his texts T'es où Gaudreault preceded by Ta yeule Kathleen – several times awarded –, Les morb(y)des – created at the Théâtre de Quat'Sous in 2013 and then performed in France (where it was elected an audience favourite at the Comédie-Française) –, Les haut-parleurs – a play for teenagers whose text is studied at college – and Dimanche napalm – Governor General's Literary Award 2017, "Theatre" category.



**LINDA
AMYOT**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

88 pages

August 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

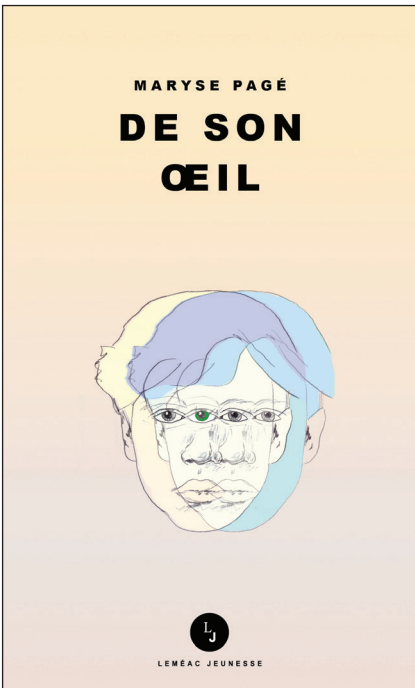
LÉONORE

All of a sudden, I want to go into that damned dark and still closed room and rush to Mom and shake her again and again. To shout at the top of my lungs: "I'm here! I'm here!"

Shaken by a heartbreaking tragedy, Léonore's family is trying to look forward and get back to normal life. In her difficult transition from elementary to high school, the young girl can count on her grandmother, who tries to make up for the absence of her parents and bring a little joy to the home. When her teacher asks the students in her class to recount the story of their year, wounds are reopened. The façade everyone displays sometimes hides painful stories. What will Leonore tell?

Each new book by Linda Amyot conveys the same beauty and enchantment. From this novel rise strong teenage characters that life puts to the test.

A screenwriter, editor and novelist Linda Amyot won the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec and the TD Children's and Youth Literature Award with La fille d'en face. Her second young adult novel, Le jardin d'Amsterdam, won the Governor General's Literary Award and the Prix du livre jeunesse des Bibliothèques de Montréal. She is the director of youth programming for the Blue Metropolis Festival.



**MARYSE
PAGÉ**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

152 pages

August 2021

World rights available

NEW TITLE

DE SON OËIL

[In His Eye]

I want to observe you in your natural habitat, like a scientist wishing to know the innermost habits of an unknown animal. I intend to do this by using the gift of invisibility I was bestowed with at birth. Just the opposite of you who have the gift of being noticed everywhere you go.

Anju, a lonely and introverted teenager, speaks inwardly to Noah, the most popular student in his school, whom he considers his ideal: Noah is handsome, brilliant, a leader, athletic, ambitious, and empathetic. He is person Anju admires, to whom he tries to get closer, someone he would like to resemble. To the point of becoming one with him.

Anju offers Noah remedial maths in exchange for basketball lessons. He monitors his social media posts and hooks up with Megan, who resists to this more-than-perfect being. A student trip to New York offers him the perfect opportunity to spy his idol and his devoted fans even more. His plan seems to work: Noah gradually takes him under his wing and introduces him to rap. However, a disturbing event puts a stop to his almost obsessive voyeurism and opens his eyes to the lure of appearances...

Maryse Pagé is a screenwriter, researcher and novelist. Rap pour violoncelle seul, her previous book published by Leméac, was a finalist for the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec, the Prix Espiègle and the Governor General's Literary Awards. It is currently being adapted for television.

BACKLIST

AUDRÉE WILHELMY

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. She devotes her time to writing and teaches creative writing. Her most recent story, Plie la rivière (September 2021), takes us back to the raw world of Oss, her first book (2012) – where the uniqueness of her literary universe was revealed.



FICTION

176 pages

August 2017

Rights sold: French,
English [World]

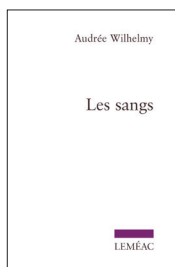
LE CORPS DES BÊTES

[The Body of the Beasts]

A Novel

Mie brings her fingers closer to her mother's face. The freckled cheeks, the soft brown, red and grey hair: Noé looks like a stuffed animal; her eyes are two black beads gazing in the darkness, her ankles thin but strong, her skin marked like fish hide, strength is in her neck, her throat, her shoulders. She remains perfectly still.

Osip ignores her niece's desire. He won't teach her how "humans do sex", even though he's clueless as to whom will be able to do it on the rocky island where he and the rest of his clan live. He shows no pity for Mie. She doesn't display the prudishness of the Old one nor the manners of the women he used to meet in Seiche in bygone days. His brother got her pregnant as soon as she arrived in Sitjaq, but who cares? On that stony piece of land, the animals belong to whoever takes them.



FICTION

160 pages

August 2013

Rights sold:
French, Spanish [World],
Galician [World]

LES SANGS

[Bloods]

Féléor Barthélémy Rü hasn't only inherited a large fortune from his Master Huntsman uncle; he was also bequeathed with the urge to kill and a taste for raw flesh, indulging in those pleasures with women he encounters, some of whom become his wives and his victims.

Mercredi, Constance, Abigaëlle, Frida, Phélie, Lottä, and Marie: seven women, seven experiences in desire, violence, and death; seven voices that reveal unspeakable fantasies and tell of femininity, self-hatred, narcissism, and submission. Although the premise of *Les sangs* (*Bloods*) may be reminiscent of a famous folk tale, there's no secret room here, whose entry the beloved wives of a new kind of Blue Beard would be denied on pain of death. In this polyphonic novel where power is the law, the torturers are not what they seem, and the victims are not as angelic and innocent as they appear.



MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROCHELLE

FICTION

168 pages

February 2021

World rights available

JE SUIS LE COURANT LA VASE

He didn't call me in this week. He has to focus on another swimmer. We don't talk about this aspect of training, but I know what's on his mind. I noticed evidence in the room, endless details. A tampon in the bathroom's wastebasket. A long hair on the carpet.

Athletic Center, Toronto. Under her coach's watchful eye, a swimmer struggles against the liquid element to improve her time and earn a spot in national competitions. The training sometimes continues outside the athletic center, in his apartment, where she must submit to rituals designed to free her from her resistance.

Marie-Hélène Larochelle's novel recounts this relationship of power and desire. It tells of what one must sometimes embrace to reach the highest levels of athletic performance. Despite all the chlorine and salt that suffuse the text, the experience leaves a feeling of being dirty and bruised.

Marie-Hélène Larochelle has published several scholarly works on monstrosity, violence and invective in contemporary literature. A former top-level swimmer herself, in this first novel she weaves the sensations and feelings brought on by any sporting feat.



CLAIRE LEGENDRE

FICTION

120 pages

February 2015

Rights sold: English [Canada],

Spanish [Spain]

LE NÉNUPHAR ET L'ARAIGNÉE

You're scared of spiders, afraid of heights, illness, and the opinion of others. You're terrified to be betrayed or abandoned, and you're petrified to the idea that the little gypsy fortune-teller's predictions may come true. So you stop smoking, you shun insects and medical confidences; you avoid the stage, the airplanes, you don't fall in love and you don't lean over balconies. You think you're ready, that you'll never be caught off guard, and that nothing can happen to you. Until they discover a butterfly in your chest and you can feel its fluttering wings. Then you simply can't pretend to ignore it.

Le nénuphar et l'araignée is an autobiographical story about fear that explores the symptoms, the sources, and the origins of anxiety, from the most intimate to the most ordinary.

Claire Legendre was born in Nice in 1979. Since her first book, she kept writing fluctuating between noir and autobiographical fiction. Making-of (1998), Viande (1999), La méthode Stanislavski (2006), L'écorchée vive (2009), Vérité et amour (2013) and Bermudes (2020) are remarkable titles of an outstanding work.

GILLES JOBIDON

Gilles Jobidon is the author of La route des petits matins, L'âme frère, Combustio, La Petite B, and more recently Le Tranquille affligé. Both latter titles were awarded several prizes. In 2019, Le Tranquille affligé won the prestigious Prix des cinq continents de la francophonie.



FICTION

232 pages

September 2015

World rights available

LA PETITE B.

[Little B.]

Writing doesn't make you a writer. You become one by carrying the pain of the world on your shoulders, that's how writing happens. Writing always arises from the depths of one's own dark places.

When he arrives in the Mascarene Islands in 1841, Charles Baudelaire writes a new chapter in his life. At nineteen years old, after being temporarily driven out of Paris by his stepfather, General Aupick, he makes a most inspiring unexpected stopover there, where he falls madly in love with a mulatto spiritualist. From that relationship, a daughter would be born who would later join him in Paris where she would be a model the artistic community would nickname "Little Baudelaire".

Through the destiny of a presumed progeny, this romantic adventure turns the clandestine pages of a forged family album, adorned with composed portraits and the smiling masks of the unspoken.



FICTION

168 pages

August 2018

Rights sold:

Bulgarian [Bulgaria],

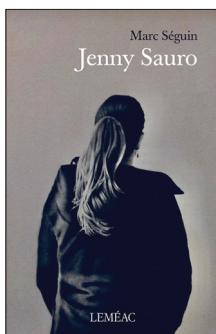
Romanian [Romania]

LE TRANQUILLE AFFLIÉ

1858-1860. Jacques Trévier, a defrocked Jesuit, embarks on a mission to bring back a master dyer of the black colour from an island in the Arabian Sea. Along the way, he meets the love of his life, an incredibly beautiful albino woman. But just as Trévier thought he could live a peaceful life, he loses his loved one to the Emperor who makes her his own favourite concubine.

In an inventive style and inspired by real historical events, this novel tackles a few current aspects of the world we live in today. We're witnesses to the vicious backlash of globalisation taking place one hundred and fifty years ago, through incomprehension and the disrespect of the others' values, marred by identitarian closure and the double-edged sword of free market and protectionism through the exploitation of the weakest peoples.

Gilles Jobidon writes with an impressionist touch full of imagery and subtly inserts in our time a story from another era, confirming his status of mature and gifted novelist.



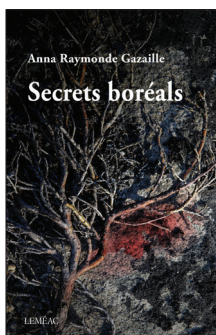
MARC SÉGUIN

FICTION

280 pages

June 2020

World rights available



ANNA RAYMONDE GAZAILLE

CRIME FICTION

288 pages

April 2021

Rights sold: French

JENNY SAURO

In North Nation, everybody knows Jenny Sauro, the waitress of the place's only restaurant. When she disappears trying to save her son from drowning, for the inhabitants of the small border town, the shock is as deep as the relationship they entertained with her was.

Through the recollection of various moments, a life punctuated by significant events unfurls. Several people take part in that exercise in memory: her father, her son, the restaurant's regular customers, her best friend from her teenage years, an unconfessed lover, the elder from the nearby Indian reservation. But what's at stake here is most of all the effect this interrupted destiny has on each and everyone. The tragedy of the disappearance becomes a drum that resonates with memories – fleeting for some, persistent for others – of the woman Jenny was.

As a metaphor for the ever living soul, the moving spectacle of ice carried along the movements of freezing and thawing will lead the reader to question on the essence of existence beyond the boundaries of a body.

A renowned painter, Marc Séguin has also directed a film (Stealing Alice, 2016) and a documentary (La ferme et son état, 2017). He has also published notable books (La foi du braconnier, 2009, translated as The Poacher's Faith, 2013; Hollywood, 2012; Nord Alice, 2015; Les repentirs, 2017). His work as an author has earned him a number of awards.

SECRETS BORÉALS

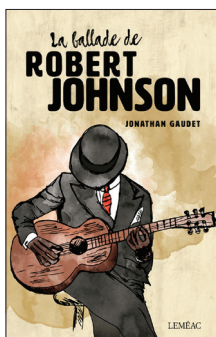
[Boreal Secrets]

In a village at the edge of the boreal forest where she has come to take refuge, Brigit tries to escape a past marred by violence. But misfortune seems to pursue her even within this small and closed community. In a ravine bordering her land, she discovers the body of a young girl who has recently gone missing.

And while this Nordic tragedy unfurls, Dana, on the other side of the world, in overcrowded migrant camps, is both a witness to and a victim of multiple massacres. What do these two heroines have in common, as they grapple with the barbarity of our century?

In a precise style and an elegant language, Anna Raymonde Gazaille invites us to open both our eyes and our arms to the human condition.

Anna Raymonde Gazaille is the author of Traces (2013), Déni (2014), long-listed for the Prix Saint-Pâcome du roman policier and Jours de haine (2017), all published by Leméac.

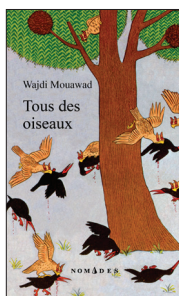


JONATHAN GAUDET

FICTION

June 2020

Rights sold: French



WAJDI MOUAWAD

DRAMA

184 pages

March 2018

Rights sold: French, German
[World], English [North America],
Spanish [Spain]

LA BALLADE DE ROBERT JOHNSON

Robert Leroy Johnson was born in the Mississippi delta in 1911. Although short, his career as a bluesman was prolific and his compositions made an indelible mark on the popular music of the second half of the 20th century, with many musicians claiming Johnson's definite influence on their playing and approach to their art.

Robert Johnson died in 1938 at the age of 27, under mysterious circumstances (poisoning was suspected). During his lifetime, he has only recorded 29 songs, which became references in American music; 29 roads that converge into the night; 29 chapters that Jonathan Gaudet assembles in this book to imagine the story of a meteoric existence.

La ballade de Robert Johnson tells of a life that could have remained insignificant, but which legend and talent have transformed into a near epic.

Born in 1977, Jonathan Gaudet divides his time between teaching, music and writing. Before La ballade de Robert Johnson he wrote La dérive des jours (Hurtubise, 2013), a novel for which he was a finalist for the Prix des cinq continents de la Francophonie, and La piscine (Héliotrope, 2016).

TOUS DES OISEAUX

Deeply in love, Eitan and Wahida try to resist the historical reality they face.

But on the Allenby Bridge between Israel and Jordan, things go wrong: victim of a terrorist attack, Eitan falls into a coma. In this suspended space-time, he receives the forced visit of his parents and grandparents, while the grief of identity and the demon of hatred lurk, the twisted ideologies flare, and the birds of ill omen swoop down on the hearts and minds of everyone.

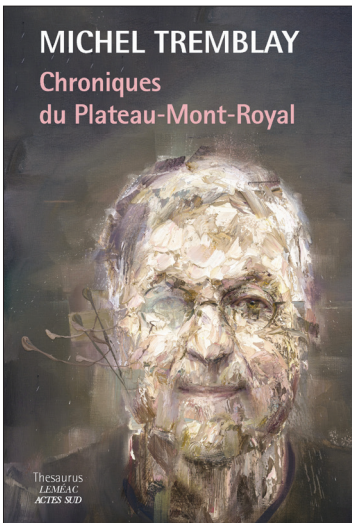
What do we know about the secrets of our family, what setbacks in history and what violence have we all inherited? Being born to the enemy, how can one prevent the blood running in their veins from turning into a landmine?

Since its publication and until spring 2020, *Tous des oiseaux* has been the subject of more than twenty different productions around the world.

Actor, stage director, and director of the Théâtre national de la Colline in Paris, Wajdi Mouawad is also the author of the epic quartet Le Sang des promesses (Littoral, Incendies, Forêts, Ciels) and the novel Anima. Translated into several languages, his work has received many international awards.

MICHEL TREMBLAY

A prolific author and playwright whose plays are performed all over the world, Michel Tremblay is one of the most important writers of his generation. The Belles-Sœurs cycle, the Chroniques du Plateau-Mont-Royal and La diaspora des Desrosiers belong to the corpus of major works in current French-language literature.



FICTION

1104 pages

May 2019

Rights sold: French,
English [Canada]

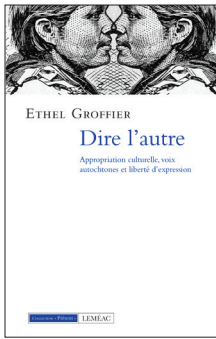
CHRONIQUES DU PLATEAU-MONT-ROYAL

Following the adjustments made by the author to *La diaspora des Desrosiers* cycle when its nine volumes were collected in a single tome, a thorough review of the *Chroniques du Plateau-Mont-Royal* cycle was necessary. Published between 1978 and 1997, the six volumes of the *Chroniques* tell the stories of a family between 1942 and 1963.

Going back in time, *La diaspora*, written between 2007 and 2015, tells the story of a family in the making, between 1913 and 1941.

With the childhood, the past, the adventures and secrets revealed, the attributes of some characters had to be rectified, the chronology of some events needed to be adjusted, lifelines to be straightened. Thanks to these changes, the author now offers a completely new and coherent edition of his seminal work, bridging fiction and reality.

The first chronicle, *La Grosse Femme d'à côté est enceinte*, takes place on May 2, 1943, in the heart of the Plateau-Mont-Royal, a working-class neighbourhood in eastern Montreal. The second chronicle, *Thérèse et Pierrette à l'école des Saints-Anges*, depicts the reality of a school run by nuns in the 1940s. The third, *La Duchesse et le Roturier*, is a fascinating journey in the world of post-war Montreal show business. The fourth chronicle follows the Parisian adventures of Édouard, daytime alter ego of the Duchess of Langeais, the queen of transvestites. The fifth, *Le premier quartier de la lune*, brings together the son of the Fat Woman (la Grosse Femme) and her schizophrenic cousin, Marcel. In the sixth volume, *Un objet de beauté*, Michel Tremblay explores the darkness that surrounds several characters after the death of the Fat Woman.



**ETHEL
GROFFIER**

NON-FICTION

144 pages

January 2020

World rights available

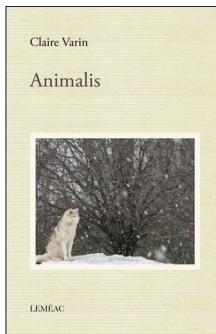
DIRE L'AUTRE

In the summer of 2018, Quebec experienced a brutal introduction to the notion of cultural appropriation when one of its most famous playwrights, Robert Lepage, had two of his productions cancelled in the face of protests from activists who criticized him for representing their reality without their consent and for featuring very few members of their community.

In an accessible, clear and nuanced essay, Groffier sets out to explain the origins, overarching concepts and implications of the cultural appropriation debate. Groffier uses the experience of Canada's Aboriginal peoples as an example, and argues that they are still struggling to find ways to tell their own stories. The questions she poses, however, go beyond this specific case: Who has the right to represent others and their reality without distorting its meaning and usurping its legitimacy? And, above all, who decides?

In *Dire l'autre* [*Voicing the Other*], Ethel Groffier does not take a position, but suggests that any agreement on cultural appropriation with Aboriginal people must involve a renewed dialogue based on reconciliation.

A former professor of law at McGill University, Ethel Groffier is now a researcher emerita at the Paul-André Crépeau Centre for Private and Comparative Law in Quebec.



**CLAIRE
VARIN**

NON-FICTION

120 pages

October 2018

World rights available

ANIMALIS

Animals can take shelter in that book. And so do I.

Animalis tackles the complexity of our relationship with non-human mammals. An animal lover, the narrator undertakes a tour of animal parks and ecological reserves to observe wildlife, notably in two national parks, in Quebec and Alberta: the dense and discreet Laurentian forest —, in a way the “forest in itself” — of Mauricie National Park, and the spectacular boreal forest of Banff National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site. Also a lover of beauty, she is forced to open her eyes to the ugliness and cruelty to animals (in farms, as subjects of experiments, in circus acts, etc.), nowadays relayed by the Internet.

This book is carried by a playful language, precise, pure, transparent and full of a sometimes fierce humour when it comes to describing human brutality. This bestiary, which takes the form of a treatise on humanism, will please many, annoy others and certainly provoke debate.

Claire Varin is a novelist and essayist. She has published a book of interviews and various documents on Clarice Lispector (Rencontres brésiliennes, 1987) as well as an essay on this great writer (Langues de feu, 1990). She also wrote several novels and stories.



JEAN-FRANÇOIS SÉNÉCHAL

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

304 pages

October 2016

Rights sold: French, Italian [World]

LE BOULEVARD

Chris has the body of a young man, but the mind of a child. Abandoned by his mother on his eighteenth birthday, he has no choice but to fend for himself. At first overwhelmed by despair, he manages to regain his footing and support himself by working as a janitor in the building he lives in. To ease his pain and loneliness, Chris turns to his absent mother, telling her about his daily life. This seemingly impoverished character befriends people who will support him and whom he will support in return, demonstrating unbelievable strength and maturity. For Chris, this generous working-class community will become the family he has been deprived of all his life. With *Le boulevard*, Jean-François Sénéchal offers a story that is at once funny, touching and moving, a lesson in hope and resilience, delivered in a direct and unique language, with a raw beauty.

Jean-François Sénéchal studied anthropology before embracing a literary career. His books have been nominated several times for the Prix Jeunesse des libraires du Québec, which he won with Au carrefour, and he was a finalist twice for the Governor General's Awards of Canada. He was also a finalist for the Prix du livre jeunesse des Bibliothèques de Montréal and winner of the Prix Adolecteurs and the Prix Bernadette-Renaud for Le boulevard, which appeared on the 2018 honour list of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). Jean-François Sénéchal received the 2017 Joseph S. Stauffer Prize in Literature from the Canada Council for the Arts.



LINDA AMYOT

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

88 pages

September 2013

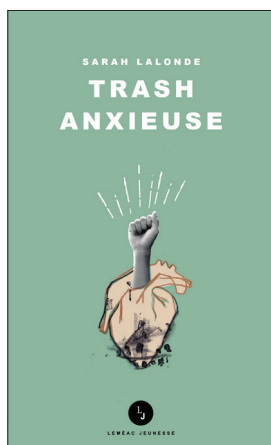
World rights available

LE JARDIN D'AMSTERDAM

[A Garden in Amsterdam]

Le jardin d'Amsterdam deftly follows two parallel stories: that of an old woman, Adèle, who would have liked so much to live out her passion with the young soldier she fell in love with during the Second World War, and that of Élaïne, who, like all teenagers of her time, complicates her own love affairs. Poignantly written, this novel is also the story of an improbable and saving complicity, of a bridge stretched between generations...

A screenwriter and editor, a novelist of the intimate, Linda Amyot has published a trilogy (Ha Long, Au matin, Les murs blancs) and a collection of short stories (Les heures africaines). With Le jardin d'Amsterdam, her second YA novel, she won a Governor General's Literary Award and the Prix du livre jeunesse des Bibliothèques de Montréal. With La fille d'en face, she won the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec and the TD Children's and Youth Literature Award.



SARAH LALONDE

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

120 pages

March 2021

World rights available

TRASH ANXIEUSE

Struggling with an unlimited quota of fear, the novel's main character is constantly bombarded by her thoughts.

Her mother travels to Italy with her new flame. Her father cries in the shower. The planet's carbon footprint is at an all-time high. Her friends have told her off. She must deal with eco-anxiety, eviction, influencers, social media, the moral contradictions of our time.

Fortunately, she can rely on Régis, her homeless friend, and the single-parent waitress at the local snack bar, on Orion. But most of all, she can count on life-saving writing and acts of rebellion; on the happiness spreading all around, and on the future that's just around the corner.

Fluctuating between bitterness and tenderness, harshness and sensitivity, demands and indulgence, mixing caustic dialogues, sitcom scripts and poetry in a fragmented narrative, Sarah Lalonde's voice both hurts and consoles.

A graduate of the Institut national de l'image et du son, Sarah Lalonde divides her time between scriptwriting, book writing and cultural mediation projects. She is the author of the children albums Si Simone... and Simone et la plus belle journée de l'été (2010 and 2011) and the YA novel Le défi sexy de Lou Lafleur (2017).



SIMON BOULERICE

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

184 pages

September 2016

World rights available

L'ENFANT

MASCARA

[The mascara kid]

L'enfant mascara is a story of unrequited love, a pretty common thing in any secondary school, except this one ends in a particularly tragic way. Inspired by real events that took place in the town of Oxnard, California, Simon Boulerice fictionalizes one of the most violent murders motivated by homophobia and transphobia to ever take place in the USA. In doing so, the author pays tribute to Larry / Leticia, a yearning, proud and flamboyant individual who lived the short life of a shooting star.

A singular novel, penned with the utmost empathy.

Actor, writer, dancer, and stage director, Simon Boulerice is also among the most prolific authors of his generation. His book Jeanne Moreau a le sourire à l'envers was awarded a White Ravens label by the International Youth Library in Munich, Germany, and was also short-listed for the 2014 Quebec Booksellers Association prize for juvenile fiction.