

Lisez-vous

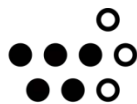
le belge ?

# “Do you read le belge?”

A selection of ten novels  
Written by francophone Belgian authors

Some published in Belgium...  
... and others in France

& released between November 2018 and  
October 2020

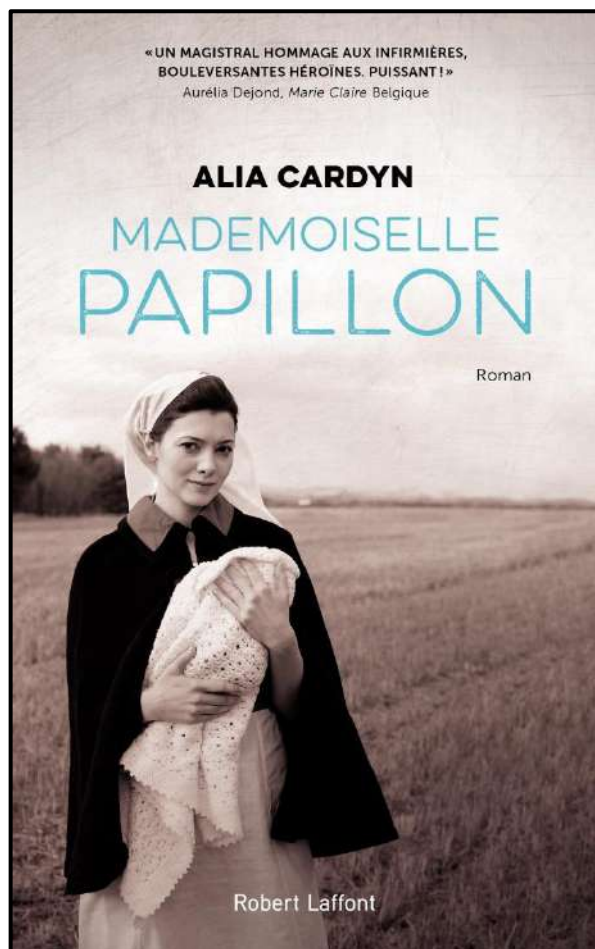


Wallonie - Bruxelles  
International.be

# **Mademoiselle Papillon by Alia Cardyn**

Editions Robert Laffont (France)

Novel



Two nurses from different periods in history do everything in their power to fix other people and make real change. An uplifting novel where duty meets devotion and resilience.

In the present day, Gabrielle is a neonatal nurse. She is devoted to her work, where every decision can change the course of the lives of these tiny babies. Passionate, generous and sensitive, she worries she is drifting out of her depth, and that the fate of these babies is affecting her too much. But everything changes when she discovers the story of Mademoiselle Papillon...

It is 1920, and the First World War has left thousands of orphans in its wake. Mademoiselle Papillon, a nurse too, cannot bear seeing children succumbing to disease in the streets any longer. A woman with a fiery temperament, she decides to take action. Ever cheerful and determined, she devotes all her energies to finding a place to take them in. The refuge she finds is Valloires Abbey, where she will save thousands of children not only from sickness but also from German raids during the Second World War.

In *Mademoiselle Papillon*, Alia Cardyn's crafted prose connects the lives of two extraordinary women who have chosen to care for others, in spite of everything standing in their way.

Based on extensive interviews with nurses in neonatal units, whose accounts she collected, alongside research at Valloires Abbey (Mademoiselle Papillon was a real, historical figure), Cardyn delivers a profound novel which pays tribute to the strength and determination of these everyday heroines.

“The writing is crafted, vivacious and intense” Michel Dufranne – *RTBF* and *La Première*  
“A work of art” Aurélia Dejong – *Marie Claire Belgique*

>>> **Read the first pages of the book (in French) [here](#)** <<<

272 pages // EAN: 9782221249352

Released: October 2020

## **About the author**

Belgian writer Alia Cardyn holds a degree in Law and Political Science. She was previously a lawyer and a lecturer. Now a mother of three, she devotes most of her time to writing. She has published several novels with Editions Charleston: *Une vie à t'attendre* (“A Lifetime Waiting for You”), winner of the Readers' Prize at the Belgian bookshop chain Club (2016), *Le choix d'une vie* (“The Choice of a Lifetime”, 2017) and *L'envol* (“Taking Flight”, 2019). *Mademoiselle Papillon* is her 4th novel and the first to be published by Editions Robert Laffont.



**Cobre (“Copper”), by Michel Claise**  
Genèse Editions (Belgium)  
Novel - pocket edition



Chile, 11 September 1973. The military junta deposes the democratically elected government. President Allende commits suicide at *La Moneda*, the presidential palace. Moments before, he entrusts his young press officer with a secret mission which will take him along the roads, down the mines and into the jails of a country now without hope. Chile has been plunged into horror: summary executions, arbitrary arrests, torture... Jorge hides away for several weeks in the basement of a friend's restaurant, before attempting to make it to Bolivia, using a fake name. But the country's top police officer, Superintendent Ramón Gil, was tasked with arresting him. And so the hunt begins. From Antofagasta to the Chacabuco concentration camp, where he is tortured, and the Atacama Desert, our protagonist undergoes a transmutation similar to that of copper, the most valuable of Chile's riches.

Michel Claise's novel sweeps us along with its young hero, Jorge, on a breathless chase through Chile which has just fallen into Pinochet's hands. Through the eyes of Jorge, we discover a tragic chapter in the story of Latin America and, following his steps, we travel through Chile's contrasting landscapes as if we were there. *Cobre* (“Copper”) also reveals to us less visible realities such as shamanic culture and, most of all, the importance of recognising our shared humanity in the fight for freedom. This shared humanity and empathy, which Michel Claise inspires, force us to truly feel for the countless Chileans who had to flee their country and, more generally, for all those experiencing the pain of exile. The facts and anecdotes which carry the story are true to history; some characters actually existed.

The novel won the 2019 “Prix des lycéens” (Sixth-Form Students' Choice Prize)

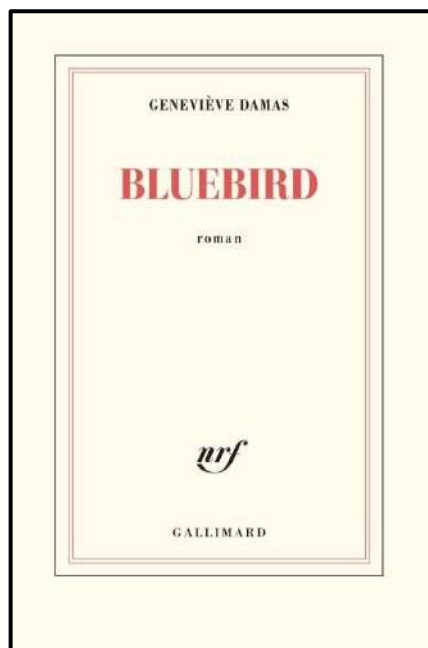
232 pages // ISBN: 9791094689615  
Released: November 2019

**About the author**

Michel Claise was a lawyer for twenty years and is now an examining magistrate in Brussels, specialising in white-collar crime. He has distinguished himself in several widely-covered court cases in Belgium such as the Fortis Bank case. His first novel, set in Belgium during the Second World War, *Salle des pas perdus* (“The Room of Forgotten Footsteps”, 2006) garnered a great deal of attention. Through his writing, he aims to expose financial crime schemes that undermine our society - how widespread and easy to execute they are - and raise awareness of the dire consequences of these behaviours. In his eighth novel, *Cobre* (“Copper”), he wanted to not only pay homage to Chilean heroes but also denounce atrocities carried out by those with absolute power who respect neither the freedoms nor the rights of man.



**Bluebird by Geneviève Damas**  
Éditions Gallimard (France)  
Novel



Juliette, or Bluebird, as her young, fleeting lover calls her, has stopped going to school. She has burnt her bridges with her parents and gone to live with her grandmother. The official story is that she has caught an infectious disease. The reality, which the teenager was unable to admit in time, which even her body hid from her, is quite different: she is pregnant. Keeping the baby, giving it away, putting it up for adoption - these are now her choices.

In a long letter to her unborn child, the young woman expresses her fears, dreams and fragility throughout this uncertain journey with a rare candour.

“This beautiful novel shares the questions of a teenager who denies her pregnancy. Fascinating.” *Les Inrockuptibles*

>>>Read the first pages of the book (in French) [here](#) <<<

160 pages // ISBN: 9782072853401  
Released: May 2019

### About the author

Geneviève Damas lives in Brussels. She is a novelist, playwright, actor and director. After graduating with a degree in law, she trained as an actor before turning to theatre-making. Since 1999, she has organised “Portées-Portraits”, a literary and musical event to promote the work of contemporary writers. She has written fifteen plays, a collection of short stories and several novels. She won the “Prix du Théâtre - Meilleur Auteur 2004” (Theatre Prize - Best Author 2004) and the Coup de cœur des lycéens de Loire-Atlantique 2006 for her text *Molly à vélo* (“Molly on a Bicycle”, published by Lansman, 2006). Her first novel, *Si tu passes la rivière* (“If You Cross the River”, published by Luce Wilquin, 2011) won the Prix Victor Rossel,



© .Francesca Mantovani ed.Gallimard

the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie 2012, the Plume d’Or du Premier Roman, the Prix Un livre – Une commune 2012 and the Prix du Roman de la Ville de Seynod 2013. *Histoire d’un bonheur* (“The Story of a Happy Time”) her second novel, published by Arléa, was shortlisted for the Prix des Lycéens. Her collection of short stories *Les bonnes manières* (“Good Manners”) was longlisted for the Prix des Libraires du Québec 2015. In 2017, her third novel, *Patricia*, was published by Gallimard.



***Cent jours sans Lily* (“A Hundred Days Without Lily”) by Aliénor Debrocq**  
Editions Onlit (Belgium)  
Novel



“This book started with nothing more than a plane ticket for St-Petersburg and the name Lily Brooks, my American twin. Everything else revealed itself throughout the hundred days of that autumn, during which I had decided to write a novel.”

In *Cent jours sans Lily* (“A Hundred Days Without Lily”), we follow both a police investigation and the everyday life of a journalist caught up in the vagaries of her own imagination. The story takes us across the Russian steppe and down the American coast in search of answers about friendship, creation and wanderlust.

“This is Aliénor Debrocq’s second novel, the so-called ‘difficult’ one. But the Belgian author has cleared the hurdle with aplomb: *Cent jours sans Lily* (“A Hundred Days without Lily”) is a moving, pacy and audacious novel. It reads like a thriller - we turn the pages with a touch of frenzy, while the author never stops confounding the expectations of the genre.” Jean-Claude Vantroyen, three stars in *Le Soir*

>>> Find the press Released (in French) [here](#) <<<

192 pages // ISBN: 9782875601216  
Released: February 2020

#### **About the author**

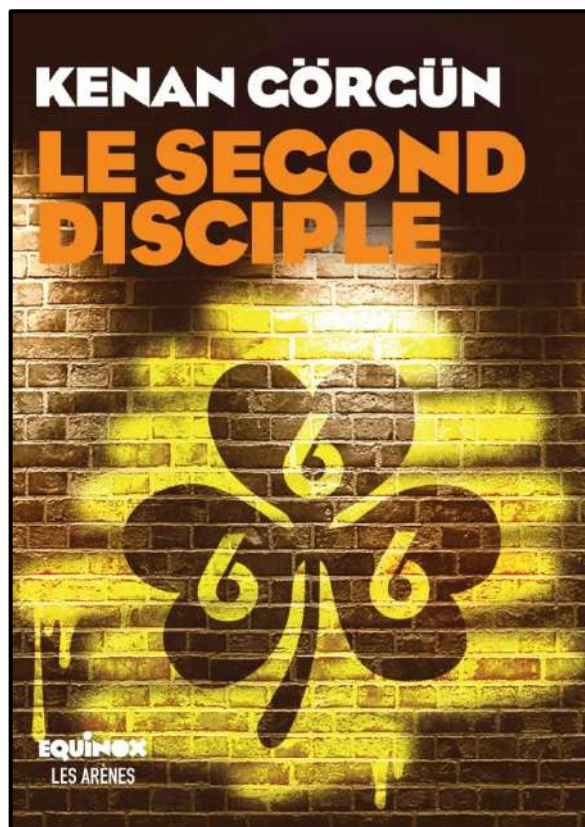
Aliénor Debrocq is an author, journalist and professor of contemporary literature. She regularly leads writing workshops, putting her training as a facilitator to good use. As a thirty-year-old feminist with a doctorate in art history, her two collections of short stories, *Cruise control* and *À voie basse* (“The Low Way”, published by Quadrature), received a number of prizes including the Prix Franz De Wever 2017, awarded by the Académie royale de langue et littérature françaises de Belgique (Royal Academy of French Language and Literature of Belgium). Her first novel, *Le tiers sauvage* (“The Wild Third”, published by Luce Wilquin, 2018), was shortlisted for the Prix Première 2019.



## **Le Second disciple (“The Second Disciple”) by Kenan Görgün**

Editions Les Arènes (France)

Novel – Book 1 of a trilogy



A psychological crime thriller about the process of radicalisation. Xavier Brulein, a former soldier returning from the Middle East, winds up in prison following a bloody brawl outside a bar. Behind bars, he finds a role model in Abu Brahim, a Muslim preacher who allegedly inspired the horrific “Grand-Place terror attack”. The only member in his cell to have been captured, Brahim is convinced that he has been stabbed in the back.

Abu Brahim sees in Xavier the future of Jihad. Before leaving prison, Xavier becomes Abu Kacem, adopting one of the names of the Prophet of Islam. He infiltrates a terrorist cell to uncover who betrayed his master. He becomes the instrument of his revenge, a man blindly pursuing his mission: “By comparison, 9/11 will look like child’s play”.

### **From the publisher**

*“Half-Belgian, half-Turkish and the son of an Imam who abandoned his religion, Kenan Görgün spent his childhood and teenage years in Molenbeek. He had been wanting to write a book about the question of terrorism and Jihadism in Belgium for a long time. The fruit of over three years’ work, Le Second Disciple (“The Second Disciple”) plunges us into the radical circles of Brussels, through the streets of ghettoised neighbourhoods, shining a light on hidden conflicts such as the sometimes tense relationships between North Africans and*

*Turks... Görgün strikes a naturalistic note with this thriller. He unpicks the question of the political project behind terrorism and the theory of the “mosquito against the elephant” (a multitude of small-scale but completely arbitrary attacks to destabilise an entire society). We also find themes of vengeance, manipulation and a series of plot twists well-served by tense prose, which gives pride of place to action. All in all, Le Second Disciple (“The Second Disciple”) is a tense crime thriller which gives us plenty of opportunity to think about the world around us.”*

>>> **Find the press Released (in French) [here](#) <<<**

500 pages // ISBN: 9782711201112

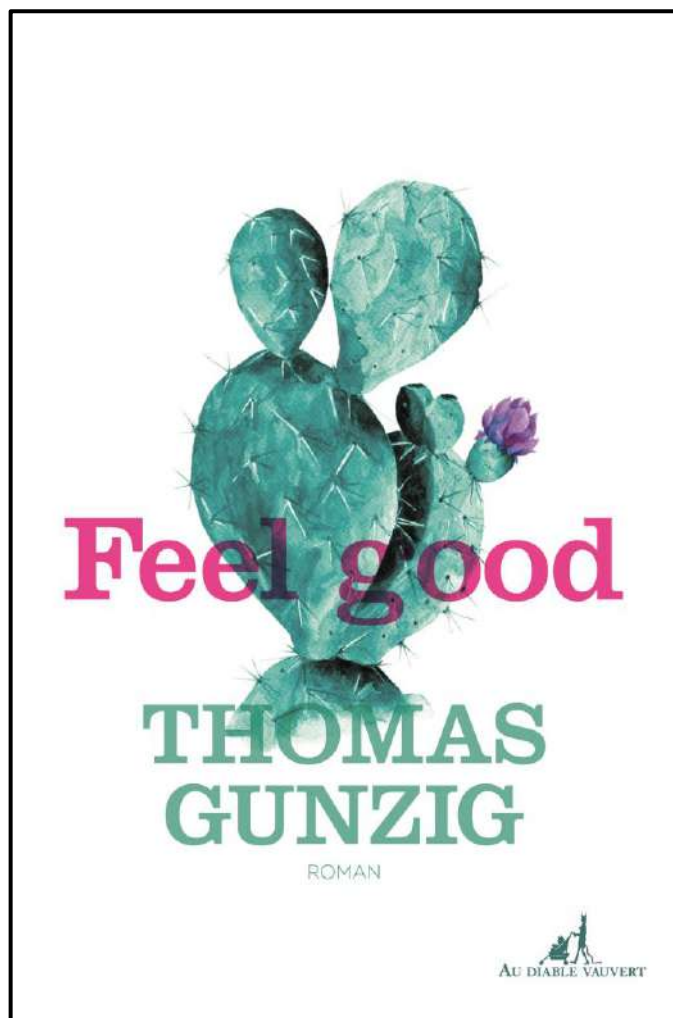
Released: October 2019

### **About the author**

Kenan Görgün is an idea. Sometimes Belgian, sometimes Turkish, sometimes born in 1977, like *Star Wars*, and sometimes still waiting to be born, Görgün is a pulsing energy which takes the form of novels, short stories, plays, scripts and films where the camera replaces the keyboard. If you are looking for him, the KenanGörgünGo app will place him either in Brussels, Liège, Montréal, Bujumbura, or Los Angeles. But who can be sure? Kenan Görgün is an idea, and ideas get around.



**Feel Good, Thomas Gunzig**  
Editions Le Diable Vauvert (France)  
Novel



A sharp social vision, straddling the line between realism and contemporary satire.

Alice, a shoe shop sales assistant, has always been economically insecure. But she can't take having to count every penny and not being able to provide a better life for her son anymore. A crazy idea thus starts to form: kidnap a rich kid from a wealthy nursery and demand a ransom. Unfortunately, nothing goes according to plan and she soon finds herself with a baby that nobody wants to claim on her hands. Tom, a middling author, bumps into Alice one day and her kidnapping story gives him an idea: he suggests making a novel out of it and sharing the profits. Alice, unconvinced, makes him a counteroffer: under his tutelage, she will write a "feel good book", following the popular style of today, a bestseller likely to sell hundreds of thousands of copies and take her off the poverty line once and for all ...

A metafictional novel in which black humour and fatalism rub shoulders with a lust for life and unfailing hope. With great intelligence, Gunzig manages to entwine his novel with that of his heroine to better poke fun at literature and depict his era.

The novel has been published in Italy in September 2020. Thomas Gunzig's work has been translated in Bulgaria, Spain, Germany, Italy, Korea, China, Russia, Czech Republic, Macedonia and Armenia.

"Thomas Gunzig is in a great shape and signs a real feel good book" *Libération*

>>> **Read the first pages of the book (in French) [here](#)** <<<

400 pages // ISBN : 979-10-307-0274-3  
Released : August 2019

**About the author**

Born in 1970 in Brussels, he is the most awarded Belgian writer of his generation. Scriptwriter, he wrote *The Brand New Testament* which sold two million tickets worldwide, rewarded by the Magritte of best scenario and nominated for the Césars and Golden Globes. Thomas Gunzig is actually working on a script with Adeline Dieudonné.



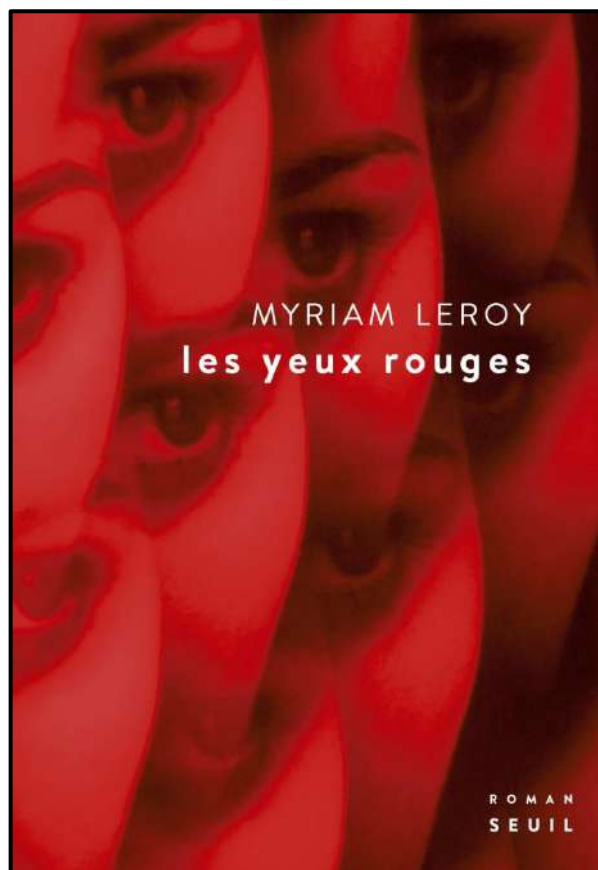
© Corentin Vandenbranden



## ***Les Yeux rouges* (“Red Eyes”) by Myriam Leroy**

Editions du Seuil (France)

Novel



*His name was Denis. He was delighted to meet me.  
We didn't know each other. Well, I didn't know him, but he  
clearly knew who I was.*

A young woman receives a message on Facebook. It is the bait for a trap which plays out, in the digital age, in the form of insidious and relentless harassment.

In this jagged novel, where the narrator only emerges through a series of abusive and over-insistent messages directed at her, where the atmosphere grows ever more stifling as dispossession turns into accusation, Myriam Leroy brilliantly captures a paradoxical era of ubiquitous messaging, of latent violence in comments and shares, of humiliation and isolation, of the sexism and racism of the mob on the network.

>>> **Read the first pages of the book (in French) [here](#)** <<<

192 pages // EAN: 9782021429053

Released: August 2019

### **About the author**

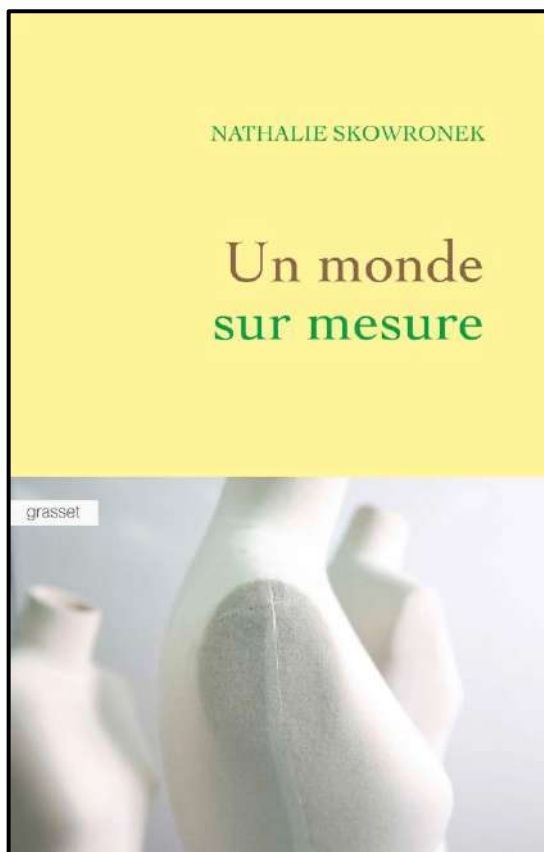
Born in 1982, Myriam Leroy lives in Brussels. She is a journalist, author and playwright. *Ariane* (“Ariane”), her first novel, was shortlisted for the Prix Goncourt du Premier Roman and the Prix Rossel. *Les Yeux rouges* (“Red Eyes”) is her second novel. Her first play, *Cherche l’amour* (“Find Love”), won her the Prize for Best Author at the Prix de la critique 2017 in Francophone Belgium.



© Astrid Di Crollanza



**Un Monde sur mesure (“A tailor-made World”) by Nathalie Skowronek**  
Editions Grasset (France)  
Novel



“From the markets where our great-grandmother exhausted herself to the prêt-à-porter shops opened by our parents, it all connected back to the Jewish tailors of the Polish shtetls. Four generations later, our suppliers were no longer to be found in the Sentier, in Paris. They had become invisible middle-men bringing back goods from Bangladesh, Pakistan or China. It didn’t matter where the clothes were from, who had made them and how, our job was to find among the piles the ones which would sell. You needed to be quick and to choose well. New retailers sprouting up all over Europe had caught us out. The old shmatte traders would disappear soon.”

The story of the narrator’s family revolves around clothes: her inconsolable grandmother’s store is full of the ghosts of the Holocaust, while more high-flying members of the family turned their back on the tragedy to stay with the times, only to be swept away by success. Caught between them, a young woman wants to live her life without denying her roots, which she evokes with a heartfelt intensity. It’s the end of the month and maybe the end of Yiddishland.

This novel was published in a pocket edition in 2019, as part of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Espace Nord collection.

>>> Find the press Released (in French) [here](#) <<<

198 pages // EAN: 9782246863335

Original released: March 2017 / Pocket edition released: October 2019

**About the author**

Nathalie Skowronek was born in Brussels in 1973. She worked in publishing and then for seven years in prêt-à-porter fashion for women. She published her first novel, *Karen et moi* (“Karen and Me”, published by Arléa, 2011), when she was thirty-seven. This was the first book in a family trilogy which takes us from the *shtetls* of Poland through Auschwitz to the Sentier neighbourhood in Paris. This was followed by *Max, en apparence* (“Max, Apparently”, published by Arléa, 2013) and *Un monde sur mesure* (“A tailor-made World Made”, published by Grasset, 2017). In 2015, she published an essay, *La Shoah de Monsieur Durand* (“The Shoah of Mister Durand”, published by Gallimard, 2015) where she shows how our duty to never forget is failing after 70 years. *La Carte des regrets* (“The Map of Regrets”), published in 2020 by Editions Grasset, won the European Union Prize for Literature 2020 for Belgium.

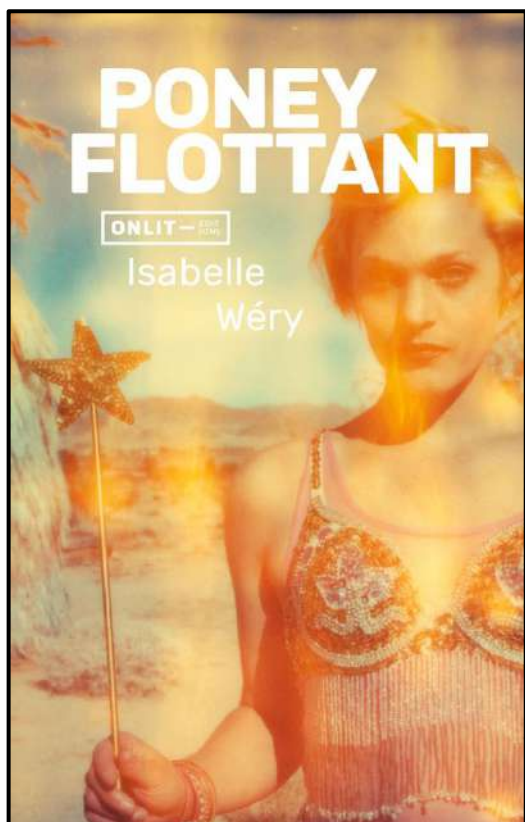


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## ***Poney flottant* (“Floating Pony”) by Isabelle Wéry**

Editions Onlit (Belgium)

Novel



Sweetie Horn, a successful writer, regains consciousness in a coma. Unable to communicate with the outside world, she starts mentally writing the story of her early years. She remembers being ten years old and living on the family farm in England. Very full of her little self, she demands a horse for her birthday. That is when her body decides to stop growing. She is given the nickname Pony. That really gets on her nerves! She plots her revenge... *Poney flottant* (“Floating Pony”) is a coming-of-age story and a novel which is every bit as audacious and captivating as its heroine.

It was shortlisted for the Prix Rossel 2019 (French-speaking Belgium’s most prestigious literary prize).

“*Poney flottant* is a gem which beguiles us, reveals to us another world, snaps us out of our everyday reality, and wrenches us from our civilised and sterile comfort zone. It is an exceptional novel, a poetic bomb which explodes language and foretells of another literature.” Jean-Claude Van Troyen, three stars in *Le Soir*

>>> Find the press released (in French) [here](#) <<<

250 pages // ISBN: 978-2-87560-104-9

Released: November 2018

### **About the author**

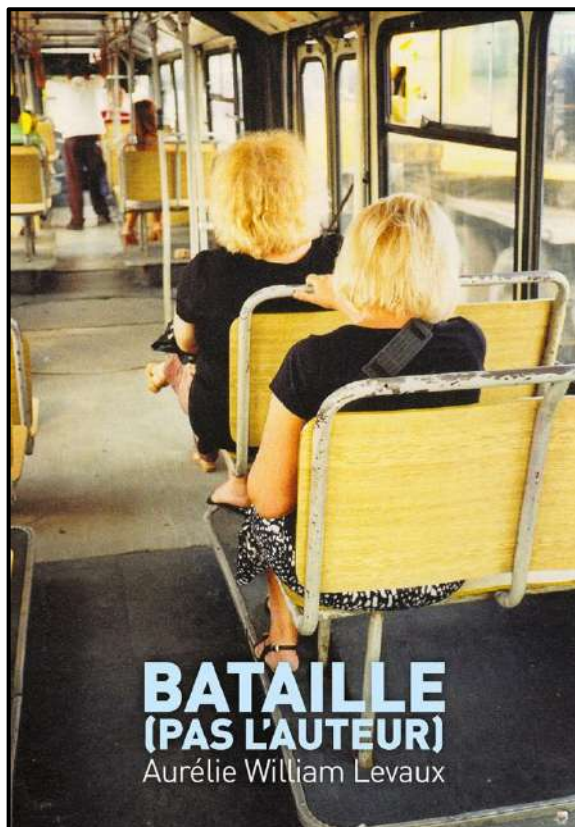
Isabelle Wéry is a Belgian actor, director and author. Born in Liège, she studied theatre in Brussels. Alongside her work as an actor, she makes her own shows. Her distinctive voice truly came into its own with her second novel, *Marilyn Désossée* (“Marilyn in Pieces”, published in 2013 by Maelström) which was shortlisted for the Prix Rossel and won the European Union Prize for Literature. It was translated in many countries (Italy, Albania, Macedonia, Georgia, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia).

*Poney flottant* (“Floating Pony”) was adapted by the author into a performed reading of the same name in 2020.



© Laetitia Bica

**Bataille (pas l'auteur) ("Bataille (Not the Author)") by Aurélie William Levau**  
Editions Cambourakis (France)  
Novel



This is the first novel by Aurélie William Levau, an artist whose work takes many shapes. In this text, written as a journal, she speaks, from one day to another, of her relationship with her daughter, the galleries where she would like to exhibit her work, the men in her life... With tongue firmly in cheek and a mix of sentimentalism and permanent revolt which makes her such an appealing character, she evokes the everyday struggles of a woman, an artist, a mother.

“Each of the texts which make up this collection by Aurélie William Levau tells the odyssey of a detail, forcing the narrator to hesitate, digress, get lost and take the scenic route with us. The world may seem simple, but that’s because we don’t know how to read between the lines”, Claro, *Le Monde*

208 pages // ISBN: 9782366244137  
Released: May 2019

**About the author**

Born in 1981, Aurélie William Levau lives and works in Liège. Her work sits at the intersection between illustration, comic book, private diary and contemporary art. With *Menses ante rosam* (2008) and *Les Yeux du seigneur* (“The Eyes of the Lord”, 2010), published by La Cinquième Couche, she attracted the attention of the contemporary art scene. Combining paper and fabric, drawings and embroideries, these works are made to be read and observed like a private diary where the artist shares anxieties, urges, desires and doubts.

Aurélie William Levau continues to explore new media and materials. Her work has been shown at the International Museum of Modest Art in Sète and at the Le Havre Biennale for Contemporary Art.





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**“Do you read le belge?”**

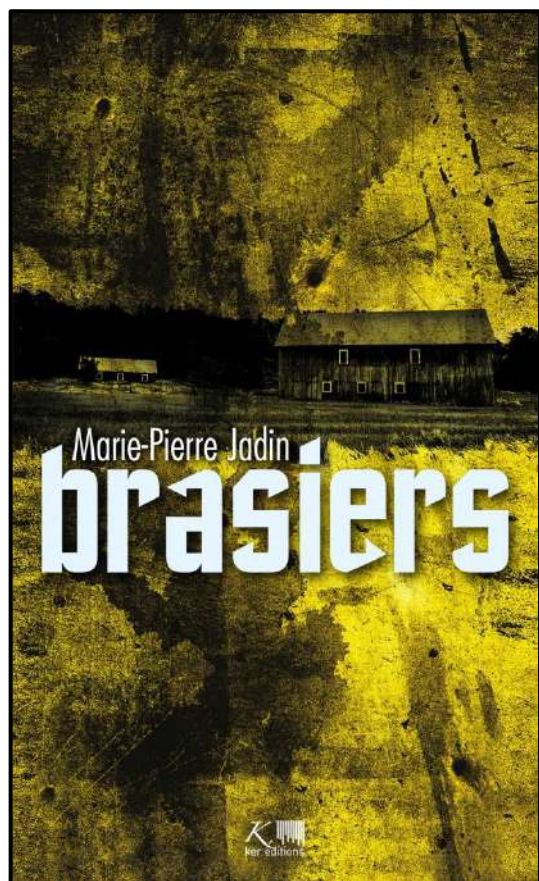
And there's more...

Some additional reading suggestions

## **Brasiers (“Blazes”) by Marie-Pierre Jadin**

Editions Ker (Belgique)

Novel



A man’s body is found walled in on an old farm in the Ardennes. A young police detective who has just arrived from Belgium is put in charge of the investigation. With the help of the property owner, he puts together the pieces of a puzzle which will take them from Bastogne to Berlin and from the dark hours of the Battle of Ardennes to the shadow of the iron curtain.

The novel won the Fintro Écritures Noires 2019 prize.

*“This rural detective novel, made in Belgium, offers a gentle, nostalgic homage to a region and its past.”* Michel Dufranne, RTBF

154 pages // EAN: 9782875862686

Released: March 2020

### **About the author**

Born in 1966, Marie-Pierre Jadin teaches French as a Foreign Language. As an activist for social justice, she seeks to live in a way that is mindful of her environmental impact. Her heart is in the Ardennes, where she has spent many memorable summers ever since she was a teenager.

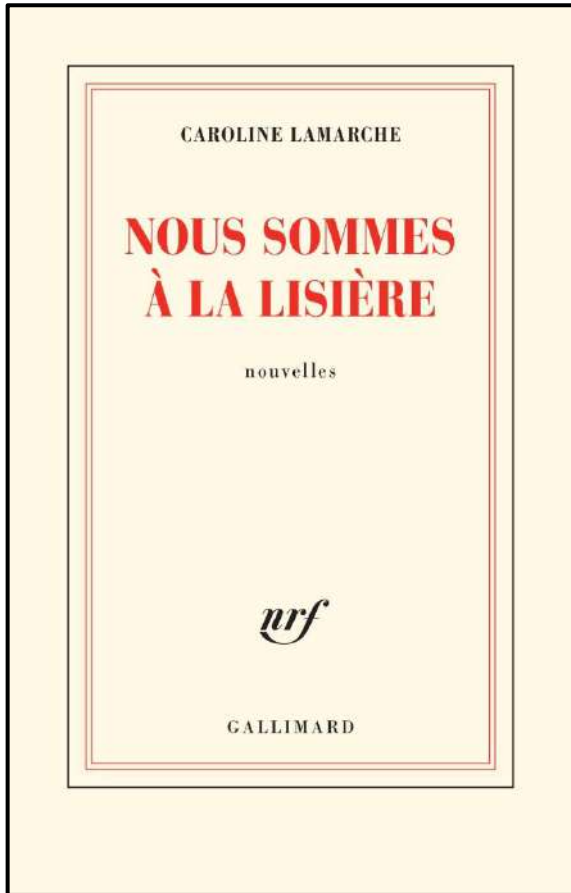


Lisez-vous

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***Nous sommes à la lisière* (“We Are Between Places”) by Caroline Lamarche**  
Editions Gallimard (France)

Short stories



These nine short stories take us to the space between two worlds, where fleeing humans and half-wild animals meet. Each tries to join the other, but we don't know which, man or beast, is seeking protection.

— What wounded flight does Frou-Frou the duck signify? Can a horse named Falsehood carry a child away from the world of lies where adults live? How do a rat, a squirrel and a hedgehog exorcise madness, grief, or simply boredom? What will the nest of ants Lin, Clet, Clement, Sixtus, Corneille and Cyprien become after happy wanderers have passed through? How do a stray cat and a butterfly at the end of its days become messengers for love? At the top of a tree weakened by changes in climate disruptions, what does Merlin's obstinate chanting mean? So many lives under threat, but free in their own way. So many discreet alliances, never letting down their guard.

In a world on the edge of chaos, Caroline Lamarche combines narrative simplicity with buried savagery to speak about the interdependence of all living creatures.

*Nous sommes à la lisière* was shortlisted for the Goncourt short story prize.

176 pages // EAN9782072929366

Released: February 2019

**About the author**

Caroline Lamarche was born in Liège in 1955. She spent her childhood in Spain and her teenage years in the Paris region. She has taught in Liège and in Nigeria, and currently lives on the outskirts of Brussels. She started to make a name for herself with her very first texts (Prix Radio France Internationale and Prix de la Fureur de Lire for her first short stories), and she won the Prix Rossel for her novel, *Le Jour du chien* (“The Day of the Dog”, published by Minuit, 1996). She has written novels published by Minuit and Gallimard, poems, short stories, radio plays and stage plays. She was awarded the Prix Triennal de prose de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles in 2019.

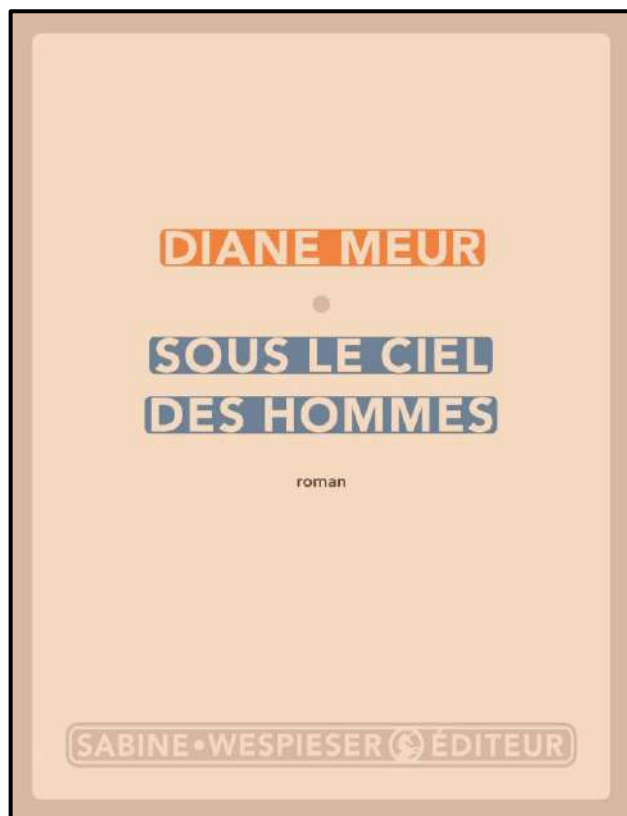




## ***Sous le ciel des hommes* (“Under the Sky of Men”) by Diane Meur**

Editions Sabine Wespieser (France)

Novel



It seems like nothing can disturb the peace in the Grand Duchy of Éponne. The rest of the world revolves around the financial deals struck within its walls, and everything there has its place (apart from recently-arrived strangers, who struggle to find theirs in the pristine city by the lake).

Famous journalist Jean-Marc Féron can see there's much to be gained by taking a migrant into his house and writing about the experience. All he needs is to find the perfect candidate for the book to sell.

Elsewhere in the city, a few friends are meeting up for a new collective writing session; the mere title of the pamphlet they are working on - *Swimming against the stream, a critique of capitalist madness* – lands like a brick on the glassy surface of the tranquil pond which is the micro-state.

A subtle connoisseur of the wanderings of the human spirit, Diane Meur uncovers little by little the truth of these various characters, connected by affinities of which they are sometimes themselves unaware.

The pamphlet too, with its jubilant thrust of utopianism, bursts into the story and lights up the world it occupies. Thus, it gradually emerges that this imaginary and somewhat anachronistic Grand-Duchy is no less real than the type of

society in which we are currently floundering. Layering a mischievously critical perspective on top of her perfect mastery of the novel form, Diane Meur excels in asking questions of us: under this sky shared by all humankind, does humanity not have, at every moment, a choice between the worst and the best?

>>> **Read the first pages of the book (in French) [here](#)** <<<

340 pages // EAN: 9782848053615

Released: August 2020

### **About the author**

Diane Meur was born in 1970 in Brussels and lives in Paris. While at secondary school in the French Lycée of Brussels, she decided to learn German. After studying literature in Paris, she went into translation. Following long months devoted to Heine, she started work on *La Vie de Mardochée de Löwenfels écrite par lui-même* (“The Life of Mardochée de Löwenfels Written by Himself”, published by Sabine Wespieser éditeur, 2002), her first novel.

Since then, she has published four novels with Sabine Wespieser: *Raptus* (2004), *Les Vivants et les Ombres* (“The Living and the Shadows”, 2007), *Les Villes de la plaine* (“The Cities of the Plain”, 2011), and *La Carte des Mendelssohn* (“The Mendelssohns’ Card”, 2015).



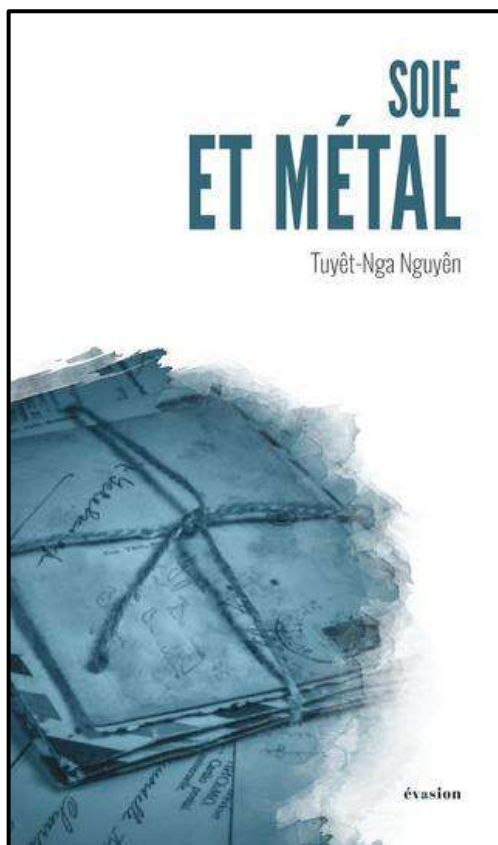
Lies-vous

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## ***Soie et métal* (Silk and Metal) by Tuyet Nga Nguyen**

Editions Academia (Belgique)

Novel



A woman leaves her family, apparently on a whim. Clara, her sixteen-year-old daughter, does not accept it and disowns her mother: you don't leave the people you love! Eight years later, a stranger sends her a notebook bearing her mother's name and urges her to read it. Can the past always justify everything?

*Soie et métal* (Silk and Metal) has been shortlisted for the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie.

>>> Find the press release (in French): [here](#) <<<

306 pages // EAN: 9782806110398

Released: October 2019

### **About the author**

Born in Vietnam, Tuyêt-nga Nguyễn graduated from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and has lived in the US and in Africa. Winner of the Prix des Lycéens for her first novel, *Le Journaliste français* ("The French Journalist"), and shortlisted for the Prix du Parlement de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles for her next two, *Soie et Métal* ("Silk and Metal") is her fifth novel.



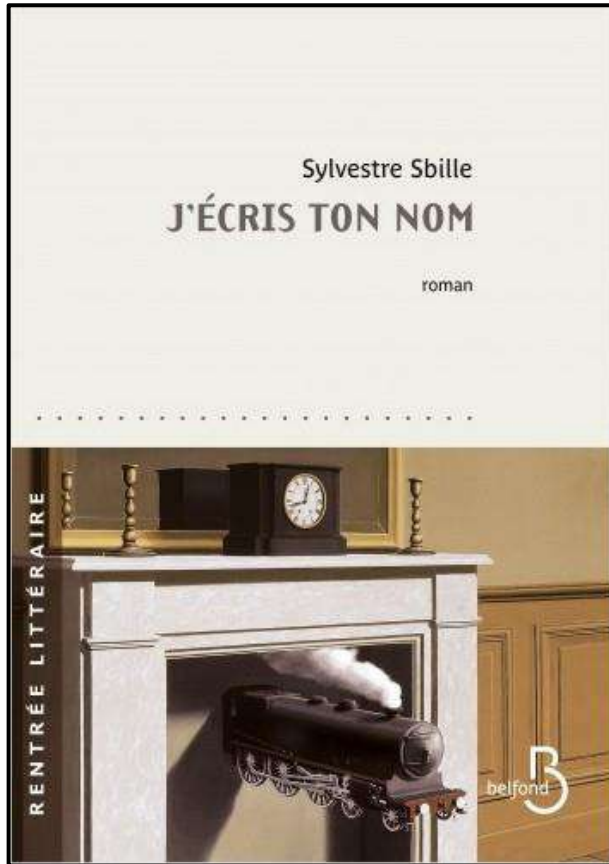
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# ***J'écris ton nom* ("I Write Your Name") by Sylvestre Sbille**

Editions Belfond (France)

Novel



Youra is a young, idealistic doctor in Brussels who is forbidden from practising because he is Jewish. With his group of friends, he continues to defy the curfew, listen to banned music and to put the world to rights. That evening, in April 1943, Youra is going to take action. With two childhood friends, he decides to attempt what the partisans think is madness: stopping the train leaving for the camps.

Charming, polyglot and fiercely intellectual, Youra knows that the “night train” will turn him into someone else. Plunged into the swirling waters of the Resistance and facing those of the collaboration, he questions the conscious and unconscious motivations which lead people to risk their lives and to look the enemy in the whites of their eyes.

In a first novel steeped in magical realist, Sylvestre Sbille pulls off the tour de force of conveying to his readers all the lust for life of dazzling characters, floating above the dark silt of the Occupation.

320 pages // EAN: 9782714482266

Released: August 2019

## **About the author**

Sylvestre Sbille was born in Brussels. After studying History of Art and Archaeology, he became a film editor. He works in documentary film and fiction.

He also writes in the culture pages of newspaper *L'Écho*. *J'écris ton nom* (“I Write Your Name”) is his first novel.



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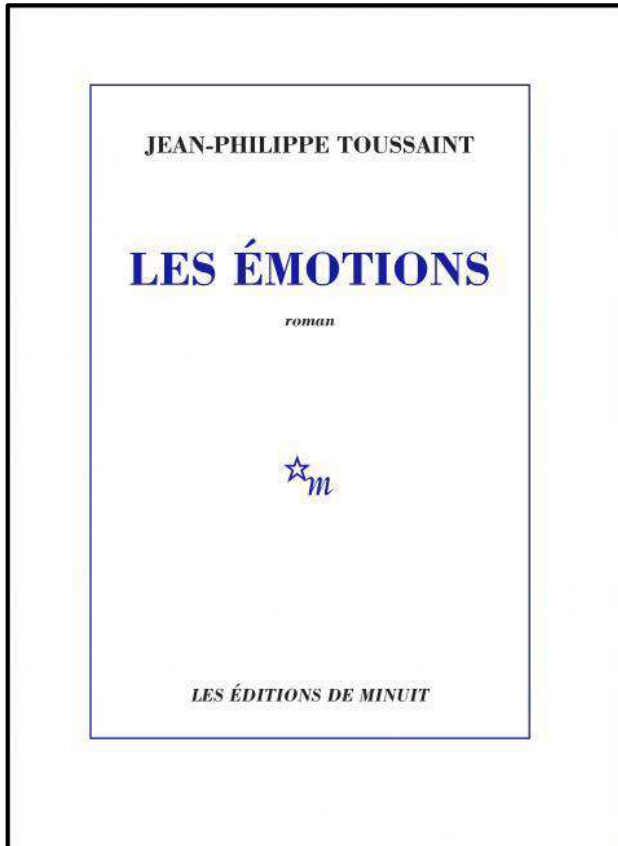
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# **Les Émotions (“The Emotions”) by Jean-Philippe Toussaint**

Editions de Minuit (France)

Novel



When Jean Detrez, who works at the European Commission, starts taking a professional interest in the future, he realises that there is a vast chasm between “public future” and “private future”. Understanding or exploring the “public future” involves forecasting - a scientific discipline in itself - while the desire (or fantasy) to know one’s own future belongs to the realm of spiritualism or clairvoyance. But do we always want to know what the coming days or weeks have in store for us? Do we always want to know what will become of us in a more or less distant future? After all, we know that the most astounding thing that could happen to us, in the morning, when we wake up, would be to learn that we will die that day, or experience a romantic or sexual adventure in the coming hours. Sex and death - nothing has the power to move us more when it comes to ourselves.

The time has therefore come to say a word or two about the private life of Jean Detrez.

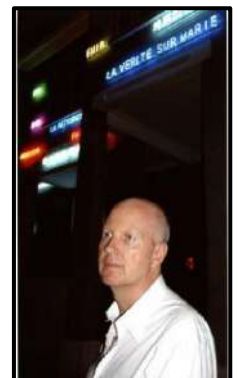
>>> **Read the first pages of the book (in French) [here](#)** <<<

240 pages // ISBN: 9782707346438

Released: September 2020

## **About the author**

Jean-Philippe Toussaint was born in Brussels in 1957 and holds a degree in Political Sciences and History. His novels (all published by éditions de Minuit) are characterised by a minimalist style and narrative in which characters and things have no other meaning beyond themselves. He won the Prix Médicis 2005 for *Fuir* (“To Flee”), the Prix Décembre 2009 for *La Vérité sur Marie* (“The Truth about Mary”) and the Prix triennal du roman de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles in 2013. His writing has been translated into around twenty languages.



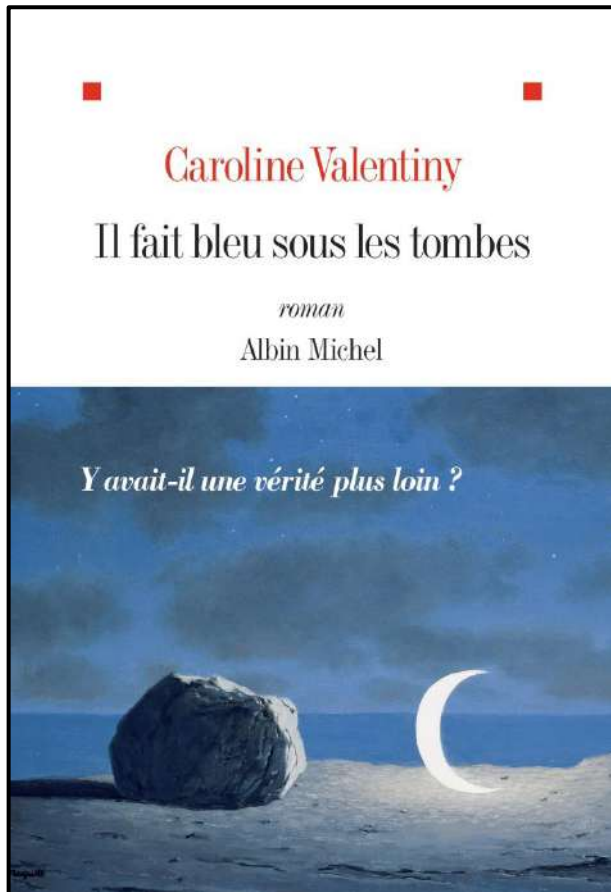
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# ***Il fait bleu sous les tombes* (“It’s Blue Under the Tombs”) Caroline Valentiny**

Editions Albin Michel (France)

Novel



“As a child, when he was alive, he would lie down in the grass, in the evening, to observe the sky. Today, from his plot of grass which does not let in any light, try as he might, there is nothing left to see.

Until recently, Alexis was alive. Now, he’s not so sure. He can still perceive life around him - the rustle of leaves, the footsteps of visitors and the skipping of his little sister who comes to visit him secretly.

He feels OK, but what is he doing here? He doesn’t know. His loves ones don’t understand it either. What is Alexis’ mystery? What was he trying to hide by dying?

Caroline Valentiny explores the chiaroscuro of existence in an impressively subtle and gentle first novel.

192 pages // EAN: 9782226447944

Released: January 2020

## **About the author**

Caroline Valentiny is a psychologist, author, lecturer and professor of language. *Il fait bleu sous les tombes* (“It’s Blue Under the Tombs”) is her first novel.



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## Contacts

If you have any question, please contact the Academic and Cultural Liaison Officers:

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If you are not based in one of those countries, please contact Silvie Philippart de Foy [silvie.philippart@cfwb.be](mailto:silvie.philippart@cfwb.be) & Marie-Eve Tossani [me.tossani@wbi.be](mailto:me.tossani@wbi.be) - in charge of international promotion of books & literatures.

## Grants

- Translation Grants (Ministry of culture of Wallonia-Brussels Federation)

<http://www.promotiondeslettres.cfwb.be/index.php?id=traduction>

Contact : Silvie Philippart de Foy, Attachée à la promotion internationale des littératures belges  
traduction.lettres@cfwb.be ; 0032478250724

- Travels grants & support for the transfer of rights (WBI)

<https://wbi.be/fr/lettre-et-livres>

*Those grants are intended for professionals based in Wallonia-Brussels Federation. However, if you wish to purchase the rights of a book published in francophone Belgium or if you wish to invite a French speaking Belgian author, please contact: Marie-Eve Tossani, in charge of international promotion of books & literatures: [me.tossani@wbi.be](mailto:me.tossani@wbi.be) ; 00322 421 83 64*

## Who are we?

The international promotion of Belgian francophone books is ensured by the agency Wallonia-Brussels International as well as by the Ministry of Culture. These two entities work together to increase the visibility and influence of French-speaking Belgian authors and publishing houses.

Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI) is the body responsible for Wallonia and Brussels international relations. WBI's mission is to increase the impact, influence and reputation of the Wallonia-Brussels area and of its representatives (creators, artists, entrepreneurs, students, higher education institutions, researchers, etc.)

Through its representations abroad, Wallonia-Brussels International provides operators in Wallonia-Brussels support, advice and activities tailored to their needs, and to the specific features of the countries in their jurisdiction.

WBI acts through a network of General Delegations with diplomatic status in Berlin, Bucharest, Dakar, Geneva, Hanoi, Kinshasa, the Hague, Paris, Beijing, Québec, Rabat, Santiago de Chile, Tunis, Warsaw and Brussels (Representation to the European Union).

The network abroad also includes sectoral networks such as the Academic and Cultural Liaison Officers based in South Africa, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Hungary, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, the United Kingdom and Serbia.



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