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2024

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MONTE-À-PEINE

JEAN-FRANÇOIS CARON

FICTION

248 pages

Published September 2024

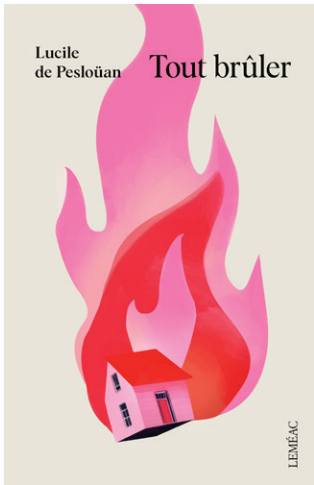
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He thought he'd never write again. Yet after retreating to the heights of Monte-à-Peine after a devastating fire, Jean-François Caron encounters larger-than-life characters who will change the course of his life: François the storyteller, his beloved Madeleine and the sublime Vicky, as well as Margueryte, Floryanne and Jacky Candy, three old and good-hearted prostitutes who live together in the setting of their eternal brothel.

This story takes readers in the author's footsteps, at the crossroads of all frontiers: between home and away, play and struggle, fiction and reality, life and death, Monte-à-Peine stands as a bulwark against gloom, cynicism and human stupidity. Readers familiar with Caron's work will appreciate nods to his previous novels, and will spot biographical clues such as the author's forays into trucking and journalism. Eventually, it'll be hard to tell what's real and what's fake in that story - and so much the better.

A poet and a novelist, Jean-François Caron is the author of six books including De bois debout, finalist in 2018 for the Prix littéraire des collégiens, the Prix des libraires du Québec, and the Prix littéraire France-Québec.



TOUT BRÛLER

[BURN EVERYTHING]

LUCILE DE PESLOÛAN

FICTION

152 pages

Published September 2024

Rights sold: France

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I try to put back the broken bits of my rusks together I gather them and make them stick with salted butter

Incest and omerta are at the heart of this book in which Stella, the protagonist and narrator, traces the long line of abuse that runs in her family.

Thirty years after the facts, she decides to press charges, to denounce the abusers and their accomplices in order to protect the children.

Her life is then turned upside down, for in the eyes of society, she becomes the aggressor, the person responsible for the horrible acts that were perpetrated.

In this novel in free verse, Lucile de Pesloüan leaves room for emptiness, for the space that's necessary to simply recount reality and embrace it. Readers enter Stella's life at her invitation, and fight the battle with her. *Tout brûler* is a story of rebellion and anger.

Lucile de Pesloüan is a poet, a children's literature and non-fiction writer. Her texts are intimate, direct and committed. Her books received many awards or were short-listed for various literary prizes.

CLOUD

GILLES JOBIDON

FICTION

280 pages

Published September 2024

World rights available



Reaching a devastated ferry terminal, thirteen-year-old Cloud and his sister Cé board the *Ideal*, a liner whose departure is continually postponed. The ship belongs to their father, Willian (sic) B. L. Semper, who wants to make it a 21st-century Noah's Ark by offering artists and scientists a way to escape the Territories, where the Eleven Companies reign supreme.

To forget his grief and fears, Cloud invents imaginary friends who populate the comic strips of his making: enter Billy Boom, a retired sheriff, and Redemption Jenny, a hell-raiser the devil moves from time to time to a new hometown, doomed from that moment on.

Candy Rock is also home to Charlie Joe, a saloon pianist with two fingers missing, who composes the *Cloudnotes*, breathtaking cloud-inspired music that few people in the Wild West are willing to hear.

As for Cé, she makes the most of the never-ending wait the *Ideal's* passengers must endure to produce a ritual with them designed to ward off darkness. She enlists the help of Deep, a former writer who has outsmarted the robot-sapiens, now the only ones authorized to write books, which must conform in every respect to the ideology of the Territories

Despite the humourous, hopeful, and light tone, this delirious literary kaleidoscope is definitely reminiscent of the troubled times we live in.

With *Cloud*, Gilles Jobidon offers a jubilant fantasy, a surprise of sorts no one would have expected from a writer with five more classic novels under his belt.

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



EN LAURENTIE

[IN LAURENTIA]

MARIE-ANDRÉE
LAMONTAGNE

FICTION

320 pages

Published October 2024

World rights available

In France in the aftermath of the Second World War, when the Épuration succeeded the Occupation, collaborators and militiamen in trouble with the French justice system tried to hide in Canada. They settled in the Catholic province of Quebec, then ruled by the Conservative government of Maurice Duplessis. There, they could enjoy the support of certain circles (journalists, academics, and various officials) politically marked to the right, and even the far right. Some in La Belle Province at the time harboured sympathies for the Vichy Regime and welcomed those outcasts not as militiamen, but as French political refugees.

Marie-Andrée Lamontagne's novel is freely inspired by these historical facts. Navigating between bildungsroman and roman-à-clef, between realism and fantasy, between grandiloquence and self-delusion, between distress and resolution, it takes readers on a ride and leaves them bewildered. Along the pages, appear Jean Bruchési, Monsieur Nostolachi, Francis Jeannedec, Jean Cabiach de Vannes, Monsieur le Comte de Saint-Drouet, Josiane and her daughters Thérèse and Simone, Majda Székely... and from time to time, even the elusive shadow of a poetess who would soon to be famous.

Journalist and translator Marie-Andrée Lamontagne was the editor of the literary journal Liberté and of the book section of Montreal daily Le Devoir. Her writing credits include poetry, short stories essays and novels, as well as a biography of Quebec literary icon Anne Hébert. She is currently Executive Director of Programming and Communications for the Blue Metropolis Festival of Montreal.

ÉCARTÉ

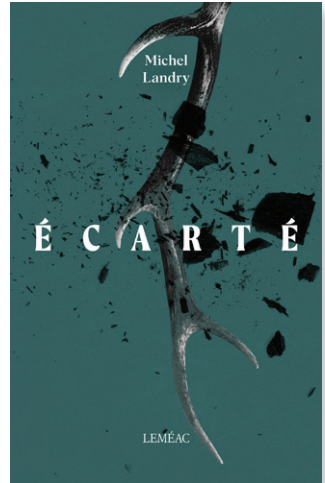
MICHEL LANDRY

FICTION

144 pages

Published September 2024

World rights available



For all his life, Aurele endeavoured to escape his origins, to separate himself from his family and his rural upbringing, going so far as to end up teaching classical philosophy in the French department of an American university.

When one of his aunts dies, however, the exile must return to the village of his childhood. Caught in a difficult reunion with parents who don't seem to have moved on, overwhelmed by memories that bring back dead cousins, Aurele falls in a trap from which he will not emerge unscathed - if at all. He'll have to face the facts: by trying so hard to distance himself from a brutal ancestry, first and foremost his violent, atrabilious and rude father whom he disowns, he may very well end up resembling them...

The language in this novel is firmly rooted in Quebec, as Landry's world unfolds south of the Gaspé Peninsula. The often hilarious and lively dialogue is masterfully woven. Here is a gallery of colourful, perfectly cast characters, from a tireless housewife living in denial of her mediocrity to Mathilde, Aurele's old and naive friend. The constant judgement of the contemptuous narrator will lead readers to both love and hate those who cross his path : only human beings.

Michel Landry is a history teacher in the Gaspé Peninsula. Écarté is his first novel.



D'OU VIENS-TU, BERGER ?

[WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, SHEPHERD?]

MATHYAS LEFEBURE

FICTION

280 pages

Published (pocketbook edition) October 2024

Rights sold: France Actes Sud and film rights

The book that inspired the movie *Bergers* by Sophie Deraspe (Best Canadian Film - TIFF 2024).

Driven by the will to leave his former life behind, a young Quebec advertising executive embarks on a self-taught shepherd life in Provence. Accompanied with his muse, Biquette, and his lover, they experience a hard life among manure and the gap between the ideal of the myth and the actual harshness of shepherding.

An autobiographical novel originally published in 2006 to great acclaim, Mathyas Lefebure's first book is an exhilarating and wild ride, both raw and lyrical, pastoral yet never eschewing the violence done to animals by men and wolves.

D'où viens-tu, berger? is a remarkable first novel full of essential questions. Thanks to a solid talent, Mathyas Lefebure succeeds in conveying the inspiration of his adventure as a visionary shepherd with words that are both accurate and vivid.

— Christian Desmeules, *Le Devoir*

The author portrays a generation in search of the absolute, anchoring it in a never-ending battle against guilt and doubt about its aspirations. His writing is lively, sometimes political and militant, and when he denounces the madness of work, his words convey some gentle sensitivity and obvious happiness.

— Véronique Marcotte, *Entre les lignes*

Mathyas Lefebure studied literature and philosophy before working for a major Montreal advertising agency. In 2004, in the throes of a mid-life crisis, he quit the manipulation of human masses for that of sheep in order to write. He then became a shepherd in Provence, where he stayed for ten years, running a blog that led to the novel *D'où viens-tu, berger?* in 2006.

UN LOURD MANTEAU

COURTES PROSES ITINÉRANTES

[A HEAVY COAT – SNAPSHOTS OF HOMELESSNESS]

SABICA SENEZ

NON-FICTION

104 pages

Published September 2024

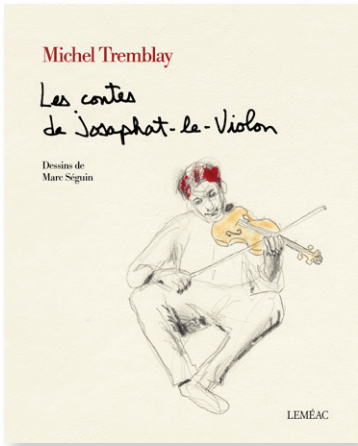
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The author was a manager and worker in a shelter for homeless men from 2017 to 2021. There, she witnessed physical and mental illness, the ravages of substance abuse, violence sometimes, vulnerability always, broken people and dreamers above all, whose lies also expose their thirst for hope. Over those years, hundreds of men visited the shelter for food and a place to sleep, some left and returned. Many simply disappeared.

Sabica Senez faced the rep tape of the heartless machine our declining healthcare system has become, and was confronted to death. As confidences and revelations unfolded, she took notes, transcribed dialogues and recorded anecdotes. These *Snapshot of Homelessness* are thus like a photo album: images that depict a vast universe, spontaneous portraits that reveal more than just the misery they seem to highlight. Written with an economy of words, *Un lourd manteau* is a gem, a disturbing tribute to the words of the forgotten.

Born in 1970, Sabica Senez was a cultural worker for twenty-five years, then went back to study special education to approach another dimension of human nature. She's the author of two short story collections that were short-listed for various literary awards. Un lourd manteau is her third publication.



LES CONTES DE JOSAPHAT-LE-VIOLON

[THE TALES OF JOSAPHAT-LE-VIOLON]

MICHEL TREMBLAY

TALES
ILLUSTRATED BY MARC SÉGUIN

144 pages

Published October 2024

World rights available

With illustrations by Marc Séguin, this volume contains the four tales Nana, the character in Michel Tremblay's *La traversée des sentiments*, receives as a gift at the end of the book, the third part of the *Diaspora des Desrosiers* cycle, while on vacation in Duhamel with her Aunt Rose, in the former home of Josaphat-le-Violon.

In the package handed to her by Rose's husband, Nana discovers a notebook filled with fine handwriting. On the first page: *The Tales of Josaphat-le-Violon*.

On the last day of her vacation, she reads only the first tale, *La lune au fond du lac*, the famous Quebec tale about a bewitched canoe revisited.

Over the following year, back in Saskatchewan, in *Le passage obligé*, Nana often shares *Le lutin dans la huche à pain* and *La Dame du lac Long* with her brother and her sisters, enchanting evocations of the Gatineau and the life Victoire and Josaphat lived there.

It's only on the eve of her return to Montreal – when she's just turned fourteen – that she learns of the fourth, which moves her so deeply: *La pie-grièche et la souris des champs*. This terrible story, a thinly veiled confession, puts an end to her childhood and forces her to immediately burn the black notebook in the old stove in the family home.

But even turned into ashes these tales survive, intact in the memory of Nana. Today, they form a wonderful and unique piece of writing in Michel Tremblay's immense oeuvre.

A prolific author and playwright whose works are performed around the world, Michel Tremblay is one of the most important writers of his generation. The Belles-sœurs cycle, Chroniques du Plateau-Mont-Royal and La diaspora des Desrosiers are among the major works of contemporary French-language literature.

A renowned painter and columnist, Marc Séguin has also directed a fiction film (Stealing Alice, 2016) and a documentary (La ferme et son état, 2017), and published a number of acclaimed books. His work as an author has earned him numerous awards, including the Prix littéraire des collégiens.

FATIGUÉ MORT

[DEAD TIRED]

MARC-ANDRÉ DUFOUR-LABBÉ

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

136 pages

Published August 2024

World rights available



I feel trapped. Wherever I look, wherever I go, I'm cornered. It's like a noose slowly tightening around me, squeezing until I explode. Mia puts a hand on my knee.

– What were you going to tell me, Sam? Before Loïc hit you?

Sam is dead tired. Left to his own devices by his mother, who ran off with someone else, and his father, a truck driver who's rarely around - and drunk when he is - he sleepwalks through life. With two months to go before graduating from high school, he struggles to stay awake in class he only attends for the sake of it and to reassure his best friend, Munger, and Mia, his girlfriend, with whom his relationship is ailing.

To fill the empty fridge, he gets a job as a busboy in a bar, even though he's only sixteen. Soon his boss Mario, who everyone calls Wario, takes him under his wing and, from confidences to speed pills, introduces him to his world, convincing him to sell drugs to regain control of his life. Adrift, Sam realises only too late that he's caught up in an uncontrollable spiral.

Marc-André Dufour-Labbé was born in 1983. After Carreauté Kid, Fatigué mort is his second YA novel.



AU BORD DE L'ERRANCE

[A LOOMING HOMELESSNESS]

VALÉRIE FONTAINE

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

184 pages

Published August 2024

World rights available

As I walk to the dog park, I think about what my mother said.

All things considered, I too would like to believe that the story will have a happy ending.

Unfortunately, my rational mind tells me otherwise. If, in the equation of our lives, we remove an apartment without replacing it, the result just amounts to nothing.

Emptiness.

Coming home one December evening, fifteen-year-old William finds his mother in the kitchen, pale as a ghost. She holds a letter stating that the family must move out of their home by July. But moving out entails a higher rent, which they can hardly afford living on his mother's modest salary as a convenience store clerk.

For William, his mother Julia and three-year-old Claire – too young to understand the tragedy – begins the search for a new home, a hunt that becomes increasingly desperate as the weeks go by and the deadline approaches. Will watches in dismay as they deal with the sacrifices imposed by the situation, while Julia, wracked by the guilt of sharing this “adult problem” with her eldest child, takes every necessary step to try to get her family out of trouble. And despite their best efforts, when the fateful date arrives, they still haven't found a new home within their means...

By weaving the voices of Will and Julia, Valérie Fontaine depicts from the inside the consequences of the housing crisis, both for the adults and for the uprooted children who are often left out of the problem.

Born in 1980, Valérie Fontaine was an elementary school teacher and editor before devoting herself to a writing career. Since 2010, she has published nearly sixty books for young people.

TROIS FOIS MA VIE

[THREE TIMES MY LIFE]

JEAN-FRANÇOIS SÉNÉCHAL

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

248 pages

Published September 2024

World rights available



Outside, the sun is already setting down. As I walk towards the metro, I think of all the people who have been confined to L'Ambassade for weeks. I consider the freedom I have, and I ask myself what I'm using it for. I ask myself if, day after day, I'm as free as I can be.

As she's about to enter adulthood, Mathilde struggles with anxiety and the feeling of not being *enough*. Confident enough, determined enough, alive enough... Questioning her place in the world, she hides away in her suburban home, deserted by her parents. Then one day she stumbles across a news report about L'Ambassade, a disused Montreal hotel turned into a shelter for refugees threatened with deportation. It acts as a serious wake up call, and the very next day, Mathilde goes there to volunteer as a helper.

Rapidly, the young woman discovers activism, demonstrations, love, the courage of exiles, intolerance, and the fire of convictions that can both warm and burn... Can one possibly go through such condensed lives and emerge unscathed?

Jean-François Sénéchal's work has won several awards, including the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec 2019 for Au carrefour and the Governor General's Literary Award 2021 for Les avenues. Le boulevard, the first part of this trilogy entitled Chris, also earned him a place on the 2018 Honor List of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).



LE CHEMIN LE PLUS SOMBRE

[THE DARKEST PATH]

ASTRID APRAHAMIAN

NON-FICTION

112 pages

Published September 2024

World rights available

I know by heart the dates, the names of those involved, the names of the towns and villages decimated, the numbers of the dead, the displaced, the orphans. [...] I often think of this faulty, incomplete justice, which never seems to succeed, whether we're in 1915 or 2023, whether we're Armenian or Palestinian, Yezidi or member of Indigenous People in Canada.

As some countries, first and foremost Turkey, continue to deny the very reality of the event, Astrid Aprahamian shows that the Armenian genocide of 1915 does not belong to a bygone era, but is actually a trauma that does not go away.

In a sober, evocative narrative, Astrid Aprahamian conveys the memory of the genocide she inherited, recounts the terrible ordeal of the Armenian people, and describes the disastrous long-term consequences of the slaughter. The author reveals the singularity of her experience as a native Armenian growing up in Quebec and Canada, in a community that was suspicious and closely knit at the same time. Finally, she broaches the powerlessness she feels when faced with the injustice that continues to mar Azerbaijan, Armenia's neighbouring country, and her own struggle against the desire to forget, to free herself from the weight of memory.

Le chemin le plus sombre is one of the most personal, and therefore one of the most essential and precious books to have been written in French about the Armenian genocide.

Astrid (Astghik) Aprahamian was born in Yerevan, Armenia, in 1993. After a brief stay in the United States, her family settled in Montreal, where she grew up. She is a translator with a master's degree in literary translation.

L'ART DE NE PAS TOUJOURS AVOIR RAISON

[THE ART OF NOT ALWAYS BEING RIGHT]

MARTIN DESROSIERS

NON-FICTION

120 pages

Published September 2024

World rights available



In this short essay, Martin Desrosiers asks how to restore the conditions for decent, constructive dialogue in a time of strong polarization and culture clash.

Desrosiers' title takes the opposite view of Schopenhauer's famous treatise, *The Art of Controversy, or, The Art of Always Being Right*, in which the German philosopher demonstrates that a large part of modern philosophy (and its teaching) serves in spite of itself to train skilful rhetors, capable of triumphing over their opponents by winning any verbal joust, with no regard for truth itself, which lies at the heart of the philosophical reasoning. Others, we may have mastered the logic of argumentation, yet we are strangely at a loss when it comes to let ourselves be persuaded by others. For any true dialogue, Desrosiers reminds us, also contains the possibility that we are wrong and the other is right.

Through clear writing, this essay tackles the present through the lens of the past, and contributes to our understanding of today's world through a humanistic culture that is as relevant as ever. This book will be of interest to anyone willing to understand why dialogue has become so difficult today, and wishing to learn how to argue more productively.

Martin Desrosiers is a philosophy teacher and a columnist in the Montreal daily Le Devoir. L'art de ne pas toujours avoir raison is his first book.



FAIRE LE BIEN

[DOING GOOD]

FRANÇOIS ARCHAMBAULT
GABRIELLE CHAPDELAINÉ

THEATRE

136 pages

Published August 2024

World rights available

In a time of obligatory benevolence, people struggling to do the right thing fight exhausting – sometimes hilarious – battles with their true nature. Decent human resources management at work, listening and flexibility in private, self-analysis everywhere... Here are fifteen short vignettes ruled by the laws of consensual thinking that display the many ways in which we try not to say what we still want people to understand.

These brief slices of life encompass our times with accuracy and sensitivity, navigating between the funny, the harsh and the touching. Snapshots reveal our blind spots, where the positive can be toxic, where the mundane becomes horrible, and where the crucial and eternal question of living together arises.

François Archambault has written over twenty plays, many of which have won awards, been translated and performed abroad.

Playwright and screenwriter Gabrielle Chapdelaine has taken part in many theatrical projects in Quebec and abroad; her plays have been performed in French and English.

5 BALLES DANS LA TÊTE

[5 BULLETS TO THE HEAD]

STAGE ADAPTATION

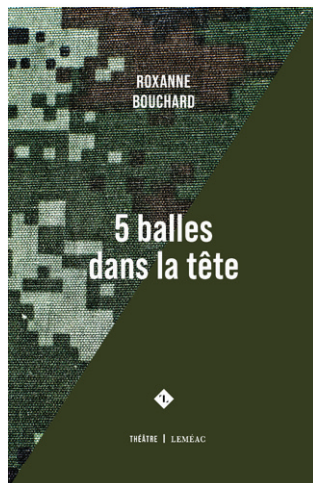
ROXANNE BOUCHARD

THEATRE

104 pages

Published October 2024

World rights available



A writer and literature teacher accepts an invitation from Canadian soldiers to share a drink with them, in order to recount what they experienced in Afghanistan. At first, the soldiers brag about their stories and play proud, but as tongues loosen, trust is gradually achieved. They share funny, harsh and touching stories about camaraderie that saved them, about the danger of the minefields and the bodies blown to pieces, about the terrors, the doubts, the shocks, and the regrets.

Their testimonies – at times contradictory and often dotted with silence, but always sincere – transport the writer to the war zone, where all choices seem impossible. They shake her deepest convictions – her being a staunch pacifist and anti-militarist – and prompt her to undertake a troubling exercise in empathy.

Adapted from a collection of stories first published in 2017, *5 Bullets To the Head* was staged in Montreal in the Spring of 2024 and will be presented again in late November 2024. A tour of several Quebec cities is in preparation.

Roxanne Bouchard is the author of a dozen books. 5 Bullets To The Head is her first foray into dramaturgy.



CETTE COLLINE N'EST **JAMAIS VRAIMENT** **SILENCIEUSE**

[A HILL THAT'S NEVER REALLY SILENT]

GABRIEL CHARLEBOIS-PLANTE

THEATRE

64 pages

Published October 2024

World rights available

Four anonymous characters are captives of their room, from which they observe the world, work, pray, make lists, drink, complain, dream, and go round in circles. They're stressed out by the outside world and obsessed by their thoughts: unable to go out, chained to mundane tasks they're overwhelmed with – filling in a diary, looking at the sun pooling on the floor, trying to get to sleep – they see no end to that exhausting daily spiral.

This extraordinary redux of the myth of Sisyphus casts a sharp look at our angst-ridden times, in which everyone is their own jailer. Dense, impetuous, haunting, bordering on the absurd, speech flows in dizzying echoes through several voices as hilarious as they are frantic. Actions are scarce yet emotionally charged.

Gabriel Charlebois-Plante's style is unique. The people he portrays try to free themselves from their demons, and the funny mirror they hold up to us is terribly revealing.

Since 2012, Gabriel Charlebois-Plante has written many acclaimed plays. He was president of the Centre des auteurs dramatiques from 2017 to 2021, occasionally staged various productions (including a wacky retelling of Corneille's El Cid), and won a few awards along the way. Cette colline n'est jamais vraiment silencieuse is his fourth play published by Leméac and has been published in English by House of Anansi.

LA VENGEANCE ET L'OUBLI

[VENGEANCE AND OBLIVION]

OLIVIER KEMEID

THEATRE

88 pages

Published August 2024

World rights available



A son taking his first steps in the world of theatre is overcome with grief at the news of his father's death. Lost and devastated, he starts talking to the dead man, he accuses his remarried mother of betrayal, he suspects his uncle – now his stepfather – of all sorts of evil intentions, and he doubts his beloved one...

Following on from his monumental *Five Kings* that premiered a few years ago, Olivier Kemeid returns to Shakespeare's work, this time opening a dialogue with *Hamlet* in an intimate play that alternately draws inspiration from and distances itself from its source. This take on this inexhaustible story delves into the father-son relationship, a theme dear to the author, but also, more generally, tackles the questions of vengeance and the possibility of forgetting. Faced with the overwhelming spectre of his father, who dominates him even in death, this torn, whimsical, violent son seems unable to sort out the truth from appearances. Only his lifelong friend and the women in his life will be able to provide him with the keys to different ways of looking at reality. What do we receive, what do we pass on? And, in the end: who are we?

Playwright, director, novelist, artistic director and co-founder of a theatre company, Olivier Kemeid has written some 15 plays, alone or in collaboration, two novels and a few adaptations. His theatrical work, translated into several languages, has been performed in many parts of the world.



LA NUIT DU CARIBOU

[THE NIGHT OF THE CARIBOU]

MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROSE-TRUCHON

CHILDREN THEATRE

64 pages

Published October 2024

World rights available

Eager to face reality and show his bravery, Little Me-Me secretly sets off in search of a caribou, although he's never seen one. In the forest, he meets Speedy Caribou, who has also left his family – out of a desire for independence – and who doesn't know he's a caribou...

Now companions in adventure, they cross path with Bear-Girl and Girl-Bear, perpetually in search of each other, and the very, very old Grandmother Milkweed, the ancestor, memory of the world and benevolent guide on their journey.

This poetic text aimed at a young audience calls for a theatre that tends towards metaphor, a dreamlike theatre at the crossroads of several disciplines: storytelling, action, dance, puppets... An ecological fable about the extinction of species, and at the same time a thorough reflection on the role of humans in their environment, the play, never over-didactic, is above all a celebration of the beauty, the fun, the complexity, and the magic of life.

Marie-Hélène Larose-Truchon is an award-winning playwright. She's also the author of several plays aimed at a younger audience that have been staged in Quebec and in France.

MON CONTE DE FEU À VÉLO ENTRE LES BOMBES QUI TOMBENT

[MY TALE OF FIRE
CYCLING BETWEEN FALLING BOMBS]

FRANCIS MONTY

CHILDREN THEATRE

88 pages

Published October 2024

World rights available



During the war, while his father must deliver a parcel to Austria, Félix accompanies him on an improbable bicycle trip through Germany as the country is about to fall apart. Berlin zoo has been bombed and its walls have collapsed, releasing the wild beasts. As both his inner world and the world around him are shaken upside down, Félix finds himself, literally and figuratively, amongst strange animals.

Initially written for the shadow theatre, this philosophical tale was inspired by the diary of Canadian master puppeteer Felix Mirbt, in which he recounted his childhood memories of the fall of his native Germany. The pleasure he took in telling the story of someone trying to build himself up while everything around is falling apart has seeped into the initiatory journey narrated here: war is seen through the codes of the fairy tale, with the distance, playfulness and lucidity of a child's eyes.

Author, director, puppeteer and actor, Francis Monty is co-founder and co-artistic director of the Théâtre de la Pire Espèce, whose creations tour the world. Mon conte de feu is his fourth play published by Leméac.

Back list

LES GIRAFES EN FEU

GABRIEL ALLAIRE

FICTION

320 pages

Published March 2023

World rights available



After three unsuccessful business ventures, the renovation of their eight-room home, rockabilly, carpentry and Greek classes, and two break-ups in the same year, Daniel Fortin and Nancy Vallée are still willing to work things out and grow old together.

The opportunity to put their inventive spirit to work and inject some passion into their relationship arise when the owner of the seedy Le Chic motel suggests they revamp the image of his establishment.

With the help of their son, they form a partnership with the local zoo, which attracts renewed interest from the international artistic community since Olaf, a movie star gorilla, has moved there.

Celebrity tourists are invited to take part in exclusive banquets featuring experiences as captivating as they are disturbing – Dancing Desert, Inner Forest, Astral Herbal Tea, Cortical Salon... – offering visitors privileged access to the animals and a semblance of spirituality.

For a time, the Fortin-Vallée ambitions seem to become a reality, yet they remain unsatisfied. Daniel, obsessed with his work, suffers a series of heart attacks - which he inflicts on himself with repeated electric shocks - near-death experiences and resuscitations. Meanwhile, the revolutionary mascot group Burning Giraffes and graffiti artist Zen Lester protest against the noisy tourism that takes their city hostage...

Through irresistible humour, incredible situations and a the depiction of a highly unusual microcosm, Gabriel Allaire takes a sensitive and accurate look at long-lasting love, at work that often complicates relationships between people, and at the pitfalls of the American dream.

Born in Saint-Hyacinthe in 1990, Gabriel Allaire's first novel (Pas de géants) was published by Leméac and won the 2018 Robert-Walser Prize.

MAQUINA

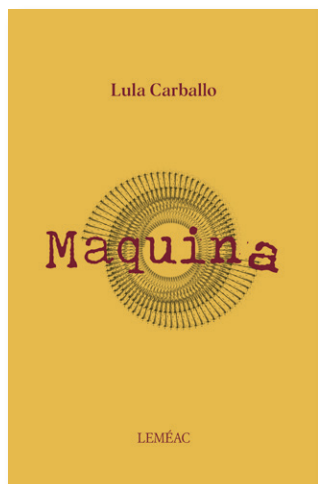
LULA CARBALLO

FICTION

152 pages

Published March 2024

World rights available



The Casino was transformed into Scala di Milano. A snake was writhing within your gut. Your gaze was dark, deep. It screamed bird rebellion. You were burdened by a double despair. A powerful combination of Dalida and Callas. Your figure appeared to me like blurred by the mesmerizing sentences uttered by Cleopatra, your slot machine.

I moved closer to you and, for a few seconds, you stopped playing.

Luz is hired as a slot-machine attendant at a casino, hoping to gain a better understanding of her grandmother's and mother's pathological gambling, to grasp what's at the root of that family's addiction. There she meets Madame B., who shares her passion for Leonard Cohen's music and towards whom she develops a boundless fascination. While Luz eventually escapes from that murky realm out of self-preservation, the fallen bourgeoisie continues to exert her spell on her, rekindled and magnified tenfold by Cohen's death.

Exploring the abyss of obsessive ties, *Maquina* offers a conceptual experience through *the place of all names* that unfolds, sometimes Circus, sometimes Tavern, sometimes Museum, sometimes Opera... Its dense, poetic spiral traps us into the gears of all those overpowering machines.

Originally from Uruguay, Lula Carballo writes, translates, teaches creative workshops and presents performative manifestations of her texts through residencies, conferences and public meetings. Her first novel Créatures du hasard was published in 2018. Ensemble nous voyageons, a children book co-written with Catherine Anne Laranjo and illustrated by artist Kesso, was published in 2021. Her poems and translations can be found in various specialized magazines.

AHIMSA

YING CHEN

FICTION

96 pages

Published September 2023

World rights available

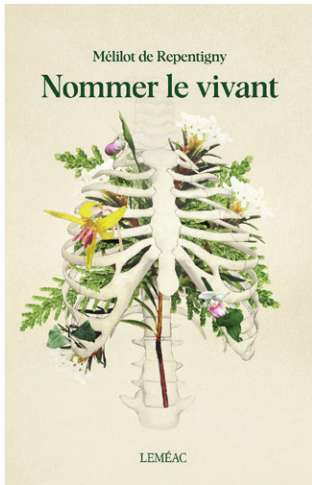


On the banks of an eternal river, three ghosts from another time meet. Now embodied as a rat, a fly, and a snake, all unloved animals, they feel they are better off than when they lived in human form. But, as they're still haunted by their former life, they set about telling their side of the story, expressing their shame, remorse and bitter feelings. Above all, they recount their memories of a ubiquitous common master, towards whom they now feel complex emotions and whose teaching they question. With their past actions not fully accomplished, they return, hoping to bring their destiny full circle with an ultimate act. Yet, what they've been through in the past was so tragic that, in their opinion, three hundred years would not suffice to rehabilitate them.

The political, moral and environmental issues raised by this novel are vaguely reminiscent of the partition of India and its spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi, but the free narrative style makes it seem more like a timeless drama repeated over and over again.

A master in the art of creating a dialogue between the living and the dead, Ying Chen shows once again that the borders between the two realms are rather bridges between two dimensions of the same terrible reality.

Born in 1961, a graduate of Fudan University (Shanghai) and McGill University, Ying Chen has published a dozen novels – including L'ingratitude, which was a finalist for the Prix Femina and won the Prix Québec-Paris and the Grand Prix des lectrices of Elle Québec – as well as two essays, including La lenteur des montagnes (2014). Her previous novel, Rayonnements (2020), evoked the destiny of Pierre and Marie Curie's family.



NOMMER LE VIVANT

[NAMING THE LIVING]

MÉLIOT
DE REPENTIGNY

FICTION

128 pages

Published February 2024

World rights available

I tell myself that some people have a more accessible joie de vivre than others. As fast growing species, they easily impose themselves by spreading high in the sky. I try to convince myself that my mental health issues can make me a stronger person. Like cedar, I grow in the shade and thrive in arid environments.

Plagued by recurrent suicidal thoughts and malaise, Myrique stayed in psychiatric wards several times. They eventually pay attention to other patients, they listen to their singular experiences, and then write portraits of them that are as lucid as they are benevolent. Inspired by Brother Marie-Victorin's *Flore laurentienne* and their own forest explorations in the Bas-du-Fleuve, they begin the project of learning to name living things, in all their strengths and weaknesses, their glories and miseries, in the hope of shedding light on their own.

Originally from Montreal, Méliot de Repentigny has been living in Rimouski, in the Bas-Saint-Laurent since 2018, a region they now call home and where they practice wild foraging. Nommer le vivant is their first book.

IF

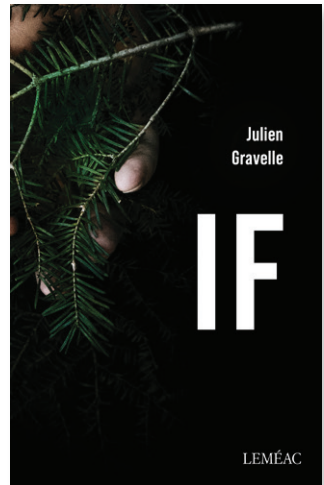
JULIEN GRAVELLE

FICTION

160 pages

Rights sold: France (Éditions Stock)

All other rights available



Tania isn't worried about the night falling in the next few hours. In the distance, a kilometer or two away, she sees the forest canopy rising from the lake above a hill, then abruptly breaking off. The shape in the landscape is too sharp to be natural. It's a clearcut area. Which means there must be a logging path leading to a road to take the logs away. It's the same road she walked on earlier. Tania has her headlamp with her, so finding back her hunting tower should be easy. Although she's never been good at making wise choices among humans, she's always known how to find her way in the forest.

Summer 1984. Avid of freedom, Lyne and her lover get lost as they set off to explore the backwoods. They find shelter in a cabin once built by a trapper. What awaits them there will change their lives forever.

From ancestor Léopold to grandfather Siméon, and between Lyne, the mother, and Tania the daughter, Julien Gravelle weaves time and points of view to portrait the rise and fall of the Malençons in Fond-du-Lac, a family whose roots lie deep in the soil of the boreal plains and who, from generation to generation, have born a heavy secret in the heart of the magnificent and overwhelming nature of northern Lac-Saint-Jean.

Frenchman Julien Gravelle has lived in Quebec since 2006. His writing is driven by an ethical reflection that he puts into words in the form of novels (Nitassinan), stories (Musher; Debout sur la carlingue) or essays (Nos renoncements). Simultaneously with If, Leméac will release a paperback edition of his 2021 crime novel Les cowboys sont fatigués, that was also published in French-speaking Europe by Éditions du Seuil.



LES COWBOYS SONT FATIGUÉS

[NO MORE HEROES]

JULIEN GRAVELLE

FICTION

192 pages

First published March 2021

Pocketbook edition April 2024

Rights sold: France (Editions du Seuil)

All other rights available

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.

Les cowboys sont fatigués is Julien Gravelle's second book to be published by Leméac, after *Debout sur la carlingue*. He is also the author of *Musher* and *Nitassinan*, published in France by *Éditions Wildproject*. Leméac also published in 2024 his novel *If*, published in France by *Éditions Stock*.

LE VIEUX MONDE

DERRIÈRE NOUS

[THE OLD WORLD LEFT BEHIND]

OLIVIER KEMEID

FICTION

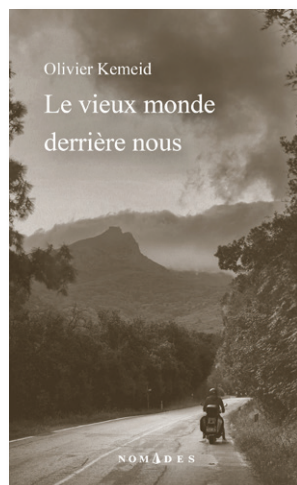
144 pages

First published March 2022

Pocketbook edition February 2024

Rights sold: France (Éditions Arthaud)

All other rights available



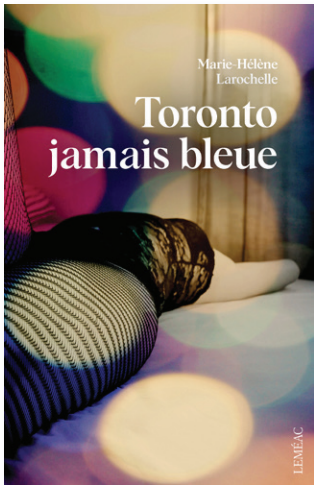
As the first stirrings of May 68 begin in Paris, Gil Kemeid arrives from Montreal. A recent scholarship student destined to study architecture, but above all the lover of a young woman whom he unexpectedly leaves, the Egyptian-Quebecer is driven by his dream of travelling through Europe on a symbolic odyssey that would allow him to reconnect with his Levantine origins.

Delayed by the whirlwind of demonstrations that shake the city, he finally arrives in Marseille, where he purchases a used Vespa on which he sets on travelling the roads of France, then Spain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Bavaria. Along the many punctures and encounters, under good skies and bad rain, he pushes his Rosinante to the limit, while living his dream, without quite realizing it, because the return to Montreal looms ahead, though he promises himself to come back.

Throughout his journey, he writes postcards to his distant lover and confidante, who keeps them all. And it's those cards that decades later allow their son Olivier Kemeid, to re-embark unwillingly on the same crazy journey, riding the 1965 green scooter, stuck to the back of his yet-to-be father. This ride, initially so personal, takes the author's pen to new heights and takes him behind the scenes of History, which his father only glimpsed during his unbridled ride.

A reading delight, this book combines two aspects of a same story: the original initiatory journey, and the filial journey, where the family mythologies - from grandfather to father to son - merge, and transcend.

A renowned playwright and stage director, author of *Moi, dans les ruines rouges du siècle*, *Five Kings* and *L'Énéide*, Olivier Kemeid is the director of the *Théâtre de Quat'Sous* in Montreal.



TORONTO

JAMAIS BLEUE

[TORONTO, NEVER BLUE]

MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROCHELLE

FICTION

200 pages

Published February 2024

World rights available

The harsh reality of Toronto's streets is tackled here head-on and without prejudice. Homelessness, prostitution, drugs, pornography, police brutality... Many urban creatures live together, give birth to each other and intertwine to create a mosaic of broken dreams, in the toughest part of downtown Toronto.

Meet young homeless Hannah, who dreams of the seaside as she drifts from street to street, then Carol, who gives birth in a squalid alleyway, and finally four prostitutes in the prime of life who share lodgings, old clients, misfortunes and small joys, in a novel that recounts the days and nights of free, uncompromising women. But as we watch these lifelines constantly cross paths with male distress in its many forms – an unscrupulous drug dealer, a mentally ill young man who takes a bus hostage, sick and sadistic customers – we wonder if the ugliness they harbour within doesn't come from the city itself, never blue and always grey, incapable of alleviating, curing, or eradicating its own deviance.

Sensitive souls, take a deep breath, for we are truly at the gates of Hell...

Born in Quebec City, Marie-Hélène Larochelle is Professor of Literature at York University in Toronto. She has published various academic works, as well as two novels: Daniil et Vanya (2017) and Je suis le courant la vase (2021). The latter book was shortlisted for the Trillium Literary Award.

JE SUIS LE COURANT

LA VASE

[KISS THE UNDERTOW]

MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROCHELLE

FICTION

168 pages

Published February 2021

Rights sold: World English (House of Anansi)

All other rights available



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. *Je suis le courant la vase* echoes the recent revelations that shook the sport world, and 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. Je suis le courant la vase was shortlisted for the Trillium Literary Award. Her second novel, Toronto jamais bleue (2024), is also published by Leméac.

WAJDI MOUAWAD

FICTION

Paperback edition: 504 pages

Published September 2012

Paperback edition 2016

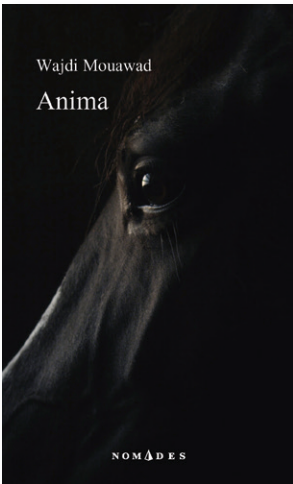
Rights sold: English (World – Talonbooks),

French (France – Actes Sud),

Italian (Fazi), Spanish (Seix Barral),

Catalan (Periscopi), Greek (Eksodseis),

Japanese (Kawade Shobo Shinsha)



Anima opens with a sordid murder: Wahhch Debch returns home and discovers his murdered wife, a knife stuck in the sex and the child she was carrying. A real manhunt begins, a furious inner odyssey that will take him from Montreal across North America to the south, leading him into a real hell: how far can a man go down the well of his pain, and what encounters can he face on his own without losing his mind?

The murderer's name is Nelson Wolf Rooney. He is an American Mohawk hiding in the Kanawake reserve, a dangerous criminal involved in all kinds of schemes. As the Sûreté du Québec's investigation progresses, the fragments of a memory long buried in the depths of his childhood are awakened in Wahhch, as far as the Sabra and Chatila camps, places of darkness and atrocities, even underground, at the heart of human curses.

Wajdi Mouawad has the sure instinct of the writer who dives into his own abysses. Through its sheer literary scope, *Anima* pushes the boundaries of literature, because this Minotaur of a novel is a beast, both real and fabulous, that wants to devour the Unforgettable.

Born in Lebanon in 1968, Wajdi Mouawad has first lived in Paris, then Montreal, and is now back in Paris where since 2016 he manages the Théâtre national de la Colline. He is notably the author of Le Sang des promesses, an epic theatre quartet whose second part, Incendies, has been brought to the screen by Denis Villeneuve. His second novel after Visage retrouvé (Leméac / Actes Sud, 2002), Anima, has won the prix Phénix de littérature, the Grand Prix Thyde-Monnier of the Société des gens de lettres, the prix de la Méditerranée, the Prize for the second novel of Lecture en tête, the Jury Prize of the Algue d'or and the Catalan Llibreter Prize for foreign novels.

LA NUIT FUNAMBULE

[THE NIGHT FUNAMBULIST]

EMMANUEL POINOT

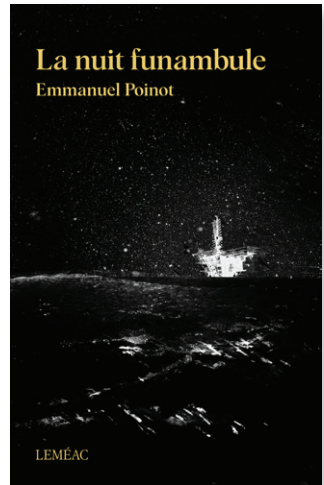
FICTION

152 pages

Published January 2024

Rights sold: France (Arthaud)

All other rights available



There's no more mystery then, everything becomes obvious, crystal clear, even though Sven knows the future is fragile, knows the next tide will shatter the ice pack, destroying the calm and tranquility that once were within reach.

But winter's not here yet.

On an offshore drilling rig, Sven, the head nurse, watches as a helicopter, called to evacuate a critically injured man, flies away.

Two years later, isolating himself on an island that was once home to a slate quarry, Sven looks back on his loosely tied relationship with Solveig, his strange attraction to Niels, the injured man from the beginning, and the even stranger relationship the latter entertained with his sister Else, a circus artist.

Through this tale of an unlikely friendship between two men with nothing in common, questions of responsibility, guilt and redemption are explored, following an arc that goes from grief to hard-won peace.

Reminiscent of Simenon in his most sensitive books, Emmanuel Poinot's *La nuit funambule* confirms a discreet and touching writer, reaching subtly within human nature and emotions.

Emmanuel Poinot lives in Quebec. After Les voyages éphémères in 2019 and L'angle de chute in 2022, La nuit funambule is the author's third novel.



CHRONIQUES DU PLATEAU-MONT-ROYAL

MICHEL TREMBLAY

FICTION

1104 pages

New edition 2019 (first published 2000)

Rights sold: France (Actes Sud)

World English (Talonbooks)

For other rights: please contact the publisher

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.

Includes: *La Grosse Femme d'à côté est enceinte*, *Thérèse et Pierrette à l'école des Saints-Anges*, *La duchesse et le roturier*, *Des nouvelles d'Édouard*, *Le premier quartier de la lune* and *Un objet de beauté*.

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.

PEAU-DE-SANG

AUDRÉE WILHELMY

FICTION

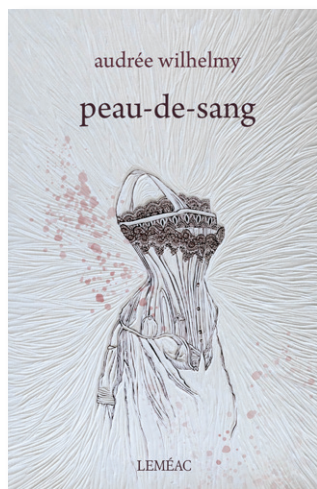
200 pages

Published September 2022

Rights sold: France (Le Tripode)

Germany (Verlagshaus Römerweg)

All other rights available



The village feather shop is the place where desires of all ages and fortunes converge. There, swirling among white geese and blood, lives the featherworker, a wild she-devil, free in body and soul. Her brazen skin ignites beastly urges, thwarting the spells that plague the hunting and mating seasons in the realm of Kangoq. Healing the living with her magic hands, she absorbs the prohibitions they dare not transgress. While the mayor, the doctor, the notary, the tinsmith, the letter carrier and above all Sulfureur pay her in cash or furs for their pleasure, women discover the way to be in tune with their sex.

Rituals are observed, traditions passed on, and pleasure is always exhilarating. Audrée Wilhelmy's new novel celebrates generations of charmeresses disguised in the fine lace of irrepressible, age-old urges. *Peau-de-Sang* knows the world and all its secrets, and pulls at the thread of lives as she unravels the language of bodies.

There are several tales in this novel and as many novels in this tale. Where does intuition end, and where does dream begin?

Peau-de-Sang is an ode to the irrepressible vehemence of femininity.

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. Her work, also published in France, won her the Prix Sade 2015 and the Prix Ouest-France Étonnants Voyageurs 2022, and she was a finalist 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. Simultaneously with the publication of Peau-de-Sang, a paperback reprint of the author's previous title, Blanc Résine, will also be released.



BLANC RÉSINE

[WHITE RESIN]

AUDRÉE WILHELMY

FICTION

352 pages

Published September 2019

Paperback edition 2024

Rights sold:

Grasset (French outside Canada)

House of Anansi (World English)

Verlagshaus Römerweg (German)

I'm fourteen years old. I like girls who eat the skin like good fruits and curl up in the clay when seized by rapture, printing their serpentine shape into the soft soil. I like boys undulating with flowing pleasure, hesitating on which curves to hold on to from the breasts or buttocks or thighs or cheeks, as their hands are so small and their hunger so great.

In a convent built by women's hands on the edge of the boreal forest, twenty-four sisters give birth to a little girl who will grow up learning the language and laws of Ina Maka, Mother Earth. A little further away, a worker at the Kohle Co. mine dies in childbirth, leaving an albino baby to her father, who'll work himself to death so the young one can one day become a doctor.

The novel recounts the encounter, mating and destiny of these two dissimilar beings, Daã and Laure, and that of their offspring. It carries the smells of the taiga and the sounds of the city; stories of women fleeing, debacle and children left behind. It goes back to the origins of a lineage from which Noé of *Oss* and *The Body of the Beasts* will come out.

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. She devotes her time to writing and teaches creative writing. Blanc Résine is her fourth novel. 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. Her most recent story, Peau-de-sang (2024), is an ode to the irrepressible vehemence of femininity.

LES SANGS

[BLOODS]

AUDRÉE WILHELMY

FICTION

160 pages

Published August 2013

Paperback edition 2017

Rights sold:

France (Grasset); Spain (Hoja de Lata)

Italy (Cancellada Edizioni); Galicia (Rinoceronte)

Film rights in Spanish



Féléor Barthélémy Rû 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.

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. Her work, also published in France, won her the Prix Sade 2015 and the Prix Ouest-France Étonnants Voyageurs 2022, and she was a finalist 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. Her most recent story, Peau-de-Sang (2024), is an ode to the irrepressible vehemence of femininity.



L'ENFANT MASCARA

[Becoming Leticia]

SIMON BOULERICE

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

184 pages

Published September 2016

Rights sold: Film rights in French

All other rights available

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 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.

RAP POUR VIOLONCELLE SEUL

[RAP FOR CELLO]

MARYSE PAGÉ

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

152 pages

Published February 2020

Rights sold: Film Rights

All other rights available



Sentenced to community service, Malik finds himself in a seniors' residence, caring for an obnoxious old man he'd rather not know. Underneath the petty crime past of one and the bitterness of the other, hides some sensitivity that will gradually transform this forced relationship into a sincere friendship.

From Malik's difficult journey, marred by foster homes, poverty and the abandonment by an alcoholic mother struggling to raise her son, Maryse Pagé manages to extract the material likely to question our own lives. With tenderness and humour, she shows us that a simple encounter can change the course of a life.

Maryse Pagé is a screenwriter, researcher and novelist. Rap pour violoncelle seul 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. Leméac also published De son œil in 2021.



CHRIS

JEAN-FRANÇOIS
SÉNÉCHAL

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

632 pages

Published August 2023

Rights sold: Italy (All three novels)

Greece (*Le boulevard*)

France (*Le boulevard*)

When he wakes up on the morning of his eighteenth birthday, Chris is alone in the modest apartment where he lives with his mother. When night falls and she doesn't come home, the young man realizes that she has simply abandoned him. Thus begins *Le boulevard*, introducing Chris, an individual with intellectual disability. Overnight, he has to learn to live independently in a difficult environment where, thanks to his endearing candor, he manages to find solidarity and support that help him face the challenges of everyday life, as well as the more extraordinary tribulations.

Gathering in a single volume *Le boulevard*, *Au carrefour*, and *Les avenues*, Sénéchal's three books about what it is to be different and yet living a full life, *Chris* offers readers a philosophical look on life, on the strength and fragility of feelings, on love and parental responsibilities, and on loyalty, friendship, freedom and courage. Rarely has such a perspective been approached so subtly and convincingly in Quebec literature, far removed from caricature and cliché.

Trained in anthropology, Jean-François Sénéchal now dedicates his time to writing. In 2018, his YA novel Le boulevard appeared on the List of Honour of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). His next book, Au carrefour, won the 2019 Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec in the 12 to 17 year-old category. In 2017, he received the Joseph S. Stauffer Award from the Canada Council for the Arts, a prize aimed at encouraging outstanding promising young Canadians. Leméac just published his most recent YA novel, Trois fois ma vie.

LA NUIT OÙ LAURIER GAUDREULT S'EST RÉVEILLÉ

[THE NIGHT LAURIER GAUDREULT WOKE UP]

MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD

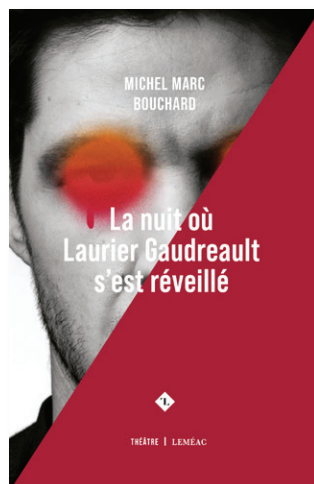
THEATRE

96 pages

Published May 2019

Rights sold: Film rights

All other rights available



In Alma in Quebec's Saguenay region, siblings gather around the remains of their mother. Mireille, one of the daughters, has come home from Bogotá to proceed, against conventions, to the embalming of the deceased, wishing to restore her beauty in a last homage of sorts. A thanatologist of international renown, sought after for her artistic techniques, she provides her services to celebrities, politicians, and famous people in general. But things take another turn when the other siblings show up and unveil hidden aspects of Mireille's life.

Mireille tried to put some distance between herself and her family full of secrets, especially her mother and older brother Julien. For one night, in her young age as a chronic insomniac breaking into people's home at night, she wandered into that of handsome Laurier Gaudreault, the object of her burgeoning desire, and as she watched Laurier sleep, she was witness to an unequivocal relationship between him and her brother Julien.

Catching them in bed, she took upon her, despite herself, the dishonour of the situation. To conceal their love, Laurier and Julien turned the love-making into a rape scene. Years later, Laurier's mother, who had guessed what was going on, bequeathed her inheritance to Laurier Gaudreault in order for the truth to come out. And the truth comes out indeed, in all its violence...

Michel Marc Bouchard is an internationally renowned playwright. He is the author of *Les Feluettes* [*Lilies*], *Les Muses orphelines* [*The Orphan Muses*], and *Tom à la ferme* [*Tom at the Farm*], all of which have been made into films. *La nuit où Laurier Gaudreault s'est réveillé* was adapted as a 5-episode TV mini-series in 2022 by Quebec's director and actor Xavier Dolan.



TOM À LA FERME

[TOM AT THE FARM]

MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD

THEATRE

80 pages

Published January 2011

Rights sold:

English (World)

Portuguese (Brazil)

Spanish (Europe)

Truth is not an easy game to play, especially when love interferes.

Following the accidental death of his lover, and in the throes of his grief, urban ad executive Tom travels to the country to attend the funeral and to meet his mother-in-law, Agatha, and her son, Francis – neither of whom know Tom even exists. Arriving at the remote rural farm, and immediately drawn into the dysfunction of the family's relationships, Tom is blindsided by his lost partner's legacy of untruth. With the mother expecting a chain-smoking girlfriend, and the older brother hellbent on preserving a facade of normalcy, Tom is coerced into joining the duplicity until, at last, he confronts the torment that drove his lover to live in the shadows of deceit.

The lover – the friend, the son, the brother, the nameless dead man – has left behind a fable woven of false-truths which, according to his own teenage diaries, were essential to his survival. In this same rural setting, one young man had once destroyed another young man who loved yet another. Like an ancient tragedy, years later, this drama will shape the destiny of Tom. In a play that unfolds with progressively blurred boundaries between lust and brutality, between truth and elaborate fiction, Bouchard, one of Quebec's most important contemporary playwrights, dramatizes how gay men often must learn to lie before they learn how to love. Throughout 2011 and 2012, *Tom at the Farm* was produced in Quebec and France, as *Tom à la ferme*, and in Mexico, as *Tom en la granja*. Award-winning Quebec director Xavier Dolan adapted the play for the screen in 2013, with Caleb Landry Jones in the leading role.

INCENDIES

[SCORCHED]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

FICTION

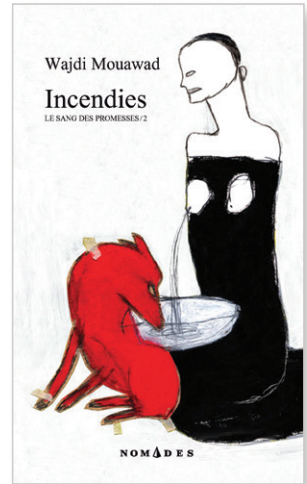
176 pages

First publication 2003

Paperback edition 2015

Rights sold:

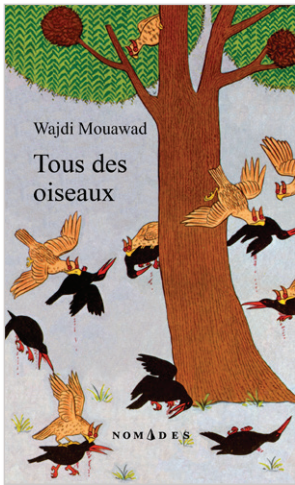
French (world); Korean; English (world); Japanese;
Armenian; German; Spanish (Spain), Chinese,
Ukrainian, Catalan, Romanian



As their mother's will is read to twins Jeanne and Simon Marwan by notary Lebel, the unclear story of their birth resurfaces: who was their father, and what journey brought them far from their mother's homeland to be born? By handing each of them an envelope, one for the father they thought dead and the other for the brother they didn't know existed, he only stirs their incommensurable pain: as the family's history is revealed, unsuspected tragedies await them, all of them irreparable. The price to pay to appease Nawal's tormented soul is about to swallow whole the destiny of Jeanne and Simon.

Incendies was brought to the screen by director Denis Villeneuve.

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. His most recent plays include Racine carrée du verbe être and Mère (2023). Translated into several languages, his work has received many international awards.



TOUS DES OISEAUX

[BIRDS OF A KIND]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

DRAMA

184 pages

Published March 2023

First publication 2018

Paperback edition 2020

Rights sold:

France, Germany, North America (English),

Spain, Catalonia, Italy, Greece

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.

RACINE CARRÉE DU VERBE ÊTRE

[FIVE TRAJECTORIES OF DESTINY]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

THEATRE

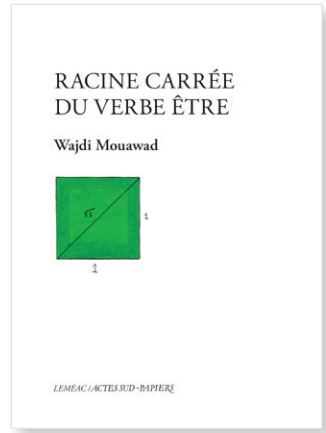
184 pages

Published August 2023

Rights sold:

French (Europe - Actes Sud)

English (North America - Playwrights Canada Press)



Why is living not sufficient for us to attain happiness?

From that starting point, Wajdi Mouawad's sumptuous, tragic, geopoetic and hard-hitting theatrical mathematics takes us on a whirling ride of possible lives for Talyani Waqar Malik: an Italian neurosurgeon, a Parisian cab driver, a Quebec painter, a Texan death row inmate, a Lebanese shopkeeper. Five destinies in as many different places, all closely interwoven in a single hallucinatory space-time. Each of these incarnations sees their fate disrupted and accelerated in the week following the explosion in the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, forty-two years after four of them fled the civil war in 1978.

This uchronia brings to the stage the now unforgettable characters of the Domestic Cycle - father, mother, brother, sister, and the imagined descendants of Talyani, Wajdi Mouawad's alter ego - as well as the major themes of the playwright's literary universe, namely war and exile, rape and incest, filiation and unexpected identities, crime and the right to forgiveness. Current issues are also tackled here, such as ecology, cancel culture, physician-assisted dying, and the inexhaustible question of love.

Between point A and point B, youth and old age, science and conscience, between those we love and those we might have loved, the revelations of quantum mechanics shatter the causal link: If I'm here, it's because I'm there... What nearly happened influences what happens, the uncertain influences the certain...

Actor, stage director and director of La Colline national theatre in Paris, Wajdi Mouawad is the author of the epic quartet *Le Sang des promesses* (Littoral, Incendies, Forêts, Ciels) and the novel *Anima* (2012). Published by Leméac/Actes Sud and translated into several languages, his work has won numerous international awards.

LEMÉAC

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