

BACK LIST

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Vassilis ALEXAKIS

The author

Vassilis Alexakis shares his life between Paris and Athens since 1968. He has published more than fifteen books, including “Ap. J.-C.” (*Grand Prix du Roman de l’Académie française*), “Talgo,” “Papa,” “La langue maternelle” (*Prix Médicis*), “Le coeur de Marguerite” and “Avant.”

His works at Stock

“Ap. J.-C.” – Grand Prix du Roman de l’Académie française 2007

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2007
- 396 pages
- Rights not available for Greece. Rights sold to: Romania (Trei), Croatia (Vukovic & Runjic), Serbia (Geopoetika), Bulgaria (Kama), Russia (Limbus), Vietnam (Les Editions Littéraires du Vietnam)

The book

The story starts today, in Athens, with 89-year-old Nausicaa asking her lodger, a student, to investigate the monks of the Mount Athos. Is she planning of bequeathing her fortune to them? Is she looking for the brother that disappeared fifty years ago? In spite of his lack of interest for ancient history and the pre-Socratic, the young man accepts the mission.

His investigation takes him very far away, one thousand years back, at the time when the first monastery was built, and even further in the Antiquity, when the Mount Athos was first inhabited. He discovers that there are martyrs amongst the Gods of the Olympus thanks to a Christianity that imposed itself through centuries of destructions and massacres. He meets increasingly singular characters: a journalist for whom an orthodox mass is a work of art, a historian who claims that Christianity does not come as the continuation of the Antiquity but follows it like ‘night follows day’, a defrocked monk, a Peruvian poet who lives on the Sacred Mountain, the members of a strange community established near Salonika whose rituals include dancing on burning coal twice a year. He comes into contact with a French monk, the owner of a house in Normandy where the abbot Prévost wrote *Manon Lescaut*, and with a mad mystic who greets passing planes with a Byzantine flag. He discovers an extremely wealthy community that yields great power on the political life of the country – a community which no-one dares investigating and which privileges no-one thinks of contesting. *Ap. J.-C.* is a book on Ancient times that has a lot to tell us about our present and future.

“Paris-Athènes”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2006
- 270 pages
- Rights available except for Greece

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The book

Words, of course, take up a central position in this autobiography with novelistic features: words learnt first in Athens and Santorin a long time ago, words discovered in Lille and Paris which allowed Vassilis Alexakis to write his first novels, and again Greek words, forgotten and rediscovered. Apart from being a small odyssey across two languages, an upsetting evocation of the dramas and joys that such a journey engenders, Paris-Athènes is the quest of an “I” which is constantly on the run and which only can only be seized, perhaps be saved, by literature. Alexakis dreams he will be in Athens when death will come and look for him in Paris: “I know death is capable of making this journey, he writes, but with some chance I will already be gone when it arrives. My travelling perhaps does not have any other purpose but to shake it off. I secretly hope it will get fed up with knocking on my door, that it will think it is useless to take care of someone who is never there anyway.”

“Je t’oublierai tous les jours”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2005
- 288 pages
- Rights available except for Greece

The book

The narrator resembles Vassilis Alexakis. He tells his story to a woman he knows well, and whom he needs to tell it to. He likes to send her news of the world as well as descriptions of more intimate events, concerning his family and himself, his love life, his children. Little by little, ten years of personal and general history unravel. It is the marking events making up ten years of his life that the man confides to the absent-one. He speaks to her softly, as if she could hear him; sometimes he thinks he has seen her, that he has just passed her in the street. Progressively, we understand that Alexakis is talking to his mother, whom he has in fact lost. That event was the most important in his life. There was no reason not to continue the dialogue however, even when the news are not so good. How to explain to his lost mother that her husband, the narrator’s father, has also died? This revelation comes at the end, last but one amongst the book’s secrets.

“Les mots étrangers”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: September 2002
- 324 pages
- Rights not available for Greece. Rights sold to: USA (world rights, Autumn Hill), Argentina (Castilian world rights, Delestante)

The book

Greek by his parents and French through his writing, Vassilis Alexakis has been wandering for almost 30 years from one country and one language to the other. Why did he one day feel the need to learn and write yet another language, Sango, an obscure idiom spoken only in the Central African Republic? Undoubtedly, he hopes that this third language will eventually make him young again. He wishes to rediscover the sensations he felt as a child when the Greek alphabet and grammar intimidated him. But there must also be another reason to this sudden interest, a more secret and truthful reason which led him to carry out his project so seriously. The first word that he learns is *baba*, which means father...

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“Contrôle d’identité”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2000
- 216 pages
- Rights available except for Greece

The book

In a train heading towards Paris, a traveller wonders who he is and what he was doing in the city of Troyes. Once arrived at the station Gare de L’Est, he goes into a café, and watches the customers in a mirror above the counter: he has no idea which face is his. He goes to the address indicated on his ID papers and finds Gina, his girlfriend, whom he does not recognize. Together they go to a party thrown by Stabilo Boss, Paul’s boss, where they will meet the other characters of this wild and tragic novel.

“Le coeur de Marguerite”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: September 1999
- 336 pages
- Rights not available for Greece. Rights sold to: Turkey (Literatur)

The book

The narrator is in love with Marguerite who is often absent: she has two children and a husband. He is a film director but dreams of writing a novel. He begins by relating his stormy relationship with Marguerite. He wonders about the significance of this relationship and about the meaning of words that take up more and more space in his life. He is passionately interested in an old writer, Eckermann, whose work he knows by heart. Marguerite begins to feel jealous of the manuscript and of the other Marguerite who is nonetheless her twin. One day, Eckermann comes to Greece to hold a conference...

Recent reprints by Vassilis ALEXAKIS published at Stock:

“Avant” (2006) and “La langue maternelle” (2006; *Prix Médicis* 1994). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Karim AMELLAL

The author

Karim Amellal was born in Paris in 1978, of an Algerian father and a French mother. He spent several years in Algeria before moving to the suburbs of Paris. He now lives in Paris and lectures at the School of Political Sciences. In 2005, He published “Discriminez-moi ! Enquête sur nos inégalités” at Flammarion.

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His work

“Cités à comparaître”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2006
- 177 pages
- Rights sold to: Algeria (French language rights)/ Sédia

The book

Silou is in jail. He is told he is one of Ben Laden’s cousins - a terrorist. Silou is confused. He knows he has done something wrong. His psychologist told him that to talk about his life would make him feel better, so he does. He recalls how he grew up and ended up in prison, sentenced for ‘terrorist acts’. His is the story of a local boy, a kid from the suburbs with an absent mother; a kid who develops a weakness for dope. Silou left school because he did not know what school was for; after that, he tried a few tricks and failed. In fact, he is a swindler; no girl would take him: girls don’t like guys who have no money and whose eyes aren’t blue. Nadia, his ‘star princess’, who lives in the block of flats opposite, wouldn’t even look at him. Then Silou got caught in the dope business. At last he got to see some stars. Then there was the coming down. Thank God there were some guys prepared to help him. They had their eyes on him. They respected him and promised another kind of heaven if he agreed to help them. Of course he said yes. It wasn’t as if he had a lot of choice. These guys got him into their scams and there was a stickup, a bomb, deaths. He never saw any of it coming. That’s how he became a terrorist.

Christine ANGOT

The author

Christine Angot was born in 1959. She is the author of numerous literary works (novels, short stories, plays). She has published at Stock amongst others “L’inceste,” “Quitter la ville,” and “Pourquoi le Brésil ?.”

Her works at Stock

“Les désaxés”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2004
- 216 pages
- Rights sold to: Russia (Inostranka)

The book

“He hugged and kissed her. She asked him if he loved her. He answered: of course I do. I’m here. I’m never far away. She realized how happy she was to have him in her life, to be with him, to live with him. Especially when he was away like now. She hated his messiness, the smell of cold cigarette smoke, overflowing ashtrays, opening the window during the winter to get rid of the smell. She hated it when he

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slept for hours in the morning instead of making love to her. She was happy thinking about him, and the fact that he loved her and thought of them as being together. Happy to know he existed. But something was wrong from the beginning. Certain strange signs should have alerted them. But they hadn't paid attention to them, on the contrary, they threw themselves into it, too caught up with being in love."

François and Sylvie: a couple. A couple with children, a boy and a girl.

François and Sylvie have lived together for fifteen years. They are both filmmakers. They are in love. There is something wrong with their love but perhaps they can go on loving each other wrongly forever? How to undo the wrong kind of love is probably the underlying theme of this novel, also its true nature and its tragically universal character. We are all out of sync with one another, and as long as we won't know how to live, we won't know how to love.

"Pourquoi le Brésil ?"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: August 2002
- 198 pages
- Rights sold to: The Netherlands (De Arbeiderspers), Germany (Tropen), Russia (Inostranka)

The book

The essential themes of Christine Angot's works (the fear of commitment, the difficulty in communicating and being with others) take on, in this story of nascent love which is then rejected, unusual force and depth. She observes with accuracy and courage the intimacy of a growing relationship, with all its turmoil and passions, its misunderstandings and overwhelming violence.

"L'inceste"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: August 1999
- 218 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Tropen), Greece (Kanakis), Spain (Castilian world rights, Seix Barral), Portugal (Noticias), China (simplified characters, Sea-Sky), Italy (Einaudi), Poland (W.A.B.), Czech Republic (Pavel Mervat), Romania (Leda/Corint)

The book

This is neither an account of nor a novel on incest. It is the very powerful novel of a unique writer who disturbs because she crosses genres. Incorrect, and judged scandalous, Christine Angot's work takes us into the heart of the writer's doubt and anguish.

Also available at Stock:

"**Quitter la ville**" (2000; rights sold to Germany), "**Les autres**" (2001), "**Normalement**" followed by "**La peur du lendemain**" (2001), "**Peau d'âne**" (2003), and "**Une partie du coeur**" (2004). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

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Daniel ARSAND

The author

Daniel Arsand was born in Avignon in 1950. He works as an editor at Phébus, where he is in charge of foreign literature. He is the author of several novels, including: “La Province des ténèbres,” “En silence,” “Lily,” “Ivresses du fils” and “Des amants” (for this last title, see the “New Titles” section)

His works at Stock

“Des chevaux noirs”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 176 pages
- Rights available

The book

Jo Harfang is nineteen. He has killed a woman – his aunt – and a few men – strangers, lovers. In jail, like an angry vengeful god, he sings the lament of a murderer haunted by the spirits of black horses.

Jo Harfang is the last of a strange, corrupt family line, bound to the city of Roanne, to a moor and a sheepfold. The blood of these ancestors runs in his veins, and the past resurfaces with the sound of pounding hoofs when he evokes the family saga. Unencumbered with children, wives, feelings, these were free men who preferred the company of male lovers and horses: Renaud the bonesetter, Eric the Centaur, Serge the surgeon. It is with Serge, Jo’s grand-father, that the scandal of the four black horses broke out – blood in the sheep pen. A curse then seemed to fall on all the Harfang. In the following generation however, the love that unites Vincent Harfang to Laure Delage appears to defuse the curse. Jo, their only son, a much loved but solitary child, prone to violence, grows up in the claustrophobic atmosphere of the family circle formed by his parents and his aunt. As a teenager, he discovers a passion for horses, learns about his evil ancestors and unleashes his rage. His will be the destiny of a horseman of the apocalypse, riding around the world, spreading destruction.

Daniel Arsand’s novel is a spellbinding family saga, a unique, hallucinated tale - a black comet.

Also available at Stock:

“Ivresses du fils” (2004) and “Des amants” (2008, see the “New Titles” section). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Nan AUROUSSEAU

The author

Born in 1951, the eldest of 6 children, from a father mechanic and engine operator, and a mother laundress in Montmartre, Nan Arousseau spent his whole childhood in the twentieth district of Paris. He has published two novels at Stock: “Bleu de chauffe” in 2005 and “Du même auteur” in 2007. A third novel is forthcoming in 2009.

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His works

“Du même auteur”

Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2007
- 176 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Edizioni E/O)

The book

“My first novel, “The Regretful Tale of a Travelling Stand-up Comedian,” was rather successful. After a long-lasting misery of years of odd jobs, of living in contempt and economic insecurity, I was seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Then something happened that wrecked it all. Fucking bad news. No warning. One morning, the doorbell rings. I quickly put on a shirt and rush to the door where I find my downstairs neighbour naked, holding a .45. I didn’t think, I just tried to take it away from her. I should have known better: the gun went off and the bullet hit me in the leg. Then she commanded me to drive her to the countryside. She wanted me to pay for “it”. But for what? I was mystified. Plus she seemed to have lost her memory. She was in a pretty sorry state, and I had gotten myself in a bad situation. I had done time in prison, but since my release I had managed to stay out of trouble. Change of life. Forget about stickups and concentrate on writing. My first novel was a hit and yet there I was, having to deal with a deranged girl, my ex girlfriend, the police, my lawyer, and a bunch of thugs, real punks. Unbelievable.”

“Du même auteur” offers the same remarkable energy and exuberant style that established the success of “Bleu de chauffe.” Nan Arousseau’s second novel is an astonishing thriller that also constructs a thought-provoking reflection on memory-loss and close relationships: beyond the gunplay unravels a beautiful love story.

“Bleu de chauffe”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: November 2005
- 180 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Edizioni E/O)

The book

This work of fiction resembles a true story, which is fair enough since it actually is a true story... or nearly one. It is a first novel by Nan Arousseau, craftsman, plumber, brick-layer, ironware merchant, script writer and filmmaker. As the great Céline used to say: “Twelve crafts, and as many misfortunes.” One day, after he had just regaled his friends with the tales of his adventures in the world of the building trade, Arousseau, who, at that point, was on dole, decided to write it all down. In his unique style, raw and scathing, the highly skilled worker spares no-one.

Composed according to the rules of the thriller and imbued with a spectacular energy, “Bleu de chauffe” is unlike any other novel in the French literary landscape.

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Christian AUTHIER

The author

Christian Authier was born in 1969. He has published four novels at Stock: “Enterrement de vie de garçon” in 2004, “Les liens défaits” (awarded the *Prix Roger Nimier*), “Une si douce fureur” (both in 2006) and “Une Belle époque” (2008, see the “New Titles” section)

His work

“Une si douce fureur”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 142 pages
- Rights available

The book

Some people are like the countries where one once lived: long after you left them, their image haunts you. Valentine is one of those, a blind angel whose presence tears apart your body and your soul. The narrator met her briefly six years before, and cannot forget. He felt he had missed his chance with the woman of his life. Then he learns that Valentine has recognized herself as one of the characters in a novel where he told about the loves and friendships of his youth, and they are brought face to face again. This time, he decides, he won't let her go.

Messages remain unanswered, rendezvous are missed: Valentine keeps aloof. She will not be caught, cannot be restrained. When at last the narrator holds her in his arms, he thinks he has won. But then come weariness and boredom, silences, the first signs of an impending defeat - the sweet taste of rage. Valentine's changing moods are but the signs of a deep unease that no love can appease. She seems weary of everything, ready to disappear at any moment ... as if happiness had to be given up before it vanishes. Love becomes a fading swirl of smoke, a promise of happiness that never materialises and leaves a bitter after taste.

Following “Enterrement de vie de garçon” and “Les Liens défaits,” Christian Authier continues his exploration of modern life and its disillusionments. This sweet and angry tale of a doomed love story is also a complex and compelling study of gender relations in today's world.

Also available at Stock:

“Enterrement de vie de garçon”(2004), “Les liens défaits” (2006), and “Une Belle époque” (2008, see the “New Titles” section). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

BAPTISTE-MARREY

The author

Baptiste-Marrey was born in 1928 and has written about ten novels (all connected to one another by more or less visible threads), essays, and collections of poems.

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His work

“Rouge le vin, rouge mon cœur”

Specifications:

- Series: “Écrivains”
- Publication date: November 2006
- 70 pages
- Rights available

The book

In the great tradition of the painters, photographers, poets and writers of popular Paris – one thinks of Albert Marquet, Apollinaire, Aragon, Prévert, Hardellet, Doisneau, Robert Giraud – Baptiste-Marrey evokes the Bercy of his childhood where, each day, next to the large river, he was a spectator of the miracle of wine, of its commerce and of those who celebrated it or, rather, died of it. Some of these poems are as crystal-clear as a very fresh sauvignon, sometimes lively, funny and mocking. Others are more serious, resembling wines that make one ponder, all heavy with moving melancholy and grave beauty, in order to express words and time that pass by and that flee from us, lost faces, and the Large City that, we know, changes faster than the heart of a mortal.

Pierre-Louis BASSE

The author

Pierre-Louis Basse was born in 1958 in Nantes. A journalist on Europe 1 radio, he lives in Saint-Ouen, outside of Paris. He is the author of the biography *Guy Môquet, Une enfance fusillée* published by Stock in 2000. He has also published a trilogy of social novels : *Ma ligne 13* (Le Rocher, 2003), *Ça va mal finir* (Le Rocher, 2005) and *Ma chambre au Triangle d'Or* (Stock, 2006). He also published *Séville 82* (Privé, 2006).

His work

“19 SECONDES 83 CENTIÈMES”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: October 2007
- 132 pages
- Rights available

The book

This is the story of a few seconds that extends to a whole life. Nineteen seconds and eighty-three hundredth of seconds precisely. It is Wednesday 16th of October 1968, in Mexico. Tommie Smith is the 200 meter Olympic champion. Tom has been dreaming of this since childhood, and when he climbs on the podium's highest step he raises his black gloved fist. He does this in the company of John Carlos, his companion from the American team. In the slightly sticky atmosphere of this night of the 16 October 1968, this gesture revolutions the world. It is a silent rebellion that follows a breath-taking performance.

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This is a gesture that means to put an end to segregation, the lynching of black people, the humiliation, the buses and housing that are reserved to whites.

Pierre-Louis Basse was ten. He remembers the race. He remembers the broadcast on television which he watched with his father, a sport teacher in Nanterre. He also remembers the death of Martin Luther King, the voice of Joan Baez and the war in Vietnam. He remembers girls in pleated skirts and president Pompidou. Remembering Tommie Smith mythic race makes Jean-Louis Basse talk about his generation.

Guy BEDOS

The author

Guy Bedos was born in Algeria in 1934. He is the author of, amongst others, “Envie de jouer” (Seuil, 1995), “Arrêtez le monde, je veux descendre” (Cherche Midi, 2003) and a forthcoming novel at Stock in fall 2008.

His work at Stock

“Mémoires d’outre-mère”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2005
- 193 pages
- Rights available

The book

Obviously, this book does not contain Guy Bedos’s memoirs. This is not an actor’s diary, even if, for half a century, the French society has been most successfully lampooned through this same actor’s wit. For the first time, Guy Bedos writes in the first person, the story of the most important woman of his life: his mother. Their story, their bond. His hatred and his love for her. He is only two or three years old when he sees his mother hit his father with a hammer. Today, the little boy is seventy years old. And his mother is still, at the age of ninety, full of life and extremely present. Guy would rather she disappeared before he does. But he cannot be sure of this. Hence the need to write this book, a book he probably carried inside his head for a very long time. This book tells everything he never dared to say about his childhood and his adolescence, about his youth but also his life as a grown-up man. Bedos speaks completely openly in this book, with no scruples, nor self-indulgence. Those who detest Bedos will love this book as much as those who love him.

François BERLÉAND

The author

François Berléand was born in Paris in 1952. A leading French actor, he has played in films such as “Ma petite entreprise” (for which he was awarded the *César* of the best second role in 2000), “Mon idole” and “Les Choristes.”

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His work

“Le fils de l’Homme invisible”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: November 2006
- 212 pages
- Rights available

The book

“My name is François Berléand; I am almost eleven; I never speak unless asked by an adult; I eat everything though I harbour no great passion for grated carrots, endives and spinach. [...] And I am the invisible man’s son.”

One winter evening in the Berléand family, François’ father, who had probably been a bit immoderate with the vodka, declared: “Anyway. You are the son of the invisible man.” Nobody laughed around the table, and nobody contradicted him. This was the beginning of the ruin of François’ childhood and adolescence, as he became befuddled and progressively more destabilised by a bogus secret that was nothing more than a bad joke.

At the beginning, it is rather amusing to be the son of the invisible man. But as soon as you start believing in it, it becomes frightening, poignant, and tragic. Thus, little François’ formative years unravel in this atmosphere of tragi-comedy where, inexorably, his child’s fear grows: he is different, probably not normal, maybe he is kind of brain damaged? Maybe his parents hid this from him to protect him?

For years, interview after interview, François Berléand recounted his strange story, until he had gained enough distance to write it down.

Michel BESNIER

The author

Michel Besnier was born in Cherbourg in 1945. He wrote amongst others “Le Bateau de mariage” (Seuil, 1988) which was adapted to the screen by Jean-Pierre Améris, as well as “La Roseraie” (Fayard, 1997), “La Messe des chiens” (Stock, 2000) and “Une Maison n’est rien” (Stock, 2003).

His work

“La vie de ma femme”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: November 2006
- 198 pages
- Rights available

The book

Anne Brisart, born on the 6 June 1945 in Bregilley, in the province of the Doubs, is the leading character in Michel Besnier’s latest novel. To recount one’s wife’s life is a risky and delicate task. Thankfully,

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Anne kept her letters and diaries, her books and her collections. Gisèle, her mother, a former school mistress, also kept a journal with the dates and events of her daughter's life. The grand-parents; the father who was a baker; the teaching vocation; the teacher's training and the traditions of the *École normale*; the conflicts with the father; the first fiancé... Michel Besnier collects together the pieces of a puzzle that constitutes a fascinating family chronicle.

But the real point of the book is – as with all true novelists – that which escapes him, the underlying mystery of the 'stoic and resistant' little girl; the secrets of the teenager going through the crisis of growing up; the exciting experience of the first bal. Curious, troubled or deeply affected, the author is charmed by the energy and the liveliness of his character. Anne and Michel have been together for forty years. Yet we will know nothing about their life as a couple. The book stops with their first encounter. This subtle novel is a declaration of love. It is the portrait of a young woman in the making, as well as the portrait of an era (the 1950s and 1960s) with its disappearing set of old conventions, its *hula-hoops*, its *scoubidou*s, the *Nouvelle vague* and the colonial wars.

Also available at Stock:

“**La messe des chiens**” (2000), and “**Une maison n'est rien**” (2003). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Fayçal BEY

The author

Prince Fayçal Bey was born at the palace of Carthage under the reign of Bey Lamine Ist, his great-grandfather. He was two years old when the monarchy was abolished by Bourguiba. After having done research in molecular biology, Fayçal Bey now is a consultant.

His work

“La dernière odalisque”

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: May 2001
- 468 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein), Spain (Plaza y Janes), Portugal (Platano)

The book

In a book that is both gripping and moving, prince Fayçal Bey tells the story that marked his whole childhood: that of his grandmother – Safiyé – who was the last odalisque. With wonderful storytelling powers, Fayçal Bey takes us with him on the search for his roots, in a world that is foreign and yet familiar.

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Véronique BIZOT

The author

Véronique Bizot was born in 1958. She is a journalist and lives in Paris. “Les sangliers” is her first book.

Her work

“Les sangliers”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2005
- 140 pages
- Rights available

The book

An agency selects potential parents, offering them thirty minutes to convince a virtual child, symbolised by a light indicator, to come out of the void and accept them as family. A man is sent by his companion to be treated for depression in a lake side hotel surrounded by mountains. There, he meets an extremely wealthy neurasthenic manufacturer and immerses himself in an atmosphere of luxurious agony that ends in freezing waters.

In an isolated house at the edge of a treacherous forest, two men awaits the woman who once loved them. But Julia does not come alone, and her apparition is most unsettling.

The short stories that compose this collection draw us into an absurdist and threatening universe of hostile places and tormented, forsaken characters. But the feeling of despair is offset by Véronique Bizot’s talent at highlighting the funny side of the most morbid of situations.

Jean-Éric BOULIN

The author

Jean-Éric Boulin is thirty and comes from Marseilles. “Supplément au roman national” is his first novel. His second novel is forthcoming in fall 2008.

His work

“Supplément au roman national” – Longlisted for the *Prix Goncourt* in 2006

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 156 pages
- Rights available

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The book

Where are the French today? What happened to the very notion of French people? Do we still have a common destiny, indeed, can we still say ‘we’?

These topical, controversial questions are at the heart of Jean-Eric Boulín’s first novel. The nation progressively appears like a huge combination of casts: invisible people and visible people, the have-nots and those who have and hold on to the privileges afforded by our society of the spectacle – the arrogant and blinded cast of the politicians. The cast of the ‘invisibles’ are too weary to organise themselves, to form a group that could fight for its rights, to start the class war instead of becoming deluded by trade and manufactured desires. Kamel Barek and Yann Guillois are amongst those who are tired of the constant humiliation, the web of lies that the French system has created for its immigrants. The anger that surfaces has the colors of the misery that rules over the suburbs: red over grey; it is the anger of the children of the republic, of the francarabe youth, of those who still cherish the memories of the republic’s past fights. This is a France who awaits the providential politician. There are no clans, no issue of skin color - only the despair, the gap that separates the poor from the rich. With his understanding and love for the forgotten part of the French nation, Jean-Éric Boulín offers a vivid exploration of the fissure at the heart of today’s France.

Nina BOURAOUI

The author

Nina Bouraoui was born in Rennes in 1967. She has written, amongst other books, “La voyageuse interdite” (awarded the *Prix Livre Inter* in 1991), “Le jour du séisme,” “Garçon manqué,” “La Vie heureuse,” “Poupée Bella,” “Mes mauvaises pensées” (awarded the *Prix Renaudot* in 2005), “Avant les hommes” and “Appelez-moi par mon prénom” (please see the “New Titles” section for this last novel).

Her works at Stock

“Avant les hommes”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2007
- 96 pages
- Rights sold to: Sweden (Elisabeth Grate), Algeria (French language rights, Sédia), Romania (Nemira)

The book

It is the story of a boy who lives alone with his mother, in a small semi-detached house on a housing estate. It is summer, the dangerous season, the time of violence. This is the story of Jeremy, who is bored and obsessed with Sami. This is the story of a desertion.

There is no hope for love in this book because the body, feverish with waiting and frustration, takes all the space, fills it with void and vertigo. Youth is a savage state where everything can happen; everything can be destroyed because it all rests on one force: desire.

For this novel, written after *Mes mauvaises pensées* (prix Renaudot 2005), Nina Bouraoui chooses a male narrator. She constructs a fiery, sensual tale that unveils the tumult and fragility of adolescence.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

From one book to the next, Nina Bouraoui demonstrates a renewed capacity to enthrall us through the singularity and captivating power of her writing.

“Mes mauvaises pensées” – Awarded the *Prix Renaudot* in 2005

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2005
- 286 pages
- Rights sold to: Sweden (Elisabeth Grate), Algeria (French and Arab language rights, Sédia), Vietnam (Phu Nu), Croatia (Algoritam), Korea (Woongjin Think Big), Norway (Solum), Estonie (Pegasus), Roumania (Nemira)

The book

“I went to Doctor C. once a week for three years. In the course of each session, I felt I was giving him a book: it was always about bonds, separations, meetings, and each time I constructed and deconstructed love’s works. *Mes mauvaises pensées* is the tale of this confession; a description of the work we need to put in learning to live and to love. This is not about therapy, or about myth making; it is a novel because it is a story told by someone; the story of my family, the story of the best friend, the singer Hervé Guibert, the story of my two countries. I never left Algeria, I was taken away from it and never said my farewells. I learnt to become in France: I think I was born twice. *Mes mauvaises pensées* is also the tale of a return to the country where I left something that grew in my absence and never ceased to terrify me” – Nina Bouraoui.

“Poupée bella”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2004
- 130 pages
- Rights sold to: Sweden (Elisabeth Grate)

The book

“Writing and love are part of the same tension, the same joy, the same loss. I am afraid of writing as I am afraid of loving. Love opens the way to writing, writing comes after love, becomes part of it or undoes it. Love does not exist on its own just as there is no writing without the other. Without desire, I cannot write. I am not innocent. I have always fallen for beauty. I write to express this rapture. This book is the story of the layers of love of which I am made up” – Nina Bouraoui.

“La vie heureuse”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2002
- 324 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (WIP)

The book

The portrait of Marie, a disguised portrait of the author herself during her 16th summer, is the unyielding and unforgiving portrait of a teenager whose childhood is slipping away. The reader will

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follow her as she experiences her first feelings of love. She will dare to express them with more beauty, more strength and more intensity than others. *La Vie heureuse* is a book about desire, suffused with songs, films and clothing trends from the eighties: Klaus Nomi is diagnosed with Aids while Sophie Marceau dances to the tracks in the film *La Boum*.

“Garçon manqué”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: September 2000
- 204 pages
- Rights sold to: Sweden (Elisabeth Grate), USA (English world rights, Nebraska UP), Italy (Le nuove muse), Portugal (Caleidoscopio)

The book

This is a novel on national identity, on the author’s own identity: Nina Bouraoui. Algerian or French? How to live in Algeria with a French mother, culture and language? How to live in France with an Algerian father? For the first time, Nina Bouraoui unites in this narrative the secrets and confessions of the two families and the two memories that make up her being. Without ignoring the hatred, silences and fragilities. This is a necessary and generous work.

Michel BRAUDEAU

The author

Michel Braudeau received the *Prix Médicis* in 1985 for “Naissance d’une passion.” Chief editor of *La nouvelle revue française* since 1999, he is the author of amongst others “L’objet perdu de l’amour,” “Mon ami Pierrot” and “Pérou.”

His work

“L’interprétation des singes”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2001
- 680 pages
- Rights sold to: Korea (Henamu)

The book

The novel opens with a hunt with dogs and men on motorbikes in the forest of Meudon, in the suburbs of Paris: Sarastre, a professor who is the head of a clinic that likes to keep itself rather discreet, tracks down and kills a young Arab and takes away his body. Aliocha, a reporter who is investigating the disappearance of a number of immigrants witnesses the scene. He learns through Quentin, a colleague of Sarastre, that a prominent personage named Bayard, the former leader of a disbanded sect, has come under cover to the clinic to receive a face transplant. As the novel progresses we discover exactly what sort of experiments the professor undertakes. Circumstances force him to flee to Thailand, taking his

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daughter Hermione with him. He is followed by Aliocha and his assistant Damien, who is eighteen years old and happens to be Hermione's boyfriend...

Frédéric BRUN

The author

Frédéric Brun was born in Paris in 1960. His first book, *Perla*, received the *prix Goncourt* for the first novel in 2007.

His work

“Perla” – Awarded the *Prix Goncourt du Premier Roman* in 2007

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2007
- 116 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Gwynplaine Edizioni)

The book

Even in Literature one does sometimes experience a feeling of urgency: the urgency, for instance, that *Perla* must be published straight away. Yet in itself, this book seems anything but hurried. It is an impassioned yet serene piece of writing. Neither novel, nor diary, nor fictional biography, *Perla* tells the story of a mother through a son's voice - the story of Perla, who, fifty years ago, was deported to Auschwitz, and is now dying, having found peace at last.

Interweaving episodes of Perla's past and present life, offering a detailed description of his childhood bond to her, Frédéric Brun constructs the portrait of a person as well as of a universe that are both unique and universal.

We thus understand the fascination of the author for some of the poets of German Romanticism; we identify with his joy in entering fatherhood, but also with Perla's endless grief; and we realise that the bond that keeps together this odd couple, Frédéric and his mother, can never be completely severed.

“Like a child entering the school of life, I'll always carry my school bag on my back, and it is as if you were still packing this bag for me. It is a fact: a mother never dies.”

The force and the scope of Brun's book rest on the miraculous equilibrium that his writing creates, between gentleness and terror, perplexity and marvel.

Caroline CAPOSSELA

The author

Caroline Capossela was born in Marseilles in 1979. She graduated in Literature at the University of Aix-en-Provence and now lives and works in Marseilles. *Vermicelle au pays des sourds* is her first novel.

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Her work

“Vermicelle au pays des sourds”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2007
- 288 pages
- Rights available

The book

Vermicelle is a precocious child. He owes his fast intellectual development partly to an illness that slows down his growth and induces a continuing physical degeneracy. Vermicelle is both remarkably lucid and extremely sarcastic. He despises adults, whom he finds corrupt, as well as young people, whom he finds superficial and ignorant. He is passionately in love with his best friend, Diane. Diane is convinced that Vermicelle can be cured. This is also what Dr Loise, the psychotherapy specialist, believes. However, the doctor, in whom Vermicelle confides his disillusion and bitterness, is very concerned by the boy's self-destructive tendencies, and encourages him to open himself to others. Following his advice, Vermicelle begins a friendship with Dorian, a boy his age who suffers from the same illness. But as soon as Diane appears to appreciate Dorian's company, Vermicelle starts to suspect the new-comer, to see him as a rival, and he loses all sense of morality and reason.

Vermicelle is an ambiguous character, a likable and disturbing boy of exceptional intelligence. He is a character who will stay with the reader for a long time, like the heroes of childhood tales that are transmitted from one generation to the next.

Caroline Capossela's novel is a spell-binding journey into the imaginary of a child who refuses to grow up – a novel with a startling and thought-provoking dénouement.

Elisabeth CARLE

The author

Elisabeth Carle lived in Germany where she taught French at the French Institute in Köln. On her return to France she worked in luxury retailing before she became a journalist. *D'honneur et d'eau fraîche* is her first novel.

Her work

“D'honneur et d'eau fraîche”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: April 2007
- 198 pages
- Rights available

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The book

At eleven, Elizabeth is convinced that her mother's threat will never be carried out: she may well be a rebel, a wild girl, but she'll never be sent to boarding school. This is 1959. Her father has just been posted to Algeria, and her mother cannot look after her unruly daughter and her three sons by herself.

"Land and honour," such is the motto of the boarding school where Elizabeth will spend seven years away from her family. She experiences the strict discipline of an institution that lives out of its time: wearing a uniform, washing in cold water, humiliating and ritualised punishments. She suffers from her mother's coldness, the separation from her brothers, and the anxiety of knowing that her father fights in the Algerian war. Then the war ends. The soldiers go home. Her father asks her to come back home yet to her own astonishment, the little girl, now a teenager, declines: she prefers to stay at the boarding school.

At last she is eighteen. She returns home, faces again the indifference of her mother, the military strictness of her father. She does not know where her place is anymore.

This novel takes us to the heart of life in the schools of the French 'Légion d'honneur,' these prestigious institutions created by Napoleon to house the daughters of deserving soldiers.

Forty years later, she recounts her seven years of internment without pathos or complacency. This is a deeply affecting book, sparing in style, and non judgmental: the book of an author who does not condemn, yet does not forget.

Bernard CHAPUIS

The author

Bernard Chapuis has published several novels at Stock, amongst which "La vie parlée" (2005), awarded the *Prix Roger Nimier*, and "L'année dernière" (1999).

His works at Stock

"Vieux garçon"

Specifications:

- "Raspberry Series"
- 248 pages
- Publication date: January 2007
- Rights available

The book

His friends call him Paul Newman. His ears stick out; he has a long nose, thick glasses and a slight limp. He is starting his final year in high school. He likes Greek, Latin, Physics and Classics. He does not like cultural shopping, communication spaces, forums for trends and four wheelers. He likes Mara's shorts, Claire's knickers, Agnès's neck and Barberine's bottom.

Summer in Paris. He invites his inseparable friends, 'Furtive the effusive', Adham and Agnès, to spend a few days at his flat during his parents' absence, and the foursome transform the place into a stage for impromptu libertine episodes.

The discovery of a safe, hidden behind a painting in his mother's room, initiates a detective's investigation that sets our hero on the search for the mysterious inhabitants of an isolated petrol station,

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set on a plateau in the midst of lavender fields. A young Asiatic girl, her mother, a man who reminds him of his own lost father...

Like Chapuis' previous novel "La Vie parlée," "Vieux garçon" offers an enthralling tale, elegantly written, full of humor and originality, and built around an absorbing set of characters and comical situations

"La vie parlée" – Awarded the *Prix Roger Nimier*

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: January 2005
- 230 pages
- Rights available

The book

Six characters come together to talk about Cormier, a great musician, who has retired and lives now in a town near a lake. Solange Lasserre, the caretaker, Camille Bonnavent, the old friend, Maurice Forbin, the manager, Odile Dhue, the daughter, Henri Nicolet, the businessman and Xenia Concessio, the wife. One after the other, without hesitation and in a conversational tone, they talk about Cormier as souvenirs come and go. The portrait of the absent becomes more and more precise...

Reprint available at Stock:

"L'année dernière" (June 2007). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Olivier CHARNEUX

The author

Olivier Charneux was born in 1963 in Charleville-Mézières. He has published three novels with Stock, "La grande vie," "Les dernières volontés" and "Nous vivons des vies héroïques." He also published two autobiographical novels with Seuil: "L'Enfant de la pluie" et "Être un homme." Charneux is also a playwright.

His work

"Nous vivons des vies héroïques"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: February 2007
- 178 pages
- Rights available

The book

Here are forty portraits of women and men that the author met by chance or sought out. Olivier Charneux is a writer and introduces himself as such to these people who do not know him yet agree to confide in him.

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Some set out to explore the world and lost part of themselves in the process; others dedicated themselves to, and grew through their work. Life treated some of them well, while some have suffered greatly. For some, love has been an illumination for others a tragedy, and for others it is political activism that brought self-fulfillment. In each one of them there is energy, courage or madness. The miracle of these encounters is that they assert the power of life-as-change.

To refuse to give-up, to believe in one's dreams; not to be afraid - there is the heroism of these people's journey through life.

The people that Olivier Charneux met are from a diversity of ages and backgrounds, social as well as religious. They form a portrait of today's France. The author merely crossed their path, but his stories demonstrate the great care and generous curiosity with which he conducts his exploration of the human condition.

Noëlle CHÂTELET

The author

Noëlle Châtelet has written numerous novels, essays and short stories, amongst which "Histoire de bouches," awarded the *Prix Goncourt* for short stories in 1987. "La dame en bleu" was awarded the *Prix Anna de Noailles de l'Académie française* in 1996.

Her works at Stock

"La petite aux tournesols"

Specifications:

- Publication date: April 1999
- 206 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Kiepenheuer & Witsch), Greece (Fytrakis), Korea (Samtoh), Lithuania (Vaga), The Netherlands (De Geus), Peru (Université Ricardo Palma), Russia (Slovo), Slovenia (Didakta)

The book

Mathilde is six years old. This year, she goes on vacation alone with her mother. Into this world bursts Rémi, seven years old. Is it because she saw the unusual passion of her grandmother for Félix, the 80-year-old painter? Mathilde in turn discovers love. Rémi and Mathilde love each other in the absolute way of very young children. Thus, all of the games become initiatory rituals, all instants are sources of bedazzlement and sometimes despair. With this novel, which celebrates the burning yellow of sunflowers, Noëlle Châtelet ends her trilogy of colours, where at three essential moments of her life, the woman is at the same time surprised and overwhelmed by her own transformations.

"La femme coquelicot"

Specifications:

- Publication date: June 1997
- 160 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Kiepenheuer & Witsch), Greece (Fytrakis), Korea (Samtoh), Lithuania (Vaga), The Netherlands (De Geus), Peru (Université Ricardo)

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Palma), Russia (Slovo), Slovenia (Didakta)

The book

Marthe is seventy years old. One would think that seventy is no longer an age for falling in love. However, Marthe, “La Femme Coquelicot,” does fall in love, with Félix, an 80 year-old artist whom she tenderly calls her “hero.” It is not Platonic but passionate love, where red, the colour of poppies and of desire, predominates. Marthe’s quiet, mundane life is turned upside down. Her children and grandchildren learn to see her differently, no longer as an elderly lady but as a young romantic girl who discovers late in life the joy of loving and being loved. Written as delicately as a fairy tale, this novel tackles a subject rarely mentioned, not to say taboo – love and passion between the elderly.

“La femme coquelicot” has been adapted to a television film.

“La dame en bleue”– awarded the *Prix Anna de Noailles de l’Académie française* 1996

Specifications:

- Publication date: June 1996
- 140 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Kiepenheuer & Witsch), Greece (Fytrakis), Korea (Samtoh), Lithuania (Vaga), The Netherlands (De Geus), Peru (Université Ricardo Palma), Russia (Slovo), Spain (Alba), Slovenia (Didakta)

The book

Turning fifty-two is not easy, especially for Solange, a beautiful, high-powered Parisian publicist agent, who has cheerfully devoted her life to the frenzied pace of her profession, her lover, her daughter. Until one day, while rushing to work, she is intrigued by an old woman dressed in a simple blue crepe dress walking slowly down a crowded avenue. Curious, Solange matches her stride to that of this lady in Blue and is gradually drawn into her charismatic, sure-footed calm. Thus begins Solange’s initiation into the subversive joys of aging, joys that baffle and dismay everyone around her.

Philippe CLAUDEL

The author

Philippe Claudel was born in 1962. He is the author of amongst others “Les Âmes grises”(awarded the *Prix Renaudot* in 2003, adapted to the screen in 2005 and translated into 30 languages), of “La petite fille de Monsieur Linh” and of “Le rapport de Brodeck” (awarded the *prix Goncourt des Lycéens* in 2007).

His works

“Le rapport de Brodeck”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2007

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- 406 pages
- Rights sold to: The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Germany (Rowohlt/Kindler), Greece (Psychogios), Norway (Cappelens), Romania (Polirom), Israel (Modan), Denmark (Arvids), Poland (Czytelnik), Finland (Otava), Sweden (Norstedts), Spain (Salamandra), Italy (Salani), Japan (Misuzu Shobo), Korea (Media 2.0), Vietnam (Phu Nu), Estonia (Pegasus), Serbia (Laguna), Portugal (ASA II), Algeria (French language rights, Sédia), China (simplified characters, Shanghai Translation), UK (Quercus/MacLehose Press), USA (Doubleday/Nan A. Talese), Catalonia (La Magrana), Estonia (Pegasus)

The book

Brodeck's job is not about telling stories. He writes short notices on the state of the flora and trees, the seasons and the game, the snow and rain – an insignificant activity for the administration that employs him. “What we want from you is not a novel” says Rudi Gott, the blacksmith, “you just have to say your bit, as you do in your reports.”

Brodeck agrees to at least try. Say things the way he does in his reports then, since he does not know how to express himself otherwise. The condition, however, is that everybody, all the inhabitants of the village and neighboring hamlets, approve of this.

Brodeck is extremely conscientious and will hide nothing of what he has seen, of the truth he does not yet know. Even if this truth is bad news.

The mayor of the village is irate. “What is the use of this Brodeck? Have you not seen enough dead during the war? What looks more like a corpse than another corpse, can you tell me? Your task is to take note of all the facts, but leave out insignificant details. Remember that you will be read by people who hold important posts in the capital. I can see that you doubt it, but yes, you will be read ...”

Brodeck takes the mayor's warning into account. Not to stray, not to look for that which is not there, or not there anymore. And yet. Brodeck will do exactly the opposite.

“Le monde sans les enfants et autres histoires”

Specifications:

- Publication date: October 2006
- 192 pages
- Rights sold to: The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Germany (Rowohlt), Italy (Salani), Korea (Media 2.0), Japan (Misuzu Shobo), Vietnam (Phu Nu)

The book

Today's children are not easily fooled, but they remain children all the same, with the anxieties, naivety, questions and hopes of children. The stories contained in this book are often funny and comical, but they open a poetic and sometimes philosophical window onto the world. As the words unravel, we meet a stream of kind-hearted characters: clumsy fairies, worries-sweepers, nightmare hunters, little girls who invent vaccines to make people happy, and many others. Through them, and with his usual sensibility, Philippe Claudel addresses delicate subjects and taboos – neglect, illness, war, death, difference, as well as all these small fears and complexes one has to get over in order to grow up.

These are stories to share with the rest of the family; an invitation to start a dialogue, to discuss with adults once the book is finished. Indeed, adults forget too easily the children they have been, and their responsibility towards generations to come. Pierre Koppe's superb illustrations accompany the text of this affecting book destined to all.

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“La petite fille de Monsieur Linh”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2005
- 140 pages
- Rights sold to: Portugal (ASA), The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Germany (Kindler), Italy (Ponte alle Grazie), Spain (Salamandra), Catalonia (La Magrana), Poland (Czytelnik), Japan (Misuzu Shobo), Turkey (Dogan), Taiwan (Chinese complex characters, Ecus), Korea (Media 2.0.), Vietnam (Phu Nu), Greece (Psychogios), Denmark (Arvids), Finland (Otava), Sweden (Norstedts), Thailand (Sanskrit), China (Chinese simplified characters, Nanjing Yilin), Bulgaria (Prosorets)

The book

Mr Linh is an old man. He left his war-devastated village with only a small suitcase containing a few worn clothes, a yellowing photograph, and a handful of earth from his home land. In his arms, he cradles a newborn baby. Sang Diu’s parents are dead, and Mr Linh has decided to take her, his grand-daughter, with him. After a long boat journey, they arrive in a cold grey city crowded with hundreds of refugees. Mr Linh has lost everything. From now on, he has to share a room with other displaced people, people who mock him for his clumsiness. In this town where everyone ignores everyone else, he nevertheless finds a friend in Mr Bark, a fat, solitary man. They do not speak the same language, yet they understand the musicality of words and the subtle language of gestures. Mr Linh is a pure heart, wounded by wars and losses, who lives only for his grand-daughter.

Philippe Claudel treats his characters with graceful respect. His book celebrates universal themes - friendship, compassion - with the elegance and transparency of the great classics of literature.

“Les âmes grises”: awarded the *Prix Renaudot* in 2003 and the *Grand Prix Littéraire des lectrices de Elle* in 2004

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2003
- 288 pages
- Rights sold to: The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Germany (Rowohlt), Italy (Ponte alle Grazie), Portugal (ASA), Spain (Salamandra), Catalonia (La Magrana), UK (Weidenfeld & Nicolson), USA (Knopf), Croatia (Profil), Serbia-Montenegro (Alfa-Narodna), China (Chinese simplified characters, Lijiang), Taiwan (Chinese complex characters, Ecus), Korea (Media 2.0), Sweden (Norstedts), Finland (Otava), Norway (Cappelens), Denmark (Arvids), Turkey (Dogan), Japan (Misuzu Shobo), Greece (Psychogios), Israel (Keter), Poland (Czytelnik), Russia (Olma), Vietnam (Alpha-Books), Algeria (French and Arab language rights, Sédia), Georgia (Agora), Iceland (Bjartur), Bulgaria (Prosorets), Estonia (Pegasus)

The book

A young girl is found murdered on the frozen banks of an ice-cold stream. It is winter, 1917, during World War I. A time of methodical slaughter. The novel never shows it, but it’s there – a hidden, monstrous presence. Whether it is little girls who are killed or thousands of men, nothing is more

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tragically human. Who killed Belle de jour? The local prosecutor – a cold and solitary man – the small deserter from Brittany or the marauder who’s passing through town? Years later, the inspector who had investigated the murder tells the stories of these interrupted lives: Belle de jour, Lysia the schoolteacher, the doctor of the poor who died of hunger, the burden of the little Breton... He writes awkwardly, with fear and respect. He, too, has a secret. These “grey souls” are the characters of the novel, at once great and contemptible. Described with painful intensity they evolve in a society undergoing great change, with its class connivance, its cowardliness and its shame.

“Les âmes grises” has been adapted to the wide screen and is currently available on DVD.

“Le bruit des trousseaux”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2002
- 96 pages
- Rights sold to: Portugal (ASA)

The book

Every week, and for 11 years, Philippe Claudel went to prisons to give French lessons to men and women, either sentenced or waiting to be, and who had committed relatively serious crimes. Short texts were the result of these encounters, scenes linked to one another, like an attempt to expose a place always hidden behind sealed doors. A place that haunts us and where most of us never go. Philippe Claudel lets us listen to the words of the prisoners and guards, the sounds of keys and locks. He makes no judgement. Inside prisons there are mediocre people and perverted people, but there are also admirable and very human people.

“J’abandonne” – Prix Roman France Télévision 2000

Specifications :

- “Blue Series” – Reprint
- Publication date: October 2006
- 120 pages
- Rights sold to: The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Germany (Rowohlt), Italy (Ponte Alle Grazie), Korea (Media 2.0), Slovakia (Pectus)

The book

The narrator is a young widower who lives alone with his twenty months old daughter. He is a psychologist, working in a hospital where his role is to tell families about the impending death of a loved one, and convince them to let the hospital remove organs from the body. Today however, he does not want to be a vulture anymore, jumping on corpses to tear at it like a hyena. His job disgusts him. In fact, everything disgusts him: the stupidity and hatred of his colleagues, the vulgarity, the violence and the ugliness of a world he feels he does not belong to anymore.

It is in the ‘confessional’, the small room where the ‘hyenas’ operate, in an extremely tense atmosphere, that he will slowly find the strength to live again. Deeply moved by the example of a mother who has just heard about the death of her seventeen years old daughter, he understands he cannot abandon his own daughter, so innocent and fragile. The tale of the wounded man, close to collapse, is thus interwoven with the expressions of care and affection of a father who refuses to bequest a world of aches and ruins to his daughter. “J’abandonne” is a cry of angst in the face of a de-humanised society, a vision without complacency of the cowardice and lies of our times. But compassion wins over and this

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

affecting book concludes with gestures and words that spell kindness and hope. “J’abandonne” was awarded the *prix Roman France-Télévision* in 2000. It was first published by Balland Publishing House.

“Meuse l’oubli”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series” – Reprint
- Publication date: October 2006
- 162 pages
- Rights sold to: The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij), Germany (Logo), Korea (Media 2.0)

The book

Paule is dead and from one bar to the next, her inconsolable lover weeps over their story. Of his beautiful Flemish girl, he has only kept three letters, read a hundred times, and an angora jumper that still holds her smell. He leaves his job, flees to a small town on the bank of the Meuse river where he settles. Far away from the places that saw him stagger along with pain and too many glasses of Rhine wine, he starts to write. Where do those who leave us go if not in our memory and in our writing? In his notebooks, he retrieves the laughter and the kisses of the tender Paule, as well as her face when marked by illness. A bad memory also resurfaces: that of the woman who could not love him, the mother - ‘a whore and proud to be one’. In which country, in whose arms does she now lay?

One cannot live with the dead however. The angora jumper loses the traces of perfume while the narrator lets himself drift with the memory of Paule’s words as if the currents of the Meuse river were carrying him away. Pain slowly disappears and the striking beauty of Reine, whose flamboyant red hair makes heads turn in the small city, is a call for life and hope.

Philippe Claudel’s first novel was published in 1999 by Balland Publishing House. The themes that remain at the heart of his oeuvre are already present: loss and grieving, the distant war, human tragedy and compassion. The poetic breadth of the text also pays homage to literature.

Also available at Stock:

“**Quelques-uns des cent regrets**” (2007, rights sold to: The Netherlands (De Bezige Bij). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Catherine CLÉMENT

The author

Philosopher and novelist, Catherine Clément also trained in psychoanalysis. She has published about forty works: essays on anthropology and psychoanalysis as well as novels which have proved extremely successful in France and abroad : “La Sultane,” “La Senora,” “Pour l’amour de l’Inde,” “Le Voyage de Théo”...

Her work at Stock

“Les derniers jours de la déesse”

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Specifications:

- Publication date: January 2006
- Rights sold to: Portugal (Asa)
- 288 pages

The book

In India, she is a goddess. One calls her Amma, the Mother. Today, she has decided to die, to abandon her aging body, to leave the ashram and her followers and to join her beloved, her divine half. But just before the official audience, a young photographer approaches the Mother, of whom he has to make a portrait. He is full of questions and of fury, and he knows a lot about it on the lady who, formerly, on stage, was called Rachel Ephraïm. The next day, he has mysteriously disappeared, and the goddess is not any more.

On Coromandel's coast, in the City where the divine lovers lived during twenty years, one worships their double grave, that of a single God united in two persons, male and female. Somebody — a voice — leads the inquiry and questions those who knew the Mother: her followers, her faithful companions, the consul general of France, the Pandit, her enemies, her family, the witnesses, friendly or hostile, of her official or secret life. In the course of conversations appears the fascinating portrait of an exceptional woman. Who was really Rachel Ephraïm? How did this woman, a Jew from Egypt, a former opera singer with a troubled life, become a goddess in India? Why is her death surrounded with shadows? From Villanour to Delhi, through Darjeeling, Haïfa in Israel and the Valley of the Loire in France, the inquiry brings many surprises. It takes us deep into the mystery of Southern India, this mystic and sensual country, and leaves us dazzled by the beauty of its rice fields and the intensity of its cities.

Collectif QUI FAIT LA FRANCE ?

The authors

All members of the group *Qui fait la France?* are in their twenties and thirties. They are born in France or in Northern Africa and live and work near Paris. Most of them have already published books with different publishers.

Their work at Stock

“Chroniques d’une société annoncée”

Specifications:

- Publication date: September 2007
- Rights sold to: Italy (Stampa Alternativa)
- 276 pages

The book

Qui fait la France? is a group born by chance, yet out of a common sense of anger. Whether they are already published authors or complete beginners, the members of this group share a preference for a literature of the real, socially minded and militant, that fights for an insightful awareness of territories and people that have been forgotten, and, more generally, for all those that do not have a voice where the fate of the country is concerned.

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

It was on the occasion of a televised programme that the idea of moving away from isolated writing and founding a group came up, and took the form of this project – an intellectual project as well as a legally established association of individuals.

The ten stories included in the collection speak of a wounded France: through the story of a youth beaten up at a police station (Mohammed Razane); the evocation of dreams growing in the oppressive environment of a housing estate (Mabrouck Rachedi); the ups and downs of those who are trying for 'integration' (Khalid El Bahji, Habiba Mahany); an African point of view on the capitalist mirage (Dembo Goumane). And also, of course: the need to escape and find refuge in dream lands (Jean-Eric Boulin); the myth of 'going back home' (Thomté Ryam); the virtualities of mythomania (Faïza Guène); the impossibility to forget past sufferings (Karim Amellal, Samir Abdel).

Anne CUNÉO

The author

Born in Paris and now sharing her time between Geneva and Zurich, Anne Cuneo is a journalist and a for the Swiss television. She wrote autobiographical stories and several novels that were published in Switzerland, France, Germany and The Netherlands. Her novel "Le trajet d'une rivière" was awarded the *Prix des libraires* in 1995.

Her work at Stock

"Le maître de Garamond"

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: February 2003
- 503 pages
- Rights available

The book

December 24, 1534, Place Maubert in Paris: Antoine Augereau has been accused of heresy. He is hanged, and his body and books are burned. A humanist, an erudite and a theologian, Antoine Augereau was also a great printer, publisher and engraver of typographic letters. The publication of *Miroir de l'âme* by Marguerite de Navarre will cost him his life. The Sorbonne, ferocious guardian of an inflexible orthodoxy, disapproves of the ideas of François the Ist's sister, but cannot condemn her. Antoine Augereau will pay in her place.

Told by the most famous of his disciples, this is the fascinating and moving story of a humanist ready to die for his ideas.

BACK LIST PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Didier DECOIN

The author

Didier Decoin was born in 1945 in the Parisian suburb Boulogne Billancourt. Awarded the *Prix Goncourt* for “John L’enfer” (Seuil, 1977), he is the author of twenty works amongst which “Jésus, le Dieu qui riait” published at Stock in 1999.

His work at Stock

“Henri ou Henry le roman de mon père”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: June 2006
- 256 pages
- Rights available

The book

At the age of eight, to help his family who live in a garret of the Saint-Gervais district, Henri Decoin leaves school and becomes a delivery boy. Forty years later, in September 1937, he arrives in Hollywood on 21-year-old Danielle Darrieux’s arm. In the interval, he has been a furrier apprentice, a water-polo national champion, and a sport journalist. In 1917, decorated with the Croix de guerre and a member of the Légion d’honneur for his conduct as an officer during the war, he publishes his first, autobiographical novel *Jeph, le roman d’un As*, followed ten years later with *Flambeau dans la nuit*. It is thanks to traveling shows that teenager Decoin discovered the magic of cinema. From 1933 to 1964 he completes around forty films, working with the greatest actors, from Danielle Darrieux to Jean Gabin and Jean Marais. It is this exceptional life-story that his son, Didier, recounts in this book. How Henri became Henry, the director of *Premier rendez-vous (First Affair)* and *La vérité sur Bébé Donge (The Truth about Bébé Donge)* amongst other great hits of the cinema. This is an affecting and sensitive portrayal of a remarkable man by an equally remarkable novelist.

Marina DÉDÉYAN

The author

Marina Dédéyan was born in 1969 and is of Russian and Armenian origins. “Moi, Constance, Princesse d’Antioche” is her first novel.

Her work at Stock

“Moi, Constance, Princesse d’Antioche”

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- 367 pages

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- Publication date: March 2005
- Rights sold to: Portugal (Aletheia)

The book

Winter 1130. The north-west of Syria. Constance is a small child when she discovers the body of her father, Bohémond de Hauteville, killed and beheaded by the Saracens. She has become the unique heir of the Principality of Antioch. Her mother Alice, the regent, schemes endlessly to oust this child she hates and seize the power. Bullied by some, ignored by others, the little girl can only count on the affection of Leïla, the mysterious guardian of the hammam. Constance's life is shattered when at the age of nine she is secretly married to a Knight from Poitou almost four times her age. In the midst of palace intrigues and the terrible wars that tear apart the middle-east at the time of the crusades – Turkish invasions, Byzantine claims over land, inner fights amongst the Franks – Constance fights her own battles to accomplish her destiny as a woman and as a princess.

Written in the first person, “Moi, Constance, Princesse d’Antioche” is the story of an exceptional destiny, unravelling in the colourful and sensual world of the Frankish knights of the Levant.

Olivier DESCOSSE

The author

A former barrister, Olivier Descosse now works as a full time script-writer and novelist.

His works at Stock

“Le pacte rouge”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- 454 pages
- Publication date: May 2005
- Rights sold to: Germany (Blanvalet)

The book

A bomb explodes in the heart of Marseille, and three mutilated bodies are found. But no-one claims this act of terrorism, and the investigation is at a stand-still. Chief police inspector Paul Cabrera is sent to work with the anti-terrorist cell. Cabrera is from Marseille, he knows the city's street-life, its codes and its informers. In addition, his uncle is amongst the victims. Guided by his instinct but motivated by his need for revenge, Cabrera unravels a complex net of terror. He is helped by a barrister, a woman of doubtful motivations who nevertheless provides him with precious information. Meanwhile, a young judge makes a series of apparently unrelated discoveries. From Marseille to Corsica, London and Pakistan, connections are made and three investigations become entangled. As the past resurfaces, two worlds come into conflict. Cabrera conducts his latest investigation in his usual ruffian's fashion, making his way through a world dominated by violence and death.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

“Le couloir de la pieuvre”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: April 2003
- 424 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Blanvalet)

The book

On the beach at Porquerolles, a drowned woman turns up. Paul Cabrera, a cop from Marseilles who could be taken for a criminal is investigating... without a mandate. He crosses paths with Meredith O'Brien, an American psychoanalyst and the victim's sister. The ensuing wild goose chase takes the reader from the ghettos of Marseilles to the luxurious backrooms of political power, from Tahiti to the abandoned sand-bordered atolls. The object of the hunt, the body, has been stolen from the morgue but its secrets are unravelling...

“Miroir de sang”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: May 2004
- 428 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Blanvalet)

The book

The horribly mutilated corpse of a child is discovered among the cliffs overlooking the coast of Marseille. Two unconventional cops are on the case: Riad Kellal, a Crime Squad detective with an Algerian background, and tough-guy cop Paul Cabrera, in charge of the north sector. Separately working on the same case, each man has a personal reason for getting to the murderer first. From Marseille to Lyon through the Camargue, from the underworld of the Hell's Angels gang to the underworld of gypsies, the trails run parallel while another crime is in preparation. Paul Cabrera's second case, *Miroir de sang*, plunges the reader into the depths of human madness.

Ya DING

The author

Ya Ding is a Francophone author with Chinese origins. Before the publication of “Le Sorgho Rouge” he had established himself as one of the best translators of classics of French literature in Chinese (including, amongst others, “Le spleen de Paris” by Baudelaire and Flaubert’s “Correspondance”). Originally written in French, “Le sorgho rouge” is his first book. It was published in 1987 and has since become an international best-seller.

His work at Stock

“Le Sorgho Rouge”

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Specifications:

- Publication date: April 2006 (reprint) • Rights sold to: Spain (Destino)
- 264 pages

The book

Liang Li, the hero of this story, is only nine when he becomes a witness to one of the greatest upheavals in Chinese history: The Cultural Revolution. The Li family settles in a small village in the North of the country and discovers the reality of rural life: poverty, a feudal society and the persistence of old superstitions... The great Maoist revolution has been launched, but Liang, who dreams of becoming one of its heroes, soon loses all hope: incriminating documents are found and his parents are sent to prison. Liang is left to wander in the fields of red Sorgho with his four-year-old sister... Ya Ding's best seller is a magnificent novel and an essential read.

Boucar Boris DIOP

The author

Boucar Boris Diop is a novelist and a journalist from Senegal. In 1997, he published "Le cavalier et son ombre" at Stock.

His work at Stock

"Murambi – Le livre des ossements"

Specifications:

- Publication date: March 2000
- 236 pages
- Rights sold to: Spain (Castilian world rights, Casiopea), Senegal (Papyrus), Italy (E/O Edizioni), USA (English world rights, Indiana UP)

The book

How does one tell the horror of Rwanda's genocide? Boucar Boris Diop brings us one of the first historical novels dedicated to Rwanda's most painful truth. Retracing the atrocities that took place from April to July 1994, which resulted in one million Tutsi deaths, the book's narrative offers voices that are both Tutsi and Hutu. At the center of this work lives Cornelius Uvimana, a man who returns to Murambi after 25 years of exile only to find a country haunted by its dead and its living. This poignant novel reveals humanity's ultimate vulnerability and the consequent role of the individual in any genocide.

Ahmed DJOUDER

The author

Ahmed Djouder is an editor. "Désintégration" is his first book.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

His work

“Désintégration”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2006
- 157 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Il_Saggiatore)

The book

Are Polish, Italian or Spanish people told that they are ‘third generation immigrants’? Why Arabs? What is so special about them? Why are we frightened of them and why are they frightened of France? In his unique, elaborate yet often brutally direct style, the author offers a reading of the crisis that has been brewing in the French suburbs and recently shook the country.

“Do you know many Arabs who have had a successful career? You would like to see them succeed? Well then. There might well be a few teachers, a few social workers, some nurses and journalists, a handful of sportsmen (presented as French of course) and lawyers, a few civil servants, a few councilors, one prefect of police. This last one almost got killed. There are also loads of manual workers, salesmen, rubbish collectors, masons, under-paid employees and technical and maintenance workers as well as people unemployed and in jail...

Our parents will never play tennis, badminton, or golf. They’ll never go skiing. They’ll never eat in a fancy restaurant; buy Louis-Philippe or Louis XV furniture, a Guy Degrenne table set, Baccarat glasses or even a blind from Habitat. They will never go to a classical music concert. They will not acquire a flat or a pretty house somewhere in France for their retirement. No. After decades of sacrifices, they choose to invest in houses back in the ‘bled’: concrete cubes built in the Arabic countryside and called villas.”

This book sounds the alarm because its tone is truthful rather than merely provocative. It offers an insider’s point of view, intimate, raw and genuine, about an ‘integration’ process that fails. This is the vision of a very young author who gives us all the good reasons to do our duty as members of the electorate.”

Jean-Luc DOUIN

The author

Jean-Luc Douin is a journalist for *Le Monde*. He is the author of several works on cinema, and in 2004 he published an inquiry on the assassination of Gérard Lebovici: *Les jours obscurs de Gérard Lebovici*. *Le premier sommeil* is his first novel.

His work

“Le premier sommeil”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- 216 pages

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- Publication date: May 2007
- Rights available

The book

The narrator, a journalist who is passionate about cinema, investigates in a young female novelist. She is surrounded by mysteries, but this does not stop them from falling for each other as the investigation advances.

Their love story brings back painful memories for the narrator, who had an affair with the young Sarah Miller thirty years before. She died shortly afterwards in tragic circumstances during the turbulent period of 1968.

Sarah Miller was the daughter of Rachel Miller, a former actress of Russian descent, who made a career in Hollywood in the 1930s under the name of Susan Swinton. She mingled with the biggest names of the art scene of the time. Connoisseur of cinema, of magnetic faces and hidden beauties, the narrator remembers this forgotten star very well.

Did Sarah really exist? Is she not merely the face of a dream, the body of a phantasm? Did Rachel Miller illuminate the Hollywood screens? What is the narrator looking for, if it is not himself, through sleepless nights? Everything is but thoughts, poetry and mystery.

Le premier sommeil reminds one of the universe of films by David Lynch and by the surrealists. Troubling, sensual, dreamlike and melancholic, the novel mixes phantasm and reality. Apart from being a true-false sociological police investigation, where Hollywood actresses mingle with painters and forgotten poets, this novel is also a love story, a vibrating homage to cinema and literature, and to the eternal feminine.

“ECRIVINS”: A COLLECTION DIRECTED BY PHILIPPE CLAUDEL

“The collection ECRIVINS is the result of two loves: the love of wine and the love of literature. Furthermore, it is the result of a lack: There are hundreds of books about wine, but very few are written by actual writers. Historians, sociologists, scientists have written about wine, but very few authors have. ECRIVINS is not a collection by specialists, but by amateurs, by lovers. We invite writers of all cultures and languages to celebrate the wine, to make wine the subject of fiction or introspection. Novel, short story, pamphlet, auto-fiction, memoirs...the form can be various, the content matters...” Philippe CLAUDEL

Published so far in the Collection ECRIVINS:

Patrick CLOUX:	“Un vin de paille,” 180 p. Rights available.
Daniel ARSAND:	“Ivresses du fils,” 120 p. Rights available.
Sébastien LAPAQUE:	“Chez Marcel Lapierre,” 150 p. Rights available.
Pierre CHARRAS	“L’oiseau,” 96 p. Rights available.
Alain ROEHR	“Le fil de l’eau,” 87 p. Rights available.
Sylvie GOUTTEBARON	“Du corps,” 68 p. Rights available.
Baptiste-Marrey	“Rouge le vin, rouge mon cœur,” 70 p. Rights available.
Nicole LOMBARD	“Loin des vendanges,” 158 p. Rights available.
Jean-Claude PIROTTE	“Expédition nocturne autour de ma cave,” 92 p. Rights available.

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François EMMANUEL

The author

François Emmanuel lives in Belgium. He is the author of several novels, amongst others “La passion Savinsen” (Stock, 1998), “Le vent dans la maison” (Stock, 2004) and “Bleu de fuite” (Stock, 2005).

His work

“La question humaine”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2000
- 112 pages
- Rights sold to: Argentina (Losada), Italy (San Paolo), Greece (Travlos), UK (Review, English world rights, Brazil (Estação Liberdade), The Netherlands (De Arbeiderspers), Germany (Antje Kunstmann), Bulgaria (Sema)

The book

A psychologist, assigned to the human resources department of a multinational corporation must discreetly investigate the mental health of the CEO. At first, he believes that he is facing a simple conflict between people, but, little by little, he is dragged into the private life and the painful trust of the man he is supposed to observe. After successive discoveries, the past re-emerges into the present, and the logic of mass murder sheds a terrible light on our technocratic society.

A cinema adaptation of “La question humaine” was released September 2007 in France.

“Le vent dans la maison”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2004
- 198 pages
- Rights available

The book

Just returned from Africa, Hugo returns to the village where he spent his summers as a child. Alice Almeida, a woman he was in love with but hasn't seen for sixteen years, had sent him a strange and alarming letter. He goes to her house and finds it in ruins: something terrible has happened. Interned in a psychiatric hospital in the area, Alice is only the shadow of her former self, walled in silence, diminished, insane. Patiently and stubbornly, Hugo tries to reach her. Her inner wanderings reflect the narrator's own solitude. He has also had a traumatic experience: during an investigation of a disappearance in the Air desert, he was seriously wounded and then saved by a Tuareg woman. Day after day, the haunting story of those “Tuareg nights” hovers over these lovers of the past and mysteriously seals their reunion. Alice breaks through her silence little by little, the story is

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

reconstructed in violent spurts. Fragile and tenuous, life makes its way again through the long dried-out channels.

Also available at Stock:

“Bleu de fuite” (2005), “Le sentiment du fleuve” (2003), “La chambre voisine” (2001), “La passion Savinsen” (1998; rights sold to Estonia (Varrak), Romania (Fondation_Libra). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Annie ERNAUX

The author

Annie Ernaux published her first novel “Les armoires vides” in 1974. Awarded the *Prix Renaudot* in 1984 for “La place,” she wrote amongst others “Une femme” (1988), “Passion simple” (1992) and “La honte” (1997), all published at Gallimard.

Her work

“L’écriture comme un couteau – Entretien avec Frédéric-Yves Jeannet”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2003
- 162 pages
- Rights sold to: Korea (Munhakdongne)

The book

“Throughout this interview of Frédéric-Yves Jeannet, my only concern was to be as sincere and precise as possible; the former, as I discovered, being more difficult to obtain than the latter. It is not easy to account for thirty years of the practice of writing, without unifying or boiling it down to a few principles, letting inevitable contradictions appear, or bringing concrete detail to what most of the time escapes our consciousness. The assembly of my sentences and the choice of words is dictated by my desire, and I cannot teach this to some one else as it eludes even me. But I think I can at least give an idea of the aim of my texts and my ‘reasons’ for writing.” - Annie Ernaux

Éric FAYE

The author

Éric Faye was born in 1963. He works for the Reuter’s Paris office. Author of short stories as well as novels, he has published “Croisière en mer des pluies” (1999), “Les cendres de mon avenir” (2001), “La durée d’une vie sans toi” (2003), “Mes trains de nuit” (2005), “Le syndicat des pauvres types” (2006), and “L’homme sans empreintes” (2008) at Stock. Faye is also an essay writer, specialist of Ismaïl Kadaré. One of the most original writers of his generation, he constructs universes that are imbued with a unique sense of the fantastic and mythical.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

His works

“Le syndicat des pauvres types”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 214 pages
- Rights available

The book

The novel starts with the transfer of Antoine Blin’s remains from the Panthéon to... the graveyard of his native suburb. This humble post-office employee, robbed of a real life, the victim of crooks of all kinds, suddenly emerges from the shadows into the limelight. At the age of forty four, Antoine is elected as ‘Mister Everybody’, and celebrated as one of the most popular personality of the country.

It was on an exceptionally hot, stuffy day, that it suddenly happened. For a while now, Antoine had become convinced that a pungent, persistent smell surrounded him. Coming out of the doctor’s, he made an encounter that changed his destiny and lead him to his tragic end.

“Le syndicat des pauvres types” is a comical and cruel tale with a anti-hero, a solitary, withdrawn man who hardly has a taste of glory before he is murdered. Éric Faye delights in combining the everyday reality with absurdity, angst and humor. This novel confirms the unique, compelling style that had guaranteed the success of Faye’s first novel, “Le Général Solitude,” (Le Serpent à Plumes, 1995).

“Mes trains de nuit”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: October 2005
- 252 pages
- Rights sold to: Korea (Prunsoop)

The book

Journeys by night trains became Eric Faye’s first experience with happy insomnia. Moscow, Prague, Split, Sarajevo, Berlin, Peking – so many sleepless nights shared with the “people of the corridor:” smokers, lovers of the night, unrepentant chatters. The sleeper is a privileged space for dreams and encounters, a space where time seems to stop, and the train journey becomes a condensed version of one’s existence, with its separations and its terminus. From Hitchcock to Lars von Trier, filmmakers have explored the potentials of this propitious stage where mystery and magic operate. Unravelling fleeting memories that provide the wonderful material of his fiction, the author takes us along an unusual literary maze. Aboard the Red arrow or the Kafka express, we cross forgotten frontiers, empires that have vanished from the maps, lost corners of the world. The book is a celebration in praise of slow motion, contemplation and a form of nomadic existence that is about to disappear.

Also available at Stock:

“La durée d’une vie sans toi” (2003), “Les cendres de mon avenir” (2001) and “L’homme sans empreintes” (2008, see the “New Titles” section). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

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Aurélie FILIPPETTI

The author

The daughter of miners from the Lorraine region, Aurélie Filippetti studied at the famous *École normale*. She has been elected councilor in the 5th district of Paris, and heads the *Festival international du documentaire* of Marseille. Her first novel, “Les derniers jours de la classe ouvrière,” was met with great critical acclaim.

Her works

“Un homme dans la poche”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2006
- 212 pages
- Rights available

The book

It is a love story, but the story of a love that has vanished; a lost love. Writers always write the same book, the same story. Aurélie Filippetti’s first novel - a book that explored her family origins against the backdrop of the mining world till the closure of the last pit at Audun-le Tiche - was a success with the critics and the public alike. To follow from “Les derniers jours de la classe ouvrière,” with the intimate love story of “Un homme dans la poche” may thus appear a step away from her initial approach and as such, a risky venture. But it is the opposite: risky indeed - but all true writers take risks - yet not necessarily foreign to her original field. In effect, there seems to be no subject more topical to the working class reality than that of adulterous love. He is married and she is not. He has two children, and she brings up her little girl alone. They fall in love. Aurélie Filippetti shows, like no-one else did before, how love and class are tied together. The only moment where the lovers are equal, one and the same person, is, precisely, when they are naked, making love. Otherwise, the inequality reappears – a domination born less of gender than of class difference. For him, birth is what matters, more than education or habits. She, on the other hand, remains in the grip of a shame that would only vanish if her lover abandoned a comfortable life to take her away. But he will not give up this existence; will not take her away; and so his lover, the story teller, finally chooses to keep this man in her pocket as it were, so as not to forget him completely.

Beautifully crafted, raw and intense, Aurélie Filippetti’s novel is deeply affecting: few writers have managed to say, in one book, the truth of human bodies caught in the web of the class system.

“Les derniers jours de la classe ouvrière”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: September 2003
- 198 pages
- Rights sold to: Greece (Polis), Italy (Il Saggiatore)

The book

This particularly moving novel is a just and vibrant tribute to the working class of the twentieth century. Around the central figure of Angelo – renamed Angel, son of Italian immigrants who was a miner for

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thirty years before becoming a communist mayor – emerges a portrait of those generations of workers who underwent exile, war, political disillusionment and economical recession. And behind and beside them a hidden population - wives, children and colleagues – has been sacrificed and nearly forgotten. To these people often ashamed of their condition, the author gives a voice.

Élise FONTENAILLE:

The author

Born in Nancy in 1960, Élise Fontenaille began her career as a journalist. She has written five novels, published by Grasset: “La Gommeuse” (1997), “Le Palais de la Femme” (1999), “Demain les Filles on va tuer papa” (2001), “L’Enfant Rouge” (2002) and “Brûlements” (2006).

Her work at Stock

“Unica”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2007
- 162 pages
- Rights available

The book

The story takes place in Vancouver, in the near future. Herb Charity is a cyber policeman, part of a specialised branch of the police force that hunts down pedophiles on the Net. During one of their inquests, he arrests a young woman and falls in love with her. Yet Unica Bathory is a disconcerting character: a woman who appears to have stopped growing up - a fake child with white hair. She is also the leader of a gang of nano-terrorists that punishes voyeurs as well as the clients of pedophilic networks by injecting their cortex with a computer chip to make them feel the pain of the children they abuse – an unbearable suffering that can provoke blindness.

At the frontier between reality and the virtual, truth and deceit, a strange love story develops between Herb, a young man not yet fully adult, and Unica, a grown up woman locked in the body of a young girl. Unica is a cruel and playful tale that takes place in a very near future and offers a highly topical reflection on the era of virtuality (love through machines, virtual crimes...).

Élise Fontenaille is a formidable story teller. Hers are wonder worlds populated with the strangest of characters. With *Unica*, she constructs a story in the tradition of Philip-K. Dick and Tim Burton’s fiction.

François FORESTIER

The author

François Forestier is a journalist for *Le Nouvel Observateur*. He recently published “Howard Hughes, l’Homme aux secrets” (Michel Lafon, 2005), which was an instant best-seller.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

His work at Stock

“Rue des rats”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: May 2005
- 259 pages
- Rights available

The book

In the 18th quarter of Paris, between the districts of the Goutte d'or and that of La Chapelle, drug reigns. Poverty and exclusion have colonized the place while rats took over bins, gutters, and buildings ... All trafficking is controlled by two black gangs: the Salt Men gang and the Men's Men gang. Max Mpétigo is a metis, expert in industrial risk management. Max observes the disintegration of this world, so familiar to him. Yet this time, unrest is growing amongst the locals. Algerians, Sudanese, Koreans, Haitians, Croatians and Byelorussians – the community is angry: buildings are crumbling, fires multiply, the police finds several horribly mutilated bodies of murdered drug addicts. One more in a series of police mishandlings and the whole district is in turmoil. Although Max agrees to cooperate with police inspector Sétubal, the investigation is complicated by the discovery that Max's friend Macdou, owner of the most popular of the local restaurants, is implicated in dirty business. In the midst of the dark wars waged by opposite factions and hidden powers, Mpétigo has to try and save his friend and restore the fragile balance that keeps the community together.

Éric FOTTORINO

The author

Born in 1960, Éric Fottorino is a journalist for *Le Monde*.

His works at Stock

“Un territoire fragile”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2000
- 166 pages
- Rights sold to: Greece (Diamantis), The Netherlands (Wereldbibliotheek), Spain (Tempora)

The book

Clara Werner, a woman in her twenties, walks the streets of Bergen, Norway. She has just found work at the Oceanographic Institute and appears content with her life. She feels liberated from Morocco and from the husband who returned her love by beating and raping her during their exile in Dublin. But as she continues to walk the wharves of Bergen, she knows that her husband and Morocco are still deep within her. Doctors have told her that they cannot help her with her strange skin disease, and Clara is convinced that she is incurable. But one day, she meets a man who tunes bodies like instruments. During

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their encounters, Clara lies naked under his spell while he delivers her from years of pain, beginning with her memories of an unloving mother. Under his healing touch, Clara recalls her most influential moments her childhood, her Moroccan youth and her terror in Dublin when she fought for her life.

“Nordeste”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 1999
- 236 pages
- Rights sold to: Greece (Diamantis)

The book

A long time ago, Waldemar Cuzco sold Brazilian children to rich Europeans. Tancredi, his compagnon, a very old parrot, was his accomplice. He is Waldemar’s memory, he knows all of his secrets but does not divulge them.

“Nordeste” is a love story dominated by the song of a bird who repeats nothing. Each in turn, the characters speak and answer each other. Their successive voices reconstruct Waldemar’s broken life. From silent murmurs appears the veritable portrait of the man who was loved by a woman, thousands of children and a very old Tancredi who knew the fragility of terrestrial pleasures.

Jean-Louis FOURNIER

The author

Jean-Louis Fournier is the author of “La grammaire française et impertinente” (Payot) and of numerous works published by Stock, amongst others “Satané Dieu !,” “Il a jamais tué personne mon papa,” and “J’irai pas en enfer.” In August 2008, he published “Où on va, papa ?” (see the “New Titles” section).

His works at Stock

“Satané Dieu !”

Specifications:

- Publication date: March 2005
- 94 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Meridiano Zero), Korea (Wisdom House), Turkey (Chiviyazilari)

The book

God has finished the world. He has done his 150 terms. He can retire. He chooses to move in with St Peter on the top floor of a tower block, overlooking humanity. Sometimes, he plays dominos with St Peter, but mostly, he is bored. He hears the downstairs neighbors having a good time and he is jealous. Their happiness hurts him. This is when he decides to create all those ills, great and small, that make the daily life of men a misery: mosquitoes, famine, rust, fish bones, Mondays, acne, oil, wasps, ITV, the plague, overpopulation, crying children, cholesterol...Every night, God and St Peter have a hell of a time. After creating the paradise on earth, God was inventing an inferno. God’s goodness is much talked about, his cruelty less so, but Jean-Louis Fournier decided to remind us about all the God of Love’s

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Machiavellian inventions, all that can turn human life into hell. In fact, God doesn't love men: that is the message this insolent, cheerful book conveys for the greatest entertainment of the free spirited reader.

“Il a jamais tué personne mon papa”

Specifications:

- Publication date: June 1999
- 154 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Salani), Greece (Patakis), Thailand (Butterfly), Korea (Woongjin), China (Commonwealth Publishing)

The book

Jean-Louis Fournier recounts his memories of childhood in a provincial town, in the middle of an uncommon family, with a father, a doctor, who dresses like a bum, visits his patients in slippers, loses his car in a beetroot field and plays ball with oranges. A father who makes one laugh or cry because this father likes to have a drink, or several, in bistros.

Also available at Stock:

“Antivol, l'oiseau qui avait le vertige” (2003), “Le petit Meaulnes” (2001), “J'irai pas en enfer” (2001; rights sold to Korea), and “Où on va, papa ?” (see the “New Titles” section). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Bruno GIBERT

The author

Bruno Gibert was born in a Parisian suburb in 1961 and is a children's book artist. Following “Claude” (2000), which was awarded the *Prix du premier roman*, he has published “Les Écrivains” (2002), “Le sol de Mars” (2003) “Juste né” (2005), and “Réussir sa vie” (2006) at Stock.

His works at Stock

“Réussir sa vie”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 160 pages
- Rights available

The book

They live in the Parisian suburbs of Gennevilliers, Asnières or Nanterre. They are 23, 39 or 56 years old. Drifting youth, cashier, barman, immigrant without papers, they are unemployed or they earn the minimum salary or moonlight; here, they talk about their private and professional life, the setbacks and the hopes. Instability, small jobs, small time trafficking, depression, divorce... When you are young, you don't know what life will be like. Should we bury our childhood dreams in order to find a place in society?

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Who are these characters talking to? A potential employer, a temping agency representative, a psychologist or the Prime Minister? Bruno Gibert offers us tales that are both unique and universal. Because Tonino or Nicole, at this point in their life story, reflect our own ways of dealing with the world. At the same time, the repetitive discourse on success, with its recipes, acts as a foil, reminding us of our duty to perform and be fulfilled. Better than an essay, “Réussir sa vie” shows the gaps and silent sufferings that split our society. This is a provocative novel, which unusual style and structure constructs a compelling critique of the myth of individual success.

Also available at Stock: “Claude” (2000; *Prix du premier roman*), “Les écrivains” (2002), “Le sol de mars et autres photographies” (2003), and “Juste né” (2005). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

Brigitte GIRAUD

The author

Brigitte Giraud was born in Algeria in 1960. She used to be a journalist and a bookseller and is now in charge of an important literature festival in the area of Lyon, where she resides

Her works at Stock

“L’amour est très surestimé” – Awarded the *Bourse Goncourt de la Nouvelle 2007*

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2007
- 96 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Fischer), Italy (Guanda), Norway (Engelstad), Hungary (Europa), Turkey (Açık Defter), Greece (Potamos), Vietnam (Thai Ha), Serbia (Stylos), Romania (Nemira), Taiwan (Ecus)

The book

Eleven voices, eleven characters recount the end of a love story.

How did it happen? Irritation, indifferent kisses, conflicts, romances that are failures from the start: all in all, the couple is unveiled, without the prop of fiction.

This is a depiction of the couple ripped apart and in pain, when you cannot stand each other anymore; when you have stopped dreaming together; when you are about to break-up. You start explaining the situation to the children. Or you think you can catch up the lost time and you shut your mouth to avoid creating irreversible damages.

The end of love is also the disappearance of the loved one, the person you talk to in the dark and without whom you lose your sense of place.

These are familiar stories, where we find again the small bargains, the disillusion, as well as the violence that one experiences in such situations. These are tales of ordinary lives, from women and men as they launch into the old adventure of love. Sparse and intense, in the vein of Brigitte Giraud’s celebrated style, this radical and deeply affecting book testifies to the author’s unique ability to convey the fragility of beings, and offers a lucid and critical account of life as a couple.

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“J’apprends”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2005
- 162 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Fischer), Taiwan (Ecus)

The book

This novel is Nadia’s story, a child, then a teenager, learning to read and discover the world. Two worlds confront each other: the world of school, and that of home, almost completely independent of each other.

It is not so much what we learn at school that matters, but how school shapes our vision of the world, how this parallel universe becomes the common denominator for a whole generation. To answer one’s name when the register is called; to wait for one’s turn; write down the right answer; wait till the school mistress looks at you... And also, be an obedient witness when a punishment goes too far, learn how to lie to adults, resist them.

Brigitte Giraud’s characteristic style, her concise and artless writing imbues each of her texts with an unrivalled accuracy and emotional power.

“À présent”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2001
- 108 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Fischer), China (simplified characters, Citic), Italy (Guanda)

The book

“We are seated in the shade of the cherry tree. Both families, as well as faithful friends. I move from one chair to another, I get up, I don’t know what to do with myself. I can’t find where I ought to be. I am surrounded by all those I love and yet I feel uneasy. I know that everyone, sooner or later, will leave. They will go back to their lives. They will make love. They will continue with the things they have started.” “A présent” is the story of a woman who has just learnt about the brutal death of her partner. Brigitte Giraud writes simply, without raising her voice or giving herself over to lamentation, with well chosen words that go deep and give her work its universality.

Also available at Stock: “Marée noire” (2004; rights sold to Germany), and “Nico” (1999). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

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Jocelyne GODARD

The author

Jocelyne Godard is the author of a saga on ancient Egypt (*Les Thébaines*) and of the *Trilogie des Millefleurs* published at Stock.

Her works at Stock

“Trilogie des Millefleurs” volumes I, II, and III

The “Millefleurs”-trilogy takes place during the last two decades of the 15th century and portrays the reign of Louis XI and Charlotte de Savoie. When the king dies, his eldest daughter, the wise and ambitious Anne de Beaujeu, undertakes the Regency until her younger brother comes of age, the future King Charles VIII. In order to put an end to the war, which Louis d’Orléans had started between the House of Brittany and the Crown, Anne de Beaujeu arranges the marriage of her brother to the Duchess Anne of Brittany, uniting Brittany to France. This cycle of the “Millefleurs”-trilogy ends with Anne of Brittany’s crowning as Queen of France and Charles VIII embarking upon the first wars with Italy.

Volume I: “L’offrande du Coeur”

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: April 2004
- 427 pages
- Rights available

The book

The year is 1480. Léonore – grand-daughter of Clarisse who was lost at sea near Constantinople and once ran a tapestry workshop in Saumur – begins a search for her father Thomassaint, a tapestry weaver in Flanders. She never knew him. Her chances of finding her father rest on the one thing she inherited from him: a Millefleurs tapestry, a veritable little work of art known as “l’Offrande du Coeur” which was found on a pirate ship roaming the Black Sea. A moving quest undertaken by an intrepid young woman who is distracted from her goal by the impulses of her heart.

Volume II: “La baillée des roses”

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: May 2004
- 381 pages
- Rights available

The book

1490. While Brittany fights for its independence, Léonore travels from Bruges – where her father runs a tapestry workshop – to Tours, where the man she secretly loves is a canon at the bishopric. But more than anything else, she dreams of seeing Isabelle, the child she had to abandon at the court of Brittany and who was brought up alongside the Duchess Anne.

Volume III: “Une flambée d’or”

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: June 2004
- 359 pages
- Rights available

The book

1495. Brought up at the court of Brittany without knowing of her true origins, Isabelle de la Baume has never met her mother Léonore Cassex and did not follow in the footsteps of her ancestors, tapestry weavers in Val de Loire. But when Queen Anne, who's lady-in-waiting Isabelle is, tries to force her into marriage, she rebels and flees to Italy. Without the support of her family, will she – like her mother – have to leave the child she gives birth to and keeps hidden in Rome?

Simonetta GREGGIO

The author

Simonetta Greggio is Italian but has lived in France for more than twenty years. After her first novel, “La douceur des hommes” (Stock, 2005), she published a tale, “Etoiles” (Flammarion, 2006), and a second novel at Stock in 2007: “Col de l’Ange” (see “New Titles”).

Her works at Stock

“Col de l’Ange”

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: April 2007
- 144 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Corbaccio), The Netherlands (De Geus), Germany (Blanvalet), Slovakia (Pectus)

The book

Nunzio died seventeen days ago. He left everything behind: his architect agency, his clients, his lover, and his friend, Blue, who is wrecked by grief. Nunzio is dead and he is the only one who knows the truth. Why is he still floating between the land of the dead and the land of the living?

Blue does not understand how Nunzio could just vanish like that, all of a sudden. At long last she decides to go back to the “Col de l’Ange,” the village they grew up in, which they left thirty years before. Since then, they have become famous: he as a celebrated architect, and Blue as a successful model, featuring on the front covers of the best magazines. In the deserted family house, Blue is overwhelmed with memories.

When she was a small girl, she was nick-named Nine. Then she became Blue, the girl who makes heads turn. This was not a painless process. Her childhood was ruined. Her heart still bears the marks of the blows she received.

Blue knows that, dead or alive, her friend is waiting for her here. What she does not know is that it is a trap. Someone else is waiting for her at the “Col de l’Ange,” someone who does not want to let her go.

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In the midst of a terrible storm, she takes the path that leads from life to death under the watchful gaze of her ever present guardian angel, Nunzio.

“La douceur des hommes”

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: March 2005
- 175 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Corbaccio), Germany (Blanvalet), The Netherlands (De Geus), Korea (Prume Publishing)

The book

Before she dies, the free spirited Fosca embarks on one last trip to Venice with her elective granddaughter Constance. There is apparently little in common between the adventurous older woman and her careful, well behaved young companion. Yet a deep friendship binds them together and in the course of the journey Fosca entertains Constance with an open hearted account of her life. She recalls her childhood as a rich heiress, and all the men, lovers and husbands, who passed through her life... After Fosca’s death, Constance inherits her mysterious black book-note, and discovers a new facet of her friend’s personality. She also realises that she herself holds the answers to many questions.

Amadou HAMPÂTÉ BÂ

The author

Fables, tales and legends, in turn humoristic, symbolic or mystical... The allegorical and facetious style of the master storyteller that Amadou Hampaté Bâ was sheds a special light on the qualities and the shortcomings of human society. Whether it is a question of adventure stories mixed with fantasy, satires or slices of life, all of these tales attack our vanities: temptations of despotism, religious fanaticism, indifference towards conflicts that do not concern us, etc.; but all of them invite us never to judge according to appearances.

His works at Stock

“Il n’y a pas de petite querelle”

Specifications:

- Series: “Bibliothèque Cosmopolite”
- Publication date: March 1999
- 168 pages
- Rights available

The book

Thirteen “new tales from the Savannah” recall with humour the themes of the two previous volumes of Amadou Hampaté Bâ’s tales. Argumentative lizards, tyrannical king, greedy marabout, etc., all frequent each other in this delightful collection. Amadou Hampaté Bâ was used to saying that “instructing while amusing has always been the major principle of ancient African teachers.” This collection shows, once more, that he is the indisputable heir to this illustrious line.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

“Contes initiatiques peuls”

Specifications:

- Series: “Bibliothèque Cosmopolite”
- Publication date: October 1997
- 398 pages
- Rights sold to: Spain (Paidos Iberica)

The book

Behind the recreational aspect of these two major African tales, written for all ages, each image, each event, has a hidden meaning that Amadou Hampâté Bâ helps us to discover in an important ensemble of notes on African symbolism and spiritualism.

These initiatory texts, among the most important of Peul heritage, illustrate the traps to avoid and the obstacles to clear when one is engaged on the difficult path of self conquest and accomplishment.

“PETIT BODIEL et autres contes de la savanne”

Specifications:

- Series: “Bibliothèque Cosmopolite”
- Publication date: October 1997
- 248 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Ibis)

The book

Petit Bodiel, traditional Peul tale, retraces the hilarious adventures of a wise little hare. Thanks to the gift of guile inherited from “Papa Good God”, he manages to trick the most important characters. But, having become arrogant because of his successes and his hidden powers, he hopes to become king, even to replace “Papa Good God”...

Petit Bodiel is followed by a choice of texts by Amadou Hampâté Bâ, narratives, and remarks, where he evokes the multiple functions and degrees of signification of the traditional tale in Africa: “yesterday’s message, to be used for tomorrow, transmitted across today”.

Stéphanie HOCHET

The author

Stéphanie Hochet’s first novel *Moutarde douce* was published by Robert Laffont, and was followed by *Le Néant de Léon* (2003) and *L’Apocalypse selon Embrun* (2004), both published by Stock. *Les Infernales* is a black comedy in the author’s distinctive and grating humorous tone.

Her works at Stock

“Le néant de Léon”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2003
- 140 pages
- Rights available

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

The book

Paul Sybar is CEO of the Railways Federation and the perfect incarnation of social success: an ascending career without a hitch, a devoted wife, two admirable daughters... Everything would be perfect if it weren't for Léon, his 15 year old son which he has trouble believing is his own. A bad student, unambitious, sullen and rude, Léon is decidedly not following in his father's footsteps. But Paul has set up a challenge for himself: to "awaken" Léon. Yet he is already doubtful. Is there really any meaning to all this? Should personal happiness really be sacrificed to social climbing? Of course, Léon will not "awaken." But the Sybars' lives are about to be turned upside down...

"L'apocalypse selon Embrun"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: February 2004
- 144 pages
- Rights available

The book

Anne and Albert were preparing a simple and lukewarm existence in a little village in the country. But their love diminishes. The day their sickly brown haired little girl named Embrun (as a homage to Victor Hugo) is born, the couple split up. Anne will for a few years live an agitated love life. Embrun is neither pretty nor endearing. Her presence provokes embarrassment and discomfort, she oozes an obscure energy which destabilises her surroundings. She becomes a mediocre, distracted and exasperating student who is impossible to pin down. Is she mocking or retarded? As Anna is trying to start a new life with Frantz, who is already the father of two children, the sadistic drives and the perversion of Embrun will perturb the family equilibrium. Her mother who feels guilty about not being able to love this child will be her favourite prey. At once seductive, candid and diabolic, Embrun is some sort of anti Amélie Poulain who blooms in cruelty and persecution. Fascinated by chaos, she knows how to use the image of saintliness to rule better.

"Les infernales"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: March 2005
- 144 pages
- Rights available

The book

What happened to Jessica Tignard? How did the pretty, incredibly charming and talented little girl become this plain figure, this sourly, graceless woman? Stephanie Hochet's is a tale of perfect crime: a crime without a body, since Jessica lives to a ripe old age alongside Camille Mouche. Camille is her old rival. During the castings where she used to compete with her, she envied and detested Jessica. When they meet again, years later, Jessica has become a saleswoman in a beauty shop, and Camille has recently published her first book. The two women seal a tacit pact. Jessica becomes the literary adviser of the diabolical Camille who progressively enslaves her. As years go by, Jessica withers away while Camille flourishes as a respected, successful writer of crime novels.

Les Infernales is the tale of a successful revenge. Like a spider weaving her web, Camille keeps her fragile victim under her power and turns her into a consenting slave.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Marcela IACUB

The author

Marcela Iacub is a lawyer and a researcher at the CNRS. She has published, amongst other works, *Qu'avez-vous fait de la libération sexuelle?* (Flammarion, 2002), *Le crime était presque sexuel* (Flammarion, 2003), *L'empire du ventre* (Fayard, 2004), *Antimanuel d'éducation sexuelle* (Bréal, 2005), *Bêtes et victimes et autres chroniques de Libération* (Stock, 2005).

Her works at Stock

“Aimer tue”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: October 2005
- 198 pages
- Rights sold to: Korea (Segyese), Spain (Castilian world rights, Inedita)

The book

Marcela Iacub's first novel is a forgery: a posthumous text allegedly left by the late psychiatrist Jean-Luc Jamet to be discovered after his death. A forged text for a true work of fiction where comedy and tragedy are woven together in a manner similar to Marie-France Hirigoyen's *Le harcèlement moral*. Jamet recounts eight clinical cases that unravel like eight love stories with a very, very sad ending. Love kills. To love certain individuals, dangerous or cruel people, can demolish us and destroy our love life. Accordingly, Jamet's engagement is based on his belief for a fairer society, where love would be forbidden, and its victims protected by law and by an arbitrary and totalitarian justice system. Those who love will lose, says the book, while offering advice and instructions on how to avoid the traps of total love.

Isaia IANNACCONE

The author

Isaia Iannaccone was born in Naples in 1949. A chemist and specialist of China, he is the only Italian specialist of the history of sciences and techniques in China. He is currently a professor at the European School in Brussels and a researcher with the *Observatoire Astronomique de Paris*. He has written several academic studies, amongst which *Johann Schreck Terrentius : les sciences de la Renaissance et l'esprit de l'Académie des Lincei dans la Chine des Ming*, 1998, *Histoire et civilisation de la Chine. Cinq leçons*, 1999, and two guides on China published by the Italian Touring Club (1994 and 1996). He is also the author of a play, *Marco Polo à Cambaluc*, staged in Turin in 2005. At tock, he published two novels: *L'ami de Galilée* (2006) and *Le rideau de jade* (2008, see the “New Titles” section).

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His work

“L’ami de Galilée”

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: May 2006
- 456 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (RCS/Sonzogno), Greece (Diigisi), Spain (Algaida), Serbia (Sezam Book), Romania (Pro Editura)

The book

Rome, 1611: the greatest minds of the time meet in secret. The Inquisition keeps a close eye on Galileo and on his latest invention, the telescope, as well as on his German friend, Johann Schreck *aka* Terrentius, a doctor, surgeon, pharmacist, astronomer and mathematician. Because they question the ‘divine and immutable laws’, the two scientists are a threat to the dictatorial representatives of the religious powers. Terrentius is a man they must get rid of – a specialist of the autopsy who is about to reveal that the functioning of the body has little to do with the descriptions of the scriptures...

Through his research work, Terrentius discovers documents that evoke a far away country governed by intellectuals and scientists: China. He decides to go and live there according to his own beliefs while pursuing his work. During the long and perilous trip that ensues, the Inquisition continues to hunt him. In Peking, Terrentius triumphs: the emperor officially offers him the task of restructuring the Empire’s calendar.

L’Ami de Galilée is a fascinating saga unfolding against the backdrop of the war between scientists and the church.

Isabelle JARRY

The author

Isabelle Jarry is the author of *L’homme de la passerelle* (awarded the *Prix du Premier roman*, Seuil, 1992), *L’Archange perdu* (Mercure de France, 1994), *Le jardin Yamata* (Stock, 1999), *George Orwell, cent ans d’anticipation* (Stock, 2003), *J’ai nom sans bruit* (Stock, 2004), *Millefeuille de onze ans* (Stock, 2007), and *La traversée du desert* (2008, see the “New Titles” section). She has also written three books on Théodore Monod.

Her works at Stock

“Millefeuille de onze ans”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2007
- 232 pages
- Rights available

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

The book

How and why does one become a writer? Is there an event, or a person that originates such a vocation? What sort of madness or arrogance hides behind this curious activity?

When one of her manuscripts was rejected by her editor, Isabelle Jarry thought her life as a writer – this life she had led for so long - was finished. *Millefeuille de onze ans* grew out of this awful moment of disillusion, as an exploration of the doubts and incomprehension that a writer experiences when facing failure. Going back to the year when, as an eleven year old girl, she first knew the passion for writing, the novelist rediscovers the lightness and grace that she experienced as a dreamy girl fascinated by nature.

It is between Montmartre and Clichy, in the dawn of the 1970s, that young Isabelle discovers the world, and books. Under the guise of the good pupil, she hides her unruly nature. She dreams of freedom and of being a solitary adventurer. In her note books, she invents an exciting universe, “creates her own spectacle,” to escape the routine of her peaceful childhood.

Through the elegant and precise style of *Millefeuille de onze ans*, the sources of a novelist’s imagination and curiosity are beautifully evoked.

“J’ai nom sans bruit”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2004
- 216 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein), Greece (Synergie), Croatia (Fraktura)

The book

At the end of her resources and after spending several months living on the streets, Marie leaves Paris to live in the country. She leaves behind her five year old daughter in an institution for children. Since the death of her husband, Marie has lived in constant grief and solitude. She was a poet, but no longer writes. Poetry could not help her. Isolated in a small house, she thinks only of retrieving her daughter. She must undergo one more ordeal though, and that is the loss of words. She loses the capacity of speech and can no longer communicate. Her distress has taken away her most precious possession.

This superb novel deals with the loss of a loved one and of what gives life its meaning. It also criticizes a society in which creativity is in danger, meaning is diluted and in which hope dwindles. Marie dedicated her life to art and refused the tyranny of money. She would rather live in discomfort and austerity than let herself be corrupted. The purity of this luminous character and her wisdom, as strong as it is universal, will move the reader.

Also available at Stock: *Le jardin Yamata* (1999), *George Orwell, cent ans d’anticipation* (2003), and *La traversée du desert* (2008, see the “New Titles” section). Please contact our foreign rights department for further information.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Vincent JULLIEN

The author

Vincent Jullien, lectures in history and philosophy of sciences at the university of Nantes, and he is the president of the ‘*Société française d’histoire des sciences et des techniques*’. He has recently published “Sciences agents doubles” (Stock, 2002) and “Histoire du calcul des longitudes” (PUR, 2002). “Les ombres de la place Royale” is his first novel.

His work at Stock

“Les ombres de la place Royale”

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: October 2006
- 504 pages
- Rights available

The book

1612. France is only starting to recover from the wars of religion. Young René Descartes, who is then studying in Rennes, attends a party in a castle near Brest. There, his presence changes the destiny of three people: Tucdual Cadiou, a Jesuit priest, young baroness Marie de Kerlech with whom Descartes starts a secret affair, and a small, precocious beggar boy: Gilbert Le Person. A few years later, still fascinated by Descartes, Gilbert leaves his native village of Porspoder and goes to Paris – the then capital of sciences and new philosophy. Included in the exclusive circle of the place Royale, he makes the acquaintance of Blaise Pascal whose sister Jacqueline is, unhappily, a disciple of the rival movement of Port Royal.

Controversy rages about the world system, the existence of void or light. While philosophers debate, religious fanatics operate in the shadow, ready to do anything to silence them. Gilbert Le Person has no choice but to confront them so that the rights of love, science and philosophy are upheld.

A book in the style of the XVIIth century philosophical novel: from Blaise Pascal’s experiments with physics – before he had become fully committed to the Jansenists’ cause, to the celebration of Descartes’ metaphysics, Vincent Jullien recounts, through a series of picaresque adventures and love stories, the everlasting war between reason and obscurantism, between science and philosophy and religion.

Luc LANG

The author

Luc Lang is the author of six novels, amongst which *Mille six cents ventres* (*Prix Goncourt des lycéens* in 1998) and *La fin des paysages* (2006). His latest work, *Cruels, 13* is a collection of fables and was published by Stock in 2008 (see the “New Titles” section).

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

His works at Stock

“La fin des paysages”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 504 pages
- Rights available

The book

While putting the finishing touches to the exhibition ‘One century of Africanism’, Martin Finley has to start an investigation: African art pieces have been stolen as they were being unloaded from a cargo boat in the Liverpool marina. Thus begins the confrontation between the captain of a marina that is losing its business, and museum through which men who would like to transform the dockyard into a place for cultural activities. The confrontation is also that of two brothers: Abel, the exhibition organiser, and Jason, the artist from black Africa. And on each continent, a woman: Julia and Alice, two loves for two men, the one who stays and the one who leaves.

“11 septembre mon amour”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2003
- 247 pages
- Rights sold to: China (Chinese complex characters, Bertelsmann Asia)

The book

On September 11, 2001, Luc Lang is in the United States, in the backwoods of Montana on the trail of the Blackfeet Indians. At the Browning reserve, where he is staying, he experiences the spectacle of the airplanes crashing into the Twin Towers on television. He was looking for Indians and instead found an entire country in shock, wounded, traumatised, but also preparing its weapons and planning its revenge. *11 septembre mon amour* is the account of a week spent at the heart of History. It is a road movie in a pick-up truck which takes the reader through landscapes of overwhelming beauty, through the USA of yesterday and today. The book is divided into five parts, five hallucinatory texts retracing Luc Lang’s journey where the weapon-obsessed America of Michael Moore coexists with the schizophrenic America of Philip Roth.

“Les Indiens”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2001
- 424 pages
- Rights available

The book

Lucas Lancry is forty two years old and is an engineer with the EDF (the French national electricity company). One day he wakes up to find himself in a hospital bed with his legs and his pelvis paralysed. He had been working on high tension wires when he fell to the ground, fifty eight metres below. At the

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Salpêtrière hospital and, subsequently at the centre for the re-education of people who have been handicapped, the visits of parents, friends, doctors and colleagues follow one after another. These meetings are often hilarious, and often lead to reminiscences of childhood and adolescence. Lucas reflects on the weakness of the body and the failings of technology, which are brought together in a mix of humour and gravity.

Yves LAPLACE

The author

Yves Laplace was born in Geneva in 1958. A committed essay-writer and playwright, he has published *L'inséminateur* (2001), *Les dépossédés* (2001), *Les hautes œuvres* (2001), *Un mur cache la guerre* (2003), *L'Homme exemplaire* (2004), *L'Original* (2004) and *Butin* (2006) with Stock.

His works at Stock

“Butin”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2006
- 288 pages
- Rights available

The book

Butin is a tale of passion, the story of a bedazzlement and a heartbreak. Maud, the ardent *libertine*, has left, and the narrator holds true to the promise he made: that if she disappeared, he would write about her. He confides his despair to his cousin, Bernard, a collector of women who is immune to desire as well as jealousy. Two voices are thus confronted, two philosophies of sex and love: Bernard’s inflexible discourse, both incorrect and provocative and that of his cousin trapped in the vertigo of *l’amour fou*. The obscure Bernard, the luminous Maud – two characters who incarnate in turn the conflict in which the narrator is caught.

Once more, Yves Laplace leads us astray. He belongs to a family of writers who, from Céline to Bataille, choose to ignore moral standards in order to fully express the tragedy of human existence. In his sophisticated and delightful style, Laplace thus explores the dangerous zones that lay at the edges of our fantasies.

“L’original”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2004
- 234 pages
- Rights available

The book

Bernard, a.k.a. Bernie, a.k.a. The Nonconformist, is a chronic temp, a freedom-lover, and a sex addict. “Four wives and a thousand prostitutes” Bernie is a collector of women who knows no jealousy, since

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

faithfulness is a betrayal of oneself. In a baroque and colourful style, he recounts his impetuosity as a rebellious teenager, his job as assistant male nurse and an interest in photography. In the same blithe tone, he writes about solitary hikes in the mountains and sexual jaunts in third world countries.

The narrator is Bernie's cousin writing Bernie's real or imagined life. An unseemly and disturbing cousin whom he neither judges nor condemns. In this way, he prolongs his cousin's childhood notebooks in which he consigned family-related or sports events and wrote descriptions of the members of the tribe. With this character who sees himself as emancipated and liberated, Yves Laplace explores the dark side of human nature which goes against morality.

“Un mur cache la guerre”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2003
- 188 pages
- Rights available

The book

In the midst of the Risoud forest, in the mountainous region of the Jura, a stone wall 150 km long marks the border between France and Switzerland. *Un mur cache la guerre* tells the story of three young people during World War II, lost among members of the Resistance, traitors, Germans, smugglers and other fugitives who go over the wall to one side or the other. As the 21st century opens, a visitor from Switzerland meets these three people and collects their words, their thoughts and their writing, conjuring up voices from the past.

Blandine LE CALLET

The author

Blandine Le Callet was born in 1969. *Une pièce montée* is her first novel and was an instant success in France and abroad. A film adaptation is forthcoming.

Her works at Stock

“Une pièce montée”

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: January 2006
- 324 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein), Italy (Salani), Greece (Polis), Korea (Touchart), Estonia (Eesti Raamat), The Netherlands (Archipel), Russia (Fluide), Spain (Maeva), Serbia (Laguna), Algeria (French language rights, Sédia)

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

The book

The backdrop to *Une pièce montée* is a country-side wedding amongst the provincial middle-class. Each chapter focuses on one of the party's protagonists, each story in turn finding its own place both in the family album, and in the chronology of this special day. From the bridesmaid who confronts injustice to the priest besieged by his own demons in front of a mystified assembly, to the colleague as incurable flirt and the eccentric aunt looking for love, to the naughty grand-mother and the hysterical bride... A colourful succession of characters mingle through a series of funny, cruel or moving scenes where people are unmasked and family secrets revealed. *Une pièce montée* unravels like a fast pace comedy, as if, rather than mere spectators, we ourselves were amongst the guests, invited to share in the impertinent pleasure offered by this first novel.

Justine LÉVY

The author

Justine Lévy has written two novels: *Le rendez-vous* (Plon, 1995) and *Rien de grave* (Stock, 2004)

Her work at Stock

“Rien de grave” – Awarded the *Prix Marie-France* and the *Prix Vaudeville*

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2004
- 196 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Frassinelli), Germany (Antje Kunstmann), Serbia (Globosino), USA (Melville House, English world rights), The Netherlands (Prometheus), Portugal (Ulisseia), Bulgaria (Pulsio), China (simplified characters, Lijiang), Taiwan (complex characters, The Commercial Press), Spain (Ambar)

The book

Since Adrien has left her, Louise has lost desire, joy and interest in life. She has lost the courage to be happy, to be unhappy, to be anxious. Louise and Adrien have known each other since their adolescence, they have loved each other like children, unconditionally. Until the day Adrien meets the young mistress of his father, Paula, the ideal woman. Since then, Louise has abandoned life. She lives and does not live, waits and does not wait. This could have lasted for months, for years...only a new love can bring Louise back to life and to the miracle of existence...

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Isabelle LORTHOLARY

The author

Isabelle Lortholary was born in 1967 and lives in Paris. She is a journalist and literary critic at the magazine *Elle*. *Heureuse, ou presque* is her first book.

Her works at Stock

“Heureuse, ou Presque”

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: May 2007
- 120 pages
- Rights available

The book

Heureuse, ou presque is a collection of short stories. Some describe brief scenes of daily life, others unravel over several days or months. Each focuses on a woman, a mother, a daughter or a sister, confronted to fragile and testing moments of their existence (being a twin, marriage, maternity and giving birth).

Through these portraits, both moving and funny, Isabelle Lortholary offers a complex exploration of femininity. How does one become a woman, and what kind of a woman does one become?

The testimonies of all these women, courageous, confused, in love, weave together a tapestry of feminine voices that ultimately form but one thread, one message: almost happy.

Hélène MILLERAND

The author

Hélène Millerand was born in Versailles in 1945. She has published two books at Editions du Seuil: *Les carnets d'une coquette raisonnable* (1992) and *Renonce avec grâce à la jeunesse* (2002). Her first novel, *Vieille France* (Stock, 2004), which recounts the life of a governess in France in the 1940s, met with a great deal of attention. A television-adaptation is forthcoming. With *Modern solitude* Millerand delivers once more a portrait of a moving and complex woman.

Her works at Stock

“Modern solitude”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2006
- 192 pages
- Rights available

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The book

September 1981. Carmen Diaz is six years old, her brother Ramon is eight. They live in the 6th district of Paris where they befriend Damien Boyerdrey. The Boyerdreys represent everything Carmen's parents loathe: money linked with corruption. Yet Carmen is seduced by the elegance of Brigitte Boyerdrey and becomes convinced that she had better choose the side of the powerful rather than work and campaign for the Communist Party like her mother.

Courageous and wilful, Carmen is very successful at school. She goes off to study in Edinburgh for a year and then enrolls at HEC, one of the most prestigious private business schools in France. In spite of her fling with the handsome Donald Leely in Scotland, she continues to feel strongly attached to "the boys" at home: her brother Ramon and his two friends Damien and Robert. If only she could keep them for herself, forever...

In June 1998 she finishes third of her year at HEC. To some, she represents a perfect example of middle class bourgeoisie, to others, she remains the daughter of proletarians. In any case, she loves money and is not ashamed of claiming this out loud. People are afraid of her and reproach her for being cruel. She hasn't been in touch with her mother for a year.

During twenty years, we observe the life of this pretty girl and "her boys"; a proud and solitary girl who "betrays" the convictions her parents stand for. Twenty years during which we witness the fall of communism and the end of the ideals of previous generations.

"Vieille France"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: April 2004
- 196 pages
- Rights available

The book

1938. Young Bénédicte Drot, daughter of an upper class versaillois family, gives birth to a child with an unknown father. Chased away from her family, Bénédicte decides to become a governess. She is employed by Ernest and Antoinette Treives, a rich Jewish family to look after their young son Maximilien. Bénédicte is 26 years old. She is catholic and respects tradition and would never give up her anti-Semitic prejudices. Nevertheless, between 1938 and 1945, she becomes indispensable to the family she lives with and which is profoundly disrupted by World War II. "Vieille France" tells Bénédicte's story, the story of a strong woman, deeply attached to the boy she is responsible for and truly faithful to his mother. But neither Maximilien nor Antoinette will ever know Bénédicte's secret...

Catherine MILLET

The author

Catherine Millet is chief editor at Art Press. In 2001, she published *La vie sexuelle de Catherine M.*, which was extremely successful in France and abroad.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Her work at Stock

“Riquet à la houppe, Millet à la loupe”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2003
- 80 pages
- Rights sold to: Romania (Zemlick)

The book

“Isn’t it voluptuous as an adult to rediscover one’s childhood storybooks? Not so much because of a desire to regress, as a psychoanalyst might say, but simply to dream one’s dreams more fully. Today, I am more intellectually capable to recognise the desires that haunted me when I was six years old but was then unable to express. I can finally say how much I love Riquet above all! Riquet who was ‘so ugly and so awkwardly made that for a long time, it was doubtful whether he was of human form.’ And I must admit that I would have preferred that the Beast never turn into the Handsome Prince.” The new version of an old fairy tale...

Eva Kristina MINDSZENTI

The author

Eva Kristina Mindszenti was born in 1974 of a Hungarian father and a Norwegian mother, in a family of artists and painters. She is an ink illustrator and a photographer, and lives in Toulouse.

Her work at Stock

“Les inattendus”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2007
- 96 pages
- Rights available

The book

This is the story of a young girl, writing from Hoferer, a Hungarian village close to the border with Slovakia. Alone, with her parents’ orchard as her sole horizon, she decides to go and work at the hospital where the Tchernobyl children, handicapped, ill and mutilated, are being treated. She quickly comes to love these children, who won’t even have the time to become unhappy; these children who die at the age of ten; who sometimes cry because nobody visits them anymore. She loves them because she knows that it is them who are going to cure her, to help her with her pain. The book never resembles a Hungarian version of « Freaks ». It never calls for pity. It is the crude but tranquil style of this text that makes it so affecting; the artlessness with which the author starts to empathise with her little patients to the point of wanting to look like them.

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No other book has described so truthfully the political disbelief, the loss of pleasure, with, as sole background, the music of soviet animation movies that continue to show on TV. No one had managed to express with such dignified sadness the feeling of dereliction and inferiority of the former republics of the USSR which continue to receive, like the forgotten countries of Africa, out-of-date medicines. The novelist has only one soothing feeling: to know that she can love and write

Jean Michel MOREL

The author

Born in Paris in 1947, Jean-Michel Morel obtained a degree in Film Studies and Linguistics. He published his first novel *Les porteurs d'orange* at Flammarion and a children's book entitled *Makha Kishnu, l'homme qui voulait posséder tous les chevaux* (Editions Points de suspension) before publishing *Le prix du pardon* with Stock.

His work at Stock

“Le prix du pardon”

Specifications:

- Historical novel
- Publication date: April 2006
- 504 pages
- Rights available

The book

In 1890, Lester, a New York policeman, decides to go west with his son, Louis Morghana. After Lester's death at the battle of Wounded Knee, Louis is taken in and brought up by Simon Charuel, the son of a French man and an Indian Kiowa woman. A man of the wilderness, he teaches the boy how to survive in a hostile environment, how to make himself invisible. He nicknames the boy *Belle-Ombre* ('Beautiful Shadow'). But Louis remains haunted by the memory of his mother, Jeanne, abandoned in Bretagne where he was born. He decides to find her, and his quest takes him from Mexico to California at the beginning of Hollywood, then to the Paris of the anarchists and Ireland at the time of the revolt of 1916. The war and the trenches in Argonne follow, and then forced labour in Cayenne. .. During the sixteen years that his trip lasts, Louis meets women who, in one way or another, show him that a man does not need violence to be himself. But Louis started this travelling in order to expiate his faults, and he becomes progressively convinced that his mother alone can absolve him. Such is the price of forgiveness.

Le Prix du pardon is an original, wide-ranging saga that spans the history of the twentieth century from its infancy to 1930.

Emmanuel MOSES

The author

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Emmanuel Moses was born in 1959 in Casablanca. He grew up in Paris and its surroundings before settling in Jerusalem in 1969 with his family. In 1986, he leaves Israel to return to Paris where he tries his hand at various jobs (worker in a socio-cultural centre, journalist, editor). He now shares his time between translating and writing. He is a novelist (“Papernik,” Grasset, 1992), a short-story writer (“Adieu Lewinter,” Denoël, 2000) and a poet.

His works at Stock

“Les Tabor”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 444 pages
- Rights available

The book

The year is 1937. The Tabors, a Jewish family from Berlin, have moved to Amsterdam when the Nazis seized power. Léo and Julia, both lawyers, live with their young son, Zacharie, in a small furnished flat, and, like all the other exiles, they are looking for work. Julia is a radiant, loving and spirited woman. Léo is an idealist. Still profoundly affected by his experience of the war front at the ‘Chemin des Dames,’ he is drawn towards the socialists and the anarchists. Progressively, intolerance gains ground in the city where they have sought refuge, and the future looms uncertainly. In these troubled times of persecutions and arbitrary arrests, the Tabors obstinately hang on to their belief in the unalterable beauty of existence. This is one of the book’s enchanting facets. Neither humiliation nor treason can dent the faith in freedom and justice of this wonderful couple. To the surrounding brutality and cynicism, Emmanuel Moses opposes the melancholy but also joyful and feisty world of these hopeful, determined exiles.

Taslina NASREEN

The author

Born in 1962 in East Pakistan, Taslima Nasreen had to flee Bangladesh in the 1990s because of her criticism of the Islamic faith and religion in general. After having stayed in exile in Paris and Stockholm for years, she finally settled in India.

Her work at Stock

“Enfance, au féminin”

Specifications

- Publication date: October 1998
- 460 pages

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- Rights sold to: USA (Steerforth Press), India (Kali for women), Germany (Rowohlt)

The book

Condemned to exile and wandering, a woman looks back on her past and in particular her early years, a childhood about which she does not get too emotional, but takes a lucid and indulgent adult glance. What Taslima is trying to show through the evocation of her memories is the underside of girls' education in her natal Bangladesh, and the sexist bent that characterizes it. Early on, little Taslima becomes aware of the discriminatory attitude that weighs on her. Very quickly, this rebellious spirit expresses its first revolts against the establishment, against the system designed to restrain her entire life.

Irène NEMIROVSKY

The author

In 1929, Irène Némirovsky's first novel, *David Golder*, was published in France. The Russian Jewish immigrant was only 26 years old at the time, but her immense talent as a writer was recognized immediately. Her second novel, *Le Bal*, published in 1930, confirmed that talent. While these remain her most widely read books, Némirovsky wrote nearly a dozen others until she was deported to Auschwitz where she died in 1942. She also wrote a number of short stories which were published in various newspapers and magazines.

Her work at Stock

“Dimanche”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2000
- 374 pages
- Rights sold to: Finland (Gummerus), Italy (Adelphi)

The book

Dimanche brings together fifteen of Irène Némirovsky's short stories which were published in various newspapers and magazines between 1934 and 1942.

Florence NOIVILLE

The author

Florence Noiville is a journalist for *Le Monde*. She published *Isaac B. Singer* (awarded the *Récit biographique*-prize) in 2003 with Stock. She is also the author of several children books. *La donation* is her first novel.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Her works at Stock

“La donation”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2007
- 140 pages
- Rights sold to: Greece (Oceanida), Italy (Garzanti), Lebanon (Ecole de traducteurs et d’interprètes de Beyrouth)

The book

“Some people see the story of their life unravel as they are about to die. Others experience this on an analyst’s couch. In my case, the revelation took place all of a sudden, in the office of a solicitor.”

This novel tells the story of a donation inter vivos that takes an unexpected turn. This is because the bequest, in this case, does not merely concern material things: what is really at stake is an inner patrimony, a painful family secret that has been buried deep. Hereditary illnesses of the soul do not come free of death duties...

Erik ORSENNA

The author

Winner of the Goncourt prize for *L’Exposition coloniale* (Seuil, 1988), Erik Orsenna is one of France’s most popular contemporary authors. His books have all met with popular and critical acclaim. His recent publications include: *Les chevaliers du subjonctif* (Stock 2004), *Portraits du Gulf Stream* (Seuil 2005), *Voyage au pays du coton* (Fayard 2006), *Salut au grand sud* (with Isabelle Autissier, 2006), *La révolte des accents* (2007) and *La chanson de Charles Quint* (2008, see the “New Titles” section).

His works at Stock

“Dernières nouvelles des oiseaux”

Specifications :

- Publication date: June 2005
- 133 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Salani), Korea (Samtoh), Thailand (Priew)

The book

A man decides one day to create a special award for children passionate by something unusual and following impossible dreams. Seven children are selected by the “European foundation of passion” and sent to a mysterious island. Javier, Morwenna, Etienne, Victoria, Thomas, Hillary and Hans will find themselves involved in an incredible adventure. The island is beaten by a violent storm and the children

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lose all connections to their European home countries. They need to put together all their talents, abilities, forces and dreams to find a way to leave the island. Which one of them has been pronouncing the word “aeroplane” for the first time?

“Les chevaliers du subjonctif”

Specifications:

- Publication date: September 2004
- 192 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Salani), Portugal (ASA)

The book

The young characters of *La grammaire est une chanson douce* have grown up but the Archipelago of Words is still under the dictatorship of President Necrole. One day, Thomas disappears and Jeanne is arrested. Saved by the official cartographer of the island, she leaves with him on an exciting journey aboard a hand-glider to find her brother. They land on the Isle of Subjunctive, which harbours the sworn enemies of Necrole. With the help of these joyous rebels, Jeanne discovers the power of imagination. She learns that love – which will strike even the heart of the fearsome state inspector, Mrs. Jargonos – is also a variety of the subjunctive, the grammatical mood of dreams and desires.

Much more than a grammar lesson, the adventure of discovering words through the tenses is also a deep and splendid lesson of life. Curious and daring, Jeanne is the perfect guide to this exploration of the subtleties of language. To read the world, that “immense library” and to share it with others, what could be more exciting?

“Madame Bâ”

Specifications:

- Publication date: April 2003
- 484 pages
- **For more information, please contact FAYARD PUBLISHING HOUSE**

The book

Madame Bâ Marguerite is from Mali, born in the city of Medina on the banks of the River Senegal. In order to find her grandson who was swallowed by the ogre of football and has disappeared in France, she applies for a visa. Application refused. So she writes directly to the President of France. She scrupulously fills out the official form. But Madame Bâ can't help overflowing the small lines and begins to tell about her childhood spent on the shores of the river, the love of her father, the humiliations of colonialism, the difficult rebirth of the new Mali. She tells of her passion for her beautiful Fulani husband, her eight children and the strange “disease of the compass” which afflicts them. Unflinchingly, uncompromisingly, Madame Bâ tells the story of the Africa of today, with its violence, its shattered dreams, its mafias. But also its eternal richness and solidarity.

“La Grammaire est une chanson douce”

Specifications:

- Publication date: August 2001

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- 144 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Carl Hanser), Italy (Salani), Catalonia (Encyclopedia Catalana), Spain (Salamandra, Castilian world rights), Portugal (ASA), China (Jieli, simplified characters), Taiwan (Eurasian Publishing, complex characters), USA (Georges Brasiller), Bulgaria (Stigmati), Thailand/ (Priew), Albania (Dituria), Brittany (Preder), Albania (Dituria), Korea (Media 2.0)

The book

The narrator, Jeanne, could almost be the little sister of Lewis Carroll's Alice, thrown as she is into a world where one can no longer take one's bearings. After a shipwreck of which she and her older brother Thomas are the only survivors, the two siblings are miraculously washed up onto an island. But the violence of the storm has made them lose their voices. Welcomed onto the island by Monsieur Henri, a musical poet and magician, they are shown a magical land in which words have a life of their own: they disguise themselves, they put on make up, they get married... The children walk through a town of words in which there is both humour and poetry and where rules are no longer weighty. Accompanied by Erik Orsenna, grammar becomes child's play. All that is needed is to care about language.

Jean-Marc PARISIS

The author

Jean-Marc Parisis was born in 1962. he published *La Mélancolie des fast foods* (1987), *Le Lycée des artistes* (1992) and *Depuis toute la vie* (2000) with Grasset. He is also the author of a biography of Jean-Marc Reiser. Coming after *Physique*, published in January 2005, *Avant, pendant, après* is his second novel with Stock.

His works at Stock

“Avant, pendant, après” – Awarded the *Prix Roger Nimier* 2007

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2007
- 138 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Bompiani), China (Yingpan Brother), Slovakia (Pectus), Vietnam (Bach Viet Books), Romania (Pro Editura), Estonia (Pegasus), Norway (Engelstad), Algeria (French language rights, Sédia), Korea (Tornado)

The book

“The first time I saw her, it was from behind. I loved her immediately. And I knew that when she turned around it would be worse.”

During a party, on a balcony, a man meets a young woman. This encounter changes his life completely. He is a song writer who, so far, only knew love in the form of lyrics. Now he will experience love himself. The incredible magic of the beginnings. Pleasure that he never thought could exist. Doubts, worries. The threat that others – false friends and real lovers – come to represent. The psychology of

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love. Fantasies. Pornography. The inaptitude of masculinity. Jealousy. Dependency and humiliation. Breaking up and the misery of being rejected. To experience absolute grief and grow out of it – which does not mean one forgets. Because it is an unforgettable story, for the one who lived through it as well as for the reader. Few have gone so far in the depiction of love between a man and a woman.

“Physique”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2007
- 206 pages
- Rights sold to: Russia (Stolitsa)

The book

This is the story of a man who becomes younger. There is no reason for it and he does not want it. Patrick Langevin is 40 years old, he is a great Parisian lawyer, he has a wife and a 18 year-old daughter. Workoholic, brilliant and charming, he cheats on his wife, without passion, and with a certain frenzy. One night, he accompanies his daughters’ young friend and cannot resist her. When he wakes up, he looks like 25 in his bathroom’s mirror. This sudden change does not surprise him, does not make him happy or anxious. Since a long time, nothing really surprises Langevin. He tells his friends and relatives that it had been plastic surgery. The worst is that everybody believes him. But having got youth and beauty, his troubles start. His clients do not trust him any more, women do not look at him, his wife ignores him and his daughter has fun. Langevins’ live changes. He leaves Paris for Italy, where he meets a young and pretty barmaid. And then he will suddenly loose another ten years and discover himself being a 15 years old adolescent. Of course, this is just the beginning of the story...

Camille de PERETTI

The author

Camille de Peretti is twenty-seven years old. She is the author of the critically acclaimed *Thornytorinx* (Belfond, 2005; awarded the *Prix du premier roman de Chambéry*), *Nous sommes cruels* (Stock, 2006), and *Nous vieillirons ensemble* (Stock, 2008, see the “New Titles” section).

Her work at Stock

“Nous sommes cruels”

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: November 2006
- 324 pages
- Rights available, apart from the English and Dutch language rights. For these two languages, please contact Marc SERGES at Global Literary Management: marc@globalit.com

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

The book

Julien and Camille were destined to become the best of friends. Both brilliant pupils, fascinated by XVIIIth century literature, they are proud, cynical and pretentious, and share the conviction that they were born in the wrong era... More than anything, they have a common desire to have fun and assert their power. What then could be better than to re-enact the experiments of the Count de Valmont and the Marquise de Merteuil? A few rules to establish, numerous 'prey', many 'trophies'... They thus become partners in crime, masters of a cruel game over which they rule with frightening dexterity. Marie, Stanislas, William, Émilie, Hadrien, Diane... so many victims of this diabolical pair.

The teenagers are soon caught up by the characters of their own creation however: the game goes too far. But they are too proud to put an end to it. Things become more and more perilous and put them at risk of entering that which they most dread: adulthood.

In confronting the most famous of French epistolary novels, the author evokes the power of literature as well as the amoral, pitiless, desire-driven moment of our existence that is called adolescence. Camille de Peretti mixes XVIIIth-century style letters, electronic mail and text messages, and succeeds in creating an ambitious and clever contemporary transposition of Laclos' masterpiece.

Jean-Pierre PERRIN

The author

Reporter for the journal *Libération*, Jean-Pierre Perrin directed during three years an international press office in the Persian Gulf. He has written several war and travel stories, amongst which *Les Rolling Stones sont à Bagdad* and *Jours de poussière* which received the *Grand Prix 2003 des Lectrices de Elle*. *Le paradis des perdantes* is his third novel.

His work at Stock

“Le paradis des perdantes”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: May 2006
- 286 pages
- Rights sold to Spain (Urano)

The book

Morvan, an ex-policeman, is hired to organise the protection of the heir to an emirate. A beautiful woman also requests his services to find out about the disappearance of her younger sister – a teenager fascinated by Jehan, a famous Egyptian actress. Morvan finds her body floating in the oily waters of the Gulf. Suicide or murder? The British Secret Services start to investigate, and so does Jehan herself, who hides a weighty secret. Morvan soon discovers that a Saudi prince is involved, then learns about a mysterious clinic, called *The Paradise of the Women Losers*. The readers find themselves in the thrall of a terrible scheme, organized by terrorists and the monarchs of the Gulf ready to take even the most sacrilegious of actions in order to ensure their own security. It is the enigma of the *Le paradis des perdantes* that opens the doors to hell.

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Cypora PETITJEAN-CERF

The author

Cypora Petitjean-Cerf was born in 1974. In 2005, she published an essay, “L’école de la dernière chance, un an en classe-relais,” and a novel, “Le musée de la Sirène,” with Stock. Her latest novel, “Le corps de Liane” was published in 2007.

Her works at Stock

“Le corps de Liane”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2007
- 342 pages
- Rights sold to: Korea (Hanulgorae), China (Yingpan Brother)

The book

Liane often wonders why she does not feel completely like a girl. ‘It’s because there are no men in the house’ says Roselyne, her friend. In effect, Liane’s is a woman’s world, where women have seen men depart without regret or resentment and have learned to live without them. As the novel unravels, and the characters trade life, needs and sorrows, it evokes a gentle version of “Cries and Whispers”. Christine, Liane’s mother, stops working and drifts slowly into depression. Liane takes charge of her; she becomes the mother of her mother with the help of Eva, the cleaning lady. Then Huguette, Liane’s grand-mother, reappears and starts to take care of Christine. It is as if the strength of the one was the weakness of the other – a kind of solidarity written in the flesh. Their other link is *Dallas*, which episodes they all follow – even Liliane, the great grand-mother who barely survives in her retirement home; even Ghania, the silent and submissive wife of Hassan the grocer. *Le corps de Liane* is a magnificent book. The author recounts Liane’s youth with the fondness and lucidity of an invisible older sister, following her as she travels the natural path towards femininity and becomes conscious, through the grace of a child and the guidance of a friend, of her own beauty.

“Le musée de la Sirène”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2005
- 120 pages
- Rights available

The book

Annabelle is a painter. One night, she enters a Chinese restaurant. She dips her hand in the large, decorative fish tank, grabs the siren who swims amongst the fish, and runs away. Annabelle puts the creature in her bathtub. And the addiction begins. One day, the siren reveals a talent as a painter and drafts-woman. Hers is an exceptional gift soon recognized. Her work fascinates and hypnotises the public, and Annabelle protects her, putting her own existence in the balance. Amongst other characters, we are introduced to a corrupt restaurant owner, a depressed record producer, a fanatical medical student, a

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journalist, an art gallery director, two Japanese tourists, non-identical twin brothers, a handful of adults and children who want to learn how to draw. And then, there is the water - a very large quantity of water.

Jean-Claude PIROTTE

The author

Jean-Claude Pirotte, born in 1939, has been publishing stories, novels, and poems for over forty years, which makes him one of the most important authors of the French language. His latest book, "Une adolescence en Gueldre," was awarded the *Prix des deux Magots* 2006.

His works at Stock

"Expédition nocturne autour de ma cave"

Specifications:

- "Ecrivains Series"
- Publication date: November 2006
- 92 pages
- Rights available

The book

Pirotte proposes a journey into the only continent that is still worth surveying nowadays, because it still is unknown to us: that of man, and of the debates that are held in his head. The head of a reader, of a wine-lover, of an utterly delicate spirit thrown into a vulgar world that upsets and suffocates him. Is there any better way to escape from this than what is promised by wine and literature? The first does not go without the second, and the latter is nothing but dryness and deadliness without the former. To stroll around a wine cellar with Jean-Claude Pirotte means moving between books and barrels, accompanied by the best of possible guides and his incomparable voice. A journey "by leaps and bounds" that would not have been refused by Montaigne, since it treats of "human matters, friendship and philosophy."

Evelyne PISIER

The author

Évelyne Pisier is a professor of law and political sciences at the University of Paris I. Other than a large number of articles, text books, treatises and dictionaries in her field of studies, she published her first novel in 1994 (*La Dernière fois*, Flammarion), and a fictional biography of Sonia Rykiel in 2001 (*Quand elle n'a pas de rouge, elle met du noir*, with Carmen Castillo, Fayard). In 2005 she published *Une question d'âge* and in 2006, *On ne corrige pas les fautes*, both at Stock.

Her works at Stock

"On ne corrige pas les fautes"

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2006
- 212 pages
- Rights available

The book

After her parents’ death in a car crash a few hours after her birth, Louise is taken in by Paul, her father’s twin brother. The two of them could have lived happily ever after, like father and daughter, brother and sister, maybe even like lovers, if one day Marina had not stepped into Paul’s life.

Marina is very young, very pretty, and very strong as well. It is she who convinces Paul to marry her, who believes she can become an ideal stepmother to Louise, and who finally decides that Paul and she will have a child together. Louise decides not to spare Marina nor her fake father Paul from her fits and whims.

After the critically acclaimed *Une question d’âge*, Évelyne Pisier confirms with her latest novel that she is a unique and gifted observer of both the young and the adolescent as well as the couple in contemporary society. Once more she takes risks, her novel surprises us with its boldness and impoliteness. Too bad and so much the better, since it shows her doubts, her fears, her powerlessness, and ours as well. One does not correct ones’ mistakes.

“Une question d’âge”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2005
- 282 pages
- Rights available

The book

There are many books about successful adoptions. We can read about the difficulties parents have before discovering their child, about the inevitable period of learning on both sides, and then, we can usually read about a joyful and constructive end of the story. Evelyne Pisier tells about a couple waiting for their child, about the first period of getting used to each other, but then she tells us that these moments are the easiest and most logical moments of the story. *Une question d’âge* tells about an adoption which becomes very difficult, an adoption never accepted by the child – a young girl and then an adolescent girl – and an adoption which does not end happily. The child never accepts its ‘illegitimate’ status and father and mother never find a way out of their loving but awkward attitude towards this child in permanent rebellion.

This novel which sometimes seems to be a document, is surprisingly incorrect and therefore extremely poignant and strong. What usually cannot be said about adoption, is openly said in this novel. There is humour as well, and a deep tenderness in the authors’ tone.

Stéphanie POLACK

The author

Stéphanie Polack was born in 1977 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. She works for a publisher, and “Route Royale” is her first novel.

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Her work at Stock

“Route Royale”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2007
- 218 pages
- Rights available

The book

Constance gets out of jail and David is not waiting for her. She knows he is not coming. She was the one who rejected him, who told him to stay away. Constance is twenty-one. David was her first love. They loved each other, fought, tore each other apart.

Constance is alone. In spite the loving, caring presence that her father cast on her childhood, she has cut all ties with her family. Eve, a friend, offers her a roof and some advice that Constance does not follow.

On Christmas night, she meets Werner. She does not know that this man was at her trial. That he knows everything about the accident that got her into jail. Werner lives off his private income and wastes his forties in pubs, at auctions and in court – he has a passion for legal proceedings.

How to forget David and start again with a life that was wrecked on the Route Royale? This is one amongst many unanswered questions that haunt this raw and thought-provoking debut novel. Constance probably set off into the world too early. Yet, for all her sadness and doubts, she is a person worth knowing.

François PRUNIER

The author

François Prunier was born in 1968 in a Parisian suburb. He is a financial analyser, and the author of *Martin Roi* (2003). *En terre hostile* is his second novel.

His works at Stock

“En terre hostile”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: Mars 2005
- 154 pages
- Rights available

The book

Cédric maillet is a man adrift, haunted by the memory of the wife who left him three years before. While passing through a small town in the north of France, Maillet meets Diego, an adolescent with a heavy secret, whom he befriends. The next day, Diego’s mother, the owner of the hotel in which Maillet has taken room, is savagely murdered, her body stabbed thirty-three times. In spite of the oppressive atmosphere, Maillet decides to conduct his own investigation.

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The novel offers a spell-binding description of the hero's wanderings through the depressing, hostile provincial town. The tension oozed by the story and the oppressive atmosphere of repressed violence become inscribed in the urban landscape itself. Developing around Diego's strange family and acquaintances and a collection of characters whose hardness is close to a form of madness, the mystery seems to deepen. Maillet's obstinate, self-destructive quest contributes to the tragic undertone of the story even further.

"Martin Roi"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: August 2003
- 198 pages
- Rights available

The book

Martin Roi is an affectionate and precocious little boy. He soon manifests an extraordinary talent for drawing and wins the admiration of everyone around him. But as he grows older, the once sociable child becomes introverted. Martin's dreams are not the dreams of a child his age. His drawn characters reflect his fantasies: warring and cruel dominatrixes who humiliate men. As a teenager, he realises what he really is: a deviant, a pervert, a masochist. Surmounting his shame, his fear of being unmasked and the temptation of suicide, he decides to earn the money which will enable him to live out his fantasies freely.

Eric REINHARDT

The author

Éric Reinhardt was born in Nancy in 1965. He works and lives in Paris where he publishes art books. He is the author of *Demi-sommeil* (Actes Sud, 1998), *Le moral des ménages* (Stock, 2002), *Existence* (Stock, 2004), and the critically acclaimed *Cendrillon* (Stock, 2007).

His works at Stock

"Cendrillon"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: August 2007
- 578 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Il Saggiatore), Korea (Agora)

The book

Laurent Dahl runs away, leaving behind his wife, children, London flat and servants. His dazzling rise in investment business has just ended in bankruptcy, making him lose several billions of dollars. With weapons hidden in the boot of his car, Patrick Neftel speeds along towards a television studio to accomplish the radical and desperate gesture that will at last give him the feeling that he exists.

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Thierry Trockel is driving his wife to an isolated manor house in the outskirts of Munich, where they are to meet a couple they contacted through the internet.

Through these three characters, Éric Reinhardt, author of *Le moral des ménages*, pursues his critical observation of the contemporary middle-classes and reveals the brutality of a world that incarnates itself in the plight of traders drunk with victory, social success's castoffs, submissive and humiliated parents, angry teenagers, greedy and ambitious youths. It shows a society stuck between arrogant and dilapidated celebrities and leftist intellectuals contemptuous of those that society rejects.

Well documented, precise and captivating, *Cendrillon* is the novel we were waiting for; a novel about our globalised world. We get caught up by the perilous gambles of speculators and the vertiginous mechanics of investment business. We fearfully slide into the intimacy of a young, lost man who dreams of being a killer.

Reinhardt's is a powerful and cruel tale, yet in his book the taste for happiness always counterbalances the reigning brutality. Through the evocation of the arousing attraction of red-heads, the grace of the Opera's ballerinas, as well as Mallarmé's poetry, the author celebrates the magic of his favorite season, autumn. The most dazzling pages of the novel, however, are devoted to the queenly figure of Margot, whose love can on its own lift the weight of fatality.

At the end of the journey that it sets forth, *Cendrillon*, novel of passion and war in which laughter is bitter but tears joyful, becomes the most moving of novels.

“Existence”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2004
- 342 pages
- Rights available

The book

With a degree from a prestigious school, an obsession with logic and a fetish for the works of Wittgenstein, Jean-Jacques Carton-Mercier went on to become an odious and spineless executive who behaves like a tyrant. Until a harmless incident – buying a candy-bar at the local bakery – sets off a chain reaction of disaster. This misanthropist, all too sure of his values and his intellectual superiority, suddenly experiences the hostility of others, discovers his own weaknesses and doubts about the course of his life.

The tale of this crazy day in the life of Jean-Jacques Carton-Mercier – who goes through humiliation and disaster – is full of wit. The narrative, spurred by the character's chaotic thought process, is agitated by his memories, hypotheses and fabrications. The unexpected sequence of dialogue and situations and burlesque characters make this strange satire one of the funniest and surprising novels of the year.

“Le moral des ménages”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 1997
- 276 pages
- Rights available

The book

Manuel Carsen, a business school graduate, quickly dropped his job as a representative to become a singer. At the age of 40, he is an unknown singer-songwriter. His wife left with their daughter, and he realises he is a failure, just like his father. His father was shy and hung-up, dominated by his wife and

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humiliated by his employers. His mother was anxious and austere, and he had always rejected her values, the values of the middle class. Through the story of his childhood and adolescence, he paints the portrait of a frigid France, whose economic asceticism is leading the country straight into a recession.

Alain RÉMOND

The author

Alain Rémond is an author and a journalist who writes for *La Croix* and *Marianne*. He has published *Chaque jour est un adieu*, *Un jeune homme est passé* and *Comme une chanson dans la nuit* with Seuil.

His works at Stock

“Les romans n’intéressent pas les voleurs”

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: September 2007
- 198 pages
- Rights available

The book

Jérôme works for Hurtebise publishing house, where his job is to ‘shape’ other people’s novels. This essentially means reworking best-selling author Bannister’s abysmal pulp. Bannister churns out novels, one after the other, all of them vaguely thriller-ish, sentimental-ish, and completely worthless. It is Jérôme’s job to give them a tone, a style, some kind of structure.

But his real passion is Santenac, the genius, the author of three books, family stories written in the early 1960s. Three books and then nothing: all of a sudden, Santenac disappeared, and was never seen again. Jérôme and his childhood friend, a journalist called Jean-Paul, have one obsession: to find Santenac, and the books that he has written in his hideaway. One particular morning, as he has come in to pick up his next instalment of Bannister’s crap, Jérôme gets a phone call from Jean-Paul: the journalist has found Santenac, he knows where the writer is hiding. They leave at once, travelling to a remote part of the Aveyron where their dream will become reality: for both of them, Santenac is far more than a novelist. His books are a question of life and death, especially for Jérôme, who finds in them that which he never had: a family.

Jean-Jacques ROCHE

The author

Born in 1956, Jean-Jacques Roche is professor at the University of Paris II – Panthéon-Assas and directs the *Institut Supérieur de l’Armement et la Défense*. He published several theoretical works and, under a pseudonym, three novels published at Albin Michel and JC Lattès.

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His works at Stock

“L’agenda de Rome”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: June 2005
- 315 pages
- Rights available

The book

A Kurdish immigrant worker is savagely murdered on a building site adjoining the European Commission offices. Thousands of miles away, in Southern Italy, the *City of Kalamata*, a rusting old cargo charged with over five hundred clandestine passengers, is being held at bay at the borders of the national waters. An inspector of the Brussels’ police, Tanguy Remacle, and one from Bari’s *guardia di Finanz*, Maria-Pia Virgilio, start investigating, and remain determined to bring the criminals to justice, even in the face of the immunity provided by an arrogant Eurocracy and of the power of Southern European Mafias. The policemen quickly find themselves isolated and deprived of their superior’s support. Ultimately, the two investigations form a single quest that lead the two men on the track of an influential sect strongly opposed to the integration of Turkey to the European Union. Who are its members, and how far are they prepared to go to defend they own idea of Europe? Remacle et Virgilio’s inquest draws us into the spell-binding universe of an action-packed thriller that weaves together police intrigues and geopolitical power struggles.

“Les vautours blancs”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: April 2003
- 358 pages
- Rights available

The book

In Brazzaville in the Congo, a humanitarian organisation – International Urgency – is running a camp for refugees, under the somewhat threatening protection of a local militia operating under the orders of a chief of war. A young refugee who seems different from the others and is trying to hide certain strange symptoms attracts the attention of Jérôme, a French doctor in the camp. With the help of a resourceful priest and a nurse, he begins to look more closely into the humanitarian installations in the camp. They end up discovering a clandestine laboratory where forbidden experiments are being conducted. But the camp suddenly finds itself cut off from outside help as the Angolan army and Japanese mercenaries brutally surround the area. Jérôme and everyone around him are caught in the midst the hostilities, their lives at risk.

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Philippe ROUTIER

The author

Philippe Routier was born in Germany in 1958. He has been living in Paris since 1974, trying his hand at a series of jobs at the national railway company, the SNCF, which he joined in 1983. He writes poetry, short stories and plays. “Réseau nord” was broadcasted on France Culture in 1989. He now works for the communication department of the SNCF. He has published two novels at Stock: “Passage à niveau” (2006) and “Le veilleur du Britannia” (2008, see the “New Titles” section).

His works at Stock

“Le passage à niveau”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 158 pages
- Rights available

The book

The level crossing 515, in the forest of Retz, has neither fence nor traffic light. One night, Manon Gerberoy drives to the railway line not knowing that a train is approaching at the speed of 160 km per hour. The crash is unavoidable. The car is crushed and its three passengers die: Manon, 32, her daughter Émilie, 7, et Manon’s father, 56.

A former points man, Guillaume has changed jobs to satisfy his girlfriend, Alice, fed up with the frequency of his nightshifts. He has been driving local trains for a few weeks. He feels responsible for the crash, and his anguish splits his couple further. Alone and angst-ridden, Guillaume meets Cyrille, a childhood friend of Manon, from whom he seeks reassurance that he is innocent of her death.

This first novel is uncompromising and cruel in its depiction of the dissolution of a couple, of frustration and weariness replacing desire. Philippe Routier’s characters have had hard lives. Few have chosen the existence that ties them to this dull, desolated region of the Picardie. The ‘aristocrats of the railways’ that train drivers once were have lost their prestige even if they still appear in the dreams of little boys.

Pascale ROZE

The author

Pascale Roze was awarded the *Prix Goncourt* in 1996 for her first novel, *Le Chasseur Zéro*. At Stock, She has published *Un homme sans larmes* (2005), *L’eau rouge* (2006) and *Itsik* (2008, see the “New Titles” section).

Her works at Stock

“L’eau rouge”

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Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2006
- 158 pages
- Rights sold to: Vietnam (Nha Nam)

The book

At the end of her life, Laurence Bertilleux starts to lose her head. Her daughters, looking over her, listen to her delirium. They catch some of the words she utters - Lân, Chaudoc, Coincoin. Moulin...- recognise some of them. They know that Chaudoc for instance, is the name of a place where their mother stayed during the war of Indochina, before they were born. A few days before her death, Laurence manages to escape, and finds the strength to go to the airport, where she intends to take a plane for the Guyana. She is caught at the last minute and brought back home, where she lets herself die, taking her story with her.

It is this story, the secret that Laurence left in Indochina, that is told in Pascale Roze's new novel, the most Romanesque of her books since *Le Chasseur Zéro*, which won her the Goncourt prize.

Why Indochina? Why choose this country, life amongst the military, when she was but a young twenty-five year old woman that nothing had prepared for such adventures? Why then this hurried return to France a few years later? Roze's novel answers these intriguing questions in her deeply affecting style. The mysterious words pronounced by Laurence on her death bed become familiar. In each of them, we come to recognise a nickname, the evocation of a loved one, a passion, a young woman's dream.

“Un homme sans larmes”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2005
- 174 pages
- Rights available

The book

Many a writer has described joy as the illumination of an instant, destined to vanish or already passed. Thought grows most comfortably in the snare of despair, and only escapes from it briefly, promptly returning to this familiar territory. I had to read Horace, going back to the Antiquity, to find, buried under the dust of centuries, a form of writing that seeks to express the joy of life - not the solitary, secluded joy of the mystic, but the joy of living in amongst others. This is not joy as the exception, but as a daily occurrence. In his work, Horace does not only elaborate a philosophy grounded in happiness, but offers himself as its object, a case in point. In Horace, the joy of life becomes life's task, an essential part of the act of writing itself. In reading Horace, I experience deep emotions as well as gratitude. I need him. I have sought, with all my strength, to understand him.

Capucine RUAT

The author

Capucine Ruat was born 1975. *Celle qui ne parle pas* is her first novel.

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Her works at Stock

“Celle qui ne parle pas”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2006
- 94 pages
- Rights available

The book

The woman who does not speak has a lot to say, of course. Secret things, hidden deep inside herself. Insignificant things, maybe, yet things that burn internally. There is a moment where one has to speak. It is a question of survival. Because the body progressively gives up, becomes thin and childish looking. Because all desires vanish. Because the people around, oblivious or powerless, look away. The young woman is thirty. She feels she cannot continue to pretend; to carry on hating herself and keeping herself apart; to let life pass by her. If she does not do anything about it, she will become a woman of salt, a statue of marble. So she takes the story up again, this red line that connects the women: her grandmother, her mother, her sister, her best friend. Generations of women who can only offer a flawed kind of love, a warped love. The young woman has inherited the same, insecure sense of femininity, which she carries like a burden. To try and understand, she searches deep, looks for the roots. In 1986, at the age of eleven, she leaves the golden realm of childhood and enters adolescence. Her body becomes heavy and unattractive, clumsy and viscous. Surrounded by women who do not like themselves, living in the shadow of a beautiful sister, she withdraws into depression. Books and writing become her refuge against the rule of silence; against the family that suffocates her more everyday. At eleven, she is seized by a fear that will not leave her alone. Behind the women now loom the shadows of the men; the father one adores as a child and who does not take you in his arms anymore; love stories that turned sour. How does one become unlovable, even to oneself? To gently engage in conversation with those we care for may open a path forward; to write may be a way to reconcile oneself with life. Maybe.

Colombe SCHNECK

The author

Colombe Schneck was born in Paris in 1966. She is a journalist for i<TELE and France Inter where she specializes in media. In 2006, she published a first, very successful novella *L'incroyable Monsieur Schneck*; her novel *Sa petite chérie* came out in 2007. Her latest novel, *Val de Grâce* was published in 2008 (see the “New Titles” section).

Her works at Stock

“Sa petite chérie”

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- 122 pages

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- Publication date: January 2007
- Rights available

The book

He called her his little darling. They were barely fifteen. Were they friends? Good pals? Youngsters in love? Possibly all of these. We'll never know.

They spent hours together, doing their homework. She was invited often at Jean's house; he seemed so much nicer than the other boys - and at that age, nothing serious can ever happen. Once only, during a school trip, Jean asked his 'little darling' if she would like to be his girlfriend. She kept her headphones on and merely shook "no" with her head - a movement she regretted all her life. She grew up. She loved. Was loved. But she never forgot Jean. Of course she meets him again, and at last, they allow themselves to be in love with each other. But can this relationship be successful?

Colombe Schneck leaves the territories of family history that she explored in her absorbing first novel, "L'incroyable Monsieur Schneck," to explore anew the ever-lasting theme of 'first love, last love,' offering us a gentle version of "When Harry met Sally" set in contemporary times.

"L'incroyable Monsieur Schneck"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: March 2006
- 124 pages
- Rights available

The book

While staying in a country house, Colombe Schneck becomes bored and, as she always does in such a case, she pores over a pile of old magazines. By chance, as ever, she finds herself reading a 1981 issue of *Paris-Match*. The cover shows Charles and Diana, but the periodical also publishes extracts from a forthcoming book on the most sordid of post-war criminal stories. The young woman is taken aback when she discovers, amongst other tales, the story of *L'incroyable Monsieur Schneck*. This *Mr. Schneck* was Colombe's grand-father. Colombe's parents are dead, but thankfully, her grand-mother is still alive, and confirms that this man was indeed her husband, Max Schneck, murdered in 1949 by a young man called Simon who might have been his lover. The newspapers of the time made the gory tale their serial of the year. The young woman wonders how she remained ignorant of this family secret for so long and starts on an obsessive search for the truth.

She decides to find Simon, her grand-father's murderer, at all costs. She learns that he was arrested shortly after the crime was committed; that he confessed and was sent for 11 years of forced labor, of which he only did seven... Then the leads start to multiply and the reader follows Colombe in her quest, as she considers a multiplicity of possible outcomes.

The writing is efficient and spare, and the tale incredibly gripping, as well as profoundly affecting.

Alexandra SCHWARTZBROD

The author

Alexandra Schwartzbrod is a journalist for *Libération*. In 2003, she published *Balagan*, which was awarded the *polar SNCF* prize. *La Cuve du Diable* (2007) is her fourth novel.

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Her works at Stock

“La cuve du diable”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: May 2007
- 286 pages
- Rights available

The book

Who tried to kill Lino Wang, the Hong-Kong tycoon, now the largest textile dealer in Naples?

A French journalist leads an investigation about the ominous infiltration, by Chinese triads, of a territory so far controlled by the Camorra. He discovers the secret face of Naples, of a city that Europe has abandoned to the cult of misery and God's will. The hero crosses the path of a mysterious woman in search of a different life. Together, they plunge into the accursed town's darkest recesses.

After Jerusalem (*Balagan*, 2003), Alexandra Schwartzbrod takes us to Naples, where, far away from tourist clichés, a bloody war between mafia gangs started again several months ago. This is a sensual and violent journey through the streets of a city that continues to attract writers as well as tourists from all over the world.

“Petite mort”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: April 2005
- 260 pages
- Rights available

The book

“I long believed that I disliked sex. The only thing I cared for was love. Pleasure was but one aspect of it. I was posted to the East twenty eight days before the war started, and my life was turned upside down...” These are the first lines of a mysterious diary posted to Viviane together with a small flask containing an unknown perfume – a mix of amber and almond scents. Where does this text come from? Why send it to her? Who is the woman who reveals herself so wilfully, recounting her erotic adventures without regard to propriety? Is she connected to the story of the drowned women recently found by one of the locks of the Ourcq canal, in front of the building where Viviane works? A psychologist specialised in addiction, Viviane thus becomes absorbed in an inquest that leads her far away from the banks of the canal, and finds herself crossing all borders, including that of sex.

With this original thriller, the author of the *Petite mort* mixes psychological and erotic suspense to draw us in her sensual and terrifying universe.

“Balagan”

Specifications:

- Thriller
- Publication date: May 2003
- 260 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Blanvalet), Spain (Legua Ediciones)

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

The book

A few months after the second Intifada broke out, two bloody terrorist attacks devastated public restrooms in the Jewish quarter, then in the Arab quarter, of Jerusalem. Inspector Landau – well-known for his unfailing commitment to eradicating terrorism – is in charge of the case. Another police officer present on the scene of both crimes is also interested in the case. Eli Bishara is an Arab Israeli whom everything opposes to Landau. Assigned to petty morals affairs since the beginning of the Intifada, Bishara had been on the trail of an Israeli woman who disappeared in the Jordan Valley, and his investigation leads him straight to the attacks committed in the biblical city.

David SERGE

The author

Gründlich is the second novel of David Serge, after *Les langues paternelles* (2006).

His work at Stock

“Gründlich”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: November 2007
- 306 pages
- Rights available

The book

If one day you were to write this story, you would call it *Gründlich*.

That would be an odd title.

It’s a German word, not quite easy to translate. Let’s say it evokes the idea of doing the job carefully, meticulously, thoroughly, right until the end.

She loved Germany so much.

She always was so gründlich, your little girl. She loved you gründlich, right from the first night. You were so seductive, in your unhappiness. After that, she did the job gründlich, nothing to complain about. She mended you, reconciled you, swallowed you in one piece, just like she did with cherries, including the pit.

If only you had wanted to, she would have taken you to the end of the world. And to China, since you have a meeting there, with the secret of your life.

Yet, little judge, China is far. And one fine day, you knew it all along, she would stand you up there, all alone with a bag of cherries, in the pleasant avenues of your lovely district.

Catherine SÉHER

The author

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Catherine Séher was born in 1960 in Nancy. After having studied agriculture and horticulture, she takes up a double course in Literature and Film Studies. She first becomes a bookseller before moving on to book publishing. *L'effacement* is her first work

Her work at Stock

“L’effacement”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: November 2007
- 176 pages
- Rights available

The book

They met when they were seventeen. They were tender and confident in their love. After twenty-seven years of common life, they are a unified couple, in spite of the hardships. When, on a clear and shiny night, he commits suicide, she feels abandoned and betrayed.

How can one understand and justify the brutality of this gesture? How can one assume daily life with two children when everything falls apart, when family members drift away and doors are shut? How can one answer without being clumsy to those willing to help?

L'effacement is a painfully alive text, moving and bitter, by times hard and severe. Passing on from *you* to *he*, Catherine Séher draws the portrait of a man who could not accept his failures in his professional life and his disappointments in a flaking society. From the complicity of their happy days to the final desertion, she takes up the thread of a story she now has to write alone, before the voice and the features of P*** fade away.

Amanda STHERS

The author

Since her beginnings as a writer Amanda Sthers never stopped surprising us. She followed an autobiographical novel, *Ma place sur la photo* (Grasset, 2004), with a novel set in New-York’s Jewish district, *Chicken street* (Grasset, 2005), before moving to play writing with the remarkable and extremely successful *Le Vieux Juif blonde* (Grasset, 2006). In 2007, she published *Madeleie* at Stock, followed by *Keith me* in 2008 (see the “New Titles” section).

Her works at Stock

“Madeleine”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: September 2007
- 162 pages
- Rights sold to Germany (Luchterhand), Italy (Ponte Alle Grazie), Romania (Echinox), Norway (Engelstad)

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

The book

At forty, Madeleine lives alone in Brest. She works as an estate agent, has occasional flings with men that don't stay; men she'd like to retain but who are satisfied with one night and disappear afterwards. One morning, she receives a call from Paris at the agency. A man called Castellot is looking for houses in the region. He arrives the next day. This one is interested in her. At the beginning, she does not believe it. He is a married man with children, why would he come back to her bed in a freezing town of Brittany?

She is wrong. Castellot does come back and while she makes up her mind on whether or not he is the man of her life, he is thinking of changing his life, wife - his whole affective environment.

Both seem inconsolable but it is not the same grief that fills them. Of the two, the one who will come out best of this strange adventure is obviously not the one that one would have expected to.

Paul-Loup SULITZER

The author

Born in 1946, Paul-Loup Sulitzer the the author of more than thirty best-sellers, several of which have been published at Stock, amongst others *Oriane ou la cinquième couleur* and *La vengeance d'Esther*.

His works at Stock

“Le Président”

Specifications:

- Publication date: November 2002
- 504 pages
- Rights available

The book

After five years of cohabitation, Paul Berthier is re-elected President of France as a result of his campaign against the leader of the French extreme right party during the second tier of elections. Following the advice of Jacques Pierrat, a clever high-ranking official who is used to manoeuvring behind the scenes, the President nominates a predictable government with good-natured and compliant Etienne Dumay at its head. The first blunders are followed by compromise and that's all it takes to convince the country that the endless political scheming is once again back in business. Back at “the Castle”, only one man seems delighted by the situation: Pierrat. Greedy for power, he imagined ways in which he could adapt the ideals of his youth (anarchy and the class struggle) to one day have the country in his hand on the pretext of a return to order. But Arnaud Bressard, the President's young and loyal advisor, stands in his way...

“La vengeance d'Esther”

Specifications:

- Publication date: November 2001

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- 420 pages
- Rights available

The book

Who is this mysterious Esther, who has brought together, in a house in the suburbs of Paris, a group of big hearted swindlers who give the profits of their “operations” to the needy? Why, night after night, does she talk to them about her grandmother, who escaped from the pogroms in the Ukraine? And what secret expedition is she planning? Why to the Côte d’Azur? Sulitzer, in this stunning novel, leads us on the trace of the fascinating Esther, who faces her trials with pluck and ends by carving out her own astonishing destiny.

“Oriane ou la cinquième couleur”

Specifications:

- Publication date: November 2000
- 446 pages
- Rights sold to: Russia (AST)

The book

The judge Oriane Casanove is, at thirty-five, one of the most famous women in Paris. Her intelligence and fighting spirit, at the service of the financial squad, make her fear those in power, of whom some of the most dishonest she had incarcerated. But this beautiful woman, who is simultaneously admired and feared and on the front page of glitter magazines is terribly alone. Devoted body and soul to her mission, she brutally realises that she has simply forgotten to live. In a staggering narrative, Sulitzer leads us down the path of this remarkable woman into the heart of a political-financial scheme whose goal is to have one of the most dangerous men in France elected. Serial killers, money laundering, international trafficking, relentless corruption: all means are used with violence by a small, cynical, mafia-like group.

François TAILLANDIER

The author

After *Anielka* (awarded the prize for best novel of the Académie française, Stock, 1999) and *Le cas Gentile* (Stock, 2001), *Il n’y a personne dans les tombes* continues the mad saga launched by François Taillandier with *Option Paradis* and pursued in *Telling*.

His works at Stock

“Il n’y a personne dans les tombes”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2007
- 342 pages
- Rights available

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

The book

New revelations about the characters of *Option Paradis* (2005) and *Telling* (2006):

Louise and Nicolas, the cousins who are also a couple are still together. She is allowed to keep a lover. On Sunday 21 April 2002, we find them at the HQ of a candidate for the French presidency.

During the summer of 2005, Christophe Herdoin, Louise's brother, loses his shadow on a beach in Vietnam. Will he find it again?

After her death in 1976, the truth about the free life led by the unhappily married Pauline of Vernery-sur-Arre emerges, breaking the silence imposed by the Herdoin clan.

In the autumn of 2009, in Brussels, Athanase, who escaped an African war, continues to think about the Bantamas, his native people, and decides to write a novel. He will become Sobel the writer. Élie Rubien, the Jewish hairdresser from Belleville, once an immigrant from Ukraine, dies an amnesiac. Close to Verney, the castle of the La Ronzière has apparently fallen into the hands of a sect...

Il n'y a personne dans les tombes offers a rich and varied tale of criss-crossing lives that reveals the mysteries and repressed secrets of an increasingly normative society.

François Taillandier's characters exist in a historical context steeped in ancient myths, where architecture, religion, economy, literature are in constant mutation. The three volumes of this triptych need not be read in their order of publication.

There is at least one piece of good news this time: the graves are empty.

"Telling"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: March 2006
- 282 pages
- Rights available

The book

Telling: from the verb to tell, "to tell a story", but also "to speak out", "to order". A narration that gives a meaning and a value to actions, behaviors, and ways of life: "An individual or a family telling, a historical or religious telling".

Second volume of La Grande Intrigue ('the Great Scheme'), Telling continues the exploration of fifty-five years of the evolution of the western society through the trajectories of a variety of characters related by birth or marriage. The structure of this sequel mirrors the mosaic-like construction of the first book, and each part of the saga could be read separately and in a different order. The readers of *Option Paradis* will recognize the characters of Nicolas, the architect, his cousin and lover Louise, and their respective children Greg and Alexandra. They will meet again with the mysterious philosopher who established the theory of the option Paradis, as well as the members of the Rubien, Maudon and Herdoin clans, their close-knit ties and family secrets, the concealed hatred and the masks that threaten the official family telling. François Taillandier is a master of the art of dissecting the tensions and contradictions and unfathomable facets of a certain French society. Telling opens new avenues, suggests new topics for reflection, and, through the character of Athanase, the small African boy who is arguably the true instigator of La Grande Intrigue, it evokes the possibility of new dreams.

"Option Paradis"

Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- 270 pages

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- Publication date: August 2005
- Rights available

The book

Option Paradis starts in May 2001. Nicolas Rubien and his cousin Louise Herdouin, also his lover, spend a few days in the house of the late Gabrielle Maudon, their grand-mother. Free from propriety and social hypocrisy, they evoke the family history, their childhood memories, their marriages and divorces, their love affairs.

According to an anonymous thinker, in the 1950s Western society claimed it would establish, here and now, the paradise, which would allow us to escape old determinisms. Nicolas describes this secular paradise, its elaboration and its contradictions.

From present to past, from one memory to another, *La Grande intrigue* revisits the genre of the social novel to recount the history of five generations in five volumes, of which *Option paradis* is the first.

Sophie TALNEAU

The author

Sophie Talneau is thirty-one years old and a graduate of the Business School of Nantes. She published *On vous rappellera* with Hachette Littératures in 2003.

Her work at Stock

“La working girl”

Specifications:

- Publication date: : February 2007
- 198 pages
- Rights sold to: Italy (Sperling & Kupfer), Korea (Positive Thinking)

The book

Zoé is a young woman who discovers professional life through the marketing services of a company specialising in beauty products.

The book is constructed as a series of short scenes that describe the routines and customs of a business where what you sell is, first and foremost, an image. There is the play-boy Hugo, the always unavailable director of the company; Léa, his assistant, a real cow; the perpetual trainee; the receptionist, with her set of favorite people and her own way of doing things; there are also the various products - Drainator, Lissator, etc. – as efficient on paper as they are useless in reality. In other words, everything you always wanted to know about the world of working people, told at great pace and in the wittiest style.

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Laurence TARDIEU

The author

Laurence Tardieu was born in Marseilles in 1972. She is an actress and a writer. She published two novels at Arléa: “Comme un père” (2002) and “Le Jugement de Léa” (awarded the *Prix Libraires Leclerc* for the best novel in 2004) before joining Stock, where she published *Puisque rien ne dure* (2006) and *Rêve d’amour* (2008, see the “New Titles” section).

Her works at Stock

“Puisque rien ne dure”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2006
- 128 pages
- Rights sold to: Germany (Ullstein), Japan (Hayakawa), Korea (Munhakdongne), Slovakia (Pectus), Algeria (French language rights, Sédia), China (Yingpan Brother) – Film rights reserved

The book

Vincent drives fast. He has to see Geneviève, the woman he once loved, and who is now about to die. On the speedway, he starts to reminisce, reflecting on the events that broke their couple 15 years earlier. He thinks about Clara, the child they lost, whose body was never found, and of the never-ending pain that consumed their love. Geneviève faced the tragedy alone, keeping a record of the suffering in her diaries, as if the writing was her life-line. Vincent tried to forget. He fled. Yet they would always have this experience of the unbearable in common. When they meet again, Vincent finds a woman eaten away by pain and sadness, but also appeased, and ready to face the past. In the last gestures and words that Geneviève and Vincent share before her death, they find each other again, and bring back Clara, their little girl, through their memories. Time has come for Vincent to reconcile himself with life.

“Puisque rien ne dure” describes, affectingly yet with wonderful restraint, the distress experienced in the loss of a child. Laurence Tardieu gives a voice to a mother and a father to evoke a suffering that cannot be communicated; she shows the ineluctable separation of the couple, and how each person finds their own way to deal with pain. In this poignant tale, life and death, like shadow and light, cannot be dissociated.

Eliza de VARGA

The author

Born in Paris, Eliza de Varga is an actress, lyrics writer and columnist.

Her work at Stock

“La petite fille des coulisses”

BACK LIST

PUBLISHED BY STOCK

Specifications:

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: April 2006
- 252 pages
- Rights available

The book

While her mother Colette is giving birth to her in Paris, Élisabeth Dalan’s father, Paul, is busy playing roulette at Andorra’s Casino. The child will be left in charge of Colette, a debutante actress and a true picture story heroine. This book is the tale of a childhood spent backstage, between Pigalle and Clichy, in the genial company of cabaret singers, magicians, and other theater and music-hall performers. It recalls the time of the great matinees, of Bruno Coquatrix and the black and white television women presenters. It tells the story of a world of interlopers and eccentrics who lead their life according to chance, of an atypical, scandalous family, with its adulterous father and its crook of a grand-father implicated in the assassination of the parliamentary Jacques de Broglie. It describes the life of a little girl who dreams of a “100 000 volts” father as in Gilbert Bécaud’s song, and absolutely refuses to stand in as the reincarnation of her aunt Betty, struck at the age of eight by a deathly bout of meningitis.

In this witty and moving first novel, Éliza de Varga offers us a tender and portrait of a highly picturesque and fascinating world.

Jaco VAN DORMAEL

The author

Filmmaker and scenario writer, Jaco Van Dormael was born in 1957 in Brussels, Belgium. He is the author of two films, “Toto le héros” (*César* for best foreign film and *Caméra d'or* in Cannes in 1991) and “Le Huitième jour” (joint best actor award in Cannes in 1996) and is, together with the Dardenne brothers, the leading filmmaker of Belgium.

His work at Stock

“Mr Nobody”

Specifications:

- Publication date: November 2006
- 260 pages
- Rights available

The book

Scenario, storyboard, continuity script or novel? “Mr Nobody” is a bit of all. The first book of Jaco Van Dormael, it is the story of the film that he will shoot in 2007, in English, with an international cast.

“Mr Nobody” develops the themes that are at the heart of Jaco Van Dormael’s work. Born in 1972, Nemo Nobody is convinced he is 36, yet he wakes up in 2092, an old man. 120 years old, Nobody is thus the oldest man and the last mortal of a humanity where no-one dies anymore. This does not seem to interest or even trouble him much. His only question is whether he led the right life; whether he was a loving companion to the woman he was meant to love, and had the children he was meant to have. He wants to

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PUBLISHED BY STOCK

be sure his was not any of the other possible existences, with any of the other possible women. As a little boy, on the train station's platform, he once had to choose between his mother or his father as his parents were separating. Nobody is still unsure whether he took the right decision. The film's premise is based on this essential uncertainty. We follow Nemo Nobody through his adventures, lived or dreamt, to discover, in the last pages of the book, a little girl standing next to a pond: the little girl he never stopped loving.

Iris WONG

The author

Iris Wong was born in 1977 in Toulon. She writes film scenarios and works as an assistant film director. *Héroïque* is her first novel.

Her work at Stock

“Héroïque”

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2007
- 196 pages
- Rights available

The book

Since her father became unemployed, Jeanne Kacer has had one objective: to give him back his dignity. As far as she is concerned, he is the bravest man in the world, as courageous as those resistance fighters that are hunted by the Gestapo in her favorite film, *L'Armée des ombres*. Her father is a hero, and certainly not this drunken man that she caught a glimpse of, lying in a van abandoned on a piece of waste ground. She must forget this vision, fend off the shame and the humiliation. Jeanne wants to be a respected French citizen.

Only fourteen, Jeanne makes herself look older to attend a job interview. When she meets Merle, her father's former boss, she asks him to take him back. This is the start of a perilous and hallucinatory journey where the young girl faces an unsettling reality. Jeanne does not trust her own emotions, she continuously checks herself, makes sure she is not dreaming. She counts, draws lists, goes through rituals of self-punishment. She also wants to be a hero.

Jeanne's chilling visions and the enigmatic, changing personality of Merle give this first novel its enthralling rhythm and singular style. *Héroïque* is a human and social tragedy told with a tone black humour mastered to perfection by its author.