

# NEW TITLES PUBLISHED BY STOCK

## Carole ACHACHE

### The author

**Carole Achache** has been a stills photographer, working for famous filmmakers such as Sautet, Losey and Tavernier. Following *L'Indienne de Cortès* (Robert Laffont, 2002), *La Plage de Trouville* is her second novel. She has also published two books of photographs: *Chantier en cours* and *Des fleurs* (Thierry Magnier, 2004 and 2006).

### La plage de Trouville

#### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: February 2008
- 356 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

1999. Three years after my mother's death, I receive a phone call from a stranger. The man works at the Beaubourg museum and is in charge of its collections. He tells me about a painting, stolen from my grandparents by the Nazis, and announces that he will return it to me. I immediately get goose pimples. The painting, he says, is *La plage de Trouville*, by Jacques Mauny. I tell him I have two other paintings by Mauny.

It is as if History has caught up with me. I feel utterly confused. This man has suggested that I go through family papers, trying to find trace of this third work. I cannot really turn my back on this, yet the timing is really bad. This past is a burden. I resent it. After my mother's death, I had decided to forget.

*We decide to meet, and exchange contact details. La plage de Trouville was apparently spotted at my grand-father's house in 1930. The Germans took it in 1942. And, so this man says, it is up to me to prove that this painting belonged to my family till that date. I am speechless. All the witnesses are dead. There are no photographs. Everything from that time has disappeared.*

Things have been turned up-side-down. I am now in the position of the applicant who has to keep pestering the state till she gets back what belongs to her.

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## Daniel ARSAND

### The author

**Daniel Arsand** was born in Avignon in 1950. He is a foreign literature editor at Phébus, and has written several novels: *La Province des ténèbres*, *En silence*, *Lily*, *Ivresses du fils* and *Des chevaux noirs*.

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## Des Amants

### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2008
- 174 pages
- Rights available

### The book

1749. Fifteen-year-old Sébastien Faure is tending a flock of goats and ewes when a galloping horse suddenly appears and throws off its rider. With some dried plants, Sébastien manages to awaken the heavily injured Balthazar de Créon. The latter promises that from now on, he belongs to the boy. Faithful to his promise, Balthazar comes back a couple of months later and takes Sébastien to the Créon castle in order to train him, to make him become the king's doctor, and above all, to love him. Balthazar and Sébastien live their passion hidden from society. At the time, male lovers are insulted, they suffer from violence, and are killed.

Nevertheless, the fury of the world catches up with them. Rumours are set afloat at Court, where Créon is seen less and less; he is accused of the worst crimes and his process is merely a matter of time. Balthazar ends up at the stake, whilst Sébastien has to flee and hide his feelings.

*Des amants* is a magnificent song about love and humanity. Through this incandescent and passionate love story, Arsand denounces the intolerance of yesterday's and today's society towards two men who love one another.

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**Justine AUGIER**

## The author

Born in Paris in 1978, **Justine Augier** has done humanitarian work involved with development projects in Afghanistan, amongst other places. She wrote her first novel in Jerusalem where she has been living for a year.

## Son absence

### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2008
- 170 pages
- Rights available

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## The book

The narrator of this book describes a series of life stories. From snippets and traces - texts, words, images - he weaves together a whole tale, filling the gaps, the ellipses. His specialty is stories of people who died a violent, collective death.

He was born in Vienna in 1933, and lives alone with his books and his music. Words are all that allow him to make sense of a fragmented world.

At the beginning of 1999, a woman comes to see him. Her daughter Aria has disappeared three years ago, leaving behind a few books, tapes, letters, as well as press cuttings, photographs and a series of dated notebooks. She was twenty-four years old.

Talks with the young woman's mother as well as her partner, and reading the notebooks allow him to retrace and map out Aria's life, from Paris to Venice, to Jerusalem and Afghanistan. Frails and ruptures appear through the testimonies, as well as evidence of a need to talk about a reality that seemed to escape her. Aria then turned to literature - in vain.

The narrator's own story parallels his account of Aria's life. His own disappearance takes form through his text - writing as a body of absence.

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## Christian AUTHIER

### The author

**Christian Authier** was born in 1969. He is the author of four novels published by stock : *Enterrement de vie de garçon* (2004), *Les liens défaits* (prix Roger-Nimier, 2006), *Une si douce fureur* (2006) and *Une belle époque* (2008).

### Une belle époque

#### Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: August 2008
- 298 pages
- Rights available

## The book

The narrator of the book has returned to a large provincial town where he lived as a young man. There, from autumn 1994 till spring 1995, he experienced a form of freedom, the exhilaration of power, as well as an unforgettable love. It was a beautiful time.

As a recent graduate, he briefly worked for a communication agency before he was employed by the main regional broadsheet, a paper owned by a family of dishonest notables. One day, an opportunity arises, for him and his friends to become involved in the political campaign of an ambitious mayor who hopes to bring his career to the level of national politics. These were times where ambiguity reigned, and communication and modernization at all cost were widely held as the panacea.

The narrator and his friends were not yet twenty-five, and the future belonged to them. Easy money and the desire to have fun did the rest. They organized a humanitarian operation, helped staging a theater play,

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brought to light the role of a long forgotten second-world war collaborator... They even found a recipe against unemployment.

They adopted the ambitions of a new generation of politicians who affected strong beliefs to try and mask an apparent cynicism. Soon, they were swimming in the icy waters of selfish calculation and shady manipulation.

During these times of uncertainty, the classical elegance and grace of the beautiful Clémence reminded the narrator that life was worth living. At that point however, he could not imagine a different kind of existence.

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## Christian et Olga BAUDELLOT

### The author

**Christian Baudelot** is professor of sociology at the *École normale supérieure*, and the author of books on education, social inequalities, suicide and happiness at work. **Olga Baudelot** is a researcher in pedagogy at the INRP (National Institute for pedagogical research). She is a specialist on cultural programs for young children and heads a comparative study of socialization at nursery schools in France and Japan.

### Une promenade de santé

#### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2008
- 239 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

Sociologist Christian Baudelot’s books (*Le niveau monte*, *Allez les filles!*, etc.) have become reference texts throughout the world. For this book however, he completely changes register. Two years ago he watched his wife Olga, a researcher in her own rights, become dependent on drugs and move progressively and implacably closer to death. Before her, her mother and grand-mother died of the same incurable kidney condition. But Christian Baudelot discovers that his wife and him are ‘compatible’ and decides to give one of his kidneys to his wife. This book is the dual tale of this experience. “I did it for myself!” Claims the donor. “Because I witnessed the suffering of my father-in-law watching his wife wasting away.” But this explanation falls short of the complexity that this book aims to convey. First there is the humorous and precisely depicted account of the participants’ journey to the decision of the transplant. What does it mean to give a part of oneself? Then there is what happens afterward. The obscure emotions that the gift of an organ, and the expectations set by such a gift create. French medicine is reluctant to engage with the complexities of transplants involving live donors. It is indeed a complex process of which Christian and Olga Baudelot, in all their intellectual awareness, provide a wonderful, deeply affecting testimony. Most crucially, they offer us a poignant and optimistic love story that has a universal appeal.

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## Carine BEAUFILS

### The author

**Carine Beaufiles** is twenty-six. She loves literature and detests numbers and figures. Yet for some strange reason, she became a bank-manager. Then again, she is not asked to make calculations but to invest. When she is not busy with investments she is a comedian, performing at her work place but also, as an actress, on the theater stage. *Monsieur le Directeur* is her first novel: her first step towards literature and away from the world of numbers.

### Monsieur le Directeur

#### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2008
- 156 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

This is a man who has slowly gone up the professional ladder until he became the company’s finance Director. The book recounts this trajectory from the point of view of his daughter, watching him transform from the long-haired, cigarette smoking father wearing overalls into a suit and tie man with a brief-case. When he coughs however, this feared, respected and powerful director spits blood. A blood that is as red as the cheap wine he drinks to forget at night.

*Monsieur le Directeur* is the implacable portrait of a professional world that breaks and crushes men, as well as the portrait of a paradoxical character, a man who is so consistently different from others that it becomes funny.

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## Judith BERNARD

### The author

**Judith Bernard** has a PhD in Literature, Linguistics and Theatre studies. She teaches French in Secondary schools in the suburbs of Paris. She is also actress and a producer for the theatre. She is a playwright, and *Qui trop embrasse* is her first novel.

### Qui trop embrasse

#### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2008
- 266 pages

# NEW TITLES PUBLISHED BY STOCK

- Rights available

## The book

When she arrives in Lyon to take up a post as university lecturer, Juliette Canard does not yet know how ferocious the academic world is. She is pretty in appearance and discourses charmingly, but in such a fierce environment, she is little more than a sitting duck...

*Qui trop embrasse* (meaning “grasp all, loose all”) is an exploration of the dark side of the academic world; here, the university is experienced as a corporeal world of sensations and desires. It is a world of sexual urges, where people hunt each other and devour each other. But if one can laugh at one’s own demise, then it becomes less of a personal drama, more of a tragic-comedy: falls are burlesque, bites are grotesque, and crimes are nothing but crimes on paper.

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## Pierre BISIOU

### The author

**Pierre Bisiou** was born in 1965. *Enculée* is his first novel.

### Enculée

#### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2008
- 156 pages
- Rights sold to: **Germany (C. Bertelsmann) and Italy (Sperling & Kupfer)**

## The book

A eulogy of love and sodomy, *Enculée* is a licentious and tender novel.

“You ask me: ‘Do you think I’m normal? You know I am not. It is not healthy to want to make love in this way so often. I like to do it this way even more than the normal way. That’s not normal is it?’  
I feel like telling you that I don’t give a damn.”

Young women today remain as fascinated with love as ever. Indeed, they associate it with all kinds of liberal practices and perversions, transgressions and illicit passions. Hence, for instance, the narrator’s girlfriend, who offers herself to her lover from behind and loves it... But to want to bring love to the most remote of recesses is to emphasize the paradox of the flesh - as in the “philosophy in the bedroom” where it hints at the “end of the affair.”

Weaving together a crude and matter-of-fact vocabulary with long, intricate sentences that unravel through brief paragraphs, *Enculée* treats pornography like a thoughtful exercise fit for dreamers.

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## Jean-Marie BORZEIX

### The author

**Jean-Marie Borzeix** was a journalist for *Combat*, the *Quotidien de Paris*, as well as the *Nouvelles littéraires*. He has worked successively as literary editor at Editions du Seuil, head of *France Culture*, chairman of *Télérama*, and, until last year, advisor at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. He published *Les carnets d'un francophone* (Editions Bleu autour) in 2006.

### Jeudi saint

#### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2008
- 192 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

On 6 April 1944, a contingent of German soldiers hunting for the region's resistance fighters occupied a small town of the Limousin (center of France). Sixty years on, the inhabitants of the town remember how four countrymen from a nearby village were taken hostages and shot to make an example.

Jean-Marie Borzeix knows the story well: he was born in that region at the beginning of the war. But one event can hide a more complex story. In the course of his inquest, Borzeix discovers how in the same area, the arrest and deportation of tens of Jews started on the 6 April, on Holy Thursday, and continued through the whole of Spring 1944.

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## 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.

### Le roman de Jean

#### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2008
- 306 pages

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- Rights available

## The book

*Le roman de Jean* is not a biography but a book written by a son talking about a father who has recently disappeared. Working from drafts and fragments (photographs, letters, music scores, press reviews), the author recounts how Jean Brun arrived in Paris before the war, having decided to become an artist.

Using Jean Dréjac as his alias, he started a career in music-halls, and wrote the lyrics for famous songs such as *Le petit vin blanc* and *Sous le ciel de Paris* while working for the most famous performers of his time: Maurice Chevalier, Gilbert Bécaud, Serge Reggiani and Edith Piaf, for whom he composed the classic *L'homme à la moto* and *Les Forains*.

He then met Perla, whom he was to love for forty years, and settled down.

Following *Perla*, a book recounting his mother's life, Frédéric Brun evokes with great tenderness, in songs and images, the character of Jean, his father. His book subtly combines the past, colourful and musical, with a melancholy present marked by grief. Confronted to the question of the after-death, Brun finds relief in the works of the ancient philosophers who wrote about death. It is in this self-reflexive aspect that *Le roman de Jean* becomes both an intimate novel about a father, and a book with a universal appeal.

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## Sophie CHÉRER

### The author

**Sophie Chérier** was born in 1961. She is the author of about fifteen children's books and four novels. Her last novel was published at Stock in 2004: *L'enjolveur*.

### Ma Dolto

#### Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: January 2008
- 306 pages
- Rights available

## The book

Françoise Dolto was a French doctor and psychoanalyst, famous for her research on childhood. Born in 1908, she died twenty years ago, leaving behind a prolific Work of theoretical texts as well as writings aimed at the general public. She is mainly known for having modified the vision on childhood and its status in contemporary society. By retracing Françoise Dolto's life, depicting cases of children she treated, restoring her words, with her childlike soul, Sophie Chérier brings her back very closely for both adults and children.

This is what the author says about the book: "I wanted to tell the life of Françoise Dolto, but not in the style of a classical biography. I wanted to defend her struggle, but not in the style of a pamphlet. I wanted to talk

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about the unconscious to very young people, but not in the style of ‘Psychoanalysis explained to my daughter.’ I think that once I had found its title, I realised what this book was going to mean to me.

Since the general public discovered her when she was nearly seventy years old, Françoise Dolto has too often been represented as an old granny: when appearing on television, her silvery hair was tied up in a knot, a knitted cloth was draped around her shoulders and she was wearing her glasses wisely at the tip of her nose. That is why I decided to call this book *Ma Dolto*, “My Dolto,” because this very Françoise Dolto is mine, even though I never met her. She is distant yet very close, and it is my subjective, partial, incomplete vision of her that I deliver in this book, while mumbling her name as much as I proclaim it, as one sometimes says: my child, my hero, my love.”

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**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).

## Petite fabrique des rêves et des réalités

### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2008
- 288 pages
- Rights available

### The book

“I often feel that I write novels the way a filmmaker would; it is as if I was making my film, *Il y a longtemps que je t’aime*, the way a writer composes a novel. Today, as a man who relentlessly questions the world, I believe I have found a kind of equilibrium – like a the tightrope walker – by mixing two forms of approaches: that of the writer who uses words and locks himself away when he works, and that of the filmmaker, who mixes sounds, words and movements as well as the effects of the film stock, light and human matter, and can only work surrounded by people.

Once the shooting was finished, and the film completed, I didn’t feel I was done with that project.

The desire to explore it anew, to look at it from a distance and with words (those of the writer? Of the filmmaker?) emerged. I watched all the stills taken while we were filming; I leafed through the script again; I thought about the set, the actresses, the technicians, the extras, the framing – all kinds of elements that brought me back to that moment when a film is born, to the anxiety (mine and others’), the discoveries, difficulties and wonders of it. In other words, I tried to do a *making of* of a particular kind. One that would help me come to terms with that double nature of mine. And I feel that thanks to this little book that can be read also like a fragmented autobiography, I continue to tighten the rope that I have walked for so long.”

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**Yves DESMAZES**

## **The author**

**Yves Desmazes** is a police officer who started his career in Paris and is now in post at the police headquarters of the Hérault (South East region of France). *Folies meurtrières* is his second novel.

## **Folies meurtrières**

### Specifications:

- “Thriller Series”
- Publication date: April 2008
- 408 pages
- Rights available

### The book

The folly called Château des Perrières, which stands near Montpellier, appears to be the site of a strange malediction. Its new owners, a wealthy Canadian business woman and a sulfurous TV-evangelist, gave a party to celebrate the end of the restoration work, and found one of their guest impaled on a halberd, one hand clutching a letter of the alphabet. Kévin Normand, a police lieutenant from the crime squad in Montpellier, is put in charge of the inquest. Interestingly, Kevin is also one of the bishop’s deacons. Beset by uncertainties and suspicions, Kévin finds himself doubting the judiciary system, his superiors, and even the Catholic hierarchy. In order to solve the puzzle, he has to go back in time, to the troubled era of the French revolution.

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**Éric FAYE**

## **The author**

**Éric Faye** was born in Limoges 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) and *Le syndicat des pauvres types* (2006) at Stock.

## **L’homme sans empreintes**

### Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2008
- 268 pages

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- Rights sold to: **Bulgaria (Pulsio)**

## The book

It is in the imaginary Latin-American republic of Costaguana that the writer B. Osborn is buried. Like each year, his widow Aurelia undertakes a long journey to visit his tomb, which is in the Indian lands. There, she is supposed to meet with a German professor who claims he can reveal certain things about her late husband's past.

Yet others tempt to rip off the mask of "the century's most secretive writer:" Rebecca Hamilton, an American woman who was Osborn's last love; Thomas Ahorn, the German professor who is a specialist of Salinger; Wagenbach, an old anarchist exiled on an island in the Baltic Sea; Aguila Mendes, a young, ambitious and unscrupulous journalist. And even Alfred Hitchcock, who was said to have tried to adapt to the screen one of the novels of the mysterious writer, with the disconcerting Kim Novak. Each narrator applies him- or herself to recompose the puzzle of a life built on deceit.

Yet Osborn keeps slipping away. Director of an anarchist magazine in Berlin, ethnologist in the jungle, owner of a hostel, literary agent... he spreads confusion and stays elusive, with multiple identities.

Inspired by B. Traven, author of the enigmatic *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, Osborn is a fascinating character, some kind of adventurer who chose to go underground. Beyond the entrancing investigation tracking down his hero, Éric Faye wonders about the effacement of the writer behind his works, and about the impossible biography.

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## Jean-Louis FOURNIER

### The author

**Jean-Louis Fournier** is the author of a number of successful essays and novels where the humour and humanity of his style always shines, amongst others *Grammaire française et impertinente* (Payot, 1992 ), *Il a jamais tué personne mon papa* (Stock, 1999), *Mon dernier cheveu noir* (Editions Anne Carrière, 2006). *Où on va, papa ?* may well be his most desperately funny book to-date.

### Où on va, papa ?

#### Specifications:

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: August 2008
- 156 pages
- Rights sold to: **Spain (Destino) and Italy (Rizzoli)**

## The book

*Dear Mathieu, dear Thomas,*

*When you were small I was often tempted to offer you a book. A 'Tintin' for instance. We could have discussed it afterwards. I know the Tintin books well. I have read them all several times. I never did it. It was not worth it, you did not know how to read. You will never know how to read. Until the end, your presents will consist of building blocks and toy cars...*

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I wrote this book for them because I don't want them to be forgotten, to survive only in the form of a picture on an invalidity card. And there is the guilt. I was never a very good father. Often, they got on my nerves. You had to have the patience of an angel, and I am no angel.

When one talks about handicapped children, one puts on a suitably concerned expression, as if talking about a catastrophe. For once, I would like to do so with a smile. They did make me laugh, albeit involuntarily, with their pranks. They gave me a number of advantages that parents of normal children did not enjoy. I never had to worry about their studies and their professional future. We never had to decide between sciences or humanities. Most of all, for all these years, I was granted a free road tax disk. Thanks to them, I was able to drive large American cars." – Jean-Louis Fournier

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**Michel FOLCO**

## The author

**Michel Folco** has previously written *Dieu et nous seuls pouvons* (1991), *Un loup est un loup* (1995) and *En avant comme avant !* (2001), all published at Seuil.

## Même le mal se fait bien

### Specifications

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: January 2008
- 598 pages
- Rights available

### The book

This is the story of a former Roman camp, which has become a small village in a small valley of the Piedmont, victim of isolation, of inbred marriages, of Alaric the Visigoth, of the bubonic plague, of a badly chosen mayor and of an atrabilious doctor.

It is the story of a family filled with unwillingness, bad feelings, twisted strokes, and within which the Bad triumphs triumphantly.

It is the story of a gastro-duodenal ulcer and of a testamentary clause obliging Marcello Tricotin – an authentic son of a whore – to go on a long and complicated journey through the Austro-Hungarian kingdom of the early twentieth century.

It is the story of a trip full of hardships, initiating and not exactly jubilatory, which shows that, if the last will and testament of a deceased are sacred, they can be particularly annoying.

It is the story of a stay in Vienna where Marcello Tricotin's path will cross with Sigmund Freud's, where he will meet the celestial Thunder and where he will succeed in staying fifteen meters under water in the Danube for fifteen minutes.

It is also the detailed account of an unnatural alliance between three species of termites and a school teacher looking for revenge, which will provoke a radical, exemplary and edifying vengeance, and which, to say all, turns out to be a hundred per cent gratifying.

Accessorily, it is also the definite solution of a historical mystery, revealing the identity of the father of the retired imperial and royal customs officer named Aloïs Schickelgruber-Hitler.

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**Victor GARDON**

## **The author**

**Victor Gardon**, a.k.a Vahram Gakavian was born in Van, Armenia, in 1903. He died on 29 January 1973 in Paris.

In 1915, his family fled the Turkish massacres, and in 1923, he left Turkey for France. A prisoner during WWII, he escaped and joined the resistance under the pseudonym of Victor Gardon. After the liberation, he became part of the Armenian and French intellectual circles and befriended Achod Nichanian, Méloyan, Carzou, Nigoghos Sarafian, Nubar Arpiarian as well as Raymond Aron.

Victor Gardon died of a heart attack. He had just completed the fourth volume of his saga. This last volume has not been found yet.

## **Le Vanetsi. Une enfance arménienne**

Specifications:

- Publication date: June 2008 (reprint)
- 598 pages
- Rights available

The book

*Le Vanetsi* is the new edition, in one volume, of Victor Gardon's famous trilogy published between 1959 and 1970.

Gardon's ambitious saga follows the destiny of Vahram Gavakian, a young Armenian boy who lives in Van with his grand-mother at the beginning of the twentieth century. The novel initially takes the form of a colorful tale of country-side existence, celebrating daily life in the village where Vahram is growing up with an authoritarian but irresistible grand-mother - men working in the fields; women busy with domestic chores; arranged marriages; first love...

However, under the Turkish domination Armenia was to suffer a series of terrible upheavals and repressions. The 'Young Turks' deposed the sultan and seized power, bringing hope to Armenia, but the start of WWI destroyed all expectations: as massacres began it was time to leave the ancestral home and Vahram's family started on its exodus. From Igdir to Tiflis, they drifted through a devastated, ransacked country, where mass graves and torture had become widespread. At the beginning of the Russian revolution, in 1917, the family decided to leave Georgia for good and took to the road again...

Vahram's was no ordinary childhood, and we see the world through his eyes, as he describes all he sees, even the most atrocious scenes, with an almost clinical detachment. A far cry from sentimentalism, this sense of distance is the greatest force of this account of the Armenian tragedy. The great sensuality and the poetry that pervade each page turn this tale into a deeply affecting testimony.

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**Gaëlle GUERNALEC-LEVY**

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## The author

**Gaëlle Guernalec-Lévy** is thirty-three. She has worked as a journalist for ten years. *L'amant inachevé* is her first novel. In 2007 she published *Je ne suis pas enceinte* (Stock), a study on pregnant women who deny their condition.

## L'amant inachevé

### Specifications:

- "Raspberry Series"
- Publication date: May 2008
- 144 pages
- Rights sold to: **Germany (Aufbau), Italy (Mondadori), Spain (Grijalbo) and Romania (Trei)**

### The book

Claire has very vague memories of her first experiences with boys. There is only one boy whom her mind and her body remember clearly. That was the year she was sixteen and she confided everything to her diary, down to the last detail: how he touched her, how he looked at her. It was exciting because the relationship was a secret one, but also because they never went all the way: it remained an unfinished story.

Years later, a wife and a mother, and a woman who has explored many sides of her sexuality, she still thinks about him. D. inhabits her memory as a mythical character, as her favorite fantasy, the remedy to dull days. She keeps an eye on him, checks the phone book to make sure he is still alive and not too far from her. She lives a secret double life, and starts her diary again, to escape daily routine and the effect of time passing.

One day, she finds herself face to face with D. There is no choice: she has to live this story for real.

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## Isaia IANNACONE

## The author

**Isaia Iannaccone** was born in Naples. He is a chemist and specialist of China, in particular of its history of sciences and techniques. He is currently a professor at the European School in Brussels and a researcher with the *Observatoire astronomique de Paris*.

## Le rideau de jade

### Specifications:

- Publication date: Mars 2008
- 392 pages

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- Rights sold to: **Italy (Sonzogno) and Romania (Pro Editura)**

## The book

1760: The Jesuits are subjected to slander and repression and are threatened of being driven out of China where they have been present for over a century.

The only way out is to successfully support the powerful emperor of the Manchou dynasty in his attempt to satisfy his first wife's passion for theater. This is an incredible challenge: to perform a famous opera by Carlo Goldoni, with music by Maestro Niccolo Piccini, at the heart of the Forbidden City. Yet what could be a better weapon than theater in the conquest of the Celestial Empire?

Behind the formidable walls that surround the court of Peking, scheming and power struggles, sensuality and jealousy, are rife. In the fascinating atmosphere of the era of enlightenment, Goldoni and the Jesuits, Voltaire and Casanova, as well as cardinals, concubines, tenors, castrates and eunuchs, cross each others' path. Between Rome, Peking and Paris, this is a sweeping evocation of a golden age, where reason and *libertinage* cohabited.

Following *L'ami de Galilée* (2006), a best-seller in France and Italy that was further translated into four languages, *Le rideau de jade* is equally dedicated to the relation between China and the West. The habits and customs of the Chinese civilization and the artistic and cultural climate of the European courts of the time are described with a wealth of details and authenticity, in a novel that mixes together real characters and events with fictional heroes.

\*\*\*

## 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), and *Millefeuille de onze ans* (Stock, 2007). She has also written three books on Théodore Monod.

### La traversée du désert

#### Specifications:

- "Blue series"
- Publication date: August 2008
- 236 pages
- Rights available

## The book

Major Alexander Laing was the first European to reach Timbuktu in August 1826. Starting from Tripoli where he left behind the young woman he had recently married, he traveled three thousand kilometers through the Sahara before he entered the mythical city. But the adventure turned into a nightmare. On the

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way back, Laing was assassinated. The discovery of this ‘pearl of the desert’ would be attributed two years later to a Frenchman, René Caillié.

Botanist Gabriel Barthomieux is forever recounting this tragic expedition. Young photographer Ariane follows him into the desert wondering what is so fascinating about Laing. Finally, Gabriel convinces her to write a novel about him. After all, the “Laing file” could not be more dramatic: unfulfilled love, horrific assassination, documents that mysteriously vanish, all unraveling in a Saharan setting, against a backdrop of diplomatic incidents. Ariane will soon understand that this story leads deep into the secret of amorous passion.

Jarry’s *La traversée du désert* is both a completely engrossing novel and a book that offers its reader the chance to embark on an essential inner journey.

\*\*\*\*

## Paul LOUBIERE

### The author

**Paul Loubière** has a PhD in philosophy and ethnography and works as a reporter for *Challenges*, a journal specializing in issues of energy and petrol. He teaches mathematics and logic at the university of Paris-8. *Assassinat sous X* is his third crime novel.

### Assassinat sous X

#### Specifications

- “Thriller Series”
- Publication date: April 2008
- 308 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

Look for the victim, not for the assassin! This is the rather unusual challenge that Pierre Brassac, a young lieutenant recently graduated from the police school, has to face. Nothing happens according to the customary scenario: the assassin agrees to give himself up but only on the condition that he is told who it is he killed – a mysterious victim that nothing permits to identify... Pierre Brassac finds himself caught in an incredible machination, and discovers the hidden face of the oil business and its obscure multinational companies. Some are not happy with oil only and take advantage of their multiple locations abroad to traffic with strange and highly profitable substances.

The central character of Paul Loubière’s new novel is a beginner lieutenant who has to deal with a hierarchy that appears as Machiavellian as the criminals he pursues. Loubière gives a convincing and powerful description of the complexity of today’s oil business.

\*\*\*

## Luc LANG

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## 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).

## Cruels, 13

Specifications:

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2008
- 160 pages
- Rights available

The book

With fifteen ferocious fables, Luc Lang seizes and conjugates the brutality of the contemporary world in all its shades: it is funny, sad, tragic, ridiculous, or painful, it is always pitiless...

The married couple, the family, but also business firms, the neighbourhood, the city or the roadway are all places which serve as a scenery for these bitter tales.

In turn, we'll be the bastard who sows nastiness like bees sow pollen, the victim who suffers from the savageness of others, or we get caught in a trap without wanting to.

*Cruels, 13* is a depiction of the present, dispersed in a jigsaw puzzle of cruelties from which no one, eventually, escapes. We laugh, we cry, we grind our teeth.

\*\*\*

**Yves MAMOU**

## The author

**Yves Mamou** is a journalist for *Le Monde*. *Camélia.came* is his first novel.

## Camelia.came

Specifications:

- “Thriller Series”
- Publication date: March 2008
- 324 pages
- Rights available

The book

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A black youth, who works for a major internet flower delivery service, dies in an explosion on an estate at the periphery of Paris.

A commando of Columbian assassins arrives in the French capital in search of hundreds of kilograms of cocaine.

Islamic terrorists in hiding in a renowned Paris hotel wait in vain for a message from their local contact.

A Columbian engineer invents a new means of passing drug undetectably.

A young woman is abducted.

The diverse trajectories of these characters should not cross, yet... Superintendent Martucci joins forces with an agent from the Drug Enforcement Administration, to investigate.

\*\*\*

## Dominique MULLER

### The author

**Dominique Muller** was born in Strasbourg and lives in Venice. She is the author of *Brave petite* (Seuil, 1986), *Danger public* (Seuil, 1988), *C'était le paradis* (Seuil, 1993, prix Roger Nimier), *Le meilleur de la vie* (Fayard, 1995), *Les filles prodigues* (Seuil, 2000), *Désormais Venise* (2005, Seuil). She is a regular contributor to France Culture's Sunday broadcast "*Les Papous dans la tête*."

### Lire la notice et vivre ensuite

#### Specifications:

- "Raspberry Series"
- Publication date: April 2008
- 234 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

It was such a hot summer, people were getting crazy. Sabine Lachenay had decided to join Rocky on one of the Cyclades islands. Why not accept to be seduced this presumptuous small-time speculator since Rocco, the man she loves, prefers men?

What happened next – Loulou and her colorful necklaces, the wall collapsing on the cliff, Olympus in flames – she has forgotten: none of it was her fault.

But before then, she remembers herself as a free young woman, a volatile, absent mother, a happy woman with a man who disappeared too early. And before then she was the little girl in that story of a couple separating that Truffaut brought to the screen. What she knows today is that one evening in August her rage went up in smoke and that she, at last, found peace.

*Lire la notice et vivre ensuite* recounts the dreams and disappointments of a woman hungry for happiness and pleasure. Dominique Muller's book is a sharp, humorous depiction of a comedy of love that ends up as tragedy.

\*\*\*

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## Erik ORSENNA

### The author

Twenty years after *L'Exposition coloniale* (Prix Goncourt 1988), and following *Longtemps* (1998), **Erik Orsenna** of the *Académie française* surprises us anew with his last novel: a personal, intimate and mysterious tale.

### La chanson de Charles Quint

#### Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2008
- 194 pages
- Rights sold to: **Italy (Salani), Bulgaria (Stigmati) and Germany (Beck)**

#### The book

There were two brothers.

The youngest one had but one love. The love of his youth. A lover who went away for a while and came back, and whom he married, thirty years on, so that they could grow old together – so that they could help each other as they faced the approach of death.

The oldest, on his good days, would convince himself that he also had been in love. Was it his fault if this love, and the force of the feelings that grew inside him, had become fragmented, split between a multitude of faces and all too similar bodies? Yet every other day, and every night without a miss, he knew that he had never loved.

And so lived the two brothers, in the same town but on either side of the river: the brother with the fragmented love, the eldest, and his younger brother, the brother with the single love.

\*\*\*

## 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*) and *Nous sommes cruels* (Stock, 2006).

### Nous viellirons ensemble

#### Specifications

- “Raspberry Series”
- Publication date: February 2008
- 342 pages

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- Rights sold to: **Italy (Sperling & Kupfer), Germany (Rowohlt) and South Korea (Munhakdogne)**

## The book

Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. A day like any other at Les Bégonias, an old people's home in the outskirts of Paris. It is 9:15 am. Nina the old eccentric lady waits for her little girl Camille to come and visit her, while Josy, the fortune-telling life assistant, watches over her with a compassionate and kind eye. Louise Alma is forever going back over 92 years of memories. Jocelyne Barbier, of the administrative services, and Marthe Buissonette, the minister's wife, take up their daily quarrel. Robert Leboeuf throws a look full of hope at Thérèse Leduc. Captain Dreyfus is preparing his big escape. Christiane, the day-time nurse, tries to get rid of a lover who has become too cumbersome. Philippe Drouin, the director, philatelist in his spare time, dreams of buying a unique piece. Alphonse Destroismaisons, the old sweetheart, struggles desperately against his wife's Alzheimer... And the family members of the residents, whether they like it or not, fulfill their dominical duty. Life flows by gently, between joy and suffering, friendship and loneliness, love and boredom, illness and envy.

Fascinated by the oulipian movement, the author has chosen to follow the structure of *La vie mode d'emploi*. By organizing the life of her characters around the founding principles of George Perec's novel, Camille de Peretti takes on a new literary challenge and, with her usual acuteness, proposes us an unusual immersion into the universe of old people's homes.

**The English and Dutch language rights are handled by the agency Global Literary Management. For these two languages, please contact Marc Serges: marc@globalit.com.**

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## Jean-Claude PERRIER

### The author

**Jean-Claude Perrier** was born in Paris in 1957. A literary journalist (*Livres-Hebdo*, *Le Figaro*, *Le Magazine Littéraire*), he also writes on music (*Télé-Obs*), and on the art of living (*L'Amateur de Cigare*). He is the author of twenty books and the editor of the « Domaine indien » series at Cherche-Midi.

### Passage de la mere morte

#### Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: April 2008
- 116 pages
- Rights available

## The book

“You won't believe this: I have forgotten which year you died. I could, of course, find out the precise date, if I leafed through papers and old agendas, or just by comparing the dates of past events, but why

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would I? I am not even sure to have kept your death certificate, the unique official proof of your existence. I don't have any desire – indeed, I dread revelations about your past, your family, the circumstances of your birth.”

In the course of his dialogue with his long-gone mother, the narrator ties back together the loose threads of his life and reveals long repressed secrets. He tries to understand this inaccessible woman whose past and real name remain unknown, and whose love for him felt so deficient. The presence of this mother was synonymous with disorder, crisis, bad memories and sudden disappearance. It is with his father and grand-parents, and through the love of books and studies, that he found peace. Yet he grew up feeling different. Later on, although he could never open his heart to her since she never answered his questions, he accepted this unpredictable yet charming woman.

In this touching and sincere tale, the narrator does not merely bring back to life the woman who gave birth to him: to tell her story is what will, at last, allow him to go forward.

\*\*\*

## Anne PLANTAGENET

### The author

**Anne Plantagenet** studied literature in Paris then lived in London and Seville. She is the author of two documentary films on Seville, of numerous translations from Spanish to French, as well as a biography of the torero Manolete (Ramsay, 2005), and of Marilyn Monroe (“Folio Biographies,” 2007). She has also published a biographical novel about Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, *Seule au rendez-vous* (Laffont, 2005, recipient of the *récit biographique* award) and her first novel, *Un coup de corne fut mon premier baiser*, was published by Ramsay in 1998.

### Pour les siècles des siècles

#### Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2008
- 162 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

This book is composed of seven short stories about love and seduction, desire and tenderness. Seven men and women meet, attract each other, look for the other or hide from him or her. Their names are the names of legendary couples that literature turned into myths. Yet these particular Romeo and Juliet, Paul and Virginie are part of our contemporary world and share our doubts as well as our illusory craving for happiness. Will Dante fall in love with a Beatrix that is really not his type? Will Juliet open a letter that is addressed to Romeo? What is certain is that Marcel is still in love with Albertine, and will continue to love her for the centuries to come. Albertine has just died at the age of ninety three.

Anne Plantagenet’s book moves seamlessly from the comedy of love to the poignant tale of a lover’s last days. She records minute but significant details, gestures and words that can change a life. While each

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short story creates its own specific atmosphere, images and situations resonate across the book and endow this collection with a remarkable sense of cohesion and harmony.

\*\*\*

## Philippe ROUTIER

### The author

**Philippe Routier** was born in 1958 in Germany. He lives in Paris since 1974. In 1983 he became an employee of the SNCF (National Railway) where he performed a multiplicity of jobs. He is now editor of the SNCF newsletter, and is the author of the celebrated *Passage à niveau*, a first novel that he published with Stock in 2006.

### Le veilleur du Britannia

#### Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: April 2008
- 176 pages
- Rights available

#### The book

In his comfortable funeral chamber, Jean-Robert Carouge waits for the visit of his family and friends. He knows his wife will not come. She drew their conjugal life to a close long ago, and took the children with her. Christa and Jean have grown up, drifting away from their father - this soft, ineffective man as he describes himself. Yet he hopes they will come for a last good-bye.

Jean-Robert died suddenly, hit by a bus as he was leaving the Britannia hotel where he worked as a night guard. To kill time, he wrote novels that he then read to Sophie, the hotel receptionist.

Today, Jean-Robert is convinced that life is a farce, operated by a sick mind.

What is left of an ordinary existence? A few relationships and a handful of friends and the persistent memory of a languorous dance and a failed love story... *Le veilleur du Britannia* is a tender yet caustic tale, a humorous and inventive reflection on eternity that blends farce with pain in its account of its characters' banal and solitary lives.

\*\*\*

## Pascale ROZE

### The author

**Pascale Roze** was awarded the *Prix Goncourt* in 1996 for her first novel, *Le Chasseur Zéro*. She has published *Un homme sans larmes* (2005) *L'eau rouge* (2006) and *Itsik* (2008) at Stock.

### Itsik

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## Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: March 2008
- 122 pages
- Rights sold to: **Italy (Guanda) and Romania (Art)**

## The book

Yitzhok Gersztenfeld was born in Warsaw in 1904, the last in a family of nine children. He is the fairest one, the gentle, silent one. He lives in the Jewish district, where there are few jobs and even less money. He loves this life yet he will have to leave and, like the little Itsik, become a bird.

He has to do it for the love of Maryem, who wants an easier life. He goes to Berlin, where his eldest brother heads a textile workshop. Then he flees to France, and works in the mines before moving to Paris where he has relatives. In the capital city he at last can settle with Maryem, have children and start a knit-work manufacturing business. But History catches up with them. The Munich agreement. The invasion of the Sudetes. The Crystal Night. Then the armistice. Danger coming closer. When Yitzhok is summoned by the French authorities in 1941, he goes, and is taken to the Pithiviers camp. He obtains a leave but does not flee: he goes back to the camp as he has promised to. On June 24<sup>th</sup> he climbs into a train that takes him to Auschwitz. He will never come back.

Yitzhok's story belongs to a past that remains open, like a wound that does not heal. His tale helps us to understand a multitude of other fates, rendered anonymous by the grand scheme of History. Thanks to Pascale Roze's beautiful book, their memory remains alive and profoundly moving.

\*\*\*

## 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.

### Val de Grâce

## Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: August 2008
- 142 pages
- Rights available

## The book

‘Will I be forgiven for having been loved so much?’ wonders the female narrator. Will she indeed be forgiven the twenty-first years of her life, which she spent at the « Val de Grâce »?

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How could she forget the 200-square-meter classic Hausmanian flat, in the Val de Grâce street, at the very heart of Paris?

How could she forget the sensations – the smells, the textures – of a flat which every nook and corner, every single scratch she knew by heart? The accumulation of furniture and objects, the unusual deco, the silvery wall paper? How could she forget such a happy, protected childhood, where everything was allowed: sweets on demand and on the tab at the *boulangerie*; nanny Madame Jacqueline's endless patience; the fairytale princess' dreams?

At the Val de Grâce, everything was beautiful and magic. Everything seemed destined to last forever. Children did not feel the lack of money, the effect of time passing. They were not told about the family's painful history, the Shoah and the Jewish immigrant parents.

All this, however, lasted only twenty years. The mother's death meant the end of the parties, then the Val de Grâce being sold off. Childhood, traces of the parents' presence, happy memories started to vanish. Yet inside oneself, like a precious relic, one keeps a miniature Val de Grâce. One day, when life appears to be going all wrong, it becomes necessary to bring the Val de Grâce back to life one last time, so as to be able to close the door on the past for good.

\*\*\*

**Vanessa SCHNEIDER**

## The author

**Vanessa Schneider** is a political journalist, and worked thirteen years for *Libération* before joining the Capa Television agency. She has written a political essay and directed a documentary film. *La mère de ma mère* is her first novel.

## La mere de ma mère

### Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: May 2008
- 144 pages
- Rights available

### The book

The narrator of this book follows in the footsteps of her mother, from Haiti at the beginning of the twentieth century to the small flat of the rue Cardinet in Paris. Clara died at the age of one hundred last summer. The author did not know her well enough to call her ‘Grand-mother.’ She was already thirty when she first met her. Her own mother was twenty-one when she decided not to see Clara again, ever, and stood true to her decision even though mother and daughter lived a few metro stations away from each other. When eventually, thirty-five years on, they decided to meet again, it was too late. The narrator, however, discovers her mysterious and wild grand-mother, who was born in Haiti and came to France in 1920.

Vanessa Schneider looks back at her grand-mother's childhood, and recounts her life as the little curly haired girl whom her school mates called “*sale négresse*” (‘dirty black girl’) and who grew up to become a

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brown-skinned young woman, mother of a little boy. She recalls the tenderness of her parents, who could not, however, offer precise reasons for their keeping away from Clara. It is Vanessa's task to explore the past and try and pierce through the mystery of her origins. In bringing back to life the woman who refused, to the end, to be labeled even as a mother, Vanessa Schneider appropriates a lineage and reconstructs her relation to her own mother. In this affecting and appeasing tale, she gives her back an identity that escaped her all her life

\*\*\*

## Amanda STHERS

### The author

Since her literary beginnings, **Amanda Sthers** has never failed to surprise us. After her first autobiographical memoir, *Ma place sur la photo* (Grasset, 2004), she produced the thought-provoking story of a New-York Jew, *Chicken street* (Grasset, 2005), then wrote the successful play *Le Vieux Juif blonde* (Grasset, 2006). *Madeleine*, published by Stock in 2007, has definitely established her as one of today's important authors.

### Keith me

#### Specifications

- "Blue Series"
- Publication date: January 2008
- 142 pages
- Rights sold to: **Germany (Luchterhand)**
- Under option in Romania, Norway, and Italy

#### The book

*Keith me* is not *yet another* book on the Rolling Stones. Neither is it Keith Richards' biography or Amanda Sthers' autobiographical account of her love life.

Rather, *Keith me* is a sum of these three books. Amanda Sthers (Andrea Stein in the book) manages this quite amazing literary feat by first slipping into Keith Richards' skin. She becomes the man whose face is criss-crossed with wrinkles, the child lost in Dartford's public park.

She is Mick Jagger's lover and, when they make love for the first time, she turns herself into the genius guitar player who can get the most beautiful women in the world. She takes the same drugs, she follows the same devilish path and she survives. Implicitly, she is also a young woman with children and a broken relationship, whom no-one really cares for and who seems to have to go through some periods of profound unhappiness before being recognized as an artist.

How to get over one's grief? How to cast a fresh eye on one's failed relationship? Amanda Sthers manages to do this by changing personality: she switches role and gender and steps in the shoes of the old boy who snorted his father's ashes.

\*\*\*

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## Laurence TARDIEU

### The author

**Laurence Tardieu** was born in Marseilles in 1972. She is an actress and a writer. She has published two novels at Arléa: *Comme un père* (2002) and *Le Jugement de Léa* (awarded the Libraires Leclerc prize for best novel in 2004). Her last novel was published at Stock: *Puisque rien ne dure* (2006), which was sold to Germany, Japan, Slovakia, China (simplified characters) and Korea.

### Rêve d'amour

#### Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: January 2008
- 160 pages
- Rights sold to: **South Korea (Blue Paper)**
- Under option in: Japan, China, and Slovakia

#### The book

Her name is Alice Grangé, she is thirty years old. She hardly knew her mother, who died when she was five years old. She does not remember her well, and her whole life is spent looking for this lost mother, Blandine, whom she missed so much.

Before he dies, her father tells her that Blandine loved another man. Alice starts looking for this man, and finds him almost too quickly. She has so many questions to ask him. How was she? What colour were her eyes when she looked at him? Was she happy or not? Sensual? Fragile? How was she dressed? Does she look like her? Thanks to this man, Alice discovers something she would never have guessed she would find: two paintings made by her mother. A portrait of two lovers, one of whom looks like Alice, and a seascape. Will Alice finally stop dreaming about love in order to live it?

*Rêve d'amour* is the story of a painful absence, a lost mother, an identity quest, and, finally, of an appeasement.

A delicate and luminous story, its restrained emotion and the strength of its writing overthrows the reader completely.

\*\*\*

## Valérie TONG CUONG

### The author

**Valérie Tong Cuong** is the author of five novels: *Big* (1997, Nil), *Gabriel* (1999, Nil), *Où je suis* (2001, Grasset), *Ferdinand et les iconoclastes* (Grasset, 2003), and *Noir dehors* (2006, Grasset). She also writes and sings for the group Quark (three albums released to-date).

She is currently working on the screen adaptation of *Où je suis*.

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## Providence

### Specifications

- “Blue Series”
- Publication date: April 2008
- 222 pages
- Rights sold to: **Germany (Droemer Knaur), Italy (Frassinelli), The Netherlands (De Geus), Greece (Polis), Spain (Salamandra), Korea (Gimmyoung) and Lithuania (Folio Verso)**

### The book

Marylou, a modest secretary and a single mother, is late for an important work meeting. Stuck in traffic and then in the subway, she ends up sprinting through the crowd, carrying her heavy file under her arm. Sometimes, life is all about a handful of minutes.

Albert Foehn, on the other hand, is early. He is on his way to his lawyer’s office, where he would like to finalize his legacy. At the age of seventy-eight, he has but a few months to live. In a few seconds, the truth about his life is revealed.

Tom wants to propose to the capricious Libby, whom he is deeply in love with, but a stupid cycling accident changes everything.

Prudence is a brilliant lawyer, a partner in a reputed Legal advisory office where her career is not progressing the way she would like it to: the colour of her skin is proving to be an obstacle to her professional progress.

A dog, a violet macaroon, a failed suicide, the explosion of a building... the course of these characters’ existence suddenly changes as they find themselves brought together in the same hospital. As in the domino effect, chance deals them all a new hand.

In the vein of *Short Cuts*, the multiple narrative of *Providence* mingles and intercrosses the destiny of these characters and creates a funny, moving and romantic tale that points to the flaws of a contemporary era dominated by loneliness and compromises.

\*\*\*

## Edmond ZUCHELLI

## The author

Born in 1960, **Edmond Zucchelli** lives in Marseilles. A former reporter and chief editor as well as news presenter for Europe 1 radio, since 2005 he has devoted his time to writing. He has published two essays with Calmann-Lévy, and *Tête de serpent* is his second novel.

## Tête de serpent

### Specifications

- “Blue Series”

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- Publication date: August 2008
- 396 pages
- Rights available

## The book

A wave of biological terrorist attacks threatens Europe as well as in the United States. The infectious agent is *Yersinia Pestis*, the virus of the plague. The operational unit is made up of Moroccan Islamic extremists. Diego Le Matt is a gipsy from Marseille. A retired member of the Special Forces commando, he stands as the very personification of the solitary hero, a hard man who can be tender. Superintendent Moutot, his long-time friend, warns him: something significant is about to happen. When he hears about the superintendent having committed suicide, Diego understands he has been assassinated. He starts his own inquest and discovers a highly complex network with roots in China where the mysterious 'Snake Head,' the chief of a triad, is planning the mass production of the antidote for the plague.