

QUAIS DU POLAR

FRENCH-SPEAKING
AUTHORS AND POLARS
TO DISCOVER



INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL LYON

19th edition
March 31st – April 2nd 2023

LITERATURE — CINEMA —
URBAN INVESTIGATION —
CULTURAL EVENTS

VOLUME 1 — JANUARY 2023

PRESENTATION OF THE FESTIVAL

The Quais du Polar international festival is THE unmissable event for aficionados of the noir genre. Having become part of the French, European, and international cultural landscape, it is recognised by professionals from the literary, publishing, and audio-visual industries and by the general public, who turn out in droves to the festival's various events. Since 2005, authors from 60 different countries have been invited.

For the 19th edition of the festival, which will be held from March 31st to April 2nd 2023, more than 120 authors from all over the world will gather in Lyon to meet their readers during conferences, round tables, book signings, concerts, movie screenings and many other literary events in the city. Polar Connection, the festival's professional program, which will be held for the 10th time in 2023, provides international and French professionals time for discussions, inspiring exchanges and to share their experiences, drawing on the effervescence that the festival creates around the crime fiction genre.

In addition, through its international collaborations and projects, Quais du polar works throughout the year to shine a spotlight on francophone crime fiction and its authors all across the world.

In doing so, Quais du polar underlines its commitment to promoting, on a local and international scale, crime and noir literature, a genre that is undeniably alive and growing.

This booklet reflects this approach. It has been elaborated with the support of the French Institute Convention – City and Metropolis of Lyon and distributed in partnership with the international cultural network of the French Institute and the BIEF – Bureau International de l'Édition Française.



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As a specific term that has few equivalents abroad, the “polar” encompasses all the diversity of a genre. Detective novels, thrillers, historical investigations, noir novels, and cosy crime are all works of fiction that are more commonly referred to as “polar” in French. With more than 1,300 titles in bookstores in France in 2021, some twenty specialized collections and some 24 million books sold each year (1 in 5 novels), the detective novel remains the favorite literary genre of the French. French-speaking authors, buoyed by this strong success in France, are not, however, systematically translated around the world. While some of these authors are exporting well and in various territories, many authors, testifying to the vitality of French-language crime fiction, have yet to be discovered beyond French borders.

This booklet has been conceived as a tool to be put in the hands of book professionals who wish to be in line with the current state of the French-speaking *polar* genre, in all its diversity. The booklet offers a selection of the latest publications by authors that *Quais du polar* has identified and considers to be important contributors to the *polar* genre. Its purpose is to facilitate access to information regarding the assignment of rights abroad, for translation, and to allow French-speaking authors to be translated and therefore known internationally, in a context of worldwide interest for the genre.

In France, the publication of *polar* has a predominant place in literary publishing, and as previously explained, it includes many types of novels. Faced with such density, classifying it into genres and sub-genres is a necessary step, which we have attempted to take in this booklet - divided into two volumes - which highlights the major trends in current French-language *polars*. Each volume will highlight key themes of the genre and will present “focuses” on categories that revitalize the *polar* genre.

Here are the leads we have followed to better understand the “Francophone crime novel” in this 1st volume of the booklet “French-speaking authors and *polars* to discover”.

The detective novel is a classic of the genre, which has never ceased to attract readers by constantly bringing the figure of the detective back to the forefront. The historical thriller is also a timeless trend, managing to analyze our contemporary society through a crime taking place in a past period. The rural noir, inspired by the American nature writing, is often written far from the city, in the harshness of nature, where men are put to the test and their darkest sides are revealed. The thriller has been thriving thanks to a simple recipe: suspense, twists and plots with many variations.

Furthermore, the *polar* is constantly evolving. In the militant detective novel, always in touch with current events, the authors paint a sharp portrait of our contemporary societies. The cybercrime theme looks at crime from a new angle, developing our relationship with technology. Noir travelers have also become a major part in the French-speaking landscape, with crime moving to a global scale.

The 2nd volume of the booklet “*Polars* and French-speaking authors to discover” will be released in the course of 2023, with the same key themes: detective novels, historical novels, rural noir and thrillers. And other “focuses” which are as follow: news and fiction of the real world, geopolitics and espionage, on the borders of reality and black comedy - cosy crime.

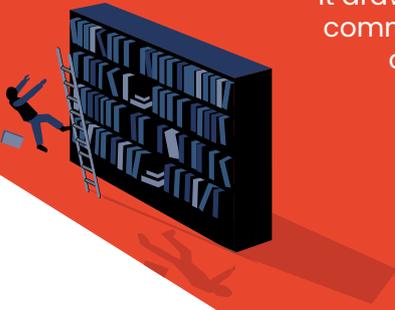
Please note that the English titles are not the official titles, but rather our translation to allow for a better understanding of the books.

INTRO

THEMES

① DETECTIVE STORY — P.6

The detective story is a staple of the genre. Following a young detective on his first investigation or a corrupt cop, each story offers an insight into the daily life of the police. It draws its inspiration from the professionals themselves. May they be police officers, commissioners, trained squad leaders or in contact with experts, these authors draw on experiences and impressions straight from the field. A profession that is born from passion and which comes with a wealth of unexpected source material.



② HISTORICAL CRIME FICTION — P.11

The historical crime fiction introduces a police investigation set in a specific historical period, with a plot that usually mixes real events and fiction. This genre does not hesitate to take on difficult subjects, such as the Occupation or the Algerian War. However, although the authors use history as their playground, the themes that they tackle are no less current. Each novel is a mirror of our contemporary society, providing keys to understanding it.

④ THRILLER — P.17

The thriller genre, very popular with the general public, places action at the forefront, with plots full of twists and turns that often find an unexpected resolution. Be it psychological, political, fantastic, or judicial, the thriller makes it a point of honor to keep the reader on the edge of his seat until the last page. It is also a place of experimentation for authors who make suspense the raw material of their writing.

③ RURAL NOIR — P.14

Under the impulse of nature writing, the French noir novel has also taken over the great outdoors and the peripheral communities, thus giving a voice to the invisible and forgotten. Rural noir departs from the traditional blueprint where evil is embodied by a killer on the loose and casts nature as an antagonist in its own right, bringing out the darker sides of man in society.

⑤ SOCIAL CRIME NOVEL — P.20

With its success in France, the social crime novel offers an incursion into the contemporary world, its crises and its scandals. Corruption, racism, environmental disasters and police brutality are all themes that authors freely explore. As a form of protest literature, the social crime novel keeps on highlighting social problems and their effects on individuals, as well as the moral and political crises that run through our societies.

⑥ CYBERCRIME — P.23

In the age of the Internet and social networks, crime is taking on a whole new dimension and so is crime fiction. For the past twenty years, cybercrime has become one of the new trends in crime fiction, with concerns about the excesses of new technologies, the dangers of social networks, artificial intelligence... In line with the novel of anticipation, cybercrime fiction portrays the evolution of humanity in contact with technology, for better or for worse.

⑦ NOIR AROUND THE WORLD — P.25

Whether in idyllic destinations or in the depths of the *polar* regions, crime fiction is written around the world. As a strong trend in the genre for more than ten years now, travel is an inexhaustible source for our authors who, acquainted with the landscapes, the society, the culture, the history of a territory, carry the reader away in disorienting investigations/documentaries.

DETECTIVE FICTION

①

LA FAUSSAIRE THE COUNTERFEITER

By Patricia Delahaie

Belfond | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022**

La Beauce, 1997-1998

In his slightly bulging Lacoste polo shirt and tweed jacket, fifty-something Paul Menard is a loving husband and father, a devoted and reassuring doctor around whom the Beauce souls of this suburb of Chartres come alive. Until that day in the spring of 97 when his eyes meet those of a beautiful blonde, wearing a tight white dress, who wanders through the village with her 8-year-old daughter. Shortly afterwards, the beautiful girl goes to the doctor's office for migraines. One visit follows another; Paul falls under her spell. Candlelit dinners, timbales of salmon. Camille knows how to live, Camille knows how to love even if her veiled look indicates that she is hiding secrets.

For the beautiful woman is married to a military man who is always on the move around the world. A man who hits her, humiliates her, rapes her with his friends. It is Julie, a family friend, who alerts Paul by repeated calls in the middle of the night. Paul can't live with it anymore, divorces his wife, abandons his patients, and is enraged by his cowardice. How to save the one he loves? On July 13, 1998, the major died. An almost natural death, aided by a few drugs. It was Camille's idea. Paul is convinced that he acted for the greater good, for Camille, for her daughter. So why does Camille suddenly reject him? Why does Paul have this feeling that he may not be the good man he thought he was? Killing a man is no small thing. And did Camille, the sweet victim, really tell him the truth and nothing but the truth? Four years later, the trial opens; Paul's world comes crashing down.

Patricia Delahaie

Patricia Delahaie has a degree in cinema and in social sciences. She was a journalist specializing in parent-child and couple relationships, as well as a panelist on the television program *Les Maternelles* on France 5. She is a keen researcher on self-knowledge and knowledge of others, and has written numerous books on personal development; she is now embarking on a fictional project centered on the news. *La Faussaire* is her first novel.



BELFOND | Gregory Messina | gregory@linwoodmessina.com



CINABRE VELVET

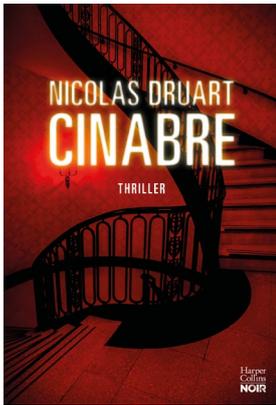
By Nicolas Druart

HarperCollins | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022**

"Cinabre" is the color of the fanciest hotel in Toulouse, a velvet vice attended by a wealthy clientele, a mineral red that recalls the color of blood. The Ferdinand Hotel was the scene of a quadruple homicide in the 1980s. Its manager, Eugene Ferdinand, slaughtered his family before being shot by the police. All his family died except for Richard, who decided thirty years later to reopen the establishment. But one does not wash away a dark reputation with monumental renovation work.

Six former classmates founded their independent nursing practice: The Kings of Spades. When one of them disappears after having treated a client of the Ferdinand Hotel, nobody seems to mind at all.

Only Elliot Akerman, a sensitive and uncompromising nurse, goes looking for him. Meanwhile, a killer armed with a sword terrorizes Toulouse. Is he isolated, what is his motive? For Captain Aubert and his team, the investigation is proving to be complex.



Nicolas Druart

Nicolas Druart is a 35-year-old nurse based in Toulouse. He excels at describing the cracks in the mind with surgical precision. *Cinabre* is Druart's 4th novel following *Nuit blanche* (Grand Prix du Suspense psychologique, 2018), *Jeu de dames* (2019), *L'Enclave* (Prix de l'Embouchure, 2021).



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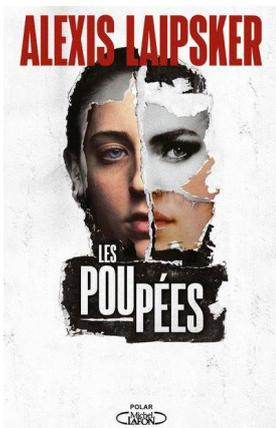
LES POUPEES DOLLS

By Alexis Laipsker

Michel Lafon | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022**

"They'll say I'm crazy. That killing is a game to me. Only you will know my secret. But are you ready? Play with me!"

A psychic in crisis. An old-school surly cop. A young shrink who's been around the block. A series of macabrely staged murders. A terrifying race against time.



Alexis Laipsker

Journalist, TV and radio host, Alexis Laipsker is also a well-known figure in the French poker revival and the author of three acclaimed novels, all published by Editions Michel Lafon. *Et avec votre esprit* won the Prix des nouvelles voix du Polar 2021 and *Les Poupées* won the Prix Ligue de l'imaginaire Cultura 2022.



MICHEL LAFON | Honorine Dupuy d'Angeac | honorine@michel-lafon.com

LA FOSSE AUX ÂMES

THE PIT OF SOULS

By *Christophe Molmy*

La Martinière | 2021 | FRANCE



Fabrice is a coward. So he goes to the movies with his girlfriend, Juliette, without finding the nerve to tell her what's been preying on him for a while: he doesn't love her any more, and hasn't for quite some time. Maybe he'll find the wherewithal to speak his mind after the movie... But in the theatre, a startling soundtrack superimposes itself on the one that accompanies the romantic comedy they came to see. Thunderous blasts, like the strings of firecrackers you hear on Bastille Day. Moviegoers stand up, then fall back down. Bodies riddled with gunshot wounds. It's a terrorist attack. It lasts a few minutes. It lasts an eternity. When it's finally over, Fabrice is one of the few who stands up. Juliette lies at his feet. He is the widower of a woman he no longer loved.

So begins the aimless wandering of one who survived when so many others died. The one who finds in the female police officer who interrogates him a beam of light he can cling to. A love story like a life drive.

But fate has it in for him, and the police officer disappears. He is Suspect Number One. Laying low for a while would be the thing to do, but Fabrice hasn't got a clue how to go about it. Neither how to hide, nor how to run away. Nor how to rebuild a life that has been blasted to smithereens.

Christophe Molmy

Christophe Molmy is the head of the Paris Research and Intervention Brigade (BRI), a.k.a. the Anti-Gang and Counter-Terrorism Brigade, a unit of the French National Police. His first novel, *Wounded Wolves* (*Les Loups blessés*, Editions de La Martinière, 2015), was selected for four literary awards (the Prix Landerneau, Prix du meilleur polar des lecteurs de Points, Prix du polar de Cognac and the Prix du Goéland Masqué). *After the Day* is his third novel.



LA MARTINIÈRE | Nikoleta Koukmisi | nikoleta.koukmisi@2seasagency.com

JE SUIS LE FEU

I AM FIRE

By *Max Monnehay*

Le Seuil | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022**



A bewitching thriller carried by dense and endearing characters. La Rochelle, July. A woman is found with her throat slit in front of her ten-year-old son, who was spared the gruesome scene with a blindfold and headphones. She is the second victim in three months, and the police have no lead. Police Chief Baccaro calls on Victor Caranne, a prison psychologist and favorite confidante of serial offenders in the Ile de Ré prison. But the killer is an elusive shadow that will soon drive the city into psychosis.

With this second investigation of Victor Caranne, Max Monnehay confirms that she has earned her place among the great masters of the thriller genre.

Max Monnehay

Max Monnehay was born in 1980 in Beauvais. She is the author of several novels and short stories, including *Corpus Christine*, Prix du premier roman 2006, and *Géographie de la Bêtise*, published in 2012 by Seuil. With *Somb* in 2020, prix Transfuge du meilleur espoir polar, Max Monnehay introduced the investigations of Victor Caranne.



LE SEUIL | Maria Vlachou | maria.vlachou@seuil.com

LE CARRÉ DES INDIGENTS

AMONG THE RENEGATES

By Hugues Pagan

Rivages | 2022 | FRANCE

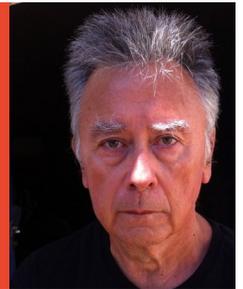


November 1973. Chief Inspector Claude Schneider returns to the city of his youth after a stint in the army and the Algerian war, from which he has not recovered. He could have stayed in Paris and made a career there, but he preferred to return "home". Appointed head of the Criminal Group, he is soon faced with a painful case: Betty, the daughter of a modest railway worker, who had gone to return books to the library, has not come home. Her father is convinced that she is dead. So is Schneider. Schneider is a cop, and yet he still can't accept death. Especially that of a 15-year-old girl with the face of a mischievous kitten. He will manage to shed light on this case, but will continue to travel in the land of shadows.

A great dark and tragic novel, served by a brilliant, ironic, harsh and poetic writing, taking the reader on a journey to the end of the night from which they will not come out unscathed.

Hugues Pagan

Hugues Pagan was born in Orléansville (Chlef) in Algeria. After studying philosophy and brief stint in teaching, he joined the police force where he stayed for 25 years. He is now a scriptwriter for television. His previous novel, *Profil perdu*, was a great success with the public and was unanimously acclaimed by the press. As a prize-winning author, Pagan is considered one of the great writers of French crime fiction.



RIVAGES | Marie-Martine Serrano | mm.serrano@payotrivages.com

LA PATIENCE DE L'IMMORTELLE

THE IMMORTAL'S PATIENCE

By Michèle Pedinielli

Éditions de l'Aube | 2021 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR READER'S PRIZE 2022**



"Diou" Boccanera, the private detective in her trademark Doc Martens, has to leave Nice for a while. Her ex, Jo Santucci, needs her, which sees Boccanera fly out to Southern Corsica to investigate the tragic murder of the beautiful Letizia, Jo's niece, whom Diou knew as a child before her couple fell apart. Since then, she hasn't set a foot on the island. And now she has to face everything: the reunion with those she once held dear, the mourning, and the need to understand what happened. Who kills a young journalist in cold blood before setting her car on fire? Why did this happen?

Had Letizia discovered something that others wanted to keep quiet forever? Or should one look into the young woman's private life?

Michèle Pedinielli

Michèle Pedinielli, born in Nice of Corsican and Italian parents, moved to Paris to become a journalist for about fifteen years. Now back in her native city, she has decided to devote herself to writing. She has already published, with the same publisher and in the same series, *Boccanera* and *Après les chiens*.



ÉDITIONS DE L'AUBE | Gregory Messina | gregory@linwoodmessina.com

1991

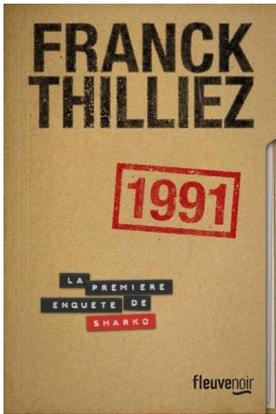
1991

By Franck Thilliez

Fleuve | 2022 | FRANCE

When Franck Sharko, fresh out of detective school, arrives at the 36 Quai des Orfèvres in December 1991, he quickly understands that his years of experience in dealing with petty crime in the north will be of no use to him. Here, he has to learn everything again...

As soon as he arrives, he is taken to the archives where he is in charge of reopening, with a fresh set of eyes, the case of the "Disparues du Sud Parisien". Sharko devotes all his time to it until a distraught man shows up at number 36 with a photo of a woman lying on a bed, her hands tied to the bedposts, her head covered with a paper bag. At the back of this photo is an address. The young detective decides to go there and is met with an incomprehensible scenario: the crime scene is locked from the inside...



Franck Thilliez

Born in 1973 in Annecy, France, Franck Thilliez was the third best-selling French author in 2021 with nearly 8 million copies sold in France. He is also a television scriptwriter, co-creator and co-writer of the *Alex Hugo* series with Niko Tackian. *The Chamber of the Dead* and *Puzzle* have already been adapted into films. Franck Thilliez is also the scriptwriter of the series *La Brigade des Cauchemars* published in comic book by Jungle.



FLEUVE | Julie Buffaud | julie.buffaud@universpoche.com



HISTORICAL CRIME FICTION

2

LA MUSE ROUGE

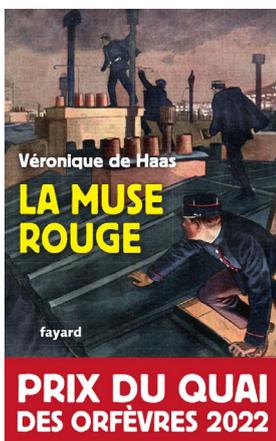
THE RED MUSE

By Véronique De Haas

Fayard | 2021 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022**

Upon his return from the trenches, Victor Dessange, a former member of the French vice squad, joins the crime squad. The atmosphere in the French capital is electric - between repeated strikes and confrontations between communists and anarchists on the one hand and royalists of the Action française on the other. Illegal immigrants are pouring in from all over the world as colonial empires collapse.

In such a context, the successive murders of several prostitutes hardly appear as priority cases. Until it is no longer a lady of the night, but a client, an official representative of the Republic of China, who is found dead in a brothel. In charge of the investigation, Victor tries to untangle a thread that will lead him from a penal colony for children in Brittany to the attack on a gold convoy in Morocco, where neither the culprits nor the loot have ever been found.



Véronique de Haas

Véronique de Haas has been teaching literature for forty years and has always been passionate about twentieth century history, particularly the period between the wars. *La Muse rouge* won the Prix du Quai des Orfèvres 2022 and has sold over 140,000 copies.



FAYARD | Marion Charpentier | mcharpentier@editions-fayard.fr

LE BLUES DES PHALÈNES

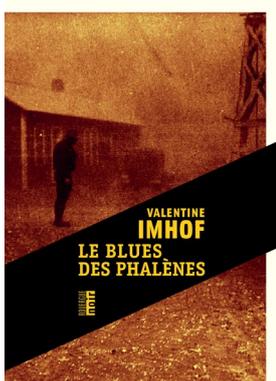
MOTH BLUES

By Valentine Imhof

Le Rouergue | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022** | **QUAIS DU POLAR READER'S PRIZE 2023**

This is 1930s America, the land of prohibition, white supremacy, and destitution that sent millions of starving people on the road, when they weren't stowed away on the underside of a train. The same roads that were paved by the conquerors of the west and now lead to the Pacific. And this horizon, over the shores of California, promising a bright future, is the one of two men, a woman and a child. Milton, the prodigal son who has cut ties with his wealthy family; Arthur, the veteran of the Boer War and the trenches of the Somme, who carries the weight of unforgivable crimes; Pekka, born the day her mother set foot on New York soil and who changes her name every time she wants to change her life; Nathan, finally, the son of the explosion, who has never managed to outrun evil.

These four prodigious destinies intertwine around a single moment that brings them all together: the explosion in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on December 6, 1917, the most terrible devastation caused by man before the nuclear age.



Valentine Imhof

Born in 1970 in Nancy, Valentine Imhof settled in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon in 2000 where she is a literature teacher. Before that, she lived in the United States and traveled extensively in Scandinavia. She is the author of a biography of Henry Miller, *La Rage d'écrire* (2017), published by Transboréal. She has published two novels at Rouergue: *Par les rafales* (2018, Prix Le Polar se met au vert 2021) and *Zippo* (2019).



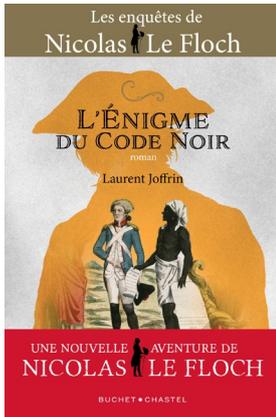
LE ROUERGUE | Fabien Meffre | f.meffre@actes-sud.fr

L'ÉNIGME DU CODE NOIR

THE CODE NOIR ENIGMA

By Laurent Joffrin

Buchet Chastel | 2022 | FRANCE



Never in his long career had Nicolas Le Floch seen such crimes. In the spring of 1791, two bodies were successively found in the Luxembourg district of Paris: the first had a leg and an arm cut off, the second had been flogged to shreds; for good measure, both had been hanged to death. Both of the murdered aristocrats were plantation owners in Santo Domingo.

With his former deputy Bourdeau, Nicolas, a special agent of the monarchy, discovers that these mutilations mimicked the punishments inflicted on runaway slaves by plantation owners in the colonies, according to the stipulations of the black code established by Louis XIV to regulate the repression of misdeeds on the part of slaves in French colonies. Was it a revenge from the islands? Or was it a much more tortuous plot with political intent?

In the revolutionary Paris of 1791, while the Constituent Assembly tries to stabilize the kingdom and Louis XVI defends his crown in the Tuileries Palace, in the face of popular emotions aroused by the most intransigent patriots, the two policemen try to untangle this complex web in a context of confrontations between political factions. In the course of this breathless plot, he will have to understand the battle that is opening up over the abolition of slavery, between the Society of Friends of the Blacks, which advocates for equal rights, and the Massiac Club, which brings together colonial interests in a powerful organization. Above all, he will have to fight the fearsome criminals of the Green Man gang that has taken up residence in the underground quarries of Paris, while overcoming the sentimental imbroglio that opposes Laure de Fitz-James and Aimée d'Arranet, with whom he has a double affair that will put him in an unfortunate position."

Laurent Joffrin

Laurent Joffrin is a French journalist born in 1952. After studying History and Economics at the Sorbonne and Political Science at the Institut d'études politiques in Paris, he obtained a degree in journalism in 1977 and worked at various editorial offices throughout his career, among which the AFP, Libération and Le Nouvel Obs. He has written around fifteen essays and historical and/or political novels. In 2021, with the approval of Jean-François Parot's family, he took over the writing of the *Nicolas Le Floch* series and delivered the fifteenth volume of the series to Buchet Chastel.



BUCHET CHASTEL | Christine Bonnard Legrand | christine.bonnardlegrand@libella.fr

LES LARMES DU REICH

THE REICH'S TEARS

By François Médéline

10-18 | 2022 | FRANCE



On this spring day in 1951, a mysterious police inspector from Lyon is riding his bike in the Drôme. In Crest, he finds a bloody crime scene in the farm of Peyrambert. Inspector Michel begins the first investigations: the Delhomme couple has been murdered with a shotgun. And Juliette, their eleven-year-old daughter, has vanished. Who killed Henri and Louise Delhomme, this couple of retired farmers, who arrived in the Drôme valley after a long life in the Vercors? A family with no history, a missing child, a region riddled with secrets: Inspector Michel travels the country, from Crest to the Vercors, from Grenoble to Pigalle. He will have to face silence, obstinacy, thirst for redemption and above all the torments of a war that nobody ever wants to mention again.

François Médéline

Born in 1977 in the Lyon region, François Médéline was in charge of studies and research at Sciences Po Lyon during his doctorate, specialized in political sociology and linguistics. He worked in politics for ten years before becoming a writer.



10-18 | Julie Buffaud | julie.buffaud@universpoche.com

PAS DE LITTÉRATURE !

NO LITERATURE!

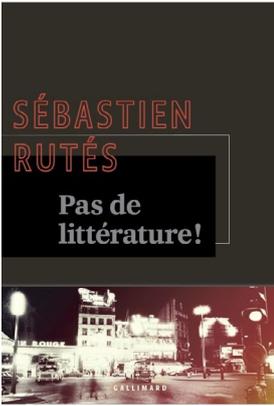
By Sébastien Rutés

Gallimard | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR READER'S PRIZE 2023**

In *Pas de littérature*, Sébastien Rutés pays tribute to the Série Noire and features a translator of Gallimard's iconic crime fiction imprint in a frantic chase, worthy of the best American hardboiled fiction and of its most brilliant production in terms of literature and of reflection on literature itself.

April 1950. Gringoire Centon is a translator for the Série Noire. Terrible at English, his wife secretly translates the texts for him, and he merely rewrites them in a slang that he picks up in the disreputable Paris bistros where he ventures every evening with a notebook and a pencil. One particular evening, he meets a so-called former GI in a bar, who embarks him on a wild story of well-read crooks and counterfeiters, against the backdrop of a feud between various Mafiosi.

As the first deliveries of the Marshall Plan aid are landing, and, in Marseille, the strike of communist dockers is broken by the CIA who joined forces with the local mob, Gringoire Centon ends up being the mediator of cultural tensions linked to the Cold War, and becomes the unwitting interpreter of this new equivocal world, while still relying on literature for guidance.

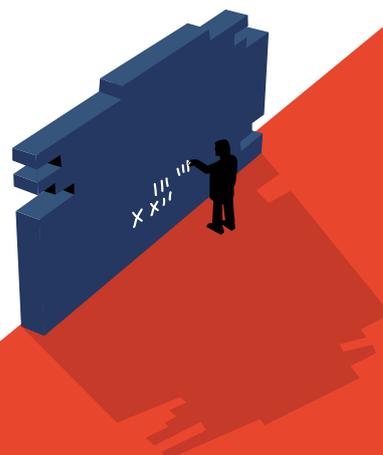


Sébastien Rutés

Sébastien Rutés taught Latin American literature at the university for fifteen years. He has authored seven novels in varying genres, as well as several translations. His previous novel, *Mictlán*, was published in 2020 with Gallimard.



GALLIMARD | Judith Rosenzweig | judith.rosenzweig@gallimard.fr



RURAL NOIR

NOUS ÉTIONS LE SEL DE LA MER

WE WERE SEASALT

By Roxanne Bouchard

Éditions de l'Aube | 2022 | CANADA **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2023** | **QUAIS DU POLAR READER'S PRIZE 2023**



Catherine Day has come to seek answers by the sea, in Gaspésie. During her excursions on the shore, she meets fishermen who know that there is nothing beyond the horizon but the waves that come as surely as they will go. They secretly know that Catherine is looking for Marie Garant. They also know that she will not find her. But when one of them returns with a drowned man in his nets, what had been forgotten resurfaces in anger, for the fishermen of The Bay see this as a sign of new misfortunes. Or rather of old misfortunes that the sea has finally released. Inspector Moralès has just been transferred there. He arrives from Montreal and suddenly finds himself involved in a case as hermetic as the country and the people who live there...

Roxanne Bouchard

Roxanne Bouchard teaches literature. Author of several texts (novels, correspondence), she is the winner of several prestigious literary prizes in Quebec. *Nous étions le sel de la mer* is her first novel published in France, and inaugurates a dark series around the character of Joaquin Moralès.



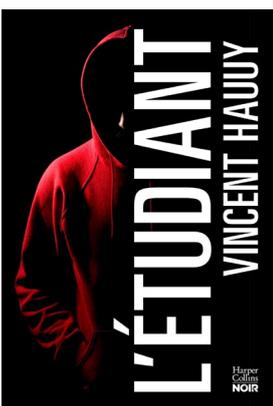
ÉDITIONS DE L'AUBE | Gregory Messina | gregory@linwoodmessina.com

L'ÉTUDIANT

THE STUDENT

By Vincent Hauuy

HarperCollins | 2021 | FRANCE



Fate does not cut David Lessard any slack. After the death of his father and the disappearance of his older brother, his mother was diagnosed with cancer. His salary as a music composer – despite his small success – is not enough to pay the medical expenses and the debts of the family restaurant. The thugs he borrowed money from now want to be paid back... So when a rich stranger asks him to become his son's personal teacher, David has no choice but to accept. Never mind that Maxime, an-11-year-old prodigy whose technique is perfect but devoid of emotion, makes him very uncomfortable, and that the father seems to have other plans for his new employee. He knew that the job was too good to be true: he is willing to play along, just until he discovers their secrets. In this architect's house hidden in the Alps, the net is closing...

Vincent Hauuy

Born in Nancy in 1975, Vincent Hauuy lives between Portugal and France. He is a video game designer. His first novel, *Le Tricycle rouge* (Hugo Thriller, 2017), winner of the Prix VSD-RTL for best French thriller, seduced over 100,000 readers. He is also the author of *Le Brasier*, *Dans la toile* and *Survivre*.



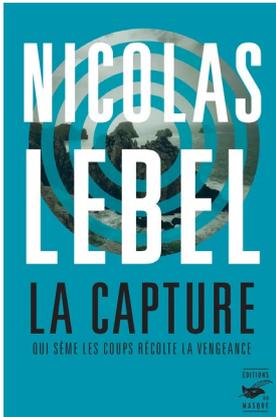
HARPERCOLLINS | Albertine Villeneuve | albertine.villeneuve@harpercollins.fr

LA CAPTURE

THE CATCH

By Nicolas Lebel

Le Masque | 2022 | FRANCE



When Yvonne Chen lands on the Breton island of Morguélen on October 9th, determined to kill the Furies who manipulated her and abandoned her near the body of her colleague Starski, she starts to question the information she has gathered: what would these hired killers be doing on this bald, wind-swept rock?

In this dreary season, the inhabitants can be counted on the fingers of one hand and the new arrivals are quickly spotted. Chen tails two of the inhabitants, convinced that she has found her prey. She is mistaken, the two men are in fact agents of the OCLCH, the Central Office for the Fight against Crimes against Humanity. For eight years, they have been watching the local priest, Father Petrovác, a Hungarian who never leaves the island and that they suspect of being a Croatian war criminal. But the evidence is lacking, and time is running out: in a few weeks, the crime of which he is suspected will be prescribed.

The lieutenant immediately senses that the brave Petrovác is the target of the Furies and offers her help, hoping to track down the group and quench her thirst for revenge.

On this island at world's end, a real cat and mouse hunt unfolds while gulls scream. How can Chen, in the breeze and the sea spray, identify these Furies about whom she knows close to nothing? To distinguish between the true and the false and to survive Morguélen, she will have to escape this new Dance of the Furies and understand that she is only a piece on a giant chessboard...

This new novel by Nicolas Lebel is a game of mirrors on a dead-end street. It takes the reader on a wild ride where everything is just shadows and reflections. The author of *the Mehrlicht* and *Le Gibier* series has an unparalleled sense of humor and ingenuity.

Nicolas Lebel

Born in Paris, Nicolas Lebel is an insatiable traveler who has published seven novels, including five in the *Captain Mehrlicht* series, for which he has received numerous awards, including the Prix des lecteurs du Livre de Poche in 2019. He made quite the entrance into the Le Masque catalog with *Le Gibier*, his eighth novel, published in 2021.



LE MASQUE | Eva Bredin | ebredin@jclattes.fr

L'ÂME DU FUSIL

THE SOUL OF THE RIFLE

By Elsa Marpeau

Gallimard | 2021 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR READER'S PRIZE 2022**



Since he was fired from his packaging plant, Philippe is bored stiff, and spends his days waiting for Lucas, his 16-year-old son, and his wife Maud to return from work. Only his Sunday dinners with friends, hunting, and the prospect to pass on its pleasures to his son, break the monotony. Until the day Julien shows up, the neighbour from Paris who has come here to hole up in the house opposite. Then, Philippe's life is turned upside down. He starts spying on his neighbour, who fascinates him to the point of obsession, and tries to get him accepted by his intimate circle, who finds him suspicious.

In this no-frills account, Philippe addresses his nephew, and reveals to the reader the relentless chain of events, which set the tragedy in motion. The extreme tension conveyed in the text is all the more tangible thanks to the calm

and collected tone of the narrator, who simply speaks of his admiration for his new neighbour, for his wife, and the happiness of establishing strong bonds with his son. There is also the fatalistic attitude of the one who has accepted being no more than the spectator of his own life.

Elsa Marpeau

Elsa Marpeau grew up in Nantes, lived in Singapore and settled in Paris. She is the author of six novels in the *Série Noire* collection, including *Les Yeux des morts* (Prix Nouvel Obs du roman noir, 2010), *L'Expatriée* (Prix Plume de Cristal, 2013) and *Son autre mort* (2019). She is also a screenwriter.



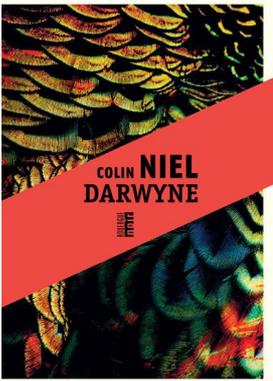
GALLIMARD | Judith Rosenzweig | judith.rosenzweig@gallimard.fr

DARWYNE

DARWYNE

By Colin Niel

Le Rouergue | 2022 | FRANCE



Darwyne Massily, a ten-year-old boy with a slight disability, lives in Bois Sec, a slum that sprung in the middle of the endless jungle. And the center of his life is his mother Yolanda, a woman like no other, much more beautiful, much stronger, much more courageous. But that's omitting the "uncles" who regularly come to settle in the small hut on the edge of the forest. A new man enters her mother's life: Jhonson, a real giant. And at the same time Mathurine, an employee of the child protection agency, shows up. She was given a report about the boy. A first social evaluation was conducted a few months earlier by a colleague who then left the region in a hurry.

In this novel, Colin Niel masterfully deploys his expressive pen and takes us to the Amazon, a territory of phantasmagorical power that has only revealed a tiny part of its mysteries. Darwyne, the counterfeit child ready to do anything to make his mother love him, has found a refuge there from humanity.

Colin Niel

Colin Niel is one of the great voices of contemporary literature. He has received numerous literary awards and all his work is published by Éditions du Rouergue. His multi-awarded Guyanese features the character of André Anato, a black-brown gendarme searching for his origins. In 2022, his new novel, *Darwyne*, was published.



LE ROUERGUE | Fabien Meffre | f.meffre@actes-sud.fr



THRILLER

4

MÉFIEZ-VOUS DES ANGES

BEWARE THE ANGELS

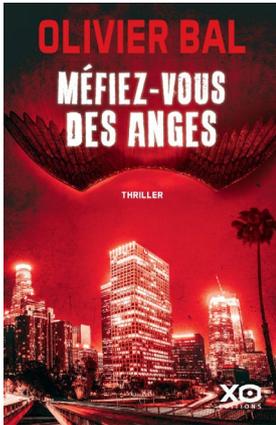
By Olivier Bal

XO | 2022 | FRANCE

High in the California hills sits The Compound, a seemingly ideal spiritual community. Paul Green, a world-weary former reporter, is convinced that the young woman he is looking for is trapped within its walls.

He infiltrates The Compound and is shocked to discover its strange rituals, forbidden places, and mysterious guru. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Inspector Sarah Shelley receives an urgent phone call. The body of a young woman was just discovered, slashed beyond recognition. She had most likely bled to death.

What if this crime took us to the heart of The Compound? In the underbelly of Los Angeles, Sarah Shelley and Paul Green set out on a lugubrious trail. They will have to confront one of the most notorious sects in the country.



Olivier Bal

OLIVIER BAL is 43 years old. He has taken the thriller world by storm. A winner of the Prix de la Ligue de l'imaginaire, he is the author of *The Clara Miller Affair* and *The Forest of the Vanished*. Both were published by XO Éditions and were critically acclaimed by the press and the readers.



XO | Roxana Cristina Zaharia | rzaharia@xoeditions.com

LE CARNET DES RANCUNES

THE GRUDGE BOOK

By Jacques Expert

Calmann-Lévy | 2022 | FRANCE

For twenty years, Sébastien Desmichelles has been carefully keeping track of every offense, every insult, every wound inflicted on him in a small red notebook. He calls it his "Grudge Book". Colleagues, neighbors, friends, family, nobody knows it, but nobody escapes his list. One day, everyone will be punished accordingly.

Today is Sébastien's 50th birthday. It's time for revenge. For the man who hurt him the most, he has planned an exemplary punishment: death. Tonight, he will open his grudge book... A Machiavellian and terribly satisfying thriller.



Jacques Expert

Well known for his long career in television and radio, Jacques Expert now devotes himself to writing thrillers and screenplays. After many successful novels, three film adaptations and others to be adapted for television, he is now a major author of detective stories.



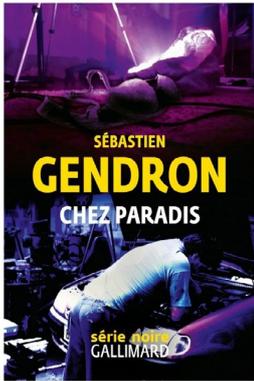
CALMANN-LÉVY | Clément Ripoché | cripoche@calmann-levy.fr

CHEZ PARADIS

WELCOME TO PARADISE

By Sébastien Gendron

Gallimard | 2022 | FRANCE



When Thomas arrives at the Paradise garage, there's a queue at the complaints desk. Although revenge is a dish best served cold, Thomas certainly doesn't want anyone to jump his place in the line, so he better come up with a plan, pronto! Thirty years earlier, Max Dodman, a money courier shot four armed robbers as they were attacking his van, but he also disfigured a teenager who happened to ride past the scene on his moped, and put the blame on him when the cops realised a bag full of banknotes had vanished into thin air. Now Thomas Bonyard, a sensitive adolescent destined for a great future before crossing paths with Dodman, is up for revenge. And so are Marie-Louise Dodman and her Dalmatian dog, and two porn film directors, whose leading actress, Magda, has just gone missing. Or could it be the turn of the mechanic's apprentice, or the one of

the mayor and his driver. When Thomas arrives at the Paradise garage, there's a queue at the desk.

A fast-paced novel, well-portrayed characters, compelling dialogue, full of pitch-perfect language. After a hit novel on how climate change leads to the revival of extinct prehistoric species, Sébastien Gendron returns with one of crime fiction's classical themes: revenge. He likes it served cold, but above all, really spicy!

Sébastien Gendron

Sébastien Gendron writes noir fiction, children books and scenarios between Paris and the department of Charente-Maritime. His latest book, *Fin de siècle*, was published in 2020 in the Série noire collection.



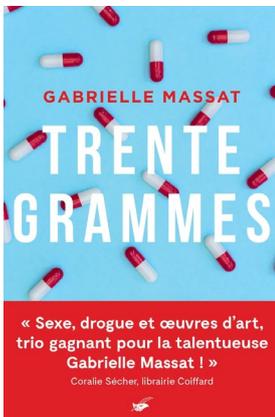
GALLIMARD | Judith Rosenzweig | judith.rosenzweig@gallimard.fr

TRENTE GRAMMES

THIRTY GRAMS

By Gabrielle Massat

Le Masque | 2021 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR READER'S PRIZE 2022**



Though Yannick likes painting, drugs, sex and money, what he likes most is to live dangerously. Not surprising when you work for Aslanov, the biggest art dealer in the south of France, and you spend your time buying and reselling masterpieces to launder the profits of the Toulouse narcos. But there is one thing Yannick loves above all else. Or rather, someone: Phoenix, Aslanov's hitman, his lover for more than fifteen years.

So when the smuggling of a Bacon painting – worth 5 million euros – goes wrong and Yannick almost dies of poisoning, Phoenix is precisely the person he would like to be able to count on. Trusting a killer is his first mistake. The first of many...

Gabrielle Massat

Gabrielle Massat was born in 1991 in Toulouse, where she works as a masseuse and physiotherapist. When she is not busy torturing her patients, she writes noir fiction and reads it to the toad that lives in her garden.



LE MASQUE | Eva Bredin | ebredin@jclattes.fr

LE SILENCE DE CLARA WIGHT

CLARA WIGHT'S SILENCE

By Valérie Saubade

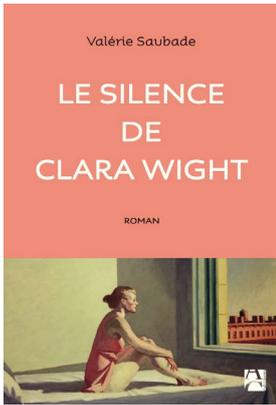
Anne Carrière | 2022 | FRANCE

Cassandra Fletcher's life is a disaster.

Her father, a renowned surgeon, is a cold, demanding and cruel man who terrifies his family, so much so that he sent his wife to a psychiatric hospital over 20 years ago. Her fiancé cheated on her with one of his colleagues: she caught them red-handed when she returned home early from work. Her child psychiatrist's office has been deserted since one of her young patients committed suicide, and her finances are at an all-time low. In short, the situation is desperate for Cassandra. She's 33 years old, rigid and neurotic, a fan of *Grey's Anatomy* and knitting. She can only count on the unfailing optimism of her best (and only) friend, the very plump Grace, and on her own brother George, who has overcome the trauma inflicted by his father by founding a poor but united family.

When a wealthy candidate for judicial office entrusts her with her 17-year-old stepdaughter Clara, who has been mute since witnessing her friend's murder, Cassandra doesn't think twice about taking on her case... without suspecting that she will have to go far beyond the framework of therapy to help her patient. Even though Clara is able to speak again, she systematically avoids talking about what happened to Charlotte, her friend and au pair who was taking care of her two brothers...

And it soon becomes clear that the beautiful dead girl made quite the impression on the men around her, who are all potential suspects. With aplomb, Cassandra sets about questioning all the entourage of the two teenagers to shed light on the situation. But her sense of ethics is put to the test, faced with a stepmother who secretly abuses Clara, the seductive inspector Al Saoud who's after her secrets, and the disturbing attitude of her patient herself... Will saving Clara allow Cassandra to get her own shipwrecked life back on track?



Valérie Saubade

Born in 1966, Valérie Saubade was a journalist for six years and is now a French teacher at the Alliance française in Bordeaux. After the success of her first book *Happy birthday grand-mère* published by Anne Carrière in 1999, she followed with *Les petites sœurs* (2002) and *Marche arrière* (2009). In 2011, *Miss Sweetie* was published by the same publisher.



ANNE CARRIÈRE | Kim Beci | kim.beci@mediatoon.com



SOCIAL CRIME NOVEL

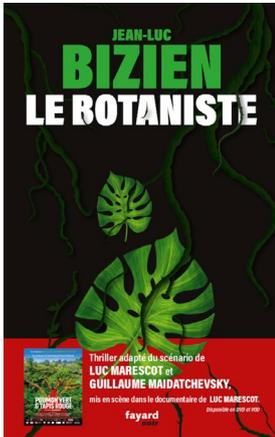
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LE BOTANISTE

THE BOTANIST

By Jean-Luc Bizien

Fayard | 2022 | FRANCE



William Icard, an idealistic and passionate scientist, lives in harmony with nature in a native village in the heart of the Amazonian forest... until that fateful morning, when they are attacked by a commando that burns everything in its path...

Ten years later, the trial brought by an environmental NGO against a consortium specialized in palm oil is suddenly interrupted by the kidnapping of four members of the jury. The next day, these same jurors reappear on social networks, alone in the middle of the primary forest. A new kind of reality TV show is born. Fascinated by the fate of the hostages, the viewers discover the amazing beauty of this virgin nature. It's the beginning of a race against time: will the mysterious Botanist who leads the operations be able to rally the world's population to his cause before being captured by the police... or will he be killed by the consortium agents?

Jean-Luc Bizien

Jean-Luc Bizien is a writer. Member of the Ligue de l'Imaginaire (Imagination League), he has received many awards: the Gérardmer Fantastic'Arts Award, the Adventure Novel Award, the Lion Noir Award and the Sang d'encre Award 2016 as well as the Dora-Suarez Award 2021.



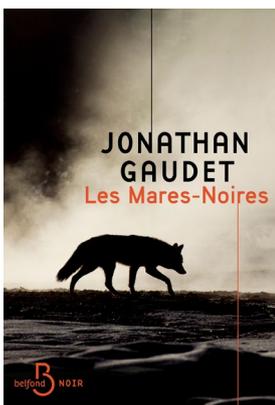
FAYARD | Marion Charpentier | mcharpentier@editions-fayard.fr

LES MARES-NOIRES

LES MARES-NOIRES

By Jonathan Gaudet

Belfond | 2022 | CANADA



Quebec City, near Trois-Rivières, early 1990s.

In the soft light of a summer morning, in Les Mares-Noires, in central Quebec, a woman cradles her baby by the window, staring at the coyote that is coming too close to their cottage. Suddenly, a special bulletin on the radio interrupts the programming: an explosion has occurred at the nuclear power plant. One of the buildings is engulfed in flames and seven employees are trapped. Among them, this woman's husband. Her scream shakes the whole forest. While authorities try to reassure her, the woman knows that the worst is about to happen, that it is too late. Loneliness falls on her like a tomb of lead and the presence of her baby can't change anything. Thirteen years later, life has tried to take its course. The woman has remarried, her baby has become a

rebellious teenager. They seem to have healed from the tragedy that happened to them. Or so it seems. But the ghosts are never far away, and their relationship made of tension, silence and unspeakable secrets is a time bomb of rage and fury about to explode too.

Jonathan Gaudet

Born in Joliette, Quebec, in 1977, Jonathan Gaudet studied literature and taught French in Argentina, Louisiana, Prague and Athens. Now living in Vienna, Austria, he divides his time between teaching, music and writing. *Les Mares-Noires* is his first novel to be published by Belfond.



BELFOND | Gregory Messina | gregory@linwoodmessina.com

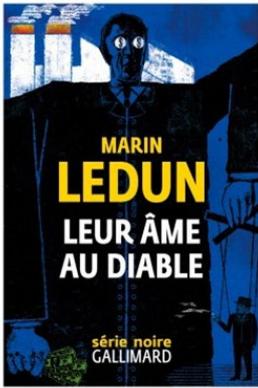
LEUR ÂME AU DIABLE

THEIR SOULS TO THE DEVIL

By Marin Ledun

Gallimard | 2021 | FRANCE READERS' PRIZE QUAIS DU POLAR LAUREATE 2021

28 July 1986. Two road tankers, each carrying 12,000 litres of ammonia to a cigarette factory, are found burnt out in Normandy. It's the latest episode of a series of armed robberies, only this time, there are seven bodies. Inspector Nora is in charge of the investigation. From Paris consultancy firms to local tobacconists, from the gangways of the French parliament to factories in Montenegro, Nora stubbornly endeavours – over twenty years – to identify, track and arrest those, whose job is to corrupt or else remove anything or anyone that stands in the way of running the cash cow that is the tobacco companies.



Marin Ledun

Marin Ledun lives in southwestern France's department of Les Landes. He is the author of about fifteen books, including politically engaged crime novels, youth fiction and essays. His last two titles published with Gallimard are: *Salut à toi ô mon frère* (2018) and *La Vie en Rose* (2019).



GALLIMARD | Judith Rosenzweig | judith.rosenzweig@gallimard.fr

LA NUIT TOMBÉE DE NOS ÂMES

THE NIGHT FALLEN FROM OUR SOULS

By Frédéric Paulin

Agullo | 2021 | FRANCE

Genoa, July 2001. The heads of state of the eight richest countries in the world are meeting at the G8. Against them, outside the summit, 500,000 people are gathered to refuse the world order that is being drawn up behind the gates of the red zone. Among the protesters, Wag and Nathalie came from France to swell the ranks of the anti-globalization movement. As far-left activists, they are used to stormy demonstrations and believe they are ready to face the authorities. But the police repression that will be unleashed during three days in the streets of La Superbe is of an unprecedented brutality, fanned behind the scenes by the manipulations of the Italian authorities and certain French officials who play the sorcerer's apprentice. Between cumbersome journalists, the maneuvers of two Directorial of Territorial Security agents, and their own

internal turmoil, Wag and Nathalie will get lost in a maelstrom of violence. There will be confrontations, beatings, torture, betrayals and so many broken lives that will never make history. Who remembers the Diaz school? Who remembers the barracks of Bolzaneto? Who still remembers Carlo Giuliani? From those days in which they saw innocence and youth annihilated in silence, they will return forever changed, like most of the activists who tried, in Genoa, to oppose a brutal form of capitalism.



Frédéric Paulin

Frédéric Paulin, an author from Rennes, has been writing noir novels for almost ten years. He uses recent History as a raw material that can bring out truths sometimes hidden or falsified by the official narrative. His heroes are often more corrupt or fallible than the bad guys they are supposed to take down, but they are only witnesses of a world where the line between right and wrong is thin. *La Nuit tombée sur nos âmes* (2021) is his last novel published by Agullo.



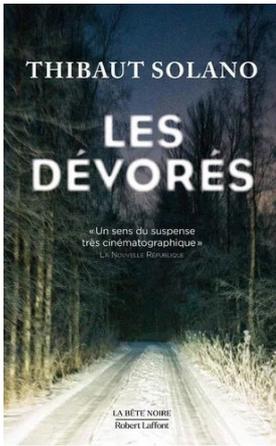
AGULLO | Nadège Agullo | agulloeditions@gmail.com

LES DÉVORÉS

THE DEVOURED

By Thibaut Solano

Robert Laffont | 2023 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2023**



Clermont-Ferrand, a couple of days before Christmas. Simon is a journalist writing for the yellow press. Multiplying encounters online to find his soulmate, this hardened bachelor comes upon a middle school teacher with whom and her daughter he quickly starts living as a family. One afternoon, while spending quality time at the public swimming pool, the little girl disappears for a moment. Eventually, she turns up in one of the changing cabins, frightened out of her wits. Has she simply lost her way? Or has something more sinister taken place? In the following days, Simon's life reaches a tipping point: Only days away from Christmas, the body of a man is discovered in the trunk of his own car. The investigation confirms that he has been murdered. It transpires that the man had multiplied encounters online, like Simon before. Only days later, a young girl is snatched from the Christmas fair. An unrelated incident? Yet bystanders have signaled for both cases the presence of a woman in a black car in the vicinity

of the crime scenes. Is there a predator loose on the streets of Clermont, attacking indiscriminately adults, children, men and women?

Simon is leading his own investigation in this city framed by the snowy tops of the Puy de Dôme Mountains, walking its streets framed by old houses in dark Volvic stone. What does this serial killer look like? Like a regular citizen of Clermont? Or one of those yellow vests protestors? Or like Simon himself? To confound the killer, Simon must return to his former hunting grounds. But at what price?

Thibaut Solano

Thibaut Solano started his journalistic career at the regional newspaper The Mountain and went on to work for the prestigious magazine L'Express. He is now editor in chief of the online version of the equally distinguished magazine Marianne. He has written two inquiries published by Arènes as well as two novels, *The Drowned of the Clain* and *The Consumed*, both published by Robert Laffont.



ROBERT LAFFONT | Benita Edzard | benita.edzard@robert-laffont.com

CYBER CRIME

6

SARA, ELLE VEILLE SUR VOUS

SARA, SHE'S LOOKING AFTER YOU — By Sylvain Forge

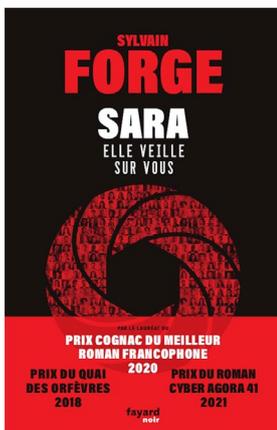
Fayard | 2022 | FRANCE

Nantes has become the land of all struggles. Faced with an explosion of delinquency, the city of the Dukes elects a new mayor, the very populist Guillaume de Villeneuve: with SARA, a network of intelligent cameras, he intends to bring the city into line.

When one of his relatives, a world-renowned robotics expert, mysteriously disappears, police commander Isabelle Mayet is put in charge of the investigation. As a young mother torn between her new family life and her duty as a cop, she must rely on the help of Lucas, her new deputy with unorthodox methods, and a young cybersecurity expert.

But on this case, the police officers of Nantes, discredited and threatened by the artificial intelligence that some believe to be omnipotent, will pay a high price.

Applauded by some, fiercely opposed by others, the surveillance system divides: how far is everyone willing to alienate their freedom in the name of security?



Sylvain Forge

Sylvain Forge is a cybersecurity specialist and dramaturgy lecturer, winner of the 2018 Quai des Orfèvres Prize with *Extreme Tension*. He is notably the author of *Parasite* (Mazarine, 2019), *Un parfum de soufre* (Prix Plume d'argent 2016 du thriller francophone) and *Sauve-la* (Fayard noir, 2020; Prix Cognac du meilleur roman francophonel and Prix du roman Cyber 2021).



FAYARD | Marion Charpentier | mcharpentier@editions-fayard.fr

REPLAY

REPLAY

By Elena Sender

Albin Michel | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022**

What if a simple game could manipulate your life by using what you leave behind on the social networks?

Tristan is a creator of video games. He has just invented RePlay, a revolutionary programme that lets you relive your past... making different choices. He sends it to a few thousand fans for testing, especially to Lois, his muse, who refuses to have anything to do with him. Despite this, she allows herself to be tempted by the game's options, until she realises that she has fallen under its spell: artificial intelligence takes control of the players' lives. In reaction to these violent excesses, and Tristan's manipulation, Lois has no alternative – if she is to save her integrity – but to confront him and make him destroy this dangerous programme, at the risk of losing a part of herself ...

Elena Sender

Graduate in biology, Elena Sender is a scientific journalist, filmmaker and novelist. She has authored three scientific thrillers published by editions XO: *Intrusion* (2010), *Le sang des dauphins noirs*, (2012) and *Surtout ne mens pas* (2015).



ALBIN MICHEL | Pauline Cholous-Florenville | pauline.florenville@albin-michel.fr

LA SAIGNÉE

BLEEDING OUT

By Cédric Sire

Fayard | 2022 | FRANCE

Estel Rochand has been dismissed from the police force following a terrible blunder that caused the death of an innocent woman. Her life is in pieces, her couple adrift. Now a second-rate bodyguard, this former boxing champion makes her way through life as she has always done: fighting. Caught in a vicious circle, Estel finds it increasingly difficult to control her violent outbursts.

Quentin Falconnier, a police officer specializing in cybercrime, investigates a Dark Web site that streams live videos of torture and death. Who could be behind this "red room" called La Saignée, broadcasting absolutely perverse murders? The young man throws himself body and soul into this new crusade: to discover the identity of the culprit behind the executioner's mask, and to stop him. Whatever the cost. A terrible countdown has begun.

A dive into a world where everyone must face their demons."

Cédric Sire

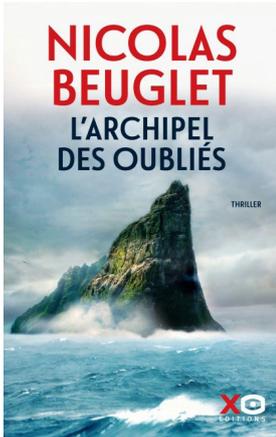
Cédric Sire, winner of the Prix Masterton and the prestigious Prix Polar du Festival de Cognac, belongs to the select circle of thriller masters and is one of the new voices of French crime fiction.



FAYARD | Marion Charpentier | mcharpentier@editions-fayard.fr

7

NOIR AROUND THE WORLD



L'ARCHIPEL DES OUBLIÉS

THE ARCHIPELAGO OF THE FORGOTTEN

By Nicolas Beuglet

XO | 2022 | FRANCE

Detectives Grace Campbell and Sarah Geringen know it. Despite their opposite personalities, they must join forces to neutralize the “faceless man”, the architect of the diabolical plan that will lead humanity to its ruin. The only lead: a manor house lost in the Scottish mists. Behind the closed shutters of the house, the shadow of a young widow, austere and seemingly innocent. But is this woman really what she claims to be? What the two detectives discover goes beyond their worst hypotheses. In a race that takes them from Loch Ness to Norway, Grace and Sarah must push back the boundaries of fear to reach the mysterious archipelago of the Forgotten Ones – the last barricade against the chaos of the world.

Nicolas Beuglet

Nicolas Beuglet is 47 years old. A former TV screenplay writer, he has chosen to devote himself to writing. He published at XO Editions : *The Scream* (Le Cri), *The Alliance* (Complot), *Devil's Island* (L'Île du diable), *The Last Message* (Le dernier Message), *The Passenger with no face* (Le Passager sans visage). *The Archipelago of the forgotten* (L'Archipel des oubliés) is his 6th novel.



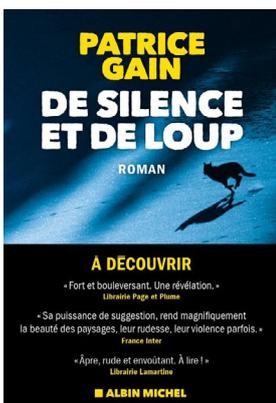
XO | Roxana Cristina Zaharia | rzaharia@xoeditions.com

DE SILENCE ET DE LOUP

OF SILENCE AND WOLVES

By Patrice Gain

Albin Michel | 2021 | FRANCE



Anna joins a scientific expedition to New Siberia where the Russians have imposed their supremacy. As the ice melts, viruses dating back more than a thousand years resurface, as well as other relics of humanity's past. The Arctic Ocean Protect boat is caught up in an ice storm, and washed ashore on a lost island inhabited by prowling bears and wolves. Trapped together on this frozen island, they are at the mercy of eruptions of madness; the violence men feel against women is liberated, reminding Anna of her own history. She begins to keep a log-book which, little by little, becomes a terrible account of a secret linked to her brother, the ultimate recipient of her confession.

Patrice Gain

Patrice Gain is an environmental engineer and a mountain professional. He has written several novels including *Terres Fauves* (Festival du Polar Prize, Villeneuve-lez-Avignon 2019) and *Le Sourire du scorpion* (2020, shortlisted for the Quais du Polar Prize, 2020).



ALBIN MICHEL | Pauline Cholous-Florenville | pauline.florenville@albin-michel.fr

MARCHANDS DE MORT SUBITE

SUDDEN-DEATH TRADERS

By Max Izambard

Le Rouergue | 2021 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR READER'S PRIZE 2022**



Pierre Marlot is observing a colony of avocets in the Somme Bay when he receives a call from the French consul in Uganda. No one has heard from his daughter Anne, a promising and fiercely independent journalist, since she left for the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo to do a report. When he arrives in Kampala, Pierre understands that he should not expect anything from the consular services. He embarks on a solitary quest to find his daughter. This is how he meets Juliet Ochola, a journalist working for a major Ugandan newspaper. Juliet decides to take over Anne's work. In a country where journalists face death threats and arbitrary arrests, she embarks on a high-risk investigation, even as a student uprising sets the capital on fire.

This is a fascinating investigation into blood minerals that keeps the reader on the edge of his seat from the first page to the last. In his first novel, Max Izambard takes us to the heart of an Africa of the Great Lakes that is starving for justice. In a labyrinth of questions and pretense, his magnificent characters struggle to bring out disturbing truths in the face of a desperate power.

Max Izambard

Max Izambard works in international cooperation. He lived several years in Uganda, which provides the setting for his first novel, *Marchands de mort subite*, published in 2021 in the collection Rouergue noir.



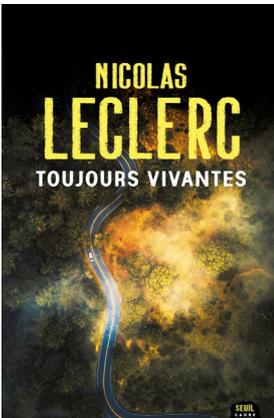
LE ROUERGUE | Fabien Meffre | f.meffre@actes-sud.fr

TOUJOURS VIVANTES

STILL ALIVE

By Nicolas Leclerc

Le Seuil | 2022 | FRANCE



Aïssatou and Sékou, barely twenty years old, have only one dream: to reach England. From Guinea, they travelled through Africa, the Mediterranean and faced many dangers to escape their misery.

When they arrived in France, following a robbery of a bar-tobacconist's that went wrong, they were forced to hold a cardiologist from Nice and his wife hostage in order to cross France, with the police on their heels. Except that Hélène and François, under the veneer of the perfect bourgeois couple, hide deep cracks that could compromise their escape.

Nicolas Leclerc

Born in 1981 in Pontarlier, Nicolas Leclerc left the mountains of Haut-Doubs to study audiovisual and cinema. He now works for television. *Le Manteau de neige* is his first novel.



LE SEUIL | Maria Vlachou | maria.vlachou@seuil.com

LIEUTENANT VERSIGA

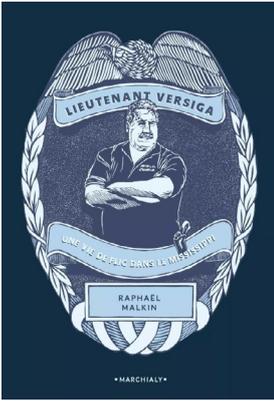
LIEUTENANT VERSIGA

By Raphaël Malkin

Marchialy | 2022 | FRANCE **QUAIS DU POLAR'S GEMS 2022**

When faced with a dead body, it's not enough to find the identity of the killer, you must also find the identity of the victim.

Lieutenant Versiga has all the attributes of a noir hero: a former professional boxer, a champion shooter, a survivor of Hurricane Katrina, he is a cop in the state of Mississippi and spends his free time solving cold cases. To solve the murder of a black woman in the 1970s, he must get a confession from the most prolific serial killer in his country, the appalling Samuel Little, fifty years later. An investigation spanning several years in the bayou that will push the lieutenant to question his deepest beliefs.



Raphaël Malkin

Raphaël Malkin was born in 1987 in Paris. He is a journalist at Society and also founded Snatch Magazine. He met Lieutenant Versiga while on assignment in the United States: his fascination for him was so strong that he decided to devote a book to this character straight out of a James Lee Burke thriller. With Marchialy Editions, he has already published *Le Rugissant*.



MARCHIALY | Julia Balcells Roca | jbalcellsroca@groupepedelcourt.com

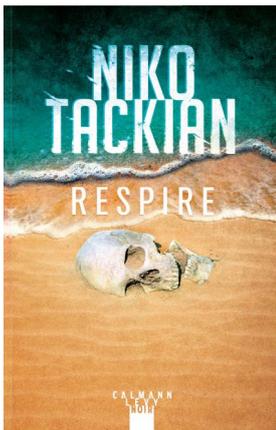
RESPIRE

BREATHE

By Niko Tackian

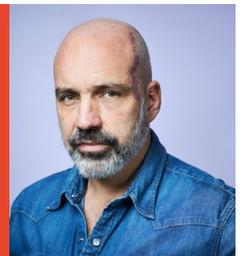
Calmann-Lévy | 2022 | FRANCE

The bright white sand, the turquoise ocean. This is what Yohan discovers when he wakes up. A heavenly place where he will start a new life. To have a second chance to be happy. To arrive on this unknown island, he signed with a mysterious company that promised to make him disappear and to erase all traces of his past. The first days, Yohan enjoys his newfound carefree attitude. Even if little by little, a feeling of strangeness creeps over him. The island is home to a dozen or so inhabitants, each more enigmatic than the last. Yet the abandoned houses, the deserted shops in the windy streets, suggest that there once were many more. Where did the others go? Yohan wants to understand. But he should never have tried to see the other side of the story. For it is well known that knowledge shatters Paradise...



Niko Tackian

Novelist, screenwriter and director, Niko Tackian has notably created the *Alex Hugo* series for France 2 alongside Franck Thilliez. His first novel, published in 2015, received the prize Polar du public des bibliothèques at the Cognac Polar Festival. His thriller *Avalanche Hôtel* received the prize Choix des libraires 2020. *Solitudes* (2021) was a great success in bookstores.



CALMANN-LÉVY | Clément Ripoché | cripoche@calmann-levy.fr

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