

LEMÉAC



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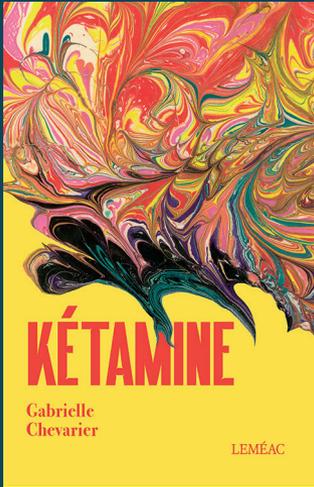
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please contact:

Camille Didier - c.didier@lemeac.com

Jean-Marie Jot - jm.jot@lemeac.com

FICTION



KETAMINE

GABRIELLE CHEVARIER

As a teenager, to fall asleep, I used to mentally undress my soul bone by bone, like peeling an orange, and when I reached the vertebrae I had to pull harder to rip them out. I no longer had a back. I was free at last and at the edge of slumber, but I would jolt suddenly, stirred by some thought: without a spine, without a ribcage, and without muscles, did I still exist? Was there anything left of “me?”

Suffering from debilitating chronic pain that nothing can relieve, Gabrielle Chevarier accepts her physician’s offer to try an experimental treatment: ketamine. But the drug, although alleviating her physical symptoms, soon opens a path to the inexpressible, bringing her closer to what lies beyond language.

Revelations, reverberations, and lyrical accounts of six memorable sessions serve as the basis of this unclassifiable book. Trying to escape the pit of sadness into which she’s been falling for years, the author reflects on the body, its limits, and its traumas. That’s when the possibility of inhabiting the extreme vulnerability that we hide, even from ourselves, arises.

Gabrielle Chevarier teaches literature at a postsecondary level. Her first novel, Madame Werner, published by Leméac in 2023, won the Arlette-Cousture Prize in Quebec.

Pages: 176

Forthcoming February 2026

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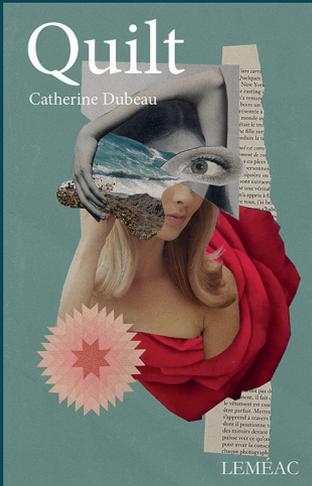
Keywords: Health / illness

Inspired by real events

Self-esteem (broken dreams)

Romantic relationships (the other’s
view of the sick body)

FICTION



QUILT

CATHERINE DUBEAU

The story would be that of a French studies professor, of a former model studying fine arts, and of a defrocked priest. It would unfold between 1948 and 2022, from Quebec to California by way of Ontario and Switzerland. It could be read piecemeal or all at once. It would be the story of individuals lost to their bodies, and the author would help them get them back. Fathers would be like stars their daughters would navigate by. There would be a string of memories and dreams, a patchwork of wounds and balms. From then on, the story would tell of what remains when the father is no longer there, of the directions taken to leave his orbit. It would be an astonishing quilt, made of mismatched pieces, cut crookedly but sewn tightly together. There would be forests, mountains, and a university. Lots of water. Books and piercings. A harpsichord would appear unexpectedly, as would Bach, Mary, Jesus, and Luther. It would not be a vegan novel. Everything would be edible in it, even raw meat.

Originally from Quebec City, Catherine Dubeau is a professor of creative writing at the University of Waterloo. In this singular debut novel, she takes readers on a touching journey from darkness to light.

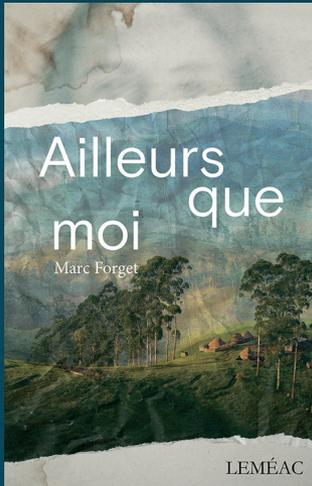
Pages: 288

Forthcoming March 2026

Rights: World rights available

Keywords: Father-daughter relationships
Self-discovery / Identity building
Emancipation

FICTION



AILLEURS QUE MOI

[DISTANT AREAS]

MARC FORGET

During a winter evening in Montreal in 2012, Miguel receives a package from an unknown sender, containing the personal belongings he recognizes as those of a female friend. Over that night, memories come flooding back, revealing the nature of that friendship and the wounds left in its wake.

December 2011, a seasoned and exhausted Ukrainian mercenary prepares for one last mission in Africa.

Three years earlier, as she embarks on a new humanitarian mission in the Kivu region of Congo, an area ravaged by conflicts she doesn't really understand, Fannie, a midwife in her early thirties, is unable to explain the reason for her flight and refuses to consider the risks involved.

As temporal and individual narratives intertwine, readers are drawn into inner landscapes as complex and devastated as the land in which they take place.

Marc Forget is the author of two previous novels (Versicolor, 2011; Petit Calme, 2023). He is also a physician who has explored the globe through missions with organizations such as Doctors Without Borders. He is familiar with the reality of disorientation, of rushing headlong into the unknown, and of willful ignorance to humanitarian motivations.

Pages: 296

Forthcoming April 2026

Rights: World rights available

Keywords: Humanitarian mission
Displaced populations
Conflicts in Congo/Kivu
Conflict zones
Friendship and love

FICTION

LA MONTAGNE ARDENTE

[FIERY MOUNTAIN]

PHILIPPE MANEVY

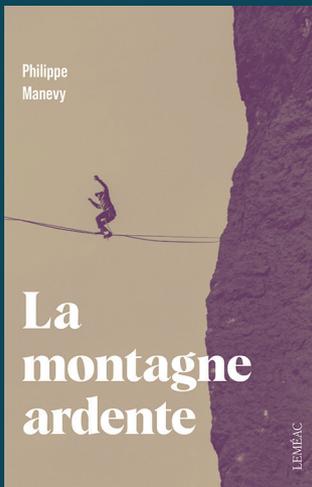
In his previous book *La colline qui travaille* (The Working Hill), Philippe Manevy was reviving his mother's side of the family. In this new book, he now explores his father's side, established for generations at the foot of the Lizieux, an extinct volcano in the Haute-Loire region in France, worn down by time like the anonymous mountains of the Laurentians in Quebec.

The writer focuses on these everyday unsung heroes: Jules, the ancestor, his son Joseph, and Jeanne, his grandparents, through whom the 20th century is recounted, from one invention and one war to the next, full of joys and sorrows, of victories and failures.

In this world, one figure stands out: the notary, a profession practiced by the author's grandfather and father, that appears to be the very image of the writer as he sifts through archives, rereads letters and school reports, pores over the sermons of Victor, the great-uncle priest (who may have inspired Camus when the latter, at the time at work writing *The Plague*, was living in the region), scrutinizes photographs, becomes attached to objects, visits places, rediscovers the old dialect, searching for everything that gives meaning to these lives that will take shape through writing.

With the elegance of a funambulist, Manevy walks his rope tightened between two worlds, the old and the new, the countryside and the city, France and Quebec, and seeks, like the weavers of Lyon's Croix-Rousse district, to bring them together in a single fabric, full of fragile beauty.

Philippe Manevy lives in Montreal where he teaches French and theatre. He has previously published *Ton pays sera mon pays* (Leméac, 2021) and *La colline qui travaille* (Leméac, 2024), released in France by Le Bruit du monde publishers, for which he won the 2025 France Télévisions Novel Prize.



Pages: 296

Forthcoming February 2026

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[Le bruit du monde](#)
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Keywords: Identity and belonging,
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (region),
Deportation, exile, and migration,
20th century,
Genealogy, family history

FICTION



QUAND L'EAU SE TAIRA

[SILENT WATER]

EMMANUEL POINOT

“In those fleeting hours, we thought ourselves alone in the world, we imagined we could live forever. But we overestimated our endlessness, we were wrong. There were limits to that eternity. There was even an end to it.”

French reporter Sol Demontalier is devastated. His partner Pia, a renowned Quebec war photographer was assassinated in Syria by a terrorist group, and the close relationship both had is shattered. Leaving everything behind, he leaves Paris for the Basque Pyrenees in an attempt to find oblivion. But Sol embarks on a journey into the past, staying in a friend's renovated house near the Uraisilik, “the silent water”—a stream that flows down from the mountains—and the ruins of an old paper mill, because twenty-five years earlier, this region was the scene of his hectic youth.

As memory conjures up his ghosts, Sol struggles with his former self and tries to imagine the years that lie ahead, his life without Pia. Past and present intertwine, and the shadows of the FLQ and ETA appear fleetingly, as do those of a paper maker who died in the trenches more than a century ago

Emmanuel Poinot lives in Québec. After Les voyages éphémères, L'angle de chute and La nuit funambule, Quand l'eau se taira is his fourth novel.

Pages: 240

Forthcoming April 2026

Rights: World rights available

Keywords: Grief

Terrorism

Nostalgia for one's origins

Memory

Nature - Mountains

YOUNG ADULT FICTION



T'ES BELLE, POUR UNE GROSSE

[PRETTY ENOUGH]

SIMON ALARIE

When I asked my father if he thought I was pretty, he answered, “Yes, you’re fat but pretty enough!” [...] Those words kind of opened a can of worms. Afterwards, my dad was somehow relieved he had finally spilled the beans. So I became fat. Officially fat. At the age of twelve, when I wasn’t up by seven o’clock on Saturday mornings to clean the house, I was a fat slob. When dishes were piling up in the sink—boy, did he hate that!— I became a fat bitch.

Thus begins Cassandra’s discussion with the social worker looking for answers to the events of the past few months. But Cass isn’t intent on saying what she did. Because she comes from a place where people don’t talk. She comes from poverty. And people like the one sitting in front of her are only good at messing things up—screwing up a life that has already seen too much. But if she insists on knowing, she probably should cancel all her other appointments of the day, because Cass has Hiroshima in her belly.

T’es belle, pour une grosse reads as a long cry.

Simon Alarie studied screenwriting and history teaching. As a writer, he collaborated to youth TV series Le pacte for which he won a G meaux Award for best script. T’es belle, pour une grosse is his first novel.

Pages: 160

Forthcoming February 2026

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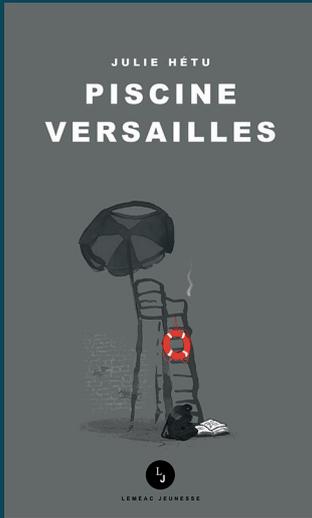
Keywords: Family and everyday life

Eating disorders

Body image

Friendships

YOUNG ADULT FICTION



PISCINE VERSAILLES

JULIE HÉTU

Since the summer of her sixteenth year began, Amour has been living half a life. From her lifeguard chair, she watches over the young swimmers at the Versailles pool, a refuge from injustice, violence, and deprivation. But despite the comforting noise of the children, she fights silently from within to contain the surge of her thoughts, the incessant images from a fateful night etched in her memory. She drowns in the murky waters of pretense. How can she erase reality, how can she still love and desire with a body that is no longer hers?

Piscine Versailles is a young adult novel of brutal beauty, sensibly tracing the dark clouds that hangs over an abused soul.

Julie Héту is a writer and multidisciplinary artist. Since 1998, she has exhibited literary, visual, and performance works influenced by her research in anthropology. Her novel Mot was short-listed for the Prix France-Québec and the Prix Ringuet from the Académie des lettres du Québec.

Pages: 120

Forthcoming March 2026

Rights: World rights available

Keywords: Reconstruction and resilience

Loyalty
Autonomy
Power
Rape
Love
Friendship
Slam

NON-FICTION



THE ART OF LOVING AN AVATAR

A JOURNEY ALONG THE DATING APPS

MARTIN DESROSIERS

In this short essay, Martin Desrosiers reflects on how romantic and sexual relationships are experienced in the age of mobile apps and artificial intelligence. Finding himself single for the first time in his adult life at around 40 years old, questions inevitably arose: How does one meet someone today? What options are available to those looking for a soul mate and/or a one-night stand?

Beginning with his own experience, the author embarks on a philosophical investigation into the pros and cons of dating apps, and how they affect individuals, who actually become consumer products likely to be evaluated and discarded, just like TV sets and household appliances.

With great intellectual wit, elegance in style, and dry humor, Desrosiers seeks to understand how love can survive the test of dating apps.

The many readers of his first book will find in this new work rich material for reflection, full of humanity and benevolence.

Martin Desrosiers teaches philosophy at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf in Montreal. His first book, L'art de ne pas toujours avoir raison ou Penser contre soi-même avec Montaigne, was published by Leméac in 2024 to great critical and commercial acclaim.

Pages: 144

Forthcoming January 2026

Rights: World rights available

Rights sold to *L'art de ne pas toujours avoir raison*: Portugal, Spain

Keywords: Dating apps

Popular philosophy

Social aspects

of sexuality

Social aspects of

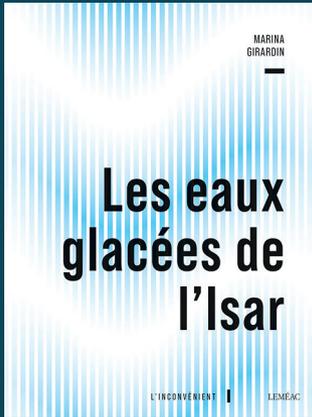
romantic relationships

Essays

Digital and information technologies:

ethical and social issues

NON-FICTION



LES EAUX GLACÉES DE L'ISAR

[THE ICY WATERS OF THE ISAR]

MARINA GIRARDIN

Pages: 144

Forthcoming January 2026

Rights: World rights available

Keywords: Suicide

Suicidal thoughts

Literary studies

Accounts of real events

Social aspects of suicide

“I wanted to trace the thread of the times I broke down, not only to bear witness to what it means to reach the threshold of the ultimate night and to reach out to those who came back—my neighbours in darkness—but also to escape that call. Managing to build that haunting feeling with words, to lead it beyond language; wouldn’t that allow me to have some grip on it? I tell myself that from the moment it’s committed to paper, it won’t watch for me from within: I’ll be the one observing and holding the reins, taming the beast.”

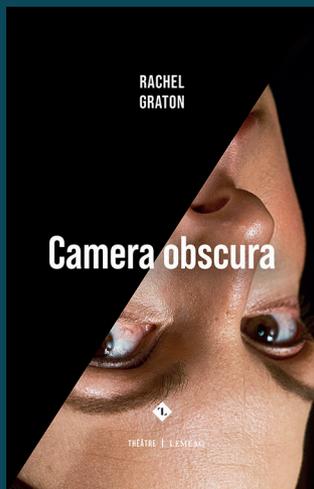
Halfway through personal narrative, literary reflection, and socio-historical analysis, *Les eaux glacées de l’Isar* explores the question of voluntary death by connecting a personal investigation into the author’s suicide attempts, a remembrance of her loved ones who have passed away, and real or fictional figures haunted, like her, by this idea, from Flaubert to Édouard Louis to Bernanos.

Devoid of any pathos, Marina Girardin’s essay tackles traumatic memories and institutional silence, as well as prevention, while offering lively, comprehensive and passionate reflections to understand how words can emerge from experience and how writing can continue to support them.

Les eaux glacées de l’Isar is a necessary, demanding, informed, and formally successful contribution—one that is destined to find an important place in the current intellectual landscape.

Marina Girardin teaches French and Literature at Cégep de Saint-Laurent. Les eaux glacées de l’Isar is her first book published by Leméac.

THEATRE



CAMERA OBSCURA

RACHEL GRATON

Marginalized and often left to her own devices, Esther searches for her place in a world where she doesn't seem to belong. At home, her mother is grappling with her own demons, but thanks to her grandmother—a singular woman who hears and sees ghosts—she discovers a different approach to the world. What emerges through three generations of women is a legacy of dependence, an intense sensitivity, and an unsettling lucidity.

This play finely explores the tension between the burden we carry despite ourselves and what we choose to reinvent. It is a vibrant tribute to film, literature, theatre, and creativity as drivers of transformation.

*Rachel Graton divides her time between acting, writing, and directing. She has appeared on stage in *La traversée du siècle*, an ambitious project celebrating the work of playwright Michel Tremblay.*

Pages: 72

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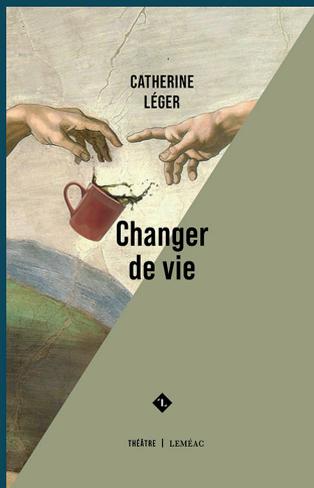
Keywords: Family relationships

Precariousness

Mental health

Transition from childhood into
adolescence

THEATRE



CHANGER DE VIE

[A NEW LIFE]

CATHERINE LÉGER

Christian and Nathalie have lived for ages by the same dynamics: her salary supports the couple, while he tries after a fashion to complete unlikely film projects. One evening, Jasmine shows up at their house, responding to a careless post by Nathalie on social media. From then on, everything unravels: their habits, their values, their desires, their achievements, and the very meaning of their lives.

Granted, the play deals with the emptiness of life, with elusive love and the fake glitter of human relationships, and with occasional suicidal tendencies, but *Changer de vie* is resolutely a comedy. In it, like in her previous plays, Catherine Léger continues her examination of the grandeur and misery of a civilization running on fumes, with a keen eye and a natural irony only softened by her tenderness for our absurdity.

Playwright Catherine Léger (Opium_37, Voiture américaine, Princesses, Filles en liberté), also works for television and film (La déesse des mouches à feu, Charlotte a du fun, La petite reine). Her play Baby-sitter was translated into English and German and was also made into a film, as was her adaptation of Deux femmes en or.

Pages: 112

Forthcoming January 2026

Rights: World rights available

Keywords: Romantic relationships

Artificial intelligence

Mental load

Self-esteem

THEATRE

LE SERMENT D'EUROPE

Wajdi Mouawad



LEMÉAC / ACTES SUD - PAPIERS

LE SERMENT D'EUROPE

[THE OATH OF EUROPE]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

Seventy-five years after a massacre she witnessed and took part in at the age of eight, Europe is invited to testify and recount the horror that stayed with her ever since: the killing of eighteen children, devoured by dogs. By summoning her three daughters—Wedjaa, Jovette, and Megara—who ignore she is their mother, the woman wishes to cross the river of cruelty where she abandoned them. That's when Europe learns that her eldest daughter has a son accused of murdering the woman he loved. Will the cycle of curses ever end?

Such is History, marked by fratricidal violence, which finds no resolution in the hearts of the perpetrators or the memory of the victims. Only remains the infinite hatred of the other that fail to dry up the well of silence it creates. And when the time comes to speak, before the court of lives cut short, can words really express the inexpressible, name the unnameable?

Wajdi Mouawad's takes his writing to the limit in this brilliant play that simply leaves speechless. While *Incendies* left a lasting impression, *Le Serment d'Europe* goes even further, rendering meek the tragic theatre of blood of our time.

Actor, director, and artistic director of La Colline theatre in Paris, Wajdi Mouawad is notably the author of the epic quartet Le Sang des promesses (Littoral, Incendies, Forêts, Ciels) and the novel Anima (2012). Co-published by Leméac and Actes Sud-Papiers in France, translated into several languages, his work has been recognized with numerous awards.

Pages: 112

Forthcoming April 2026

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Keywords: Massacre

Femicide

Murder

Cycle of violence

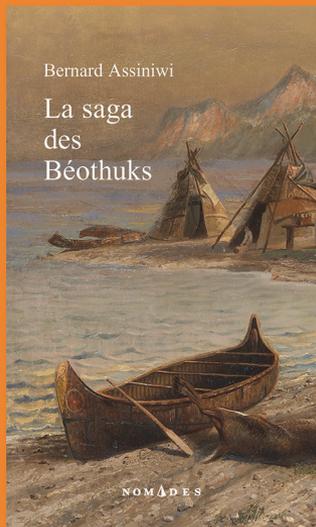
Curse

Genocide

Back

LIST

FICTION



Pages: 520

First published: 1996

Most recent edition: 2016

Rights sold: French outside North America:
Dépaysage

LA SAGA DES BÉOTHUKS

[THE BEOTHUK SAGA]

BERNARD ASSINIWI

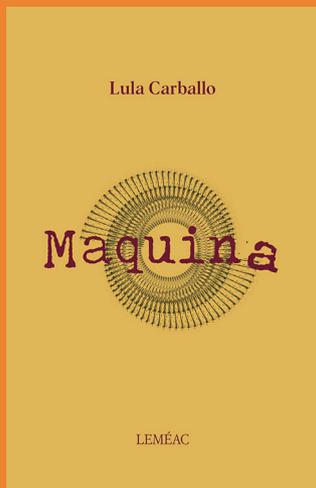
This astounding novel begins a thousand years ago. The Beothuk were the original native people of Newfoundland, thus the first North American natives encountered by European sailors.

Combining the novelist's imagination and his knowledge as an anthropologist, Bernard Assiniwi writes a convincing account of the Beothuk people through the ages, employing a mirror image of the history as told by Europeans. Indeed, when the Norse Sagas recount of four slaves escaped from the Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, one wonders what happened to them. Bernard Assiniwi supplies a plausible answer, just as he perhaps solves the mystery of the Portuguese ships that sailed west in 1501 to catch more Beothuk, and disappeared from the paper records forever.

This singular story of the Beothuk people tells of Anin, who made a voyage by canoe around the entire island a thousand years ago, encountering the strange Vikings with their "cutting sticks" and their hair "the colour of dried grass." His encounters with whales, bears, raiding Inuit and other dangers, and his survival skills on this epic journey make for fascinating reading, as does his eventual return to his home where he becomes a legendary chief, the father of his people. In turn historical, mythological, epic and ethnographic, this book is a fascinating contribution to the rediscovery of indigenous civilizations, while shedding light on a particularly dramatic episode of the white conquest of America.

Bernard Assiniwi (1935-2000) belonged to the Cree Nation. He was an actor, novelist, storyteller and curator at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. He wrote some twenty books on the history, life and material culture of Canada's Indigenous peoples. La saga des Béothuks was awarded the Prix France-Québec.

FICTION



MAQUINA

LULA CARBALLO

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.

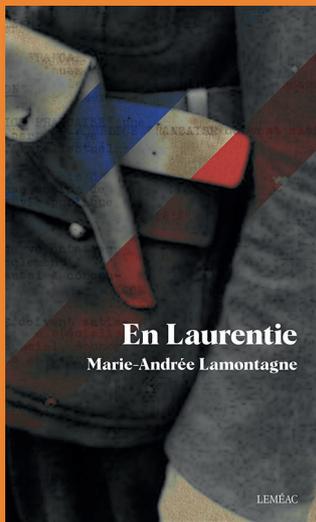
Originally from Uruguay, Lula Carballo writes, translates, teaches creative workshops and presents performative manifestations of her texts through residencies, conferences and public meetings. Her first novel Créatures du hasard was published in 2018. Ensemble nous voyageons, a children book co-written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

Pages: 152

Published: March 2024

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FICTION



EN LAURENTIE

[IN LAURENTIA]

MARIE-ANDRÉE LAMONTAGNE

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 Cabiac 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.

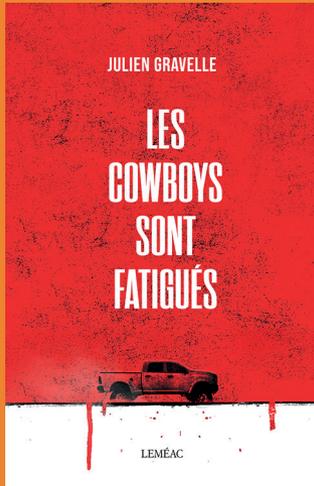
Journalist and translator Marie-Andrée Lamontagne was the editor of the literary journal Liberté and of the book section of Montreal daily Le Devoir. Her writing credits include poetry, short stories essays and novels, as well as a biography of Quebec literary icon Anne Hébert. She is currently Executive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

Pages: 320

Published: October 2024

Rights: World rights available

FICTION



LES COWBOYS SONT FATIGUÉS

[NO MORE HEROES]

JULIEN GRAVELLE

Pages: 192

First published: March 2021

Pocketbook edition: April 2024

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Éditions du Seuil

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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 Debut 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.

FICTION



IF JULIEN GRAVELLE

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.

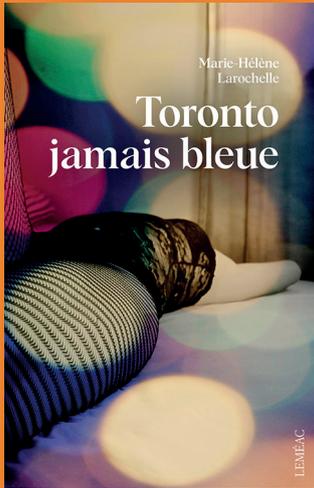
Frenchman Julien Gravelle has lived in Quebec since 2006. His writing is driven by an ethical reflection that he puts into words in the form of novels (Nitassinan), stories (Musher; Debout sur la carlingue) or essays (Nos renoncements). Simultaneously with If, Leméac will release a paperback edition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

Pages: 160

Published: March 2024

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FICTION



TORONTO JAMAIS BLEUE

[TORONTO, NEVER BLUE]

MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROCHELLE

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 in 2022. The author is also finalist for the Trillium Literary Award for Toronto jamais bleue in 2025.

Pages: 200

Published: February 2024

Rights: World rights available

FICTION



JE SUIS LE COURANT LA VASE

[KISS THE UNDERTOW]

MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROCHELLE

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 in 2022. Her second novel, Toronto jamais bleue (2024), is also published by Leméac, and is also shortlisted for the Trillium Literary Award (2025).

Pages: 168

Published: February 2021

Rights sold: English (world) :

[House of Anansi](#)

All other rights available

FICTION



Mathyas Lefebure

D'où viens-tu, berger ?

D'OÙ VIENS-TU BERGER ?

[WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, SHEPHERD?]

MATHYAS LEFEBURE

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.

Pages: 280

First published: 2006

Pocketbook edition: October 2024

Rights sold: French outside North America:
Actes Sud and film rights

FICTION



LA COLLINE QUI TRAVAILLE

[THE WORKING HILL]

PHILIPPE MANEVY



I write so that people and the ties that bind them won't peter out and eventually vanish.

A phone ringing, the smell of bleach, the taste of Nescafé... Philippe Manevy pulls the thread of memory and weaves the fabric of a family novel over four generations, starting with the character of Alice, his maternal grandmother, a professional weaver. Meticulous and determined, she became the leader of a workers' movement in the aftermath of the Popular Front's victory. Then René, her husband, appears in the story. A former athlete and a typographer, he's said to have been engaged, along with other unsung heroes, in a spectacular act of resistance during WWII. Both devoted parents, they'll do anything to ensure the future of Martine, their studious and diligent daughter.

Each chapter highlights a family member grappling with the trials of their lives and times. Gradually, links appear and echoes resonate between them, that the author records without hiding the doubts that emerge as he writes. *La colline qui travaille* is a journey through two world wars, economic crises, the Glorious Thirty (the booming three decades in France after 1945), and the hopes and disillusion of the 20th century.

A declaration of love and a vibrant tribute to the working class, *La colline qui travaille* is a refreshing take on the family chronicle and offers readers a sense of comfort and gentle nostalgia.

Philippe Manevy was born in 1980 in Clermont-Ferrand. He started his career in education before settling in Montreal where he now teaches French and Drama, a discipline in which he is a doctoral candidate. He is the author of Ton pays sera mon pays (Leméac, 2021), and of La colline qui travaille, first published by Leméac in Canada before being released by Le Bruit du monde in France.

Pages: 368

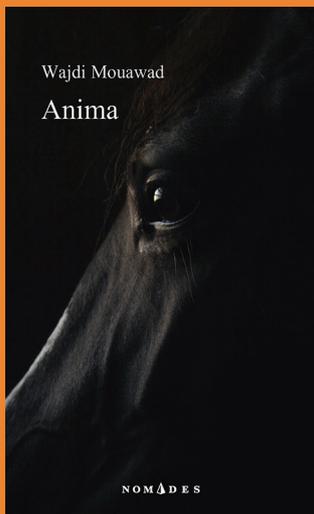
Published: February 2024

Rights sold: France (French outside North America):

[Le bruit du monde](#)

All other rights available

FICTION



ANIMA

WAJDI MOUAWAD

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.

Pages: 504 (paperback edition)

Published: September 2012

Paperback edition: 2016

Rights sold: English (world): [Talonbooks](#)
French outside North America:

[Actes Sud](#)

Italian: [Fazi](#)

Spanish: [Seix Barral](#)

Catalan: [Periscopi](#)

Greek: [Eksodseis](#)

Japanese: [Kawade Shobo Shinsha](#)

Albanian: [Ombra GVG](#)

Lithuanian: [Lithuanian Writers'](#)

[Union Publishing House](#)

FICTION

LA NUIT FUNAMBULE

[THE NIGHT FUNAMBULIST]

EMMANUEL POINOT

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.

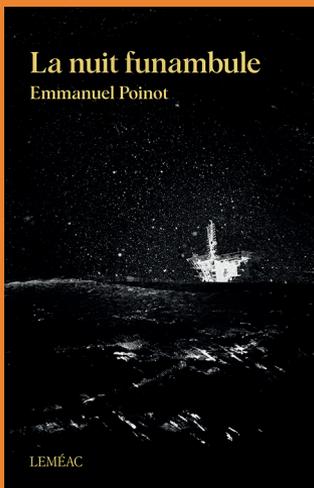
On an offshore drilling rig, Sven, the head nurse, watches as a helicopter, called to evacuate a critically injured man, flies away.

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. Leméac will publish his fourth novel, Quand l'eau se taira, in 2026.



Pages: 152

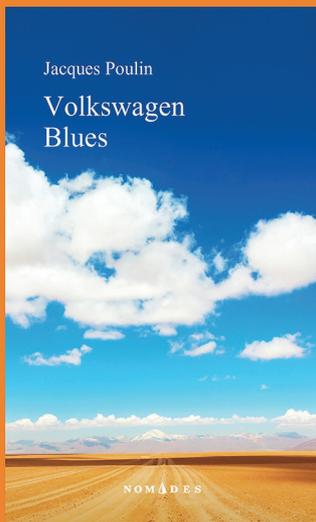
Published: January 2024

Rights sold: French outside North America:

Arthaud

All other rights available

FICTION



Pages: 382

First publication: 1984

Most recent edition: 2015

Rights sold: English (world)
Spanish (world)
German
Dutch
Bulgarian

VOLKSWAGEN BLUES

JACQUES POULIN

Writer Jack Waterman hasn't received any news from his brother Théo for several years. Waking up one day, he decides to embark on a quest for his elusive sibling. The journey starts in Gaspé, Quebec, and takes him all the way to San Francisco, via big cities of the American heartland (Detroit, Chicago), places steeped in history (Wounded Knee, Ash Hollow, Starved Rock), and lost villages.

As the trip begins, Jack encounters a tall young Métis woman he affectionately nicknames "La Grande Sauterelle" (Grasshopper). In her company, he makes the backwards journey from his French-Canadian roots to the American continent, while the young woman attempts to better define her fragile Indigenous identity.

Volkswagen Blues is a road novel in the best tradition. Along the pages, readers will meet the ghosts of Buffalo Bill, Jesse James and a few "celestial tramps", the most famous of all being Franco-American Jack Kerouac. Even though America was forged in violence, Jack and La grande sauterelle reject this heritage and aspire to peace and kindness. *Volkswagen Blues* is a subtle and delicate novel where love in every aspect is the key, with freedom - and America itself - as a cornerstone.

Born in 1938, Jacques Poulin is one of the major novelists in Quebec letters. In his long and consistent career, the influential yet unassuming writer of the New World has received numerous literary awards.

FICTION



Pages: 330

First publication: 1978

Most recent edition: 2023

Rights sold: French outside North America:

Actes Sud

Spanish

English

Korean

LA GROSSE FEMME D'À CÔTÉ EST ENCEINTE

[THE FAT WOMAN NEXT DOOR IS PREGNANT]

MICHEL TREMBLAY

At the end of Tremblay's career one will likely be able to sew together all his plays and novels and discover that we have been privileged to read the works of a veritable Québécois Marcel Proust."

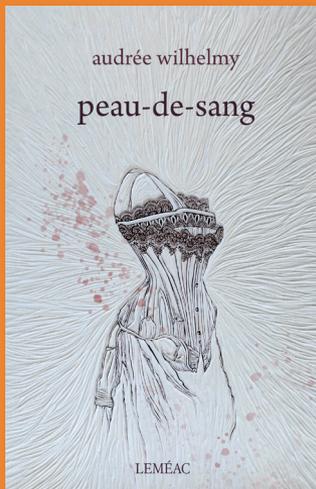
— Canadian Book Review Annual

The story takes place over the course of a single day, May 2, 1942, in the then working-class Plateau Mont-Royal neighbourhood of Montreal. Spring is back, the sun is out and it's the first warm day of the season. A forty-two-year-old woman is pregnant and stuck in an apartment she shares with an extended family. It's a crowded and chaotic household full of colourful characters, including, in a touch of the mythic, the three Fates, in the guise of knitters Rose, Violette and Mauve.

This exuberant novel offers a lively portrait of a popular Montreal neighbourhood with WWII as a backdrop. Though author Michel Tremblay doesn't shy away from depicting the harsh realities of life, he also excels at demonstrating his characters' inherent joie de vivre. This is a "divine comedy" of the extraordinary triumphs and tragedies of ordinary people caught up by circumstances that span the range of the ridiculous to the sublime.

A major figure in Québec literature, Michel Tremblay has built an impressive body of work as a playwright, novelist, translator, and screenwriter. To date Tremblay's complete works include forty-one plays, thirty novels, seven collections of autobiographical stories, a collection of tales, seven screenplays, forty-seven translations and adaptations of works by foreign writers, ten plays and fifteen stories printed in diverse publications, an opera libretto, a song cycle, a Symphonic Christmas Tale, and two musicals. His plays have been published and translated into forty languages and have garnered critical acclaim in Canada, the United States, and more than fifty countries around the world. He lives in Montréal.

FICTION



PEAU-DE-SANG

AUDRÉE WILHELMY

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 nicknamed Peau-de-Sang, 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, has been translated in several other languages and 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. Peau-de-Sang was released in French-speaking Europe by Le Tripode and in German by Verlagshaus Römerweg.

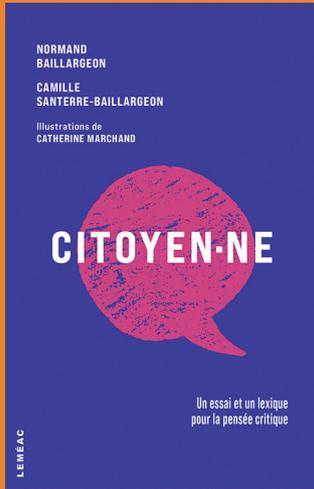
Pages: 200

Published: september 2023

Rights sold: French outside North America:

Le Tripode

German: Verlagshaus Römerweg



Pages: 180

Published: October 2025

Rights: World rights available

CITIZEN

AN ESSAY AND A GLOSSARY FOR CRITICAL THINKING

NORMAND BAILLARGEON and CAMILLE SANTERRE-BAILLARGEON
illustrated by CATHERINE MARCHAND

In our time of political radicalization and media echo chambers, conversations, both private and public, tend to become a minefield. Dialogue turns to monologue, and divergent points of view collide or retreat into themselves, vanishing altogether from the democratic space.

In such a context, it seems more crucial than ever to exercise critical thinking to better understand the world and heal the ailing state of civic participation. Addressing among other things cognitive biases, fallacies, civic virtues, and sensitive topics, this essay offers a wide array of tips for navigating the sea of information and establishing constructive conversation.

A glossary at the end of the book introduces readers to some fifty socio-political concepts—from anarchism to wokism, to colonialism, civil disobedience, indoctrination, feminism, gender identity, and freedom of expression—whose basic understanding is key to informed engagement in civic life.

*A philosopher, an essayist and a columnist, Normand Baillargeon has published some sixty works. For more than 25 years, he taught the fundamentals of education at the University of Quebec in Montreal. Camille Santerre-Baillargeon is a playwright and translator. In *Citoyen·ne*, father and daughter join forces to offer a short guide to vigilance and the exercise of judgment.*

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

L'ENFANT MASCARA

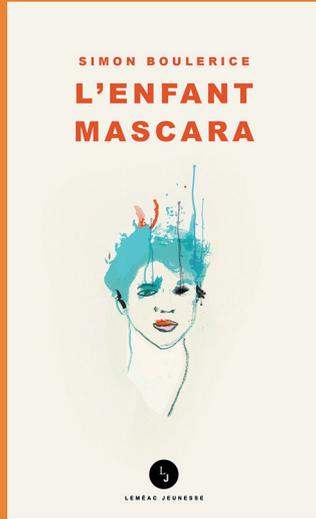
[BECOMING LETICIA]

SIMON BOULERICE

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.*

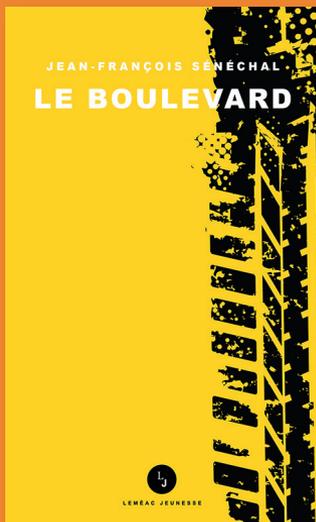


Pages: 184

Published: September 2016

Rights sold: Film rights in French
All other rights available

YOUNG ADULT FICTION



LE BOULEVARD

[THE BOULEVARD]

JEAN-FRANÇOIS SÉNÉCHAL

Chris has the body of a young man and the mind of a child. On the day of his eighteenth birthday his mother leaves their home, forcing him to cope with life on his own. At first overwhelmed by despair, he manages to regain his strength and to support himself working as the caretaker of the building he lives in. In order to ease his sorrow and loneliness, he talks to his absent mother, telling her of his everyday life – his walks along the suburban boulevard, his visits to the flea market, his emotional disappointments, his sometimes incredible adventures...

Seemingly helpless, the endearing innocent and kind character who shows unusual strength and maturity befriends people, sparking a relationship of mutual support. The generous community with a workingclass background will become the family that Chris has missed all his life.

Trained in anthropology, Jean-François Sénéchal writes young adult novels and illustrated children books. He was finalist or laureate of many awards, such as the Prix des libraires du Québec, the Governor General of Canada Literary Award and the Prix jeunesse des bibliothèques de Montréal. In 2018, his YA novel Le boulevard appeared on the List of Honour of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). In 2017, Jean-François Sénéchal received the Joseph S. Stauffer Award from the Canada Council for the Arts, a prize aimed at encouraging outstanding promising young Canadians. Since 2006, Jean-François Sénéchal has been working on numerous projects as a screenwriter, video director and editor.

Pages: 304

Published: September 2016

Rights sold: French outside North America:

Éditions Sarbacane

Italian: EDT Edizioni

Greek: Kastaniotis Editions

Albanian: Ombra GVG

Film rights

Theatre rights

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

RAP POUR VIOLONCELLE SEUL

[RAP FOR SOLO CELLO]

MARYSE PAGÉ

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. More than 45.000 copies of Rap pour violoncelle seul were sold only in Quebec.



Pages: 152

Published: February 2020

Rights sold: Film Rights
All other rights available

NON-FICTION



Pages: 120

Published: September 2024

Rights sold: Portugal
Spain
All other rights available

L'ART DE NE PAS TOUJOURS AVOIR RAISON

[THE ART OF NOT ALWAYS BEING RIGHT]

MARTIN DESROSISIERS

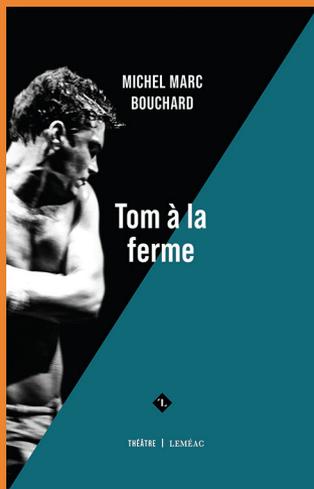
In this short essay, Martin Desrosiers asks how to restore the conditions for decent, constructive dialogue in a time of strong polarization and culture clash.

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. Leméac will publish his second essay in 2026, L'art d'aimer un avatar.

THEATRE



TOM À LA FERME

[TOM AT THE FARM]

MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD

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.

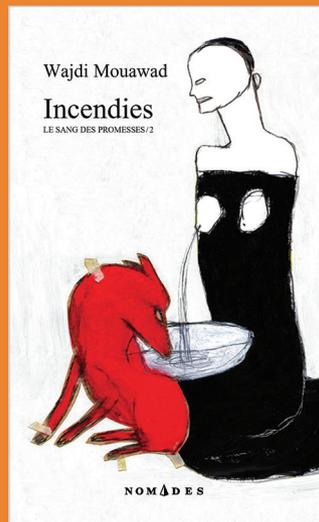
Michel Marc Bouchard is an internationally renowned playwright. He is the author of Les Feluettes [Lilies], Les Muses orphelines [The Orphan Muses], and Tom à la ferme [Tom at the Farm], all of which have been made into films. La nuit où Laurier Gaudreault s'est réveillé was adapted as a 5-episode TV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

Pages: 80

Published: January 2011

Rights sold: English (world)
Portuguese (Brazil)
Spanish (Europe)
Film rights

THEATRE



Pages: 176

First publication: 2003

Paperback edition: 2015

Rights sold: French (world) Romanian
Korean Bengali
English (world) Film rights
Japanese
Armenian
German
Spanish (world)
Chinese
Ukrainian
Catalan

INCENDIES

[SCORCHED]

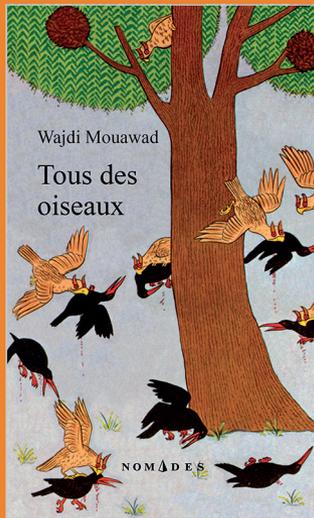
WAJDI MOUAWAD

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 Tous des oiseaux. Translated into several languages, his work has received many international awards.

THEATRE



Pages: 184

First publication: 2018

Paperback edition: 2020

Rights sold: French outside North America

German

English (North America)

Spanish (Spain)

Catalan

Italian

Greek

Armenian

TOUS DES OISEAUX

[BIRDS OF A KIND]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

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?

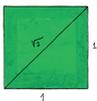
Since its publication and until spring 2020, *Tous des oiseaux* has been the subject of more than twenty different productions around the world.

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.

THEATRE

RACINE CARRÉE DU VERBE ÊTRE

Wajdi Mouawad



LEMÉAC/ACTES SUD-PAPIERE

RACINE CARRÉE DU VERBE ÊTRE

[FIVE TRAJECTORIES OF DESTINY]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

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.

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