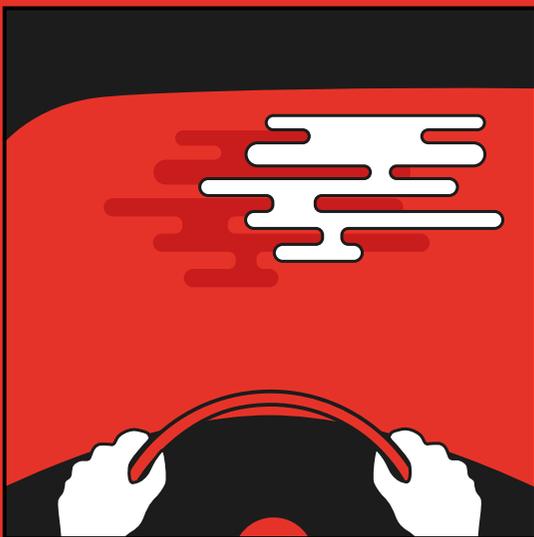


# PRIZE POLAR EN SÉRIES 2021



## **DU BLEU DANS LA NUIT** Jean-Charles Chapuzet (Marchialy, 2020) (A BIT OF BLUE IN THE NIGHT)

### **If it were a film:**

*L’Affaire SK1*, Frédéric Tellier  
*Trois jours et une vie*, Nicolas Boukhrief

### **If it were a serie:**

*Laëtitia*, Jean-Xavier de Lestrade  
*La Promesse*, Anne Landois et Gaëlle Bellan  
*The Missing*, Jack Williams et Harry Williams

### **Format:**

Miniseries.



*Back to February 10th, 1984 and a true crime: the kidnapping of « Mona Lisa » in Jarnac, Gironde. The investigation will go on for precisely 25 hours. Jean-Charles Chapuzet reconstructs this investigation down to the smallest detail, as closely as possible to the investigators, who agreed to testify fourteen years later.*

*Inhabitants, policemen, the Bordeaux tracking team are all involved to track down the missing child as quickly as possible. The countdown starts. Thanks to an unexpected presence in front of the Town Hall, almost by pure chance, the perpetrator will be identified and the little girl will be saved in extremis.*

*From the offender’s psychological profile to the invitation of policemen in Paris, organised by the Interior Minister, including a detailed description of all steps of the investigation, this non-fictional work relates facts with acute precision. Facts that would indelibly scar a French village where you could never have guessed that such a tragedy could happen.*

### **A TRUE CRIME WITH A HAPPY ENDING**

Here, we are not exactly in a cold case because the case was actually solved in its time. We rather approach a true crime story, a journalistic investigation aiming at the documentation of a tragic event in every detail, even though the ending is positive, in that case.

Written like a crime novel, the book offers a sort of double investigation in which the author stages himself in his research work, in 2008, alongside a very detailed review of the 2004 investigation.

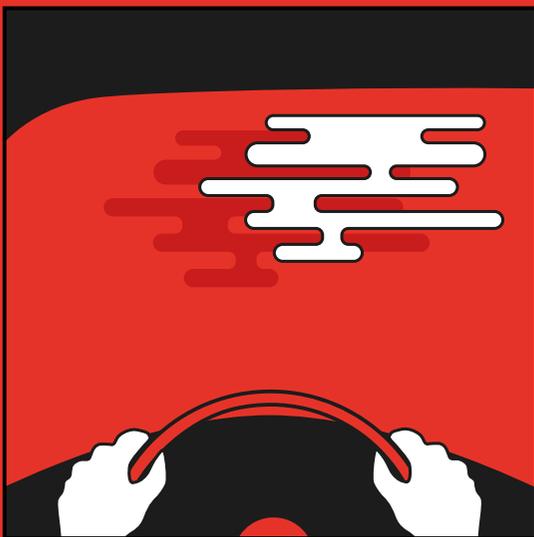
The book describes the journalist’s investigations on the location of the case, his encounters with policemen and different witnesses, thus exploring their memories of the events. The reader goes behind the scene of a true crime, at the side of the ones trying to solve the case and avoid a tragic outcome.

### **AN INVESTIGATION UNDER HEAT AND ITS TRACKS**

The author’s investigation work, in retrospect, reveals how each person implied in such a true crime keep in mind the 25 hours of extreme tension preceding the discovery of the missing child. With a close to fifteen year hindsight, memory is still clear. The book also explores, with thoroughness, the consequences of all decisions that are taken by the brigade in charge of the investigation. We realise that every move counts and that each intuition has its importance. The actors of this true crime relive the events from the little girl’s kidnapping, in front of witnesses, to the perpetrator’s trial.

The political system is also highlighted. Once the child has been found and returned to her parents, things get heated: Nicolas Sarkozy’s visit (he was the Interior Minister at the time), and the invitation of the heroes to Disneyland, ease the tension and even shifts gears, as situations are on the verge of comedy.

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## BEHIND A PEACEFUL FACADE, SOCIAL DECAY

The gallery of characters that we come across offers a rich and deployed narrative thread. It is not so much the man hunt that keeps us in suspense, as the case is solved rather quickly. It is rather the angle from which the true crime is depicted: it reveals the rural popular class, underrepresented, that somehow survives behind the fake peaceful facade of small towns.

The young criminal's background is thoroughly detailed. Victim of an already convicted incestuous father, he led a wandering life full of petty crimes, heavy drinking and violence. His disordered everyday life and his family history have paved the way to the irretrievable. For this boy who sought limits without ever finding them, this slippage, which takes place after a first failed kidnapping attempt, ultimately leads to his arrest and conviction.

### A FEW LINES OF THE BOOK:

«Still waiting. A lead weight stifles the small town. [...] Information has more or less flowed, but one thing is sure, a kid might be dead and a monster is on the loose. For a petty crime, we would willingly accuse the neighbour we hate. But here, we are talking about the abduction of a child. Nobody would take this opportunity to settle scores. »

### THE AUTHOR:

Jean-Charles Chapuzet is a historian, journalist and writer with a taste for the vine world which he describes in numerous works. Here, Jean Charles Chapuzet produces a piece on the backstage of an investigation and depicts a striking portrait of the region where the kidnapping took place.

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