

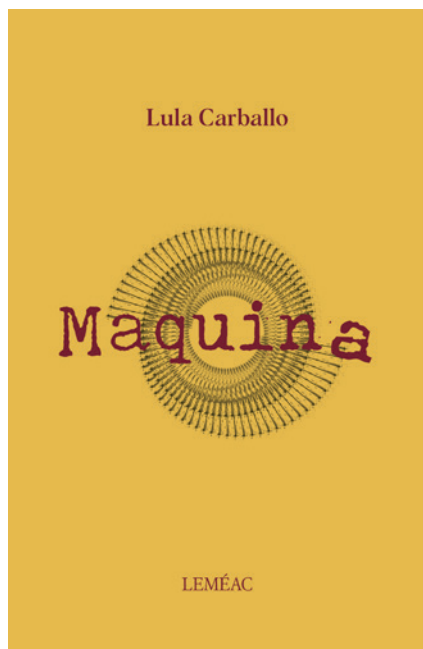
RIGHTS
LIST



2024



LEMÉAC



NEW TITLE

MAQUINA

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

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

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

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

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

**LULA
CARBALLO**

FICTION

152 pages

March 2024

World rights available



**MÉLIOT
DE REPENTIGNY**

FICTION

128 pages

February 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

NOMMER LE VIVANT

[Naming the Living]

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

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

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



JULIEN GRAVELLE

FICTION

160 pages

April 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

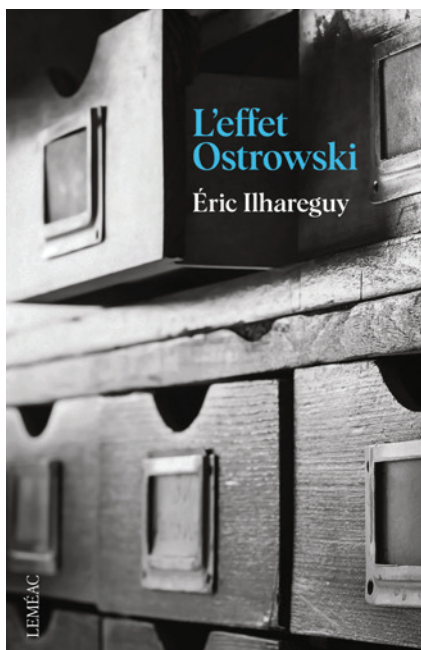
IF

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

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

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

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



**ÉRIC
ILHAREGUY**

FICTION

296 pages

Published January 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

L'EFFET OSTROWSKI

[The Ostrowski Effect]

Who can say with certainty that reality is truer than dreams? Ultimately, it is of little importance to distinguish the true from the false, the authentic from the imagined. Omissions and mirages make up the salt, the silence essential to the music of reality, which is never fixed or monolithic.

Séverine, an inventive and determined mother, holds daughter and son captive of her singular reality. But cracks start to appear in the fortress she has erected when the father, barred from entering, turns up at the door to expose the truth (his own version of it?) about the son's origins.

From that moment, Séverine intends to keep the situation under control, and untangles the web of a hitherto hidden life that the two children, with awe and sometimes with exasperation, will accept until the obligatory return to their roots.

From what could have been a perfect recipe for family breakdown, emerges instead a book of happy memories, where one can tailor destiny instead of being subjected to it.

Éric Ilhareguy's second work of fiction confirms the persistence of a consistent writer.

Éric Ilhareguy lives and works in Montreal. He worked as a photographer, graphic designer and visual artist before studying aesthetic philosophy. He has written in various cultural magazines and contributed to several collective works. L'effet Ostrowski is his second book.



**MARIE-HÉLÈNE
LAROCHELLE**

FICTION

200 pages

Published February 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

TORONTO

JAMAIS BLEUE

[Toronto, Never Blue]

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

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

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

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



**CLAIRE
LEGENDRÉ**

**AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
NON-FICTION**

144 pages

Published February 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

CE DÉSIR ME POINT

[I, Desire]

My desire didn't need any object; revelling in the possibilities to come, it was ready to set its sights on anyone. It was a strong, affable, and courageous companion.

I've been an involuntary single female from 2010 to 2020. It had never happened to me before. I didn't know we were called like that. We weren't yet for that matter. I wasn't equipped to face it. Ending up "on the market" makes you feel like you've been rolled-over by a steamroller.

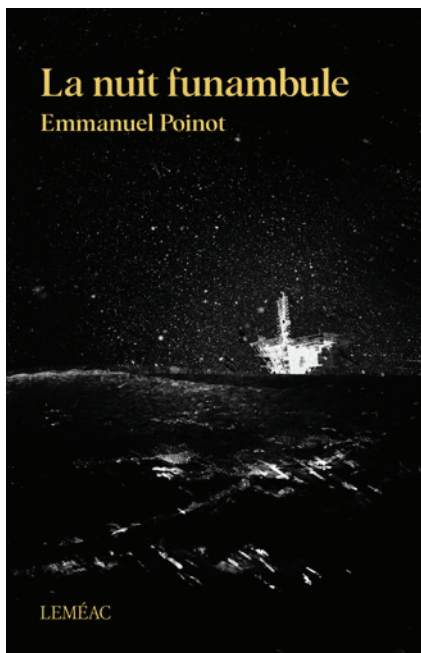
As in *Le nénuphar et l'araignée*, published in 2015, where she examined fears, Claire Legendre's new text explores the various forms of desire - sexual desire, the desire to please, to possess, to be possessed - which often come together in the absence and expectation of love.

You can't deliberately reject desire and yet, by dint of habit and resignation, you sometimes come to omit yourself and withdraw almost voluntarily from the march of time.

We love, we suffer, we flee, we wander; we identify with what we lack, until desire becomes a gaping wound, impossible to heal. It's then up to writing to begin closing it.

The short chapters that make up *Ce désir me point* confirm Claire Legendre's concise and remarkable style that subtly reveals what's beneath the surface of existence.

Claire Legendre was born in Nice and has lived in Montreal since 2011. She has published a dozen books in France and Quebec. Bermudes, her most recent novel, was shortlisted for the Prix des libraires du Québec in 2021.



**EMMANUEL
POINOT**

FICTION

152 pages

Published January 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

LA NUIT FUNAMBULE

[The Night Funambulist]

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

But winter's not here yet.

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

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

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

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

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



NEW TITLE

L'ÉTOILE DE LA MONTAGNE

[The Mountain Star]

*Light diminishes
As it progresses
unless we're still very far away
from the real beginning*

Like thousands of climate migrants, Irene and Mia flee one impossible world for another. Driven by the overpowering love that binds them, mother and daughter head for L'Étoile de la Montagne, a luxury hotel that acts on them like some magnetic north, an Eldorado, a vital hope.

Judy Quinn's uncompromising and precise language describes the chaos of human experience and the whirlwind of meaning it carries along, leading us naturally into the inhabited zone of the uninhabitable.

A poet and a novelist, Judy Quinn won the 2012 Robert-Cliche Prize with Hunter s'est laissé couler. Her novels Les mains noires (2015) and L'homme-canon (2018) are published by Leméac.

JUDY
QUINN

FICTION

176 pages
Published March 2024
World rights available



**VÉRONIQUE
D'ANJOU**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

96 pages

Published February 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

BLAST

*under normal circumstances the last one out
turns off the light
he was out first
removed the breaker
and suddenly it was dark all around*

A few weeks before Christmas, the narrator's world implodes. Coming home from school, in the glare of revolving lights, she learns that her father has taken his own life. At the young age of nine, she is brutally faced with the haunting emptiness left by the desertion of a parent, but also with the incomprehension of her mother, who promptly remarries, eliminating all memory of the departed.

As the years pass, she becomes a tormented teenager barricaded behind a wall of indifference, trying to exorcise through writing the impact that December evening had on her.

Blending narrative and poetic prose, Véronique D'Anjou recounts the blast and the shockwave, the awe and the sadness, the anger and the revolt, the waiting and the fragile beginnings of reconstruction.

"For most people, the body's the first to go. Sometimes, it's the mind. Me, that's my heart that left me. Too fast. Too soon. And now I'm stuck with my body. And I'm all there."

Véronique D'Anjou was born in Val-d'Or in 1983. After a few meanderings, she finally settled in Montreal, where she's an elementary school teacher. Blast is her first book.



NEW TITLE

UNE BULLE EN DEHORS DU TEMPS

[A Bubble Out of Time]

Difference hurts. Océane comes up against derision. Roch rebels against constraints. Why is difference at the root of so much intolerance? How to escape, to feel nothing, to forget everything? Against all odds, their paths cross, allowing them to shut themselves outside of time, sheltered from the gaze of others. Freed at last from society's rigidity, they explore their dreams and memories, sharing their fears to better free themselves from them. Inside their bubble, Océane and Roch can exist safely and simply.

Driven by two straightforward, singular narrative voices, Stéfani Meunier's first YA novel is a clear and uncompromising text that gives substance to the elusive malaise that sometimes besets people who are different.

Stéfani Meunier was born in Montreal in 1971. After completing a Master's degree in Creative Writing at McGill University, she left town for the countryside and settled in Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard. Since 1999, she has published a collection of short stories and six novels.

**STÉFANI
MEUNIER**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

152 pages

Published April 2024

World rights available



**LARRY
TREMBLAY**

THÉÂTRE

104 pages

Published January 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

37 SOLUTIONS

Thirty-seven short scenes, thirty-seven murders. Along thirty-seven briefs interactions, various characters appear out of nowhere and vanish just as quickly, remaining long enough to utter a few sentences, contradict each other and die in an absurd way. Disgust, envy, greed, idleness: everything here justifies killing, as if such an overabundant and mundane violence could resolve any conflict.

In this playful collection of vignettes, where no one really relates to anyone else, humour and existential metaphor deftly coexist. Always halfway between the clownish and the disquieting, the play is a journey through human behaviour that sheds light on both private confrontations and political stakes. The language is efficient, clear, and as sharp as the situations. The play can be performed by as many actors as desired.

Larry Tremblay is the author of more than thirty award-winning works (plays, poetry, novels, essays), translated into many languages. An actor, a director and a Kathakali specialist, he has also taught acting and playwriting. His plays include The Dragonfly of Chicoutimi (1995), Ogre (1997), Le ventriloque (2000), Abraham Lincoln va au théâtre (2008) and Cantate de guerre (2011). He recently published the novel Tableau final de l'amour (2021) and the short story collection D'enfers et d'enfants (2023). Coup de vieux, another of his plays, is published simultaneously with 37 solutions.



**LARRY
TREMBLAY**

THEATRE

64 pages

Published January 2024

World rights available

NEW TITLE

COUP DE VIEUX

[Older By the Minute]

Pierre, Lucie, William, Adèle and Géraldine are in their twilight years. With bodies falling apart, they age before us in a piecemeal fashion, passing as best they can a time that runs in circles, sometimes sympathetic to their day and age, sometimes at war with it. A thousand details – the origin of an expression, the rain falling slowly, a distorted memory, a fleeting disagreement – permeate their discourse, a thousand agitations animate them. By turns funny, old-fashioned, scathing and philosophical, they exchange roles and pains, make bold confessions to each other, and set their mundane, existential refrain against the strangeness of the world. Under the watchful eye of an inexplicably mute clown...

Tackling the lucidity and the incongruities that come with age; tackling what brings us together as well as what drives us apart, and tackling everyone's little music, ethereal and incisive, sparkling and tragic, here is a play to laugh and wince at, written in the beautiful and spare language that's Larry Tremblay's hallmark.

Larry Tremblay is the author of more than thirty award-winning works (plays, poetry, novels, essays), translated into many languages. An actor, a director and a Kathakali specialist, he has also taught acting and playwriting. His plays include The Dragonfly of Chicoutimi (1995), Ogre (1997), Le ventriloque (2000), Abraham Lincoln va au théâtre (2008) and Cantate de guerre (2011). He recently published the novel Tableau final de l'amour (2021) and the short story collection D'enfers et d'enfants (2023). 37 solutions, another of his plays, is published simultaneously with Coup de vieux.

BACK LIST



**GABRIEL
ALLAIRE**

FICTION

320 pages
Published March 2023
World rights available

BACKLIST

LES GIRAFES EN FEU

[BURNING GIRAFFES]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**MARTINE
BÉLAND**

NON-FICTION

80 pages

Published February 2023

World rights available

BACKLIST

MÉGAPTÈRE

Since death is everywhere, it's best to tame it. It's in the very fabric of things, it irrigates, it nourishes - it allows life to move forward.

In May 2020, at the height of the pandemic, a stray whale made its way up the Saint-Lawrence river to Montreal, to the delight of many curious onlookers, but it finally got stranded, probably hit by a ship. Just as the whale was found dead, Martine Béland's mother passed away after a long illness. In her last moments, the woman who often preferred the company of animals to that of humans, asked for news of the megaptera, the word she used to designate the great marine mammal that fascinated her.

Using the coincidence of these two deaths as a starting point, the author traces the thread of a story and reflects on what makes a life worth living. From the Pacific coast, where yew trees used to cure cancer grow, to the shores of Sainte-Marie Bay, where the tide washes up its treasures every morning, Martine Béland gathers the scattered pieces of a mysterious, secret existence. She wanders through the landscape, rediscovering the objects and homes her mother knew and loved. It's in the heart of an old house with drawn curtains that the unspoken, failed dreams and unfulfilled desires of a woman who was once a young girl are to be found.

Halfway between essay and narrative, *Mégaptère* is a brilliant book. It reveals a first-rate writer, heir to Annie Dillard, whose keen eye and sensitive writing show how every life contains a world waiting to be discovered.

Born in Ottawa, Martine Béland has lived for many years in Ontario and Quebec before settling in Nova Scotia. She holds graduate degrees in philosophy, German studies and political studies. She has published books and articles in philosophy, and has translated two works by Nietzsche for Flammarion's «GF» series. Mégaptère is her first collection of essays.



**JEAN-FRANÇOIS
CARON**

FICTION

104 pages

Published August 2022

World rights available

BACKLIST

BEAU DIABLE

[Handsome Devil]

In my fist, the pebble of sorrow, one, two, three, I blow, sadness is on the way, to my tale I return.

Withdrawn in the hinterland, François undertakes to trap his solitude in the tales he invents to patch up his shattered life. A shrewd storyteller, he hopes to put behind him the trials he went through - first and foremost, his daughter leaving - and to get closer to Mado, the landlady whose freckled skin and immense heart could fend off the remaining fears that lurk around him. Beau Diable, a seven-headed beast, will see to it in a terrifying way...

This magnificent story told by a man at the end of his tether, is both an exhilarating work on language and a brilliant piece of writing that fluctuates between truth and delight. François is surrounded by fabulous creatures – ancient coureurs des bois, a singular taxidermist, a long-distance truck driver – who walk with him along the most precious of paths, the one that brings him back to the world.

This novel is a trap that begins with a voice, in the dark...

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



**YING
CHEN**

FICTION

96 pages

Published September 2023

World rights available

BACKLIST

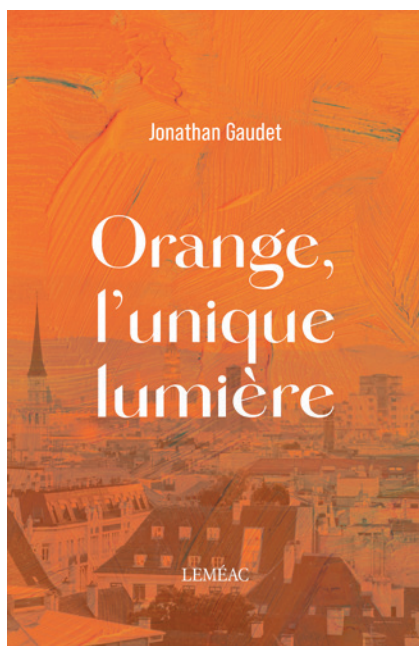
AHIMSA

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

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

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

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



**JONATHAN
GAUDET**

FICTION

288 pages

Published May 2023

World rights available

BACKLIST

ORANGE, L'UNIQUE LUMIÈRE

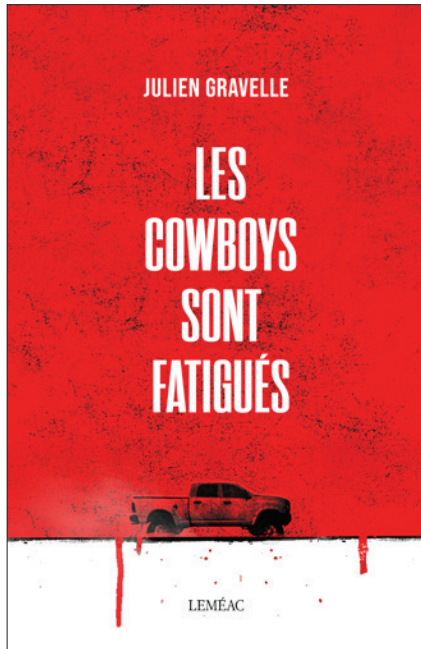
[ORANGE, THE ONLY LIGHT]

Recently settled in Vienna, the narrator discovers Egon Schiele's Portrait of Wally Neuzil, painted in 1912, during a visit to the museum. He is instantly captivated by the model, a young woman with fiery red hair and piercing blue eyes.

Who was this modest Austrian woman, who became Egon Schiele's muse and lover in early twentieth-century Vienna? How did the painting, after being stolen by the Nazis from its owner, art dealer Lea Bondi, find itself almost a hundred years later at the heart of a litigation that dragged on for over a decade in the United States?

Over the course of weeks, then months, the narrator recounts Wally's singular journey along with that of her famous portrait, telling in a very personal way the intersecting stories concealed in the clear gaze of the woman in the painting.

Born in 1977, Jonathan Gaudet is a writer and musician. Leméac published his novel La ballade de Robert Johnson in 2020.



**JULIEN
GRAVELLE**

FICTION

192 pages

Published March 2021

Rights sold:

France (Editions du Seuil)

All other rights available

BACKLIST

LES COWBOYS SONT FATIGUÉS

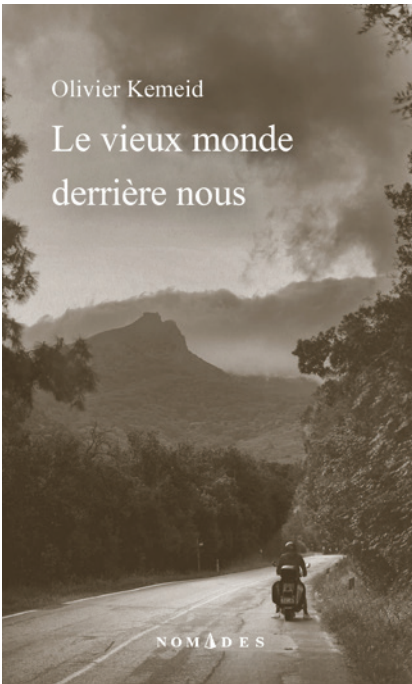
[No More Heroes]

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

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

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

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



**OLIVIER
KEMEID**

FICTION

144 pages

Published March 2022

Rights sold:
France (Éditions Arthaud)

BACKLIST

LE VIEUX MONDE DERRIÈRE NOUS

[THE OLD WORLD LEFT BEHIND]

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

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

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

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

*A renowned playwright and stage director, author of *Moi, dans les ruines rouges du siècle*, *Five Kings* and *L'Énéide*, Olivier Kemeid is*



**MARIE-HÉLÈNE
LAROCHELLE**

FICTION

168 pages

Published February 2021

Rights sold: World English
(House of Anansi)

BACKLIST

JE SUIS LE COURANT

LA VASE

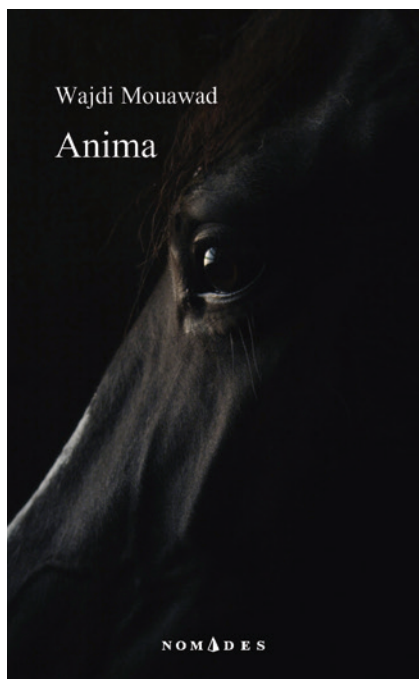
[Kiss the Undertow]

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

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

Marie-Hélène Larochelle's novel recounts this relationship of power and desire. It tells of what one must sometimes embrace to reach the highest levels of athletic performance. *Je suis le courant la vase* echoes the recent revelations that shook the sport world, and despite all the chlorine and salt that suffuse the text, the experience leaves a feeling of being dirty and bruised.

Marie-Hélène Larochelle has published several scholarly works on monstrosity, violence and invective in contemporary literature. A former top-level swimmer herself, in this first novel she weaves the sensations and feelings brought on by any sporting feat. Je suis le courant la vase was shortlisted for the Trillium Literary Award. Her second novel, Toronto jamais bleue (2024), is also published by Leméac.



WAJDI MOUAWAD

FICTION

Paperback edition: 504 pages
Published September 2012
Paperback edition 2016
Rights sold: German (DTV),
English (World – Talon Books),
French (France – Actes Sud),
Italian (Fazi), Spanish (Seix Barral),
Catalan (Periscopi), Greek (Eksodseis),
Japanese (Kawade Shobo Shinsha).

BACKLIST

ANIMA

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

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

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

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



**MICHEL
TREMBLAY**

FICTION

1104 pages

New edition 2019 (first published 2000)

Rights sold: France (Actes Sud)

World English (Talonbooks)

BACKLIST

CHRONIQUES DU PLATEAU-MONT-ROYAL

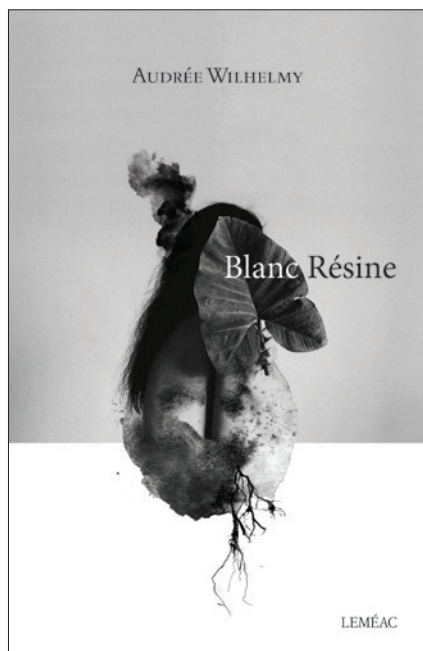
Following the adjustments made by the author to *La diaspora des Desrosiers* cycle when its nine volumes were collected in a single tome, a thorough review of the *Chroniques du Plateau-Mont-Royal* cycle was necessary. Published between 1978 and 1997, the six volumes of the *Chroniques* tell the stories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

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

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

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

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



**AUDRÉE
WILHELMY**

FICTION

352 pages

Published September 2019

Paperback edition 2024

Rights sold:

Grasset (French outside Canada)

House of Anansi (World English)

Verlagshaus Römerweg (German)

BACKLIST

BLANC RÉSINE

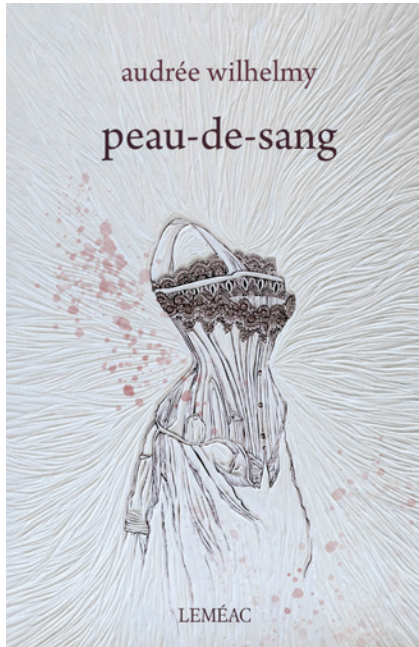
[White Resin]

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

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

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

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. She devotes her time to writing and teaches creative writing. Blanc Résine is her fourth novel. Plie la rivière (September 2021) takes us back to the raw world of Oss, her first book (2012) – where the uniqueness of her literary universe was revealed. Her most recent story, Peau-de-sang (2024), is an ode to the irrepressible vehemence of femininity.



**AUDRÉE
WILHELMY**

FICTION

200 pages

Published September 2023

Rights sold: France (Le Tripode)

All other rights available

BACKLIST

PEAU-DE-SANG

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

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

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

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

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. Her work, also published in France, won her the Prix Sade 2015 and the Prix Ouest-France Étonnants Voyageurs 2022, and she was a finalist for numerous awards: Prix littéraire des collégiens, Grand Prix du livre de Montréal, Prix des libraires du Québec, Governor General's Literary Awards, Prix France-Québec. Simultaneously with the publication of Peau-de-Sang, a paperback reprint of the author's previous title, Blanc Résine, will also be released.

Audrée Wilhelmy

Les sangs

LEMÉAC

**AUDRÉE
WILHELMY**

FICTION

160 pages

Published August 2013

Paperback edition 2017

Rights sold:

France (Grasset)

Spain (Hoja de Lata)

Italy (Cancellada Edizioni)

Galicia (Rinoceronte)

Film rights in Spanish

BACKLIST

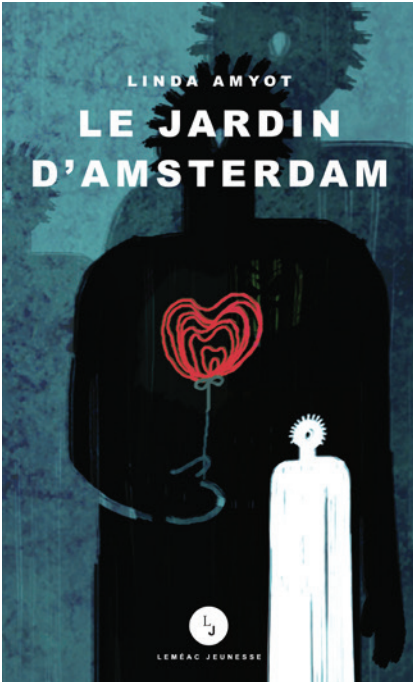
LES SANGS

[Bloods]

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

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

Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. Her work, also published in France, won her the Prix Sade 2015 and the Prix Ouest-France Étonnants Voyageurs 2022, and she was a finalist for numerous awards: Prix littéraire des collégiens, Grand Prix du livre de Montréal, Prix des libraires du Québec, Governor General's Literary Awards, Prix France-Québec. Her most recent story, Peau-de-Sang (2024), is an ode to the irrepressible vehemence of femininity.



**LINDA
AMYOT**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

88 pages

Published September 2013

World rights available

BACKLIST

LE JARDIN D'AMSTERDAM

[A Garden in Amsterdam]

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

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



**SIMON
BOULERICE**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

184 pages
Published September 2016
Rights sold:
Film rights in French
All other rights available

BACKLIST

L'ENFANT MASCARA

[Becoming Leticia]

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

A singular novel, penned with the utmost empathy.

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



**MARC-ANDRÉ
DUFOUR-LABBÉ**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

128 pages

Published August 2023

World rights available

BACKLIST

CARREAUTÉ KID

[Five Strings Attached]

I'm sick and tired of all those grunge love songs, I really am. They all end up with the singer wailing about how impossible his love is. That's all right, I guess that's the ethos. At a pinch, to be successful at anything in 1998 was seen as dubious. But we're twenty years into the 21st century now, and everything's possible.

Carreauté Kid, a.k.a. Caro, doesn't fit in with his fellow students at his high school: raised by a single-parent father with a mild drinking problem, he's a fan of grunge music, whose spirit he embodies even in his clothing style. A loner and introvert, he's secretly in love with Adele, a beautiful, radiant and levelheaded redhead - except that Adele, despite the obvious chemistry between them, is in a relationship with Aymeric, the popular captain of the school hockey team. Caro shyly opens through the song covers he dedicates to her on his YouTube channel, until the day he decides to confess his feelings in a letter. The situation becomes more complicated when Aymeric gets hold of the letter and makes fun of it on TikTok with his teammates...

In a novel that plays with both nostalgia and issues of our time, Marc-André Dufour-Labbé portrays a young man caught up in the turmoil of a seemingly impossible love, through which he learns about the complexity of feelings and discovers that the solution may lie outside monogamy...

Marc-André Dufour-Labbé was born in Drummondville in 1983. He works for the Centre de ressources pour hommes Drummond. Carreauté Kid is his first YA novel.



**MARYSE
PAGÉ**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

152 pages
Published February 2020
Rights sold: Film Rights
All other rights available

BACKLIST

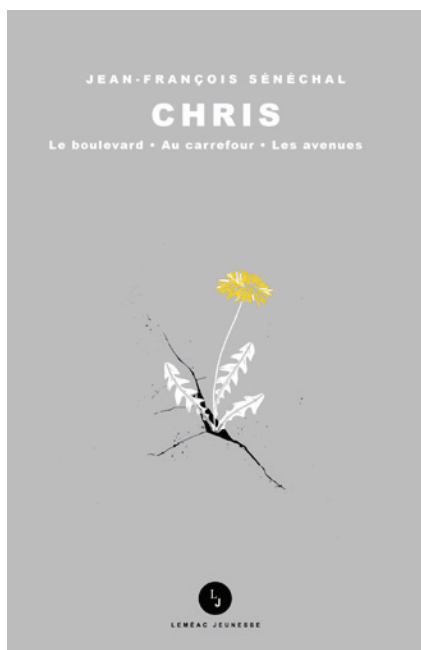
RAP POUR VIOLONCELLE SEUL

[Rap for cello]

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

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

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



JEAN-FRAN OIS S N CHAL

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

632 pages

Published August 2023

Rights sold: Italy (All three novels)

Greece (*Le boulevard*)

France (*Le boulevard*)

BACKLIST

CHRIS

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

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

Trained in anthropology, Jean-Fran ois S n chal now dedicates his time to writing. In 2018, his YA novel Le boulevard appeared on the List of Honour of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). His next book, Au carrefour, won the 2019 Prix jeunesse des libraires du Qu bec in the 12 to 17 year-old category. In 2017, he received the Joseph S. Stauffer Award from the Canada Council for the Arts, a prize aimed at encouraging outstanding promising young Canadians.



**GABRIELLE
CHAPDELAINE**

THEATRE

112 pages

Published January 2022

World rights available

BACKLIST

LE FAISEUR

(A HONORÉ DE BALZAC PLAY REVISITED)

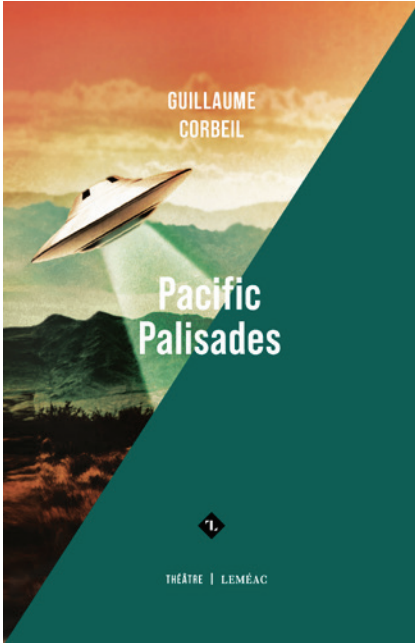
[DEBT IS WHERE THE HEART IS]

Mercadet, ruined, has invented a wealthy partner to placate his creditors, and plans to marry off his daughter to a young man he believes to be wealthy, but who is even deeper in debt than he is. Such is the starting point of Balzac's comedy of manners that unfolds a series of misunderstandings and comical situations, ridiculing usurers and other debtors.

This fast-paced adaptation transports the plot to present-day Quebec, to a world of investors who create needs people never knew they had. Here, Balzac's neglected characters (wives, servants) stand out, and the interweaving of their pushy motivations constitutes a dazzling ballet of fabulations. In the eye of the storm, of course, is capitalism, the kind that makes us speculate on appearances. A precise portrait of a genius crook, a social study in which the dominant and the less fortunate stake their lives, the play is a hilarious and speedy settling of the very bedrock of our civilization.

Balzac's play *Mercadet ou Le faiseur* was written in 1840. Gabrielle Chapdelaine's renewed version premiered at Théâtre Denise-Pelletier in January 2023, directed by Alice Ronfard.

Playwright, screenwriter, translator, a 2017 graduate of the Playwriting program at the National Theatre School of Canada, Gabrielle Chapdelaine has participated in several theatrical projects in Quebec, Martinique, France and Germany. Her play Une journée, published by Leméac, won the Prix Gratien-Gélinas in 2018, and is now being translated into English and German; it premiered in the U.S. in 2020, then in Carleton-sur-Mer and at Théâtre de Quat'Sous in 2022.



**GUILLAUME
CORBEIL**

THEATRE

72 pages

Published October 2022

World rights available

BACKLIST

PACIFIC PALISADES

This play is based on a true story: in Los Angeles, in 2015, the dead body of an individual who claimed to be half-human, half-extraterrestrial was found in his car. His garage was packed with weapons, ammunition, futuristic vehicles and cash. Guillaume Corbeil, author and narrator, decided to go there, pretending to be a reporter. He met with people who knew the man in question – who also claimed to work for the secret service – and collected divergent accounts. It didn't take long before he was drawn into a crazy spiral of tall tales and make-believe.

Guillaume Corbeil has written short stories (L'art de la fugue, which received the Adrienne-Choquette Prize), a novel (Pleurer comme dans les films, published by Leméac), a biography (Brassard), tales (Trois princesses), a film (À tous ceux qui ne me lisent pas, which received an Iris award for best screenplay), an adaptation (Le meilleur des mondes, after Aldous Huxley's Brave New World) and, of course, plays. Nous voir nous (Cinq visages pour Camille Brunelle), his very first play, received the Michel Tremblay Award, the Best Text Award from the Association québécoise des critiques de théâtre, and the Audience Award at the Primeurs Festival in Saarbrücken, Germany. Other works include Tu iras la chercher and Unité modèle.



**ISABELLE
LEBLANC**

THEATRE

120 pages

Published October 2022

World rights available

BACKLIST

RITA AU DÉSSERT

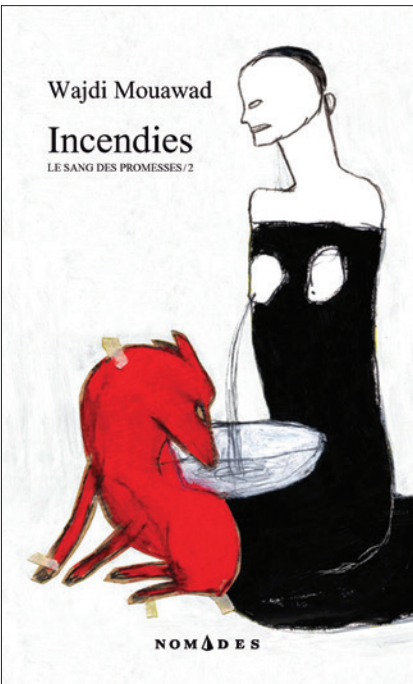
[Rita in the desert]

The desert invites to a journey into one's inner self, its crossing forces the act of thinking. Hypochondriacs and claustrophobics beware, the travel guides are pretty clear about it. Careless travelers be warned.

Lucien Champion, a sports reporter in a provincial town, decides to become the biographer of Rita Houle, a fifty-year-old woman chosen to participate in a car rally in the remote Gobi Desert: he will turn her into a myth, she will turn him into a writer. Yet, the real adventures of his muse are slow to arrive, so he quickly starts to invent them for her.

To tell the story of what did not happen, to give a presence to the intangible; such is the project of this text which fluctuates between joy and mourning, with the firm belief that fiction has the power not only to enchant reality, but to render it concrete.

Author, director, actor, teacher, and artistic director of Théâtre Ô Parleur, Isabelle Leblanc has written the plays Aube (Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui, 2001) and L'histoire de Raoul (Théâtre de Quat'Sous, 2002). She has collaborated with Wajdi Mouawad (notably on his plays Littoral, Rêves, and Incendies) for some twenty years.



WAJDI MOUAWAD

THEATRE

176 pages

First publication 2003

Paperback edition 2015

Rights sold:

French (world); Korean; English (world);

Japanese; Slovenian; Armenian;

German; Spanish (Spain)

BACKLIST

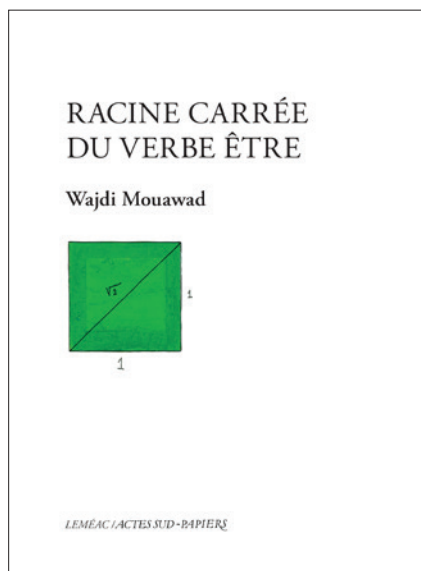
INCENDIES

[Scorched]

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

Incendies was brought to the screen by director Denis Villeneuve.

Actor, stage director, and director of the Théâtre national de la Colline in Paris, Wajdi Mouawad is also the author of the epic quartet Le Sang des promesses (Littoral, Incendies, Forêts, Ciels), and the novel Anima. His most recent plays include Racine carrée du verbe être and Mère (2023). Translated into several languages, his work has received many international awards.



BACKLIST

RACINE CARRÉE DU VERBE ÊTRE

[FIVE TRAJECTORIES OF DESTINY]

«Why is living not sufficient for us to attain happiness?»

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

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

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

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

**WAJDI
MOUAWAD**

THEATRE

184 pages

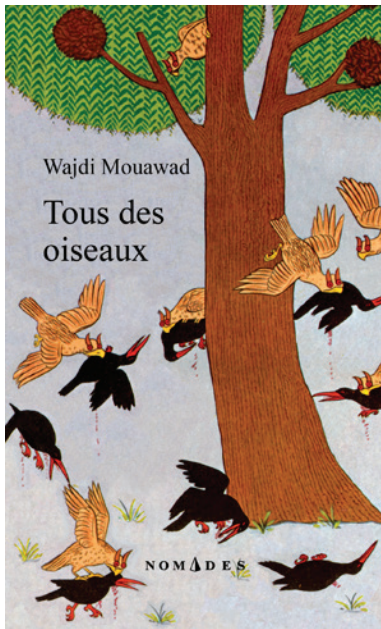
Published August 2023

Rights sold:

French (Europe - Actes Sud)

English (North America - Playwrights

Canada Press)



**WAJDI
MOUAWAD**

DRAMA

184 pages

First publication 2018

Paperback edition 2020

Rights sold:

France, Germany,
North America (English),
Spain, Italy, Greece

BACKLIST

TOUS DES OISEAUX

[Birds of a Kind]

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

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

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

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

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

LEMÉAC

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