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LA SOCIÉTÉ DES ARBRES

[THE SOCIETY OF TREES]

NATALIE JEAN

FICTION

176 pages

Published October 2025

World rights available



I am now in a lacklustre world, far from the glitz, not a single wire cutting across the sky, and miles away from any signpost.

I'm ecstatic, to tell the truth. I feel alive, free and anonymous among the trees. I still inhabit this body, and I have a plan: to observe the light, to make one with the forest, to let my garden sprawl as far as it can.

While her partner is away in the city performing his art, Alice tends to the garden of their little mountain cottage. From dawn to dusk, she explores the forest, tracks animals, and converses with the birds. Overcome by the euphoria of spring, she enjoys the magic of solitary moments, and her memory is finally set free.

Natalie Jean writes novels and short fiction. Her books garnered various literary awards in Quebec. *La société des arbres* is her third novel.



UN ROMAN

AU FOUR

[A NOVEL IN THE OVEN]

MARIE-SISSI LABRÈCHE

FICTION

160 pages

Published February 2025

World rights available

The best way to write a novel is one sentence at a time, so I'm not out of the woods, out of anywhere, not even out of my fucking crappy bungalow.

The narrator is married to a workaholic and her teenager daughter is bullied at high school. Event though she does her best to work on the novel she so desperately wants to write, she's constantly caught up in the mill of endless daily tasks: dirty laundry that piles up, sheets to change, toilets to clean, groceries to pick up, meals to prepare, vegetables to peel, meats to defrost, sauces to stir, the little one's homework to supervise, bills to pay, medicines to manage, the cat's litter to change and then again, the laundry, the sheets, the sauces, the medicines, the little girl's homework, the bills, and, to boot, the chicken to put in the oven, the damned chicken that haunts the writer right into her dreams where she sees herself pregnant with kibble.

How can one remain a creative individual when one is the sole housekeeper for one's home and family? When writers are so little recognized, when only stardom seems to matter, and when, on top of all, one must secure mind-numbing contracts to bring home a few pennies, just to keep an impression of independence? Yet the writer persists. Day after day, she sits down at her desk, plugs her ears so as not to hear the constant requests of her husband, of the kid; to push away the cat, the chicken to put in the oven and, like a modern-day Sisyphus, she gets back to work, pushes her rock, and writes.

Marie-Sissi Labrèche is the author of five novels, a collection of short stories and a series of thirteen young adult titles. She co-wrote the script of the 2008 film Borderline, adapted from her first two books, Borderline and La brèche.

EN FORME DE FILLE(S)

MAUDE LAFLEUR

FICTION

224 pages

Published March 2025

World rights available



Thus begins my illicit identity quest; through books borrowed from the library adopting a low profile, through films caught by chance on TV and watched in fear of being caught. I love women like others learn Japanese, in the hope of an possible stay that may never come.

The non-binary, neuroatypical protagonist struggles to find their bearings through the various codes of conformity they've been silently encouraged to follow from childhood to adulthood. Still, an attraction to girls is the only constant in their wanderings, driven by the will to get ever closer and rendered unable to distinguish between complicity, romance and obsession. As such fixation inevitably creates gaps in relationships, they develop useful friendships albeit mundane ones.

Torn by an insatiable appetite, they follow a trail of crumbs leading only to unrequited love, yet retaining the hope of building themselves up along the way.

Maude Lafleur (they) teaches, writes and works in publishing. A lecturer and holder of a doctorate in literary studies from the Université du Québec à Montréal, they collaborate regularly to collectives and journals.



MORTE ROSE

SARAH LALONDE

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

120 pages

Published April 2025

World rights available

Death is the subject of this book, tackled head-on in a text arranged like a patchwork of short tableaux, poetically and humourously written in a singular and inventive language. These pages are also a way for the author to pay tribute to all the grandmothers of the world.

Rose is Zoé's grandmother, and she's just died. Zoé begins an emotional mourning process, full of absurdities and surprises. As she feels she's about to break down, she tries to retain the traces of the woman who left a huge mark on her: her voice, her gestures, her objects, her memories. She also recalls how, not so long ago, they tried to tame death together. Through fragments of memory, Zoé revisits the incredible journeys they both undertook, their visits to funeral homes, their laughter, their squabbles, and their singular way of facing the inevitable with audacity. But what lies beyond their improbable escapades is their profound complicity, that of two vibrant women, joining forces to lure the inescapable, with humaneness as their only weapon.

Readers will put down *Morte Rose* with a smile on their face, their heart marked by what some lives too big to go gently into the night sometimes leave behind.

Sarah Lalonde writes sometimes. Sometimes she thinks she should write (though often she doesn't). She also often engages in other activities such as contemplation, laughter, love, and breathing.

LE KID DU BRONX

[THE KID FROM THE BRONX]

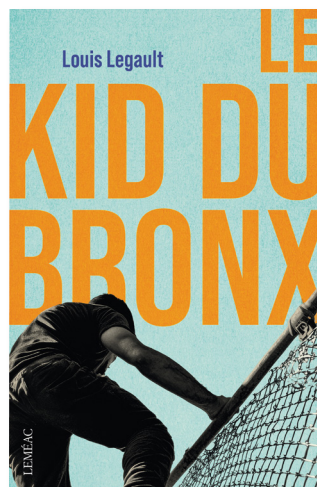
LOUIS LEGAULT

FICTION

304 pages

Published September 2025

World rights available



The Bronx the Kid lives in is the South-West district of LaSalle in Montreal.

Known by this name for over a century, this neighborhood located near the Lachine Rapids is the backdrop of a story tinged with nostalgia, that of a young teenager who recounts his joyful and sometimes tricky delinquent life in the early 1990s. Thirty years later, looking back on his memories, he vividly relives the ebullient days spent then with his school and street friends: “We were wild animals let loose in the savannah, fear was not an option. We had the crazy ambition to conquer the world. The only thing we wanted was to spread our wings, even if it meant burning them by flying too close to the sun.”

Born in the fashionable Plateau-Mont-Royal neighborhood, the protagonist must face the real ups and downs of life when his parents move to the south of Montreal Island, into a mixed community where many small-time schemers deal in not necessarily legal activities. He joins them trying to keep his distance enough to protect his own small soft drug business while developing a deep passion for music, for he already knows that one day, it will be the centre of his life.

This spellbinding novel ends in 1995, when the «NO» result to the referendum shatters the hopes of the independence movement. Setting the narrative beat of this wry tale, the tunes of Bryan Adams, Prince, Santana, Bach and Vivaldi, Chet Baker, Pink Floyd, Bob Marley, and The Doors bring an era back to life through a poignant and sincere voice, offering readers a great moment of social and musical cinema. An exhilarating ride.

As a sound engineer, mixer, arranger, and producer, Louis Legault's contribution to Quebec music was pivotal. He notably worked with Daniel Bélanger, Jean Leloup, Ariane Moffatt, Dumas, and Les Cowboys Fringants. Battling with cancer for over a decade, he passed away in March 2025 at the age of forty-seven, after devoting his last strength to writing this touching and vibrant first novel.



JE SUIS UN VOLCAN

[I AM A VOLCANO]

MÉLINA SCHOENBORN

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

112 pages

Published August 2025

World rights available

Her mother's new lover enters the narrator's life. The man is bossy, insidious, parasitic. But the teenager resists, thanks to writing, her friendship with Sandrine, and the soothing presence of the nearby river. She dreams of Italy, of Mount Etna, of landscapes that allow what burns inside her to burst forth.

Amidst the violence, spaces for gentleness and beauty do exist, that's what Mélina Schoenborn's sensitive, poetic, and fragmented writing laced with humour reminds us. *Je suis un volcan* reveals a strong rumbling voice.

Mélina Schoenborn is an artist, cultural worker, and the author of illustrated books for children that have been translated into several languages, among them, Bob le bobo earned her the Quebec Booksellers' Award. Je suis un volcan is her first young adult novel.

CITIZEN

AN ESSAY AND A GLOSSARY FOR CRITICAL THINKING

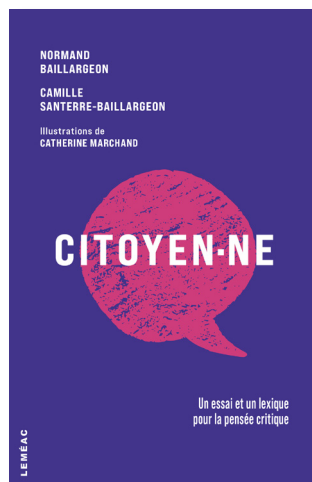
NORMAND BAILLARGEON
CAMILLE SANTERRE-BAILLARGEON
illustrated by CATHERINE MARCHAND

YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

180 pages

Published October 2025

World rights available

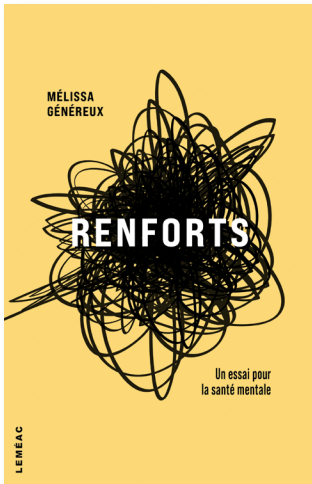


In our time of political radicalization and media echo chambers, conversations, both private and public, tend to become a minefield. Dialogue turns to monologue, and divergent points of view collide or retreat into themselves, vanishing altogether from the democratic space.

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

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

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



RENFORTS

UN ESSAI POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

[EASING YOUR MIND – A THING OR
TWO ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH]

MÉLISSA GAGNÉ

NON-FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

184 pages

Published April 2025

World rights available

A significant increase in anxiety and depression symptoms was noted in the last few years among young people as a whole, as they are subject to numerous stress factors, namely the omnipresence of screens, pressure to perform, climate and housing crises, labour shortages in the public sector and so on.

Faced with this alarming observation, Dr. Mélissa Gagné proposes ways of reinforcing mental health that include non-pharmacological solutions to help and empower everyone to cultivate their well-being. Dr. Gagné believes that issue to be a collective one and therefore refuses to make it a matter of individual responsibility. Taking a critical look at Quebec society (and societies in general) she advocates intervention at the roots of distress to reach greater equality of opportunity.

Mélissa Gagné is a consulting physician at the CIUSSS de l'Estrie's public health department and a professor at the Université de Sherbrooke's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. This first non-fiction text for young readers is in line with her social commitment.

A NEW NON-FICTION SERIES FOR YOUNG READERS

This new non-fiction series tackles difficult issues (mental health, pornography, housing crisis, conflicts in the Middle East, populism rise in Western societies...) to better understand and try to get to the truth. Here these contemporary issues are analyzed to allow the next generation to participate in public debate and civic life in an enlightened way. Written by recognized experts in their fields, the books explore innovative and daring ideas based on solid knowledge to counter misinformation and disinformation. These short, accessible, and committed essays aim to inspire tomorrow's (and today's) decision-makers to contribute to the improvement and advancement of our society.

ENRAGÉE, ENGAGÉE

TEXTES CHOISIS 2000-2024

[RAGING AND COMMITTED – SELECTED
TEXTS 2000-2024]

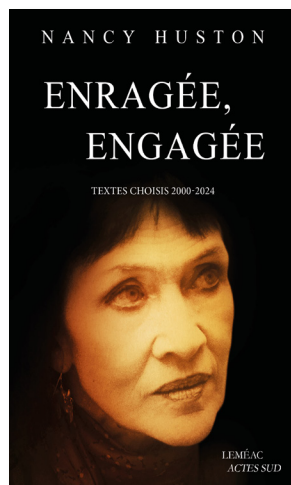
NANCY HUSTON

NON-FICTION

232 pages

Published September 2025

World rights available



The 35 circumstantial texts gathered in this new collection were written over the last twenty five years. They were given as lectures, book prefaces, or published in various newspapers and magazines. In their diversity, they compose a mosaic of reflections which, through their subject matter, their tone, their relevance, and the issues they raise, all bear the mark of a seasoned writer, who has published some fifty works over as many years. Her favorite themes find their natural place here, as a raging Nancy Huston pulls no punches on subjects such as creation and procreation, male violence, identity, exile, and prostitution, along with others, more political and committed, like climate change, extractivism, poverty, and prison conditions.

Quoting Romain Gary, Nancy Huston believes that “inhumanity is part of humanity—no beauty will save the world, no wisdom will prevent injustice, oppression, war, and torture from continuing until our species becomes extinct.” But she also believes, like James Baldwin, that “it will always be worth fighting against.”

Nancy Huston was born in Calgary and has been living in Paris for nearly four decades. She has published many novels and essays, awarded with as many literary prizes. Several of her works have been translated into English including Cantique des plaines / Plainsong (Governor General's Literary Award and Canada-Switzerland Prize), La virevolte / Slow Emergencies (Louis-Hémon Prize), Instruments des ténèbres / Instruments of Darkness (Goncourt des lycéens Prize and Prix du livre Inter), L'empreinte de l'ange / The Mark of the Angel (Quebec Booksellers' Award and Elle Readers' Grand Prize), Dolce agonia / Sweet Agony (Odyssée Prize), and Lignes de faille / Fault Lines (Femina Prize and France-Télévisions Prize).



POUR UNE FÉMINISATION DU POUVOIR

[FEMINIZING POWER]

PASCALE NAVARRO

NON-FICTION

112 pages

Published October 2025

World rights available

In 2015, women had the wind in their sails. Justin Trudeau established the first gender-balanced cabinet at the federal level. The #MeToo movement was taking off. The future had never looked so bright and women, at long last, would occupy the space they deserved.

But this “enchanted interlude” was short-lived. The wave of optimism was thwarted due to various factors, namely the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in femicides, the Trump landslide, and the rise of the far right and masculinists. Feminist discourse was pushed back to the margins of society and so was gender parity, which has once again become negligible in a context of a harsher economic and social situation. This setback clearly indicates that, without legislative measures, mere words and good intentions won’t do much to ensure gender parity and the lasting presence of women in politics.

Continuing her reflection on the feminization of power, Pascale Navarro offers concrete solutions to ensure that women are represented in the long term.

A writer and a journalist, Pascale Navarro is the author of several essays, notably Pour en finir avec la modestie féminine [Putting An End to Female Modesty] (2002), Les femmes en politique changent-elles le monde? [Do Women in Politics Change the World?] (2010), and Femmes et pouvoir: les changements nécessaires. Plaidoyer pour la parité [Women and power: the changes we need - A call for equality] (2015).

UNE FIN

[AN ENDING]

SÉBASTIEN DAVID

FICTION

152 pages

Published January 2025

World rights available



Life on Earth is just a few weeks away from its demise: the Sun has run out of fuel and is transforming into an all-consuming gigantic star. A hundred or so characters – adults, children, the elderly – live out their final moments, aware that the end is inescapable. Their paths and desires collide, dancing together under the red sky.

Far from the spectacular tropes of science fiction, the fabric woven here is made up of ordinary lives, tiny fears, fortuitous humour, intimacy centered on itself, yet reaching out to others. What does it mean to be human? With the Apocalypse just around the corner, this patchwork of singular destinies skilfully fluctuates between wild impulse and profound emotion.

An actor, teacher and stage director, the ubiquitous Sébastien David founded his own theatre company, La Bataille. Since 2012, his plays, that have been performed both in Canada and in francophone Europe, have received many awards. Leméac has accompanied his work as a playwright from the very beginning.

BACK

list

LES GIRAFES **EN FEU**

[BURNING GIRAFFES]

GABRIEL ALLAIRE

FICTION

320 pages

Published March 2023

World rights available



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

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

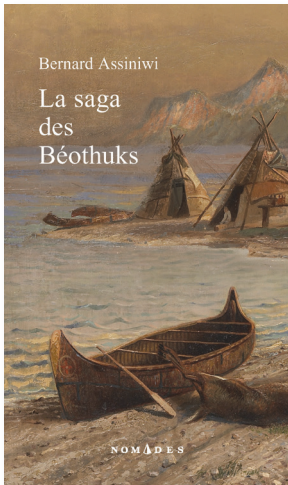
With the help of their son, they form a partnership with the local zoo, which attracts renewed interest from the international artistic community since Olaf, a movie star gorilla, has moved there.

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

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

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

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



LA SAGA DES BÉOTHUKS

[THE BEOTHUK SAGA]

BERNARD ASSINIWI

FICTION

520 pages

First published: 1996

Most recent edition: 2016

Rights sold: France (Dépaysage)

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

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

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

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

MAQUINA

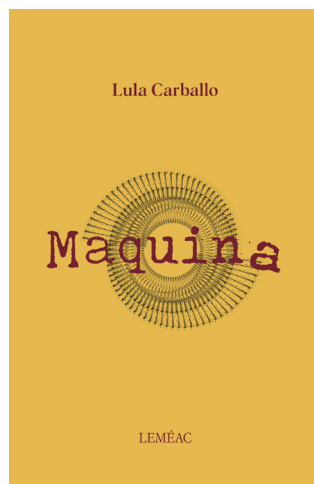
LULA CARBALLO

FICTION

152 pages

Published March 2024

World rights available



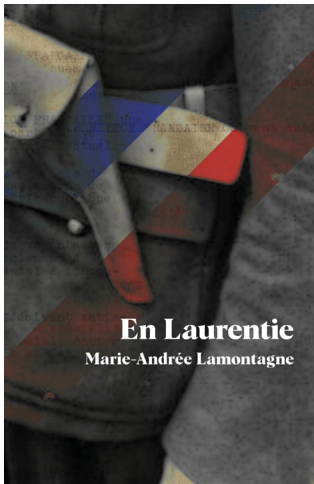
The Casino was transformed into Scala di Milano. A snake was writhing within your gut. Your gaze was dark, deep. It screamed bird rebellion. You were burdened by a double despair. A powerful combination of Dalida and Callas. Your figure appeared to me like blurred by the mesmerizing sentences uttered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

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

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

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

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



EN LAURENTIE

[IN LAURENTIA]

MARIE-ANDRÉE
LAMONTAGNE

FICTION

320 pages

Published October 2024

World rights available

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

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

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

LES COWBOYS SONT FATIGUÉS

[NO MORE HEROES]

JULIEN GRAVELLE

FICTION

192 pages

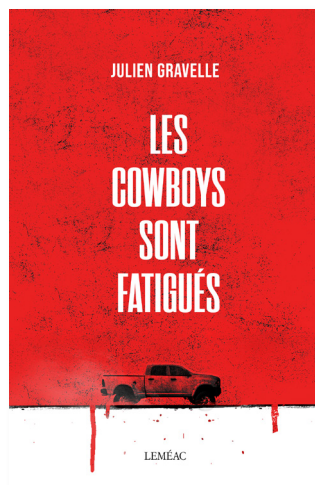
First published March 2021

Pocketbook edition April 2024

Rights sold: France (Éditions du Seuil)

TV Rights

All other rights available



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

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

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

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

JULIEN GRAVELLE

FICTION

160 pages

Rights sold: France (Éditions Stock)

All other rights available



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

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

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

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

TORONTO

JAMAIS BLEUE

[TORONTO, NEVER BLUE]

MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROCHELLE

FICTION

200 pages

Published February 2024

World rights available



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

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

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

Born in Quebec City, Marie-Hélène Larochelle is Professor of Literature at York University in Toronto. She has published various academic works, as well as two novels: Daniil et Vanya (2017) and Je suis le courant la vase (2021). The latter book was shortlisted for the Trillium Literary Award in 2022. The author is also finalist for the Trillium Literary Award for Toronto jamais bleue in 2025.



JE SUIS LE COURANT **LA VASE**

[KISS THE UNDERTOW]

MARIE-HÉLÈNE LAROCHELLE

FICTION

168 pages

Published February 2021

Rights sold: World English (House of Anansi)

All other rights available

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

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

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

Marie-Hélène Larochelle has published several scholarly works on monstrosity, violence and invective in contemporary literature. A former top-level swimmer herself, in this first novel she weaves the sensations and feelings brought on by any sporting feat. Je suis le courant la vase was shortlisted for the Trillium Literary Award in 2022. Her second novel, Toronto jamais bleue (2024), is also published by Leméac, and is also shortlisted for the Trillium Literary Award (2025).

D'OÙ VIENS-TU, BERGER ?

[WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, SHEPHERD?]

MATHYAS LEFEBURE

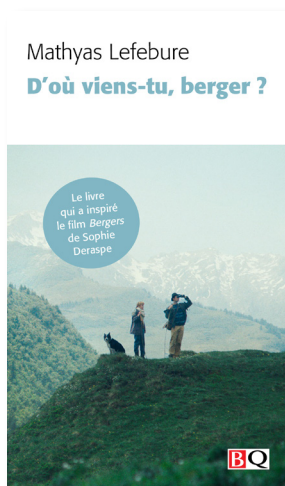
FICTION

280 pages

First published : 2006

Pocketbook edition: October 2024

Rights sold: France (Actes Sud) and film rights



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

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

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

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

— Christian Desmeules, *Le Devoir*

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

— Véronique Marcotte, *Entre les lignes*

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



LA COLLINE QUI TRAVAILLE

PHILIPPE MANEVY

FICTION

368 pages

Published February 2024
World rights available

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

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

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

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

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

ANIMA

WAJDI MOUAWAD

FICTION

Paperback edition: 504 pages

Published September 2012

Paperback edition 2016

Rights sold: English (World – Talonbooks),

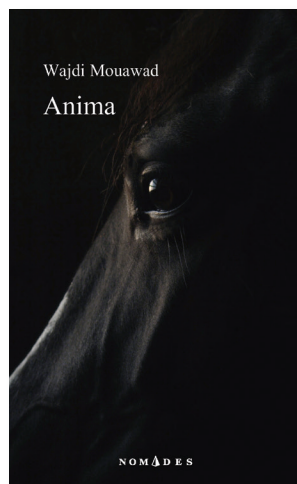
French (France – Actes Sud),

Italian (Fazi), Spanish (Seix Barral),

Catalan (Periscopi), Greek (Eksodseis),

Japanese (Kawade Shobo Shinsha)

Albanian (Ombra GV6)

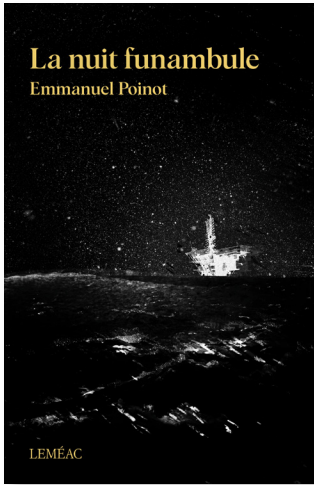


Anima opens with a sordid murder: Wahnch Debch returns home and discovers his murdered wife, a knife stuck in the sex and the child she was carrying. A real manhunt begins, a furious inner odyssey that will take him from Montreal across North America to the south, leading him into a real hell: how far 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 Wahnch, as far as the Sabra and Chatila camps, places of darkness and atrocities, even underground, at the heart of human curses.

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

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



LA NUIT FUNAMBULE

[THE NIGHT FUNAMBULIST]

EMMANUEL POINOT

FICTION

152 pages

Published January 2024

Rights sold: France (Arthaud)

All other rights available

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

But winter's not here yet.

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

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

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

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

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

VOLKSWAGEN BLUES

JACQUES POULIN

FICTION

382 pages

First publication: 1984

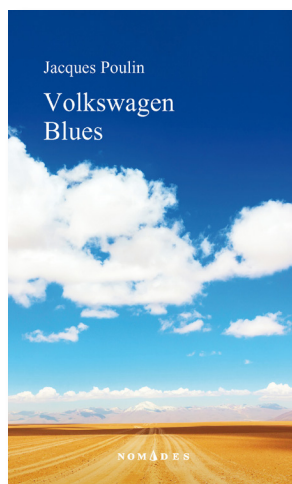
Rights sold: English (world)

Spanish (world)

German

Dutch

Bulgarian



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

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

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

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



LA GROSSE FEMME D'À CÔTÉ EST ENCEINTE

[THE FAT WOMAN NEXT DOOR IS PREGNANT]

MICHEL TREMBLAY

FICTION

330 pages

First publication: 1978

Rights sold: French outside North America (Actes Sud),

Spanish

English

Korean

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

— *Canadian Book Review Annual*

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

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

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

L'ENFANT MASCARA

[BECOMING LETICIA]

SIMON BOULERICE

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

184 pages

Published September 2016

Rights sold: Film rights in French

All other rights available



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

A singular novel, penned with the utmost empathy.

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



LE BOULEVARD

[THE BOULEVARD]

JEAN-FRANÇOIS
SÉNÉCHAL

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

304 pages

Published October 2016

Rights sold French (Éditions Sarbacane)

Italian (EDT Edizioni)

Greek (Kastaniotis Editions)

Albanian (Ombra GVG)

Film rights

Theatre rights

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

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

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

TROIS FOIS MA VIE

[THREE TIMES MY LIFE]

JEAN-FRANÇOIS SÉNÉCHAL

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

248 pages

Published September 2024

Rights sold: Arabic

All other rights available



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

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

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

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



RAP POUR **VIOLONCELLE SEUL**

[RAP FOR CELLO]

MARYSE PAGÉ

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

152 pages

Published February 2020

Rights sold: Film Rights

All other rights available

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

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

Maryse Pagé is a screenwriter, researcher and novelist. Rap pour violoncelle seul was a finalist for the Prix jeunesse des libraires du Québec, the Prix Espiègle and the Governor General's Literary Awards. It is currently being adapted for television. Leméac also published De son œil in 2021. Almost 40 000 copies of Rap pour violoncelle seul were sold only in Quebec.

TOM À LA FERME

[TOM AT THE FARM]

MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD

THEATRE

80 pages

Published January 2011

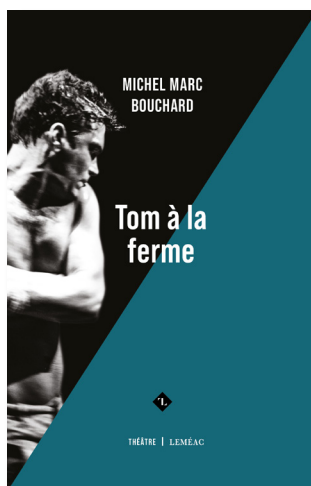
Rights sold:

English (world)

Portuguese (Brazil)

Spanish (Europe)

Film rights



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

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

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



L'ART DE NE PAS TOUJOURS AVOIR RAISON

[THE ART OF NOT ALWAYS BEING RIGHT]

MARTIN DESROSIERS

NON-FICTION

120 pages

Published September 2024

World rights available

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

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

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

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

INCENDIES

[SCORCHED]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

FICTION

176 pages

First publication 2003

Paperback edition 2015

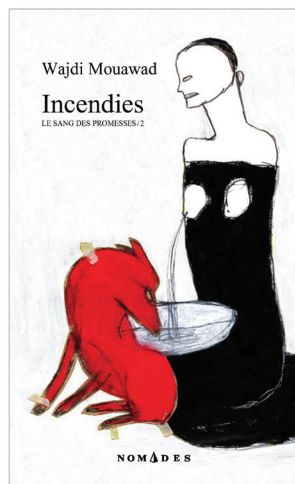
Rights sold:

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

Armenian; German; Spanish (world), Chinese,

Ukrainian, Catalan, Romanian, Bengali

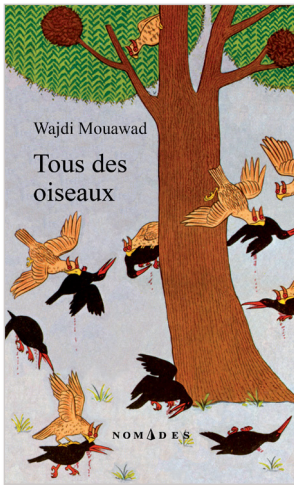
Film rights



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

Incendies was brought to the screen by director Denis Villeneuve.

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



TOUS DES OISEAUX

[BIRDS OF A KIND]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

DRAMA

184 pages

Published March 2023

First publication 2018

Paperback edition 2020

Rights sold:

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

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

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

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

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

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

RACINE CARRÉE DU VERBE ÊTRE

[FIVE TRAJECTORIES OF DESTINY]

WAJDI MOUAWAD

THEATRE

184 pages

Published August 2023

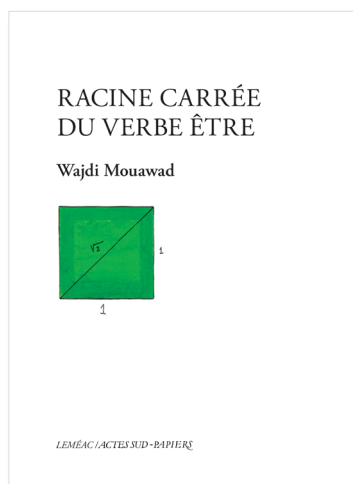
Rights sold:

French (Europe - Actes Sud)

English (North America - Playwrights Canada Press)

German (Verlag der Autoren), Spanish (La Uña Rota),

Italian (Giulio Einaudi editore)



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, Ciel) and the novel *Anima* (2012). Published by Leméac/Actes Sud and translated into several languages, his work has won numerous international awards.