

SHOOT ~~THE~~ BOOK!

FOCUS ON
FRENCH
LITERATURE



TORONTO 2015



Shoot the Book premieres in Toronto!

Shoot the Book is an initiative led by SCELFF (Société Civile des Éditeurs de Langue Française) and BIEF (Bureau International de l'Édition Française). It is being organized by the Embassy of France to Canada, SCELFF, and BIEF, with the support of Institut Français.

The Embassy of France to Canada took the initiative to create the first edition of Shoot the Book in Toronto in partnership with TIFF, North America's largest film festival. This event is a unique opportunity for French publishers to present books with significant potential for film adaptation to an audience of producers from around the world, especially North America.

The four participating publishing houses had the pleasure of seeing their books selected from among the initial 28 project proposals by a jury of professionals from the Canadian and American film industries.

The event is being organized in collaboration with Isabelle Fauvel, the Director of Initiative Film, who will introduce and moderate the session. The pitch presentation session will take place at the TIFF Bell Lightbox on Monday, September 14th, 2015, at 1:00pm, in the Malaparte event venue. It will be followed by a cocktail reception and a networking session.

Members of the Jury

Tony Cianciotta, Producer and Distributor (Canada)

Sarah Gadon, Actress (Canada)

Rachael Horovitz, Producer (United States)

Jennifer Kawaja, Producer (Canada)

Hayet Benkara, TIFF (Canada)

Didier Dutour, Head of Books and Translation division, Institut Français

Catherine Briat, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of France to Canada

Selected Books

- 22** **Street Thief** - *Rue des voleurs* - Mathias Énard | Actes Sud
- 24** **The Cuckoo** - *Quelques mois à l'Amélie* - Jean-Claude Denis | Dupuis
- 29** **The Rocheforts** - *Les Rochefort* - Christian Laborie | Place des Éditeurs
- 30** **Tobie Lolness** - *Tobie Lolness* - Thimothée de Fombelle | Gallimard Jeunesse

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Looking for a story? Find the books!

Publishing is a rich source of subjects and stories just begging to be adapted for the screen. The books presented here were written by the finest connoisseurs of drama, suspense or romance – authors! Then selected by professionals who chose to invest in them – publishers! Finally, brought to life by a wide section of the public – readers and filmgoers. To highlight the interest these stories hold for professionals in the film industry, we prepared this catalogue of titles, selected by their publishers for their potential and availability, specifically for the Toronto International Film Festival 2015.

Each book is presented in its main storylines, with a synthesis of key information and the person to contact if you would like to know more. Some of them have received the 'Selected Book' distinction. This means they were chosen as having special interest by a jury of film industry professionals. You will also find them, with other titles, on the Internet site: www.shoot-the-book.com.

This website is a bridge between the written word and the screen; a place where film and TV rights managers in French publishing houses can present books they believe to have a strong potential for screen adaptation. Thanks to a multi-criteria search engine, professionals visiting the site can select titles by category, by key words, characters, period, etc. depending on the project they have in mind. They can also leave a message to a group of publishers if they need more detailed information.

Enjoy reading!

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- 10 **Easy Bait** – NOUS N'ÉTIIONS PAS ARMÉS – Christine de Védrières
- 11 **Fantastic Planet** – OMS EN SÉRIE – Stefan Wul
- 12 **Garrigue** – GARRIGUE – Éric Corbeyran, Olivier Berlion
- 13 **Hell School** – HELL SCHOOL – Dugomier, Ers
- 14 **I Sought My Heart's Beloved** – J'AI CHERCHÉ CELUI
QUE MON CŒUR AIME – Dominique Marny
- 15 **Karma Salsa** – KARMA SALSA – Philippe Charlod, Callède, Fred Campoy
- 16 **Melville** – MELVILLE – Romain Renard
- 17 **Mommy Killers** – TUEURS DE MAMANS ZIDROU – Borecki, Ers
- 18 **Murder on the Green** – MEURTRE AU DIX-HUITIÈME TROU –
John-Erich Nielsen
- 19 **Scissors** – CISEAUX – Stéphane Michaka
- 20 **Shadow Ritual** – LE RITUEL DE L'OMBRE – Éric Giacometti,
Jacques Ravenne
- 21 **Shoot Down the Torpedo** – LA PEAU DE TORPEDO – Francis Ryck
- 22 **Street Thief** – RUE DES VOLEURS – Mathias Énard
- 23 **The Case of Lisandra P.** – LA GARÇONNIÈRE – Hélène Grémillon
- 24 **The Cuckoo** – QUELQUES MOIS À L'AMÉLIE – Jean-Claude Denis
- 25 **The Ghost Rider** – QUI A RAMENÉ DORUNTINE ? – Ismail Kadare
- 26 **The Hartlepool Monkey** – LE SINGE DE HARTLEPOOL – Wilfrid Lupano,
Jérémy Moreau
- 27 **The Interview** – L'ENTREVUE – Manuel Fior
- 28 **The Realist** – KO À TEL-AVIV – Assaf Hanuka
- 29 **The Rocheforts** – LES ROCHEFORT – Christian Laborie
- 30 **Tobie Lolness** – TOBIE LOLNESS – Thimothée de Fombelle
- 31 **Utu** – UTU : UN THRILLER CHEZ LES MAORIS – Caryl Férey
- 32 **We Are the Birds of the Coming Storm** – NOUS SOMMES
LES OISEAUX DE LA TEMPÊTE QUI S'ANNONCE – Lola Lafon
- 33 **White Dog** – CHIEN BLANC – Romain Gary

Verloc Nim wakes up in the middle of nowhere. He is suffering from amnesia. Thanks to a newspaper given to him by a monkey-robot, he plunges into his past... that of a dropout, a man who wanted to break free from the hyper-technology of the world he lived in, until it caught up with him.

Aâma

AÂMA

Frederik Peeters



In a hyper-technological, polluted world where humans resort to genetic manipulations and robotic implants, Verloc and Silice love each other and decide to have a child 'nature's way'. As she grows up, their daughter Lilja shows great intelligence but is incapable of being in contact with others. Verloc turns a blind eye but Silice takes their child to see all the doctors. The couple slowly falls apart; Silice leaves Verloc taking their daughter with her. Verloc is desperate. So, when his brother Conrad - agent of a powerful bio-robotic firm 'The Muy Tang Company' - invites him to go with him, his assistant and the monkey-robot Churchill to the planet Ona(ji), he accepts. Their mission is to try to make contact with a group of scientists who were abandoned there five years before. They must recover Aâma, 'a sort of soup of pico-robots, capable of self-reproduction, that function in a network'. When they get there, they discover a community veering off the rails. Professor Woland left the colony some months before to launch the Aâma experiment on his own. At the same time, a strange little girl arrived out of nowhere, the spitting image of Lilja. They go on an expedition to the moors, where they say Professor Woland launched the experiment, through landscapes that become more and more astonishing, where life has proliferated too quickly. Hostile creatures, a cross between robots and living beings, appear; little by little, they decimate the team. Verloc realizes that Professor Woland has been manipulating them from the start, the Lilja look-alike was a lure to bring him to Ona(ji) and make sure he was contaminated by Aâma. In spite of his résistance, fusion is completed. Verloc sees his force and perceptions multiply. He is now the vehicle of Aâma and, back on the planet Radiant, he transmits - in spite of himself - the substance to his daughter Lilja, who possesses unique genetic characteristics. Professor Woland's plan has come to fruition: humanity takes a giant step by irreversibly integrating technology through the little Lilja.

Setting

On planets Radiant and Ona(ji), in the future.

Main characters

Verloc Nim (Male, 30)

Lilja (Female, under 10/12)

Professeur Woland (Female, over 70)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Published in German (Reprodukt),

English (SelfMadeHero),

Spanish (Astiberri), Italian (Bao),

Netherlands (Sherpa), Portuguese

(Nemo), Serbian (Phoenix).

Find out more

Winner of Angoulême 2013 prize

for a series, and BD Point 2012 Prize.

This series possesses several rare qualities: a captivating storyline, superb artwork and a keen vision of our civilisation and what it is now becoming. It has the potential to become a science-fiction film for a wide public while offering a fascinating vision of the world.

Gallimard • Frédérique Massart
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Rose and Julie's submissive love for the same man, Charles, sets them on an arms race of artificial beauty and debasement.

Break Neck

A CIEL OUVERT

Nelly Arcan



One summer's day, Rose Dubois, a fashion designer, and Julie O'Brien, a documentary maker, find themselves on a burning-hot roof together. Rose is in a relationship with Charles, a fashion photographer, who falls in love with Julie. Desperate, Rose finds comfort with Marc, a rich plastic surgeon, who unknowingly helps her in her plan to win Charles back. Rose and Julie's submissive love for the same man leads to fierce competition between them, raising the stakes in artificial beauty and debasement. Firstly, in their shared obsession for plastic surgery, their attempts to be the avatar of the perfect female and possess the perfect sexual organ; secondly in their acceptance of Charles' objectifying sexual fetishes, his love for women as pieces of flesh and his controlling nature. However, both women in this competition realize that when you accept to be no more than an object, to kneel and grovel before your persecutor, you become his executioner. In the end, Charles does not survive his own obsessions and desires—which he loathes. They bring about his downfall, and ultimately, his death.

Setting

Montreal, nowadays.

Main characters

Rose Dubois (Female)

Julie O'Brien (Female)

Charles (Male)

Film and foreign rights guide

Translation rights sold to Anvill Press for US and Canada.

Promotional material available

Original text in French (Seuil);

English translation (Anvill Press).

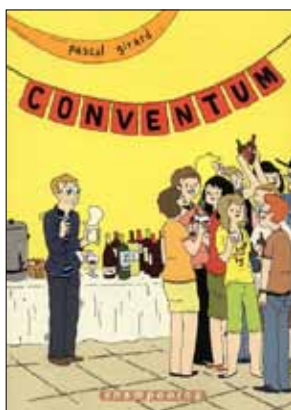
Reminiscent of David Cronenberg's obsessions, *Break Neck* is a superb scenario for three actors, focusing on our culture's vertiginous obsession with youth and standardized beauty (delving into the concept of "burqa of skin", the outrageous omnipresence of the perfect feminine body reduced to a sexual organ) and its reverse: the draw of death.

Pascal leads a quiet life in Quebec, until the day he receives an invitation to a reunion of high school classmates. Pascal is so anxious! He feels fat, old and a loser. He starts jogging, a diet, relooking, Pascal will do anything to be up to scratch and impress the unattainable Lucie he loved as a kid. But on D day, his plans seem to be doomed...

Conventum

CONVENTUM

Pascal Girard



Pascal Girard leads a quiet, uneventful life in Quebec. A comic book artist, he has been living with Julie for some years. After a routine visit to his dentist, he opens a letter he hadn't had time to look at. He is stunned! It's an invitation to a reunion of classmates from his old high school, a 'Conventum'. It will take place this summer. It's not good news for Pascal. He feels so anxious; he's far from a successful 30 year-old! He feels like a fat, aging loser, and he recalls how his friends were all handsome, on the brink of great careers and dream lives. And Lucie, his teenage sweetheart... One good thing, Julie doesn't want to go so when he gets an e-mail from Lucie suggesting they go together, it's a blessing. But for him, it's out of the question to turn up looking like this. Decided to show himself at his very best, and prove that he's one of the winners, he launches a fitness commando. It's May 19 – the conventum takes place on August 29; Pascal has three months to lose 23 kilos. His schedule is really tight, but he does all he can to realize the metamorphosis. Between jogging one hour a day and the cramps, salad at every meal - which he brings along with him even when he is invited – but especially, he has to get rid of that ugly wart. As for Julie, she doesn't understand why he's getting into such a state. He writes in secret to Lucie, as his conventum grows nearer, and manages to reach his goal with the diet. He goes shopping and buys new T shirts and shoes. But it's a thin Pascal, with a cold and that persistent wart, who sets off for the village where his parents live. After spending a bad night, he goes to the chalet where the event takes place. The nightmare begins. Pascal was not expected, he didn't send back his rsvp coupon or the check to pay for his participation. He behaves badly and his rude comments (such as 'Funny, I remember you were a big lanky guy') don't help the situation. His body gives up on him, the cramps come back, and his jaws are painful. He gets ugly with all the others present, and to top it all, Lucie doesn't turn up. What a mess. Pascal leaves, disgusted and humiliated. Droll and tragic, Conventum is a story about nostalgia and the importance we attach to how others see us.

Setting

Canada, Quebec, today.

Main characters

Pascal Girard (Male, Thirties)

Julie Dubé (Female, Thirties)

Film and foreign rights guide

Conventum has been translated into Spanish, by La Cupula Ediciones; and English, by Drawn and Quaterly

Find out more

Graphic novel, one shot.

A mute and blind quadriplegic, Elise Andrioli, is approached by a girl who claims to have witnessed one of the recent child murders in the community. But, trapped in her own body, Elise cannot warn anyone--or protect herself.

Death from the Woods

LA MORT DES BOIS

Brigitte Aubert



Setting

Suburbia, nowadays.

Main characters

Elise Andrioli (Female, 30)

Yvette (Female, 60)

Commissaire Yssart (Male, 40)

Film and foreign rights guide

Published in English (Welcome Rain and Berkeley in the US, and Hodder & Stoughton in the UK), German (Goldmann, Bertelsmann Club, BTB and Weltbild), Dutch (De Arbeiderspers, XL and Zilver), Norwegian (Gyldendal Norsk), Italian (Volland), Spanish/Castilian (Destino), Catalan (SD), Portuguese (ASA in Portugal and Companhia das Letras in Brazil), Greek (Libro), Russian (Limbus), Hungarian (Rez Es Tarsa KFT), Slovak (Epos), Czech (Motto and Odeon), Lithuanian (Alma Littera), Japanese (Hayakawa), Chinese complex characters (Eurasian in Taiwan), Chinese simplified characters (Taibai) Vietnamese (Nha Xuat Ban Tre).

Elise Andrioli had it all: she was managing a bustling movie theater, engaged to be married, surrounded by friends. But when a terrorist bomb shattered her world, leaving her blind, mute, and quadriplegic, she was taken back to her family home near Paris. Lately, life in this suburb has been less than tranquil – a series of grisly murders has shaken its residents. Young boys keep disappearing in the woods, only to be discovered days later, dead and horribly mutilated. One morning, while waiting in her wheelchair outside a supermarket, Elise is approached by a strange little girl named Virginie, who confides to her that she was present when 'Death from the Woods' murdered Michael, a little boy reported missing several days earlier. Later that afternoon, Michael's death is confirmed on the local news. All too soon, Virginie informs Elise that she herself is a target. Who is this girl, and how will Elise ever find her again? Why is someone trying to kill her? And how in the world is she going to convey what she knows to those around her? Elise is plunged into a dizzying universe. Virginie, her parents and the investigator, Commissaire Yssart, in pursuit of the killer, all confide in her. As Elise makes physical progress from her unique method of communicating—lifting an index finder to signal 'yes'—to regaining some dexterity in her left hand and arm, the plot becomes increasingly complicated. One after the other, Elise suspects the adults in Virginie's world of committing the heinous crimes, and finally she herself becomes a target.

A particularly original police investigation (the 'detective' is a mute and blind quadriplegic), all the more so because the story is narrated with ferocious humour.

The true story of a mental manipulation that drove a family to ruin and self-destruction: parents to mistrust their children, brothers to protect themselves against their sisters, husbands to become the accomplices of their wives' persecutor.

Easy Bait

NOUS N'ÉTIONS PAS ARMÉS

Christine de Védrines



Setting

France and England but could be situated in any towns and any country.

Main characters

Christine de Védrines (Female, 62)

Thierry Tilly (Male, 49)

Ghislaine de Védrines (Female, 50)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available. Translated in UK in 2014. Sales in France for first edition (not counting paperback) 10.000 copies.

Promotional material available

The book in English. Pitch in English.

Author available to provide producers with all relevant information.

Find out more

Press dossier. The story led to a trial that was widely covered by the press.

It was Ghislaine de Védrines, director of a secretarial school, who set the cat among the pigeons in 1999. Thierry Tilly, whom she met through a friend, has refurbished his establishment. Ghislaine, immediately seduced by Thierry Tilly's charisma, introduces him to her family. Encouraged by their trust in him, he tells Ghislaine and her two brothers, Philippe and Charles-Henri (Christine's husband), and their mother, Guillemette, that he trained at the prestigious military school Saint-Cyr belonged to the French intelligence services and worked with the United Nations... With his colossal memory and stunning audacity, this pathological liar also claims to have managed several firms. Threatened by a lawsuit because of hidden defects in a house they sold a few years before, the family asks Thierry Tilly to help, and he succeeds in escaping the lawsuit. Considering that the family's financial affairs are poorly exploited, he becomes their new assets administrator over the coming months. He also convinces the Védrines not to pay any more tax.

Christine follows her husband and his family on the road to hell. Inciting family rivalry and adultery, Tilly spreads slanderous rumours, driving Ghislaine to leave a would-be unfaithful husband. He creates havoc between Charles-Henri and his business partner, provoking the closure of their gynaecology consultation in Bordeaux. Thierry Tilly even convinces the Védrine family that they are the victims of a Masonic plot to get rid of them. To escape, he advises them to take refuge in Martel, their 18th century castle in Monflanquin (Lot-et-Garonne). From grandmother to grandchildren, eleven of them live there, cut off from the world, shutters closed. They have no way of telling the time, eat very little, clean the house from top to bottom every day, write 'activity reports' and do not answer the phone. Their former friends' complaints to the police and the public prosecutor of Agen remain unheeded. The Védrines swear only by Tilly who has now gone to live in England and sends his orders by phone or e-mail, obliging them to sell their property.

In 2008, the family is invited to come to Oxford, to live in a house under construction opposite Thierry Tilly's fine residence. Christine and Charles-Henri sleep on a mattress on the floor. According to Tilly's theory, the Cornette de Laminière family (Christine's maiden name) have been passing down a treasure from generation to generation, and only Christine knows where it is hidden. No matter how much she protests, Thierry Tilly persuades the family that she knows the secret. Shortly afterwards, he obliges her and her son Guillaume to go around the banks in Brussels looking for a safety deposit box, which, of course, has never existed... Morally harassed, Christine de Védrines takes too many tranquilisers and in the end, is locked up in a room for several days, forced to sit on a chair staring at a wall while the others members of the family, and Thierry Tilly, threaten her and demand that she reveal the secret of the 'transmission'. A little later, rebellion comes when she finds a job in a restaurant in Oxford. In March 2009, she flees to France then, with the help of her former brother in law, Jean Marchand, contacts a lawyer specialized in cases of mental manipulation. Tilly, who took 4.5 million euro from the Védrines, was arrested in October 2009.

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A literary masterpiece translated under the title *Fantastic Planet*. The animated film version won the Special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1973. After the great cataclysm, survivors are taken by the Draags (blue giants with red eyes) to their planet. There, time passes very slowly and the Oms are subjugated by their new masters. Little by little, led by a particularly intelligent young Om called Terr, the Oms find their love for freedom again.

Fantastic Planet

OMS EN SÉRIE

Stefan Wul



Setting

A planet.

Main characters

Terr (Male, 20)

Tiwa (Female, 12)

Master Sinh (Male, 50)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available for an adaptation
Live or TV series.

Translated into English under
the title *Fantastic Planet*.

First adaptation in an animated
film was made in 1973.

Promotional material available

Book in English. Pitch in English.

DVD of the animated film made
by René Laloux with artwork
by Roland Topor.

Find out more

Considered to be a Sci-Fi masterpiece.

Oms en série has been reprinted

14 times since the first edition in 1957.

Adapted for graphic novel in 2012

by Ankama. Adapted for screen

by René Laloux: *La Planète sauvage*

in 1973, Special Jury Prize at Cannes

Film Festival 1973.

On the planet Ygam, the Draags keep the Oms as pets. These Oms are the distant descendants of people from the planet Earth, brought as captive to Ygam. At his birth, the young Om Terr was adopted by a little girl named Draag Tiwa. He shares in all her activities. When the young Tiwa learns her lessons through her instruction headphones, the little Om - sleeping on her lap - also assimilates the knowledge given to the Draag child. Once Tiwa's parents realize that Terr spontaneously recites entire lessons, they worry and ask Tiwa not to share her training sessions with him anymore. The young Terr then escapes, steals the instruction headphones and arrives in a Draag park inhabited by bands of wild Oms who live there illegally and refuse servitude. Helped by Brave, Vaillant and Charbon, Terr learns the harsh life of Oms in the wild, how they must hide and steal from Draags to survive. Thanks to his ability to read, Terr saves the rival gangs of the park from the "de-om-ization" programme organized by Draags. They all take refuge in the ruins of an ancient Draag port. After a few human years, the Oms have accumulated lots of stolen equipment, educated themselves in all domains thanks to the Draags children's educational headphones, and are now preparing their major project: to create a colony of free Oms on the wild old continent of the planet Ygam. During the preparations, the Oms monitor the Draags' decisions through an efficient domestic spy network and communicate through teleboxes. After countering the Draag spies who came to photograph their underground city, Terr accelerates the project and puts three submarines to sea. After a perilous journey, in which one of the three ships went down, the Oms finally docked in one of the planet's two wild continents. Meanwhile, Mr. Sinh, a respected Draag naturalist, tries to alert the Draag authorities of the imminent and irreversible danger of the Oms who have reproduced exponentially and are threatening to revolt. But Draag leaders are not convinced by the scientist's alarmist warnings. On the wild continent, the Oms slowly migrate to the highlands to establish their new city in protected caves.

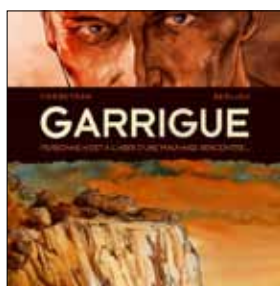
French Pulp • Nathalie Carpentier
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Four friends have managed to set up the perfect scam. But when one of their victims returns and is murdered, everything falls to pieces. Now a policeman, ten years on, one of the four launches an investigation around the other three and their families, at the risk of losing more than just their friendship.

Garrigue

GARRIGUE

Éric Corbeyran, Olivier Berlion



In a gas station in the backend of nowhere, a man bumps into the guy he supposedly killed a few years back. In a state of panic, he decides to run away, but his 'victim' catches up with him and fires a bullet through his back. 10 years later, Martial, a newly retired police officer, finds documents belonging to a stranger in Remi's basement (his best friend he has just buried). It was in this very same basement that he, Remi and two other accomplices (Rene and Frantz) planned their mean but lucrative scam: pick on a passing fool in the area, invite him to join them hunting, and pretend to have been accidentally killed by this 'idiot'. To avoid being denounced, the man would pay the group money for their silence and then quickly leave town! Until now, this scheme hadn't caused any problems for this local man, locked away and alone, immune to heartbreak. His little scams had even allowed him to put enough money aside to build a house and start thinking about settling down. Intrigued, Martial doesn't understand what these documents are doing at Remi's house. Trying to recall anything that might be a clue, he conducts an investigation in a scrubland as dry as it is deadly. Which of his two surviving childhood friends holds the key to the mystery? In course of the investigation, Martial discovers a series of dark secrets that had never emerged throughout their supposed friendship. Where is the girl he once loved so dearly though never daring to declare his love, who disappeared without a trace? Is her disappearance related to this case? What price will everyone have to pay to solve it? Between repentance and redemption, nothing can stop Martial's investigation.

Setting

A quiet village in the countryside.

Main characters

Martial (Male, 50)

Remi (Male, 50)

Franz & Rene (Male, 50)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film and publishing rights available worldwide. Translated into English, Italian and Dutch.

Professional material available

2 books translated into English.

Find out more

Constructed around a series of flashbacks that propels the investigation, Garrigue is a profound and powerful thriller, delving into the sources of friendship to reveal the characters' vulnerability.

This graphic novel explores the perfect scam gone wrong, and the impact it has on other people's lives and friendship.

Dargaud • Laurent Duvault
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'Sink or swim' should be the motto at the Institute of Excellence, where deadly accidents await the weakest. A group of four students try to rebel in order to survive. Realizing that this elite school is linked to an orphan trafficking network, as cruel as it is immoral, they discover that their worst enemy could just be the greatest defender of humanity...

Hell School

HELL SCHOOL

Dugomier, Ers



Bastien, Hina and Boris are 'sentenced' to spend 3 years at the Institute of Excellence, a school reserved for the elite and situated on an island. When they refuse to bend to the initiation ritual, they are forced to suffer brutal exclusion from the other students and accept the nickname 'the bastards'. It is up to Franck, the head boy, and his troops to make sure they experience a living hell: deprivation, harassment, anything goes to make sure they are weakened in the extreme. Bastien, escaping from a group that had cut off his precious dreadlocks, discovers a plaque in memory of a dead student on the island. As he investigates further with Hina and Boris, he realizes that many former 'bastards' disappeared after deadly accidents, and all three of them could now be in similar danger. Under the pretext of restoring the honour of the school, Franck is ordered to kill Bastien, but his attempt fails. This attempted murder encourages Bastien and his accomplices to forget about the school and investigate what is happening there. Taking advantage of the Christmas vacation on the mainland, Bastien runs away and follows the trail of one of the students who disappeared, an orphan and an outcast, just like him. He discovers that they shared the same foster family, where, for many years, he endured a cruel upbringing, bordering on psychological torture. As his accomplices return to lessons and gather more information, he at last discovers the truth about the man behind it all, almost losing his life in the process. His name is Henry Mennert, an orphan. He couldn't rely on anyone but himself move up through the Institute and climb the ladder of High Society. With unfailing empathy and altruism, Henry constructed an empire by investing in developing countries, helping to rebalance wealth. Over time, he became obsessed with finding the right successor. Convinced of the justice of his cause, and how much his personal journey was the key to his own success, he constructed a network of surrogate mothers and an intensely severe upbringing program for the orphans, who would live a life identical to his, so developing the same altruistic qualities. The passage through the Institute marks the ultimate test. Bastien finds out who his father is, but more importantly, he discovers how many half-brothers have been manipulated or even killed. What if denouncing the man behind it all would result in the fall of the most selfless company the world has ever known?

Setting

An English-like boarding school, on a remote island.

Main characters

Bastien (Male, 15)

Hina (Female, 15)

Boris (Male, 15)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film and publishing rights available worldwide. Promotional material available. The English script of the three volumes.

Find out more

From a thriller about competition to death in a rich kid's school, Hell School quickly plunges us into the heart of a more elevated subject: the farming of orphans to create a clone mentality. Like Lord of the Flies or recent Y.A. hits such as The Hunger Games this quest unites very different characters who will have to create a new dynamic in the face of an unknown danger.

Like in recent Y.A. hits such as *The Hunger Games* and *The Maze Runner*, this quest brings together divergent characters who will have to create a new dynamic in the face of unknown danger.

Le Lombard • Laurent Duvault
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In 1940, Alexis promises Anne to take care of her always. He's ten, she's nine. First the exodus, then life separates them for many years until they get together again by chance... From Paris to Montreal, a magnificent love story where historic events, voyages and the love of art play their roles.

I Sought My Heart's Beloved

J'AI CHERCHÉ CELUI QUE MON CŒUR AIME

Dominique Marny



Setting

Paris, Montreal, San Francisco.
1930s – 1980s.

Main characters

Anne (Female, 40)
Alexis (Male, 40)

Promotional material available

English translation.

Paris, 1939. Anne lives in Montmartre. At nine, she has a crush on her big brother's friend, Alexis, who's eleven. Her parents aren't keen on this little boy whose father, a bookseller and a communist, doesn't inspire confidence. When WW2 breaks out, the exodus separates the two children. But Anne never forgets Alexis, and dreams of seeing him again.

1956. Anne is now a busy young woman, married to François, with a little daughter. She works in a contemporary art gallery belonging to the fascinating Amanda Kircher, who lived in New York during the Occupation and frequented all the great artists of those years. She meets up with Alexis again by chance when visiting the Universal Exposition with her husband. Alexis is a teacher accompanying a group of pupils. He's amazed that Anne even recognized him. He tells her he's going to Montreal, to live there...

1967. More than ten years later, Anne and Alexis meet again. In an art magazine, Anne reads an article written by Alexis. At last she finds a pretext to get in touch with him. She writes a letter asking him to do an article on one of the artists exhibited by the gallery. He accepts and comes to Paris for the vernissage. This time, he remembers her well... Anne learns he's been sent to San Francisco, and that he's married with one son.

Some months later, Alexis invites Anne to come to San Francisco to meet an American artist who may be of interest to Madame Kircher. Anne immediately accepts, and realizes when she gets there that this artist was a pretext to see her again. This "business trip" marks the beginning of a passionate love affair. For one week, Anne and Alexis are constantly together. But Anne has to get back to Paris.

So begins an affair that lasts for several years... with its ups and downs. When Anne finds out that Alexis's wife is pregnant, she feels betrayed. Her own marriage is on the rocks and her husband leaves her for a younger woman. Anne concentrates on her professional projects and decides to open her own gallery in partnership with an American gallery owner. It turns out to be a great success! Finally, Anne forgives Alexis. He surprises her one day by buying a flat in Montmartre...

J'ai cherché celui que mon cœur aime is a touchingly beautiful love story involving two charismatic characters. Set in a rich, international setting, it invites readers to plunge into the world of contemporary art in France and North America.

Place des éditeurs • Alexandra Buchman
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Prison is only in the Mind, they said. But now Angel is out, how long will he be able to resist letting his old demons in?

Karma Salsa

KARMA SALSA

Philippe Charlod, Callède, Fred Campoy



Ange is released from prison after serving a heavy 20-year sentence. Once a war dog and brutal henchman, meditation has turned his life around. But the people waiting for him on the outside haven't changed one bit. They want to get their hands on the \$2 million that he managed to hide before he was arrested. Sandro, a corrupt cop and his sidekick El Gordo, an amateur rapper, are determined to make him spill the beans. Pablo Juarez, the son of Ange's former guardian, wants not only the money, but also... his guts. He accuses Ange of having robbed him of everything: the respect of his father and the love of the beautiful Elena. But the psychopathic mobster finally gets his revenge: Melissa, the pretty young exotic dancer he has hired, just happens to be the daughter of Elena... and Ange. If her father, bewildered on discovering he has a daughter, doesn't bring Pablo the cash, it's Melissa who will face the consequences. Ange has vowed to turn his back on violence, and he will not let anyone mess him around. Escaping his pursuers, he kidnaps his own daughter before embarking on a huge treasure hunt throughout the country. Luckily Ange can always count on his former band of brothers: Duke, aviation and DIY genius, and Piotr Kirilenko, a kind-hearted Russian mercenary. A breathless chase begins from the middle of the desert to the depths of the jungle, with gunfire, lots of grand gestures and heated arguments, as father and daughter attempt to get to know each other before it's too late. The action accelerates when - to save Melissa, who has been captured by gold miners - Ange gives vent to the rage he has been bottling up for 20 years. Utter mayhem follows: Piotr loses his life, and our heroes run away... only to fall under the claws of a jaguar. Saved by a Shaman who enables Ange to make peace with his violent past, Ange and Melissa find themselves in prison. They are trapped; the former Mafia member is left with no choice. Under heavy guard, he leads the crew to the ruins of an old prison in the heart of the jungle. In the depths of tunnels dug out by former prisoners, the final tragic act unfolds, and greed and violence spare no one!

Setting

The Caribbean and South America, present day.

Main characters

Angel (Male, 45)

Melissa (Female, 20)

Piotr (Male, 45)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available worldwide.

Foreign rights available (except Holland).

Promotional material available

The script of the 3 volumes translated into English.

Find out more

Karma Salsa contains all the best elements of a good noir novel: prison life, underground fighting, drug trafficking, hidden cash, tenacious vengeance and continuous twists...

Its Caribbean setting adds color and sweat to all these adventures, as well as a modern touch, to revisit the genre in a dynamic way, peppering the dialogue with welcome humour and innuendo.

Karma Salsa contains all the best elements of a good noir novel with a modern touch, revisiting the genre in a dynamic way, peppering the dialogue with welcome humor. Perfect popcorn movie material!

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You can only avoid your past for so long before it catches up with you...

Melville

MELVILLE

Romain Renard



Setting

Present day, in a small North American town.

Main characters

Samuel (Male, 30)

Sarah (Female, 30)

Dave (Male, 35)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film and foreign rights available worldwide. Promotional material available English Translation available as a script.

In 2014, it was selected for the Valence scriptwriter's festival, helping the artist to structure an adaptation for the big screens. It won an award for best script at the International Festival of Comics in Algiers as well as the promise prize of 9th Art at Versailles for best script.

Find out more

The graphic novel *Melville* has a free iOS app which allows the reader to listen to a soundtrack created by the author, heightening reality and encouraging the reader to immerse themselves fully in *Melville*, and to access two years of research that was needed to create this universe.

After the success of his first novel, Samuel Beauclair Melville is depressed, experiencing a romantic and writer's block. He moves to the house of his late father, a successful author. It is the height of summer and a record-breaking heatwave is hanging over this quiet little town, nestled in the forest. Cooped-up in a new home with his wife Sarah, who is about to give birth, they reflect on their life and the mistakes they've made. Samuel takes a job as a painter while searching for inspiration. That's how he meets Dave and Rachel, a brother and sister who live in the house he is repainting. The drought reaches its peak and Sarah and Samuel argue more and more, which brings Samuel closer to Rachel, who has no idea his wife exists. Their innocent little seduction game soon becomes much more passionate... After their first night together, Samuel disappears. Rachel soon realizes she didn't know him as well as she thought. Via his answering phone she discovers that he lives with a woman called Sarah. Distraught, she decides to go and see Samuel, but instead comes across his publisher, who is equally concerned by the silence of his protégé. She learns that less than a year ago, Sam lost his pregnant wife in a tragic car accident. A storm breaks out, triggering a huge forest fire in which Samuel finds himself trapped. Guided by the ghoulish ghost of an ancient legend, he has to fight to survive the brutality of the elements, but more importantly, to face his uncontrollable desire and to finally free himself from this destructive guilt. Melville is an imaginary city, a mysterious place where anything is possible; so special that it influences the characters of those who live there. The landscapes, the huge forests - even the houses - create an atmosphere worthy of David Lynch or M. Night Shyamalan. Around them hovers the man-deer, whose legend haunts Melville, a legend not entirely unrelated to the life of Samuel Beauclair. Melville is more than just a graphic novel. It's a transmedia concept open to all possible genres (drama, thriller, comedy, fantasy), in any form of narration (graphic novel, novel, concert, app, film).

Melville is more than just a graphic novel: It's a transmedia concept that is open to all possible genres (drama, thriller, comedy, fantasy), in any form of narration (graphic novel, novel, concert, app, film).

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Be careful what you wish for! If you ever curse your mother... It could cost her a lot!

Mommy Killers

TUEURS DE MAMANS

Zidrou, Borecki, Ers



T, an explosive and rebellious young girl starts at a new school and becomes friends with Valentine, Anggun and Beatrice. What is unusual about their group? They were all raised without a father. But what is it that unites them so strongly? Hundreds and thousands of reasons why they hate their own mothers: for being fed Brussel sprouts at lunch time, for being born deformed, or because she is a lesbian... One day they stumble across the website castigo.com, which offers to give hated people a taste of their own medicine. Taking one of their mother's credit cards, the five girls decide to play the game, and soon the site becomes a real outlet for the girls. But no sanctions are given, so - thinking it's just a scam - the girls continue to let off steam, conjuring up increasingly violent punishments. A few weeks later, the first punishment actually happens. Initially feeling rather pleased with themselves, the five girls soon realize that they have taken things too far as they watch punishment after punishment take place; knowing that those to follow will kill their own mothers! As the police investigate what they believe to be the work of a psychopath, halfway between a 'mad hatter' and the 'masked avenger', the girls desperately try to cancel the order, but to no avail... They now have only one goal: to save their mothers' lives! But can they do it in time? As the punishments become more violent, one of the mothers manages to escape from the 'bogeyman'. Forced to confess everything to their families, the girls are held by the police before being released to do some repair work, the investigation having stalled for lack of evidence. Consumed with remorse, they decide they are going to stop the psychopath themselves by setting him a trap. This time, their sadistic literature teacher is the target. What they do not realize is that the last mother who escaped her punishment is still on the list. After a breathless confrontation, they manage to overpower the person they believe to be the 'bogeyman'. But another 'vigilante' prepares to carry out his mission... T. realizes the ploy and warns her mother and her friend immediately... but it's too late: she is captured and must decide which of the two mothers she should leave to die!

Zidrou is one of the most gifted writers of his generation, capable of dipping into every genre, from school com and fairy tales to romantic com. His series for teenagers have already been adapted several times for the big screens, and in this series he shakes up all the genre clichés by adding a healthy dose of sadism into the mother/daughter relationship.

Setting

Town, school.

Main characters

T., Valentine, Marie, Anggun,

Béatriz (Females, 14)

Mothers (Females, 30-45)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film and foreign rights available worldwide. Promotional material available Summary of the first volume available in English. Translation on-going.

Find out more

Mother Killers and its website Castigo could be a 2.0 version of the eternal adolescent crisis. It's an interesting character study of 5 very different, insecure teenagers, which first develops into a tense thriller, before taking disturbing turn, when the masked "vigilante" attacks the thing most precious to us, our mothers.

A fascinating character study of 5 very different, insecure teenagers, which first develops into a tense thriller, before taking a more disturbing turn.

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"*Murder on the Green* is a fine example of a detective story in the Agatha Christie vein, but more sophisticated, new millennium, with intrigue and atmosphere...

I loved it. It's serenely enjoyable, makes a change from gory serial killers." Gérard Collard (bookseller and journalist for TV/radio). "A detective story for all those who have ever felt like killing their partner!" (Golf Magazine). "An investigation in the finest tradition, a well-constructed plot. And a new hero to discover!" (Rayon Polar.com). A thrilling investigation and a captivating plunge into the unique psyche of a champion. Golf will never be the same to you!

Murder on the Green

MEURTRE AU DIX-HUITIÈME TROU

John-Erich Nielsen



Setting

Contemporary – St Andrews (Scotland), Augusta (USA) and Ballybunion (Ireland), but the plot could be easily transposed to a Canadian setting.

Main characters

Inspector Archibald Sweeney (Male, 23)
Marjorie Sweeney, called 'Aunt Midge' (Female, 60), Will Tyron Jr, world's #1 golfer (Male, 30)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film and foreign rights available worldwide. Promotional material available. The entire book has been translated as *Murder on the Green* (by two translators, one Canadian and one American).

Find out more

Meurtre au dix-huitième trou was #1 on the amazon.fr list for four months without interruption, in the 'Sport' category, but it was also listed in the fifteen best-selling detective stories. The force and originality of the novel probably lies in a well-controlled balance between the rich plot and the accuracy of the excellent documentation. Moreover, this book was the yearly gift of the French Golf Federation and one of the biggest French chain stores of golfing equipment (Nouveaux Golfs de France).

Inspector Archibald Sweeney, a lanky young redhead, has been given his first investigation. A woman's body has just been found, her skull in splinters, in a bunker on the Old Course at St. Andrews, the world's oldest golf course. She's Amanda Nelson, mistress of #1 international player Will Tyron Jr. and daughter of General Boyle, patron of the prestigious Professional Golfers' Association (PGA). Her husband, Buddy Nelson, was the player's caddie. The forensic pathologist, a keen golfer, tells the inspector about the strain between Tyron Jr and his rival Elster. Since all the protagonists have already left for the USA to take part in the US Open, Sweeney is sent to Georgia. There, he meets Tyron Jr. and his authoritarian father, a former GI, his wife, a now forgotten Miss USA, General Boyle, and Buddy Nelson, who gives Sweeney the golf club that is to become his talisman. The next day, the caddie is found beaten to death on the Augusta golf course! Back in Scotland, the inspector only just manages to hang on to the case. The next competition takes place in Ireland, so Sweeney leaves for Ballybunion on the west coast. The marks left on Nelsons' skulls suggest a left-handed player: he suspects Will Tyron Jr! As he is about to arrest Tyron on the 18th and last hole, the suspect is shot down – a bullet in the head... Sweeney immediately arrests Sven Olsson, a Swedish player who is the only other left-hander on the pro circuit. To make him talk, the inspector has to place himself 'in the mind' of a professional golfer. In this way, he manages to beat Olsson at his own game, he unnerves him and gets a confession: Olsson was working for none other than General Boyle, Amanda's father, who - for financial reasons - had constructed a diabolical plot. Finally, the arrest takes place at a tense face to face confrontation: Boyle gives a 'golf lesson' to Sweeney, claiming to have won in the end because he saved the PGA!

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Raymond is a writer. Marianne, his wife, is a waitress. Although very young they already have 2 kids. In America of the 70s, it's hard to make ends meet. Raymond dreams of being published. His meeting with Douglas, literary director of a big magazine, is crucial yet infernal. The true story of one of the most mythical duos in the history of American literature.

Scissors

CISEAUX

Stéphane Michaka



Firstly, this is the story of two young Americans struggling to get by: Raymond and Marianne, his wife in spite of everything. Married at 16, two kids at 20, they pick up any small jobs they can, and vegetate in a town in the North West. Marianne is a school teacher by day and a waitress by night to pay the rent. Raymond is a hospital watchman at night and a librarian. He's desperate to get his work published, to beat his attraction for alcohol and its demons. They share a mad dream: Raymond's literary genius, in which Marianne believes, and is willing to make sacrifices for.

After 15 years of marriage and just as many of struggling to get by, a knight in shining armour appears: the editor of one the country's most read magazines. His name is Douglas. Regal and dictatorial, he's nicknamed 'Scissors' in the publishing world. As Raymond gains fame thanks to Douglas, drawing on his conjugal life for the subjects of his short stories, the couple starts going wrong. Because Raymond is a hurt man, ready to make any sacrifice to be published, to exist. He spends more and more time in New York. And Douglas makes the best of it. He pitilessly transforms the stories of his protégé, sometimes cutting them by half, changing the ending. Raymond protests when he doesn't recognize his work, but always gives in. His relationship with Douglas is ambiguous, between friendship, the quest for recognition, admiration and suppressed hatred.

Marianne doesn't like the situation, she who sacrificed everything so that he could write in peace. Raymond frequents detox centres one after another, women likewise. When alcohol gets the better of him, he mistreats Marianne, who cannot stop loving him even so. She admires this man, her man.

Success comes too late for Raymond: he drinks too much, his marriage is destroyed and he's lost touch with his kids. Marianne and Raymond separate but they are still present in each other's lives. One spring evening, Raymond meets Joanne. Thanks to her, Raymond sobers up and finds the strength to stand up to Douglas.

For Raymond has decided to break with him. He's going to change publisher, so ending Douglas's career. When Raymond dies, Joanne – whom he married a few weeks earlier – becomes the literary executory of his work. She summons Douglas and tells him she's about to publish all Raymond's work as he wrote it, the public will be responsible for its future.

Setting

USA. Several towns in the provinces and NYC.

Main characters

Raymond (Male, 40)
Marianne (Female, 40)
Douglas (Male, 40)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Published in UK (Nan A. Talese / Doubleday), Italy (Edizioni Clichy).

Promotional material available

French and foreign (US, Italian) press reviews available.

Find out more

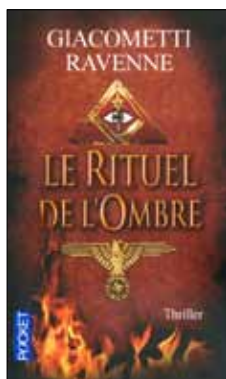
Paperback published by Pocket.
Adaptated for the stage in 2013, performed at the Domaine d'O (Montpellier), directed by Marion Coutarel.

A Freemason homicide detective investigates murders committed throughout history by an occult Aryan brotherhood whose motives appear to be rooted in Masonic archives.

Shadow Ritual

LE RITUEL DE L'OMBRE

Éric Giacometti, Jacques Ravenne



April 1945. The Third Reich is on the point of collapse. In a bombed-out Berlin, an SS officer is charged with evacuating cases with secret contents. At the same time, a 'brother' is murdered in Dachau in a reproduction of the ritual killing of Hiram, the legendary founder of Freemasonry, killed by blows with a stick to the shoulder, the neck and the face. In modern-day Rome, a young archivist of the Grand Orient is assassinated following the same ritual during a party at the French embassy. On the same day, in Jerusalem, a researcher who is working on a mysterious engraved stone is killed in the same way. Antoine Marcas, a Freemason homicide detective, and Jade Zewinski, chief security officer of the embassy, lead the investigation into the murder. They soon uncover an occult Aryan association, the Thule Gesellschaft, historic enemy of Freemasonry. The link between these similar executions is found to be the shadow ritual, a rite of initiation said to enable those who undergo it to understand the origins of life. However, its results depend on the person who performs it: pure hearts are liberated of their fears while others are condemned to insanity. A gripping thriller that plunges us into the characters' past, the history of Freemasonry and the Second World War. The book consists of 5 parts that are named after different architectural components of Solomon's Temple (Ulam, Yachin, Bo'az, Hekel, Debir) and symbolise progression towards the discovery of a secret. Short chapters follow on each other, giving the thriller a lively pace. There is more action than words and each chapter gives us new fragments of information. The chapters follow the chronological order of the story, and are all told from the viewpoint of an omniscient narrator, but with different characters in the forefront. Marcas is not the only one to discover the plot; sometimes the reader knows what the Thule Gesellschaft is planning before the detective does. The many scenes of action throughout the book are highly visual; the easily transposable dialogues distil information or illustrate the relationships between the characters. Action taking place in Italy, France and Germany, fascinating and unexpected historical references, powerful dialogue and secrets held by occult groups – all the ingredients for a major international feature film are present.

Setting

Berlin, Rome, Paris, Lascaux caves.

Main Characters

Antoine Marcas (Male, 40)

Jade Zewinski (Female, 30)

Sol/François Le Guermant
(Male, Over 70)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Foreign rights sold in 16 countries: USA, Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Brazil, and Japan.

Promotional material available

English translation available.

Find out more

More than 300,000 copies sold in France. The character of Antoine Marcas has been taken up and developed over 9 investigations with total sales of almost 2 million copies in France.

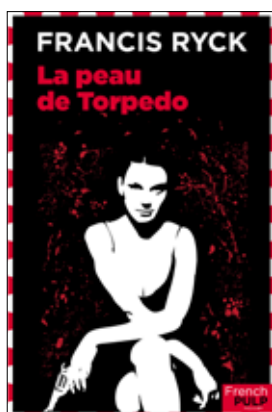
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Espionnage? It's a watch-maker's job. You measure the risks, imagining the worst possible scenario, and you build a complex plan, devilishly complex, with obscure codes and secret rendezvous. Until one day an enraged woman makes a cock-up of your meticulously planned operation and finds herself projected into the war of shadows. How can you survive when spies are out to get you? The most sensible solution may be to wait... until they kill each other.

Shoot Down the Torpedo

LA PEAU DE TORPEDO

Francis Ryck



Setting

Today in Paris and the Côte d'Azur, but this story of spying between Russia and the West could take place anywhere in the West.

Main characters

Dominique (Female, 30)

Pierre (Male, 50)

Kola (Male, 50)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available. After a first adaptation in 1970 by Jean Delannoy, rights have reversed to the author. Book published in 1968 has been reprinted 3 times.

Translated into English under the title *Woman Hunt*.

Promotional material available

Book in English. Pitch in English.

DVD of the first film by J. Delannoy.

Find out more

Francis Ryck is a great name in the French espionage category ('...*There's more truth and talent in Ryck's work than in Le Carré*'...') Guy Debord). Grand Prix de Littérature policière in 1969. Author of novels that inspired notably *Le Silencieux* by Claude Pinoteau with Lino Ventura, *Le Compagnon indésirable* by Robert Enrico with Jean Louis Trintignant, *Conseil de Famille* by Costa Gavras.

We tend to think spies have an exciting life, but Kola's was as dull as dishwater: an aging agent, he took advantage of antique dealer's activities to steal industrial secrets. The actual theft is often the most exciting part: the acrobatics, the rush of adrenalin... are probably the last thing that's left of his profession. What follows is a long series of precautions. Once in Paris, he has to pass on the stolen documents. But sometimes, paranoia sets in and the whole network has to disappear for a few days. Which isn't simple for Kola: his wife, Dominique, has no idea what he does. He's right to worry! After no word of him for four days, Dominique finds out he's back in Paris, and was seen arm-in-arm with a woman. She doesn't take time to think: she rushes to Kola's hiding place and shoots what she thinks is an unfaithful husband and the woman who is hiding with him! In the world of spies, there are no coincidences: Dominique is now a threat and has to be eliminated. Meanwhile Pierre, the head of Kola's network, has to clean up the mess. There's no nuance in espionage, so the orders he gets from Moscow are very clear: he has to find the documents Kola had stolen. The French secret service is put on the job. Pierre knows this is the mission impossible: the agent he sends is soon spotted and ends up killing himself, worn down by constantly having to escape the spies on his tracks. Dominique has travelled a few miles to Antibes, where she tried in vain to get on a boat. She doesn't really know what's happening to her, or even what she has to fear: she discovered Kola's double life in the newspapers, and can't understand what she's got herself into... but she knows she has to be careful. To help Pierre, the Russians have sent a 'Torpedo', a spy specialized in tracking down people on the run... His strategy? He puts himself in the mind of his prey. And sure enough, when he reaches Antibes, it's easy for the Torpedo to guess where Dominique is hiding: in the wreck of a boat. But the eternal dilemma of spies is that they always suspect a trap. So now he's on a zodiac, heading for the wreck. He falls and can't get up, he's paralyzed from shoulders to feet. The French services, who were waiting for him, can just pick him up now... The Russians think the game is up. But since he's paralysed, the Torpedo is incapable of killing himself! A man of his word, he nevertheless makes up his mind to keep quiet, giving Pierre time to get away... But Pierre gets caught and he talks! The man who sent so many agents to their death turns traitor. Dominique is safe, and since her husband was a spy, she won't be prosecuted for his murder.

French Pulp - Nathalie Carpentier
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To be twenty when the Arab Spring dawns, speaking the French of noir detective novels, anxiously serving the Muslim Brotherhood, placing freedom above religion, seducing a young girl from Barcelona and contemplating a narrow stretch of water, to cross over from Tangier to what seems like a garden of delights...

Street Thief

RUE DES VOLEURS

Mathias Énard

Selected
book



Setting

Between Morocco and Spain.

Main Characters

(Male, Twenties)

Meryem (Female, 20)

Bassam (Male, 20)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Translated into English, Italian, Spanish,

Bulgarian, Turkish, Dutch, Norwegian,

Arabic (Lebanon) and German.

Promotional material available

Press reviews.

He is a young Moroccan from Tangier, no-problems, an acceptably practicing Muslim, who's just a little bit too fond of freedom and self-development in a society that leaves little room for either – and where the Koran is the law. At school, he learned a few words of Spanish and enough French to read 'série noire' detective stories. He is waiting to become an adult, contemplating his cousin Meryem's breasts. With her, he commits his one and only sin. They get caught: the blows rain down on him and now he's in the street. There begins his lawless drifting, and, through his friend Bassam, contact with an association of proselytes: the Group of diffusion of koranic thinking, for whom he sells sacred books. The Arab Spring has put these people in the spotlight. At the same time, he meets a Catalonian tourist, Judit, an encounter that broadens his horizons and raises his hopes. But when the attack in the Place Jamaa el fna takes place, the going gets tough: Bassam disappears, the militants of the Group vanish and their headquarters are torched. All there is to do is run - again. Hired by a French man whose company in Tangier does bulk text entry for a publishers who are digitalizing their backlists, the young man survives on poor wages, completely devoted to Judit and the garden of delights that sparkles on the other side of the strait. But Spain is so far away...

What the *Rue des voleurs* treats – apart from the context (Morocco during the Arab Spring) and the main character (a young man hungry for freedom and modernity) – is the central issue of the desire for migration. This new quest for identity, so prevalent today, is expressed in a passionate desire to be 'elsewhere' that must be achieved whatever the cost.

In *Incendies*, Denis Villeneuve brilliantly adapted Wajdi Mouawad's eponymous book while introducing some elements unique to Quebec. In the same way, *Rue des voleurs*, a rich intersection of different lives, is potentially a powerful work of fiction for the screen, unfolding at the very heart of today's definitively globalized world.

Lisandra, a beautiful and charismatic woman, is married to Vittorio, a psychoanalyst. One night she is found dead, thrown out of the window of her apartment. The police believe Vittorio killed her. Eva Maria, a patient, convinced he is innocent, carries out her own investigation and unravels the mysteries of Lisandra.

The Case of Lisandra P.

LA GARÇONNIÈRE

Hélène Grémillon



Setting

Contemporary. Urban surroundings.

Main characters

Lisandra (Female, 20)

Vittorio (Male, 50)

Eva Maria (Female, 50)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Translated / published in German,

English, Italian, Dutch, Hebrew,

Greek, Japanese and Norwegian.

Find out more

40.000 copies sold in France.

Even if this story is set in Argentina and based on historical events, its thrilling storyline enables any transposition in another context.

Buenos Aires, 1987. Vittorio Puig, a psychoanalyst, is accused of the murder of his gorgeous young wife Lisandra, found dead at the foot of a six-story building. Eva Maria, one of his patients, convinced of Vittorio's innocence, is drawn into the investigation seemingly by chance.

She combs through secret recordings of Vittorio's therapy sessions in search of the killer – could it be the powerful government figure? The jealous woman? The musician who's lost his reason to live?

Defending her analyst gives Eva Maria a meaning to her life but she will have to confront her most painful memories. The image of her dear psychoanalyst is going to crumble as she listens to the recordings. The demons of Puig and his patients will meet with the country's darkest hours... and suggest as many suspects.

The investigation is getting endless for Eva Maria: as she digs into Lisandra's past, she discovers a woman more and more mysterious, madly jealous, whose sexual habits are rather peculiar.

Soon Eva Maria gets caught at her own game: she becomes the main suspect of the investigation. When she gets arrested, her own son accuses himself of the murder. Lisandra's secret is finally revealed to the reader in a twist that shatters all the obvious.

This gripping psychological thriller captures the desperate spinning of a frantic mind. This novel blurs the lines of past and present, personal and political, reality and paranoia.

The Case of Lisandra P. is a captivating psychological thriller, whose perfectly mastered suspense and narrative devices offer strong film adaptation potential. It is structured around three thrilling roles: Lisandra, the young and charismatic woman, burdened with dark secrets, Vittorio, the psychoanalyst accused husband and Eva Maria, the mother who never got over the loss of her daughter. The final twist would give a film a powerful climax.

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If you could reinvent your life and become somebody else...
How far would you go to change?

The Cuckoo

QUELQUES MOIS À L'AMÉLIE

Jean-Claude Denis

Selected
book



Setting

A beach resort on the west coast of France, in winter.

Main characters

Aloys Clarck (Male, 50)

Marianne (Female, 40)

Louis (Male, Child 10)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film and foreign rights available worldwide.

Find out more

On the same level as some of the best romantic comedies (*You've Got Mail* by Nore Ephron, *As Good as it Gets*, by James L. Brooks), *The Cuckoo* a grand prize at the Angouleme International Comic Book Festival. Praised for their amusing, rhythmic dialogue, the author and the artist provide readers with a wonderful lesson in love.

Aloys Clark is a misanthropic 50-year-old writer, lacking inspiration after his unique successful novel. Living off his declining fame, Aloys travels the country going from provincial book stores to remote libraries. Whilst giving uninspiring lectures on literature, he tries to turn every obsessed fan into a potential one-night stand.

Until one day, when he is about to leave home to give one of his unconvincing rants, he stumbles across a novel in a pile of unread books. It is called 'The Cuckoo'. -Normally he remembers most of the books he buys, but this one doesn't ring any bells. It seems that the story is autobiographical, teaching you how to reinvent your life and become somebody else, just as a cuckoo steals another bird's nest to make it home.

Aloys is completely fascinated by this book, so much so that when he arrives at his destination, he spontaneously decides to embody the persona of Dr Areski. With nothing to lose, he follows in the author's footsteps, reliving his journey. He takes on a number of different identities: from a well-respected doctor who is the guest of honour at a seminar, to a handyman who has never gardened, and a surrogate grandfather... He always manages to escape in the nick of time before being discovered. Although unaware of the fact, he helps each person he meets. The selfish professional has been transformed... He finally finds the Bed and Breakfast that is mentioned in *The Cuckoo*.

There he meets Marianne, a young widow, and her son, Louis who are trying to rebuild their lives together. He gradually moves into this new 'nest', getting a taste for the simple joys of living in a tranquil family. With no children of his own, he becomes very close to Louis. This former expert womanizer becomes awkward and earnest in -front of the beautiful Marianne. Gradually, for all of them, the pain slowly fades and the possibility of new love is reborn with spring... But when he discovers hundreds of copies of *The Cuckoo* in one of the rooms in the house, everything falls apart. This book was written by Marianne's late husband, a self-published author. And Aloys eventually realizes that everything he thought he had created is built on lies... Unable to face the truth... he disappears without a trace. Marianne and Louis do not understand... until they find Aloy's novel and discover who he really is. Now they go after him, urging him to return to his new life.

Praised for their amusing, rhythmic dialogue, the author and the artist provide readers with a wonderful lesson in love. The ultimate Romantic Comedy in a Graphic Novel...

Dupuis • Laurent Duvault
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A medieval village is plunged into a spiral of fear and suspicion following a chain of mysterious events. Who is the Ghost Rider?

The Ghost Rider

QUI A RAMENÉ DORUNTINE ?

Ismail Kadare



In a medieval village in Albania, an old woman and her daughter are at the centre of a scandal under official investigation. Doruntine, a young Albanian woman from a noble family – the Vranachs – has married into a family far from her native Bohemia. Her brother, Constantin, had pledged to his mother that he will bring his sister home, if need be. After no news for almost three whole years, Doruntine is awakened by Constantin who has come on horseback to take her home. Constantin leaves his sister on the doorstep of their family home, saying he wants to go to church before entering. When her mother opens the door, she can't believe her eyes. After hearing her daughter's story, the two women are thrown into a state of shock: Constantin has been dead for the past three years, and his mother and sister will be joining him shortly... Did Constantin keep his promise from the beyond? Or is the impoverished peddler, who claims to have brought Doruntine back to her native village, telling the truth? The street vendor's confession had been extracted under torture... Local police chief, Captain Stres, is given the task of investigating. Immersing himself in native folklore, he tries to untangle the villagers' beliefs, superstitions and fears in order to discover the truth.

Setting

Medieval East Europe.

Main characters

Captain Stres (Male, 40)

Doruntine (Female, 20)

Constantin (Male, 30)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Translated and published in English, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, Czech, Norwegian, Danish, Polish.

Promotional material available

Full text and press reviews available in the above-mentioned languages.

Find out more

Ismail Kadare is the winner of the Man Booker International Prize (2005) and of the Prince of Asturias Award of Arts (2009). He was awarded the 2015 Jerusalem Prize (for the Freedom of the Individual in Society).

How a monkey was judged and hanged for high treason by the citizens of Hartlepool.

The Hartlepool Monkey

LE SINGE DE HARTLEPOOL

Lupano, Moreau



Setting

1814, United Kingdom, Hartlepool.

Main characters

Philip (Male, under 10/12)

Charles Darwin (Male, under 10/12)

Robert Darwin (Male, Forties)

Film and foreign rights guide

Le Singe de Hartlepool has been translated into German by Avant Verlag ; English by Knockabout ; Spanish by Dibbuku and Italian by Tunué.

Find out more

Prix Cheverny for the best historical comic book in 2013. More than 35,000 copies sold in France.

During the Napoleonic wars, a French navy ship ran aground on the British coast, more precisely, at a little village in the North of England: Hartlepool. There were two survivors: Philip, a bilingual child, who pretends to be English. He is taken in by Charly, a child who arrived in the village recently with his father, a doctor. They both live at the inn. Philip plays war games with the other village children and because of his accent (of another English region) they decided he would play the role of the enemy Frenchman. Charly soon understands that Philip is not English and decides to look after him. The second is a chimpanzee, the crew's mascot, wearing an officer's tricolour uniform. But in this little English village, where no one has ever seen a Frenchman, the animal corresponds to the picture they have of the enemy. Nobody understands his language, so inelegant, he smells bad, and he's all hairy. All the inhabitants, in their nationalist stupor and ignorance, are convinced the animal can only be a Frenchman. Moreover, this creature bit the village priest! So the Frenchman will be judged for espionage and high treason. Then comes a mock trial conducted by brutal, terrified adults who pour their hatred onto the unfortunate animal. Charly, Philip and the other children play, silently understanding that they must not betray Philip. Judged and found guilty, the Frenchman/ chimpanzee is hanged. Charly's father forbids the children to attend the trial and tells them that the hanging is not a show to be watched, but a tragedy. But how astonished the doctor is when he goes to the public square and discovers that the Frenchman the inhabitants have hanged is none other than a monkey. Horrified by human stupidity, Doctor Darwin, his son Charly and Philip leave the village of Hartlepool. This historical fact brutally reveals the violence of a fear of strangers, and its absurd consequences. This scathing tale is also an invitation to hope, because children show the way. A little detail: the town of Hartlepool and its football team have a mascot – it's the famous monkey, a popular hero claimed even by the mayor. The Hartlepool Monkey has become the symbol of the inhabitants' restored dignity.

Raniero, in his fifties, consultant psychologist in a clinic, meets a new young patient, Dora. It would appear that they experience the same visions, of a telepathic nature. Troubled by this, Raniero begins to lose his bearings. He starts to fall for Dora, who is a member of the New Convention, a group that recommends free love...

The Interview

L'ENTREVUE

Manuele Fior



Setting

Italy, 2048.

Main characters

Raniero (Male, 50)

Dora (Female, 20)

Roselia (Female, 20)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Published in German (Avant Verlag), Korean (Mimesis), Spanish (Salamandra) and Italian (Coconino). English translation on-going (Fantagraphics).

Find out more

Bedelys prize world 2014. Shortlisted for the best sci-fi comic book prize at Les Utopiales 2013 and for the Prix des libraires Canal BD 2013.

Raniero is a clinical psychologist in his fifties. He leads a rather dull life and his wife Nadia is getting ready to leave him. One evening, as he's driving along the road, he sees geometric shapes in the sky, misses a bend in his astonishment and has a road accident. His car is a write-off. However, the very next day, he goes back to his job in the psychiatric clinic with his neck in a surgical collar. That's when a pretty young patient called Dora arrives, admitted for psychotic behaviour and visual hallucinations. Dora is a member of the Nouvelle Convention, a group who don't believe in the right to own property and advocate non-exclusivity in emotional and sex life. Raniero is her consultant. She too claims to have seen geometric symbols in the sky, and, since she had that vision, to be in telepathic contact with extra-terrestrials and with Raniero, whose every thought she can read. Troubled by these revelations, Raniero starts to lose his bearings and his relationship with his wife becomes more distant than ever. Mutually attracted, Dora and Raniero end up spending a night together, the very night that the extra-terrestrials choose to lead an attack that can be seen by everyone: all means of communication stop functioning, satellites are pirated, the planet stops turning. But soon, the lights in the sky grow distant and disappear. Everything goes back to normal. These strange events give Raniero a new lease of life: he sees things differently, more opportunities ahead. Dora and Raniero meet at the beach. Dora, who has fallen in love with Raniero, is ready to leave the Nouvelle Convention to devote her life to him. Decades later, Dora is a very old lady (a hundred and thirty!). She is the founder of modern telepathic thought. She tells (by telepathic communication) a young audience how in April 2048, lights in the sky – a signal of extra-terrestrial presence – appeared for the first time, before the phenomenon became familiar. Dora explains life 'before' – when extra-terrestrials had not yet imparted to earth-dwellers the ability to communicate by telepathy. In a flashback, we see that Raniero left her without saying a word, and after having bid his wife farewell, went off to start a new life...

The Interview is a highly original love story with an extra-terrestrial, or could it be sentimental science-fiction? An irresistible new genre, in any case!

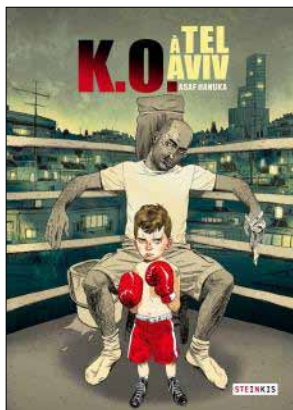
Futuropolis • Frédérique Massart
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K.O. in Tel-Aviv, the daily struggles, great and small, of a young Israeli father.

The Realist

KO À TEL-AVIV

Asaf Hanuka



Setting

Israel, Tel Aviv, nowadays.

Main characters

Asaf (Male, 50)

(Female, 50)

(Male, Baby)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Foreign rights sold in English (worldwide)

Spanish, Italian, German, Korean, Serbian.

Promotional material available

All pages available in English, Hebrew, French.

PDF of 1st volume in English.

1st volume available in Italian, Spanish.

Other languages will be available by the end of 2015.

Find out more

Asaf Hanuka was part of animation team for *Valse avec Bachir*.

This autobiographical story starts with a challenge: Asaf, his wife and their little boy have to find a place to live in Tel Aviv. In just a few weeks, the family will be in the street. Asaf is an illustrator and the author of a well-known comic, as is his wife. But no matter how much they work, their income is never sure... just like the world they live in. Yet they take life one day at a time: you have to work, go to the supermarket, give the kids their bath and fix the car. A normal life – if you don't count the omnipresent weapons, the latent violence, the tension surrounding identity and religion. Asaf draws his pictures and says very little, but his pictures say more than a long speech. In a free style that he masters perfectly, he expresses his very personal viewpoint on things, his everyday experience of life in Tel Aviv... And that's where the magic comes in: the snapshots of life interlace, the little stories join in the big picture, Asaf's life speaks to all human beings. Full of caustic humour, references to pop-culture, rich in imagination: the world is analysed – and soothed – by the author's pen. While Marjane Satrapi, with *Persepolis*, let us understand Israeli society by telling her family's story, Asaf Hanuka plunges us into everyday life in Israel and his everyday concerns. Whether trivial or deeply metaphysical, the anecdotes he puts on paper open the doors of a 'world-village': so vast yet so familiar. Asaf uses his art to free himself from the confines of identity and morals: he presents himself as Hulk or Superman, or in a parody of an Ashkenazi Jew, explodes bombs of colour, transforms into a space-onaute when it all gets too complicated. His universe transports and enchants us, and could provide a 100% animated adaptation, or live motion with animated overlay... His uniquely talented work would provide an original adaptation, creative and avant-garde.

Darkly humorous, surrealistic, tender, offbeat, funny and honest all at once, *K.O. in Tel Aviv* is an immersion in Israeli daily life as well as the experience of the twists and turns of the (lively) inner life of its author.

Steinkis Groupe • Flora Boffy
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A fine portrait of political and economic France at the beginning of the 20th century, especially the fascinating story of the cloth from Nîmes (denim), through the lives of two families from very different backgrounds.

The Rocheforts

LES ROCHEFORT

Christian Laborie

Selected
book



Setting

Nîmes, beginning of 20th.

Main characters

Vincent Janvier

(Male, Child under 10/12)

Anselme Rochefort (Male, 40)

Donatien Rouvière (Male, 40)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film and foreign rights available.

Promotional material available

English translation.

Find out more

More than 80,000 copies sold.

It all begins when a baby is abandoned at an orphanage in Nîmes, in January 1898. There's a mystery around the birth of this child. He is soon adopted by Donatien and Constance Rouvière, a couple of farmers in Cevennes, who call the boy Vincent Janvier. They already have three daughters of their own, Louise, Julie and Aline, but they want a boy to help with the farm work and take over when Donatien is too old to work. Vincent adapts well and soon finds his place in this affectionate family, who are attached to the simple values of the land. In 1909, Louise Rouvière marries Jean-Christophe Rochefort, the elder son in a rich family of industrialists in Nîmes. His father, Anselme, a proud, rigidly conventional man, has succeeded in expanding the empire of the Manufacture Rochefort, specialised in the cloth from Nîmes (denim), which is now used as far as the USA, where the best customer is Levi Strauss. On the altar of success, Anselme is ready to sacrifice the happiness of his four children, who mainly follow different paths from his. The Rouvières and the Rocheforts have nothing in common. But the marriage between their oldest children, followed some years later by a union between Vincent Janvier and Faustine, Anselme Rochefort's youngest daughter, brings them together. We follow the two families, united for better or for worse, through three chaotic decades. The outstanding events of the beginning of the 20th century (industrialisation, war, the great depression in 1929, the emancipation of women), and the revelation of a cumbersome secret, make dramatic changes in the life of each character...

Although the story takes place in the South of France, it highlights the textile industry at the beginning of the 20th century, especially the cloth made in Nîmes which was exported to North America and became the ubiquitous denim. This captivating historical context is the background for a well-constructed family intrigue covering several decades and several generations of characters.

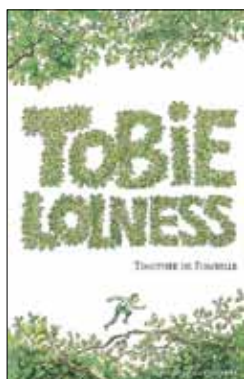
Because his father refused to reveal the secret of a evolutionary invention that could have threatened the life of the Tree, Tobie's family is exiled to the Lower-Branches, then imprisoned. Tobie manages to escape and tries to free his parents while the Tree, constantly bored by a profit-seeking industrialist, is in danger of dying and a brutal dictatorship takes over.

Tobie Lolness

TOBIE LOLNESS

Timothée de Fombelle

Selected
book



Setting

A great oak called the Tree by the people who live in it - each person no higher than 1.5mm, at no particular time.

Main characters

Tobie Lolness (Male, Teenager)

Elisha Lee (Female, Teenager)

Léo Blue (Male, Teenager)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Translated and published in Bulgarian, Catalan, Chinese, Czech, Danish, Finnish, English, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese (Portugal and Brazil), Rumanian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese, Ukrainian.

Find out more

Several awards in the UK, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and France.

Tobie Lolness lives happily with his parents, Maïa and Professor Sim Lolness, in the Tree Summit. His father has made a great discovery: the Tree's sap can be transformed into a driving energy. Jo Mitch, an industrial specialized in boring holes in the Tree, sees the profit he could make. Sim, fearing for the survival of the Tree — which he knows is alive — refuses to give him the secret of his invention. Although they were highly respected until then, the Lolness family is condemned to exile in the Lower-Branches. Tobie has to leave his childhood companion, Léo Blue. When he starts moving around in the Lower-Branches, he meets Elisha Lee, a young girl who lives alone with her mother on the edge of a lake. She becomes the love of Tobie's life. But Jo Mitch hasn't given up on Sim Lolness's secret. His wealth growing as he ruthlessly exploits the Tree, endlessly digging to build underground cities, Jo Mitch claims that the Lolnesses are traitors: that they are about to give their secret to the Grass People who live at the bottom of the Tree, who cold-bloodedly killed El Blue, Léo's father, years ago. The Lolness parents are arrested and imprisoned but Tobie manages to escape. Tobie tries to free them but fails. Believing they are dead and that Elisha has betrayed him, he takes refuge at the foot of the Tree where he is welcomed by the Pelés, peaceful Grass People. Léo Blue, who thinks Grass People are really dangerous, has taken control of the Tree Summit, and is preaching hatred against Tobie. Consequently Jo Mitch can capture the Pelés and make them do hard labour. Léo Blue, unaware of her link with Tobie, falls head-over-heels in love with Elisha and holds her captive hoping to marry her, but the girl refuses. Thanks to the visit of a friend of his father's, one of the Grass People, Tobie learns that his parents are alive. He then goes back to the Tree and is captured by Jo Mitch's henchmen who take him for one of the Grass People. Reduced to slavery with his friends the Pelés, Tobie has to overcome many obstacles to free his parents, put a stop to Jo Mitch's plans, find Elisha and free Léo of his demons.

Tobie Lolness is a magnificent adventure story about love and friendship. It takes place in an unforgettable world - a tree as big as the universe for the little people who live in it. A truly universal tale, as is shown by the many prizes it received and the numerous translations now published. An adaptation for the screen would be a real family film, with a message for all age groups from kiddies to grandparents.

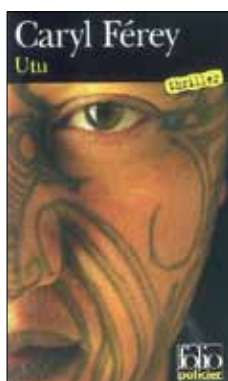
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Osborne, former policemen worn-out by drugs and alcohol, decides to go back to work to solve a murder supposedly committed by his friend and former boss, before he committed suicide. The investigation obliges Osborne to plunge into the very world he fled, to confront his own demons, a childhood sweetheart and a few dark Maori legends.

Utu

UTU : UN THRILLER CHEZ LES MAORIS

Caryl Férey



Paul Osborne, wrecked by drugs and alcohol, resigns from Auckland's police force and settles in Australia. A few months later, a cop comes to fetch him back. He tells him that his former boss and buddy, Jack Fitzgerald, has committed suicide after killing a Maori shaman who was suspected of horrible murders. Osborne doesn't believe Fitzgerald killed himself. A specialist of Maori affairs, Osborne accepts to return to his job in New Zealand to investigate. He finds himself facing several situations: the chief of the Maori network was killed by Fitzgerald, or so it seems, but his body has never been found. A young woman, an accountant, is found drowned, her legs mutilated. A writer, author of pro-colonialist essays, is the victim of a theft – a Maori war hatchet. A young top model Osborne spends part of the night with is brutally murdered. With the help of a brilliant young forensic pathologist from England (who can't take her eyes off him), Osborne investigates in total disregard for the rules and his superiors. He is obliged to review his own past and his many scars, and to meet up with Hana again; the beautiful Maori he has known since they were kids and has never stopped loving. In spite of threats, Osborne leads his investigation right to the end. He discovers that these murders and disappearances are linked to a vast real estate project on the ancestral, sacred lands of the Maori community. Corrupt politicians, ruthless business men and crooked cops are all involved. But in the land of 'utu' (vengeance in Maori), vengeance, like genes, is passed on through the blood. Hana and her accomplices, Maori extremist militants, will do anything to protect their people.

Setting

Today, in Australia and New Zealand.

Main characters

Paul Osborne (Male, 40)

Hana (Female, 30)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

Translated into English US

(Europa Editions); Italian (Edizioni);

Russian rights sold (A-Team).

Promotional material available

The opening pages can be read

(in French) on the Gallimard Internet

site: <http://flipbook.cantook.net/>;

[http://www.edenlivres.fr/flipbook/](http://www.edenlivres.fr/flipbook/publications/10155.js&oid=3&c=&m=&l=&r=)

publications/10155.

js&oid=3&c=&m=&l=&r=.

Find out more

Won several prizes, including the Grand

prix de Littérature policière 2008;

Prix 813 du Roman noir 2008;

Prix Michel-Lebrun 2005;

Prix Sang d'Encre 2005;

Prix SNCF du Polar européen 2005.

Caryl Férey is also the author of Zulu,

adapted for the screen in 2013

by Jérôme Salle, starring

Forest Whitaker and Orlando Bloom.

The film was shown at the closing

of the Cannes Film Festival 2013.

Caryl Férey is a master of the thriller. Utu takes us into a violent world that grips our attention and leaves us stunned at the end.

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After the 'Election' the country is drifting towards fascism and an obsession with security. In this brutal world, totally lacking in poetry, three young women with a love for freedom decide to rebel, and succeed in awakening a whole society. They are lovable, fragile, and troublesome, like birds in a coming storm.

We Are the Birds of the Coming Storm

NOUS SOMMES LES OISEAUX DE LA TEMPÊTE QUI S'ANNONCE

Lola Lafon



We Are the Birds of the Coming Storm is a wild novel that oscillates between fiction and reality. The story centres on two young women: Voltairine, a dancer who no longer dances but whose body is still haunted by the movement of dance, and her soulmate Emile, a young woman recovering from unexpected cardiac arrest. The girls are inseparable, and both of their lives have been shattered by the horrors of rape. The opening of the dreamlike novel sets a bleak stage as Voltairine watches Emile lying in a hospital bed, her temperature dropping to dangerous levels. Voltairine is filled with sorrow and faces the blunt reality that her soulmate is going to die, chronicling each minute in her diary. However, Emile ultimately survives the attack. Later, at the Cinémathèque, Voltairine and Emile meet a young girl they call 'the little girl at the end of the lane', who is obsessed by the Haymarket Affair of 1886. She's an odd girl, obsessed with words, scribbling pages of notes throughout the movie screenings. She helps draw the pair out of their state of painful helplessness, and eventually the trio openly rebels against the newly-elected oppressive regime of barbarian kings who rule their society. *We Are the Birds of the Coming Storm* explores repression, revolt, and madness, telling a story that is not only revolutionary but also cautionary – of three women who let their spirits fly like birds as the daunting storm ascends.

Setting

Urban, contemporary. Political context: an authoritarian, repressive regime.

Main characters

Emile (Female, 20)

Voltairine (Female, 20)

The little girl at the end of the lane (Female, 20)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.

This novel was adapted for the theatre by a French company *Les Fugaces* in a version for street performances. Translated and published in English (Seagull Books, 2014).

Promotional material available

Excerpts and the English translation available on request.

Find out more

Lola Lafon, with a French, Russian and Polish background, was raised in the equally diverse cities of Bucharest, Sofia and Paris. Her first love was dance, but then she turned to writing.

We Are the Birds of the Coming Storm was released in France in 2011.

Her latest novel, *La Petite Communiste qui ne souriait jamais*, published by Actes Sud in 2014, is a best-seller.

We Are the Birds of the Coming Storm is a feminist and initiatory tale. It portrays a generation forced to shake off its lethargy. The three young female characters symbolize pure and absolute friendship. An adaptation would be a free, rebellious street movie with the potential to become cult, just like the book!

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Los Angeles, at the end of the 60s. As the black Americans fight for their civil rights, Romain Gary and his wife, Jean Seberg, take in a stray dog. They soon realize that it's a 'white dog' - an animal trained to attack and kill black people. Romain Gary makes up his mind to retrain the dog, whatever it takes, even if it looks like a hopeless challenge.

White Dog

CHIEN BLANC

Romain Gary



Setting

Late 60s in Los Angeles.
A few scenes in Paris.

Main characters

Romain Gary (Male, 50)
Jean Seberg (Female, 30)
Keys (Male, 30)

Film and foreign rights guide

Film rights available.
Translated into English (US -World Publishing Compagny, 1970 – University of Chicago Press, 2004); English (UK - Jonathan Cape, 1971); Polish (Proszynski, 1996); Vietnamese (Union des écrivains, 1996); Italian (Neri Pozza, 2008); Korean (Maumsanchaeck, 2011); Georgian (Diogene, 2012).

Find out more

Romain Gary received the Goncourt twice: in 1956, for *Les racines du ciel*, and in 1975 for *La vie devant soi*, under the pseudonym of Emile Ajar. Several of his novels have been adapted for the screen by film makers such as John Huston, Costa-Gavras and Peter Ustinov. This novel was previously adapted by Samuel Fuller in 1982 under the title *White Dog*.

Romain Gary and Jean Seberg live in Beverly Hills surrounded by their cats, dogs and the occasional toucan; Romain calls it their menagerie. She's shooting a film, he's writing, observing. The world in general, and the US in particular, are at turning points in their history with deep change taking place, between the Vietnam war and the Afro-Americans' struggle for civil rights, and a general revolution in mentalities. One morning, Sandy - one of the household dogs – brings home a German shepherd dog. Romain Gary soon takes to the poor creature, visibly weakened by days of wandering, and immediately adopts it. The dog he and Jean Seberg call 'Batka' turns out to be an exceptional animal, handsome, lovable, gentle. He's pleased with the new boarder until one day a young black man comes to clean the swimming pool. Batka is immediately transformed. Foaming at the mouth, fur bristling, fangs bared, the dog leaps at the man in an incredible spasm of violence, trying to rip out his throat and almost succeeding. Their shock gives way to incomprehension but soon afterwards, the same thing happens with a supermarket delivery man. That's when Romain realizes that the two men the dog attacked were black. Afraid to draw the obvious conclusions, Romain Gary talks to Noah 'Jack' Carruthers, director of an animal training centre for the cinema. He states the obvious: Batka is a 'white dog', a dog trained to attack black people. Originally used by the police forces of certain southern states, they were then kept by private individuals who adopted them for protection much in the same way as they would buy a gun. Stunned and terrified, Romain Gary decides to retrain Batka whatever the effort required, even when people tell him it's a lost cause, the dog's too old, after this training, a dog can only be put down. For Gary this is more than a challenge inspired by his affection for the dog, it is a decisive issue in an ideological context that offends him: relations between black and white Americans, the oppressors and the oppressed, good and bad. His quest becomes an inventory of the reality confronting him: black people's struggle for their civil rights, but also a certain white community who are active participants. Among them, men and women – including Jean Seberg – who commit themselves entirely to a combat to the point of sacrifice.

Romain Gary gives a perceptive and thoughtful account of the events he and his wife Jean Seberg experienced, without losing his legendary sense of humour. Sam Fuller made a first adaptation of this story about the re-education of a dog trained to kill, situating the action in the 1980s time frame. Placing in its original context – in America struggling to deal with the fight for recognition of their civil rights by the Black population – would give it a new, more political and extremely interesting impact.

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SCELF

The Société Civile des Éditeurs de Langue Française (SCELF) is a collecting society created in 1960. It represents French book publishers and collects adaptation rights from other French collecting societies on behalf of its members. It also has a role of legal advisor to its members. For the past few years, SCELF has been organizing events and partnerships in order to promote film and TV adaptations and develop the publisher's role in the exploitation of authors' rights. Shoot the Book! is the first international event organized by SCELF.

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EMBASSY OF FRANCE TO CANADA CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN TORONTO

The Embassy of France in Ottawa and its five consulates across Canada work to implement cultural policy that focuses on three principal areas: inter-university cooperation, cultural cooperation, and French-language initiatives. Audiovisual content, cinema, and new media are three high-priority issues for France's cultural services in Canada. Canada and France maintain a very significant partnership in the film industry, and TIFF is one of the most important film festivals in the world. A significant French delegation takes part in the festival each year. This year, for the first time, the Consulate General of France in Toronto has signed an agreement with TIFF regarding the creation of Shoot the Book, an industry workshop that will provide an opportunity for people to discover French literature and its potential for film adaptation and to discuss of French literature and cinema.

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BIEF

The Bureau International de l'Édition Française (BIEF) is a non-profit organisation representing 270 publishers. BIEF ensures the collective presence of French publishing in many inter-national book fairs, organizes professional seminars between French and foreign publishers and conducts marketing research in the publishing sector throughout the world. In cooperation with SCELF, BIEF develops its promotion of French books for film adaptations by proposing professional meetings between publishers and foreign producers, producing catalogues, creating and running an Internet site, shoot-the-book.com. BIEF's office in New-York, The French Publishers' Agency, presents French publishing to American publishers and producers.

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INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

The Institut français, under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, organizes cultural actions outside France. An active player in cultural diplomacy, the Institut français represents France's image in a unique way, in France and throughout 96 foreign countries. It promotes authors, film-makers, architects, artists, ideas, creation and industries that contribute to an innovation and dynamic image of French creativity. It also assists the dialogue between cultures and organizes events for professional communities in all its sectors, so developing the French cultural network abroad.

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