



Rights Catalog



CONTENTS

I - ABOUT ALTO

II - NEW TITLES

Catherine LEROUX Peuple de verre	4
L'avenir Le mur mitoyen Madame Victoria	5-6
Steve POUTRÉ Lait cru	7
Élise TURCOTTE Autoportrait d'une autre	8
L'apparition du chevreuil	9
Éric CHACOUR Ce que je sais de toi	10
Marie Hélène POITRAS	
Galumpf	11
La désidérata Soudain le Minotaure Griffintown	12-13
Elsa PÉPIN Le fil du vivant	14
Dominique FORTIER	
Quand viendra l'aube Au péril de la mer	15
Les villes de papier Les ombres blanches	16
Martine DESJARDINS Méduse La chambre verte	17
Hélène DORION Pas même le bruit d'un fleuve	18
Annie PERREAULT Les grands espaces La femme de Valence	19
Christine EDDIE Un beau désastre Les carnets de Douglas	20

III - CLASSICS

Larry TREMBLAY Le deuxième mari L'orangerie	21
Nicolas DICKNER Six degrés de liberté Nikolski	22-23
Karoline GEORGES De synthèse Sous béton	24
Matthieu SIMARD Ici, ailleurs Les écritements	25
Christiane VADNAIS Faunes	26

IV - RECENT ACQUISITIONS

*Cover illustration: © Paul Cupido

I - About Alto

Alto is an independent and innovative publishing house founded in Quebec City in 2005. Very active on the local and international levels, Alto publishes unique and bold literary French fiction from Quebec and abroad.

Many of Alto's titles have won prizes over the years (seven Prix des libraires du Québec, six Governor General's Literary Awards, four Prix France-Québec and two Prix littéraires des collégien·ne·s) and have been translated into several languages. Simply put, we publish wonders.

Alto publishes only a few books a year as its mantra is "publish less, publish the best." We like everything that is surprising, often genre-bending, all this in a storytelling tradition that is driven by imagination. We like to be transported by a book. Through its new editorial laboratory, Alea, Alto is also exploring new innovative storytelling.

Did you know about translation grants?

Two options:

- The Canada Council for the Arts offers international translation grants (50% of the translation costs).
- SODEC (Société de développement des entreprises culturelles) also provides funds to translate the works of Quebec authors in any language (75% of the translation and revision costs).

For updates on our new titles,
subscribe to our Rights Newsletter!





APRIL
2024

4

II - New titles

Catherine LEROUX *Peuple de verre*

Housing has become a luxury. Sidonie, a brash reporter, sheds light on life in the rapidly growing homeless camps. Her work leads her to investigate strange disappearances and use every legitimate and illegitimate means at her disposal to prove what many rumors suggest: unhoused people are being kidnapped. But writing is a self-fulfilling prophecy. Sidonie finds herself on the other side of the mirror, outside our world, outside time. In this strange, panoptic purgatory, her only escape becomes her notebook, both an obligation and a space of freedom. In it, she recounts the madness of her present and revisits the tumult of her past.

In her thrilling fifth novel, Catherine Leroux navigates between urban legends, propaganda, fake news, and mystification. Power crushes, storms brew, and fiction conquers all. Funny and ruthless, *Peuple de verre* is a singular exploration of the notion of home, survival, falsehood, and truth, and a powerful plea to the imagination.

66 000 words

Rights held: World

Catherine Leroux is the author of three highly praised novels and an innovative sequence of short stories. Her first novel, *La marche en forêt* (2011), was a finalist for the Prix des libraires du Québec. Her bestselling second novel, *The Party Wall*, won the Prix France-Quebec, and was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Dublin IMPAC Award. In the United States, *The Party Wall* was a prestigious Indies Introduce selection. Leroux's story sequence *Madame Victoria* won Quebec's Prix Adrienne Choquette and was a finalist for the Prix des libraires. *The Future* won the Prix Jacques-Brossard and was a finalist for the Prix des Horizons imaginaires.

Catherine Leroux works as a translator and an editor in Montreal. She was awarded the 2016 Governor General's Literary Award for translation.



Over 4 000
copies sold

Catherine LEROUX

L'avenir

(*The Future*)

In a fictionalized French-Canadian Detroit, Gloria moves into her late daughter's house. Hoping to understand what led to her death and to find her missing granddaughters, she starts exploring the puzzling city, its empty streets and urban prairies. In spite of depopulation and neglect, her neighborhood soon proves to be startlingly alive, reclaimed by wildlife and cultivated through the resilience and solidarity of its inhabitants.

In powerful, resonant prose, *L'avenir* delves into the depth of our collective failures and common ecstasies, the duties of one generation to the next, and the inescapable ferocity of what is to come.

320 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: English World (Biblioasis), France (Asphalte)

TV series optioned by Item 7

“The language of Leroux embalms and flows in this uchronia where wild children act out the end and the beginning of a world. Luminous.”

Nouveau Projet

© Gregory Crewdson

5

WINNER
Prix Jacques-Brossard

FINALIST
Prix des Horizons
imaginaires

FINALIST
Prix des libraires du Québec

Essential titles of 2020
Le Devoir



© Amy Friend

WINNER
Prix France-Québec

FINALIST
Scotiabank Giller Prize

Over 9 000 copies sold

English PDF available

6



© Julie Cockburn

WINNER
Prix Adrienne-
Choquette

English PDF available

Catherine LEROUX

Le mur mitoyen (*The Party Wall*)

What makes someone your relative? Blood ties or the experiences we share? A sumptuous variation on our vision of the family. An ensemble novel carried by musical and evocative language, *Le mur mitoyen* unfurls four entangled stories that transport us from the eastern coast of Canada to California and the Southern United States, stories that are so beautiful they can only be true.

328 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Denoël), Canada (Biblioasis)

Optioned by audiovisual producer (Zone 3)

“A revelation ... an emotionally affecting, intellectually stimulating examination of separation and connection.”

Montreal Gazette

“Catherine Leroux writes with a startling grace. Her vision is clear-eyed and true, her heart is as big as sky and bay. *The Party Wall*’s mothers, orphans, Olympians and prime ministers seem like living, breathing people. And they reveal, beat by beat, that the things that divide us also knit us together.”

Sean Michaels, author of the Giller Prize-winning *Us Conductors*

Madame Victoria

In the summer of 2001, human remains are found a few steps away from Montreal’s Royal Victoria Hospital. An investigation begins to uncover the identity of the woman who died in anonymity. But all leads prove to be dead ends; the one they call Madame Victoria still waits for someone to utter her real name. From there, fiction takes over.

Through a series of portraits of women all named Victoria, Catherine Leroux imagines her heroine’s many potential lives. At first straightforward, her stories push further and further into the realms of imagination.

A tribute to the women forgotten by History.

240 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Biblioasis)

Steve POUTRÉ

Lait cru

JANUARY
2024

© Marianne Chevalier

The North American farm is not picturesque or peaceful. It is haunted by the dead, by ghost stories and family secrets, by stillborn chicks trapped inside their shell. Invisible cattle roam here, worn down by the endless grind of feeding the nation.

Among the shadows, a young boy walks between his shy elder brother and his wild younger brother, on the thin line between the fields and the woods. He eventually crosses the border, entering a strange land where eye floaters, tinnitus, and nightmares rule and where his fingerprints are lost. His body frozen, his mind ablaze, he finds himself in a psychiatric ward. But even from his hospital bed, he keeps wandering the farm grounds, looking for what is not yet lost.

Lait cru injects a healthy dose of Gothic into the old rural landscape. Appealing to both the senses and the heart, Steve Poutré's writing unearths skeletons from the fertile soil and demons from the mind. This startling first novel questions the servitude that binds humans and animals together in a twisted and tender way. A glass of raw milk to be drunk in one gulp.

46 000 words

Rights held: World

Steve Poutré was born in 1979. He grew up on a dairy farm, located in Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge, before moving to Montreal to begin a career as a graphic designer. After more than twenty years spent formatting the words of others, he has now chosen to share his own. *Lait cru* is his first novel. Today, Steve lives and writes in Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, where he has rediscovered his horizons and his roots.

7



Élise TURCOTTE

Autoportrait d'une autre

A writer delves into the life of her aunt, who embodied creativity, adventure, beauty, and madness but died tragically in 1986. Denise Brosseau, whose married names and aliases included Denise Brossot, Denise Sorel, Denise Jodorowsky, and Denise Garcia Ponce, moved to Paris at age eighteen to study mime, then later to Mexico, where she turned to philosophy. Despite a life dedicated to art and ideas, she is little remembered today, while her husbands (the first a filmmaker, the second a painter), male friends, and lovers have left their mark on history. Denise was their muse, a woman silenced by her beauty, by the love she inspired, by her era.

Through Denise's correspondence with poet Gaston Miron, the works of art of her friends, and conversations with her aunt's loved ones, Élise Turcotte paints a kaleidoscopic portrait of a woman who was extraordinarily alive but stifled by her position in life. Throughout this journey, the author reveals much about herself, probes the legacy Denise left her, and questions her own relationship to art, freedom, madness, and death. In the same vein as Deborah Levy's living autobiographies and the lives reimagined by Lola Lafon in *The Little Communist Who Never Smiled* and Marie Darrieussecq in *Être ici est une splendeur*, Élise Turcotte has written a poignant, erudite, and stunning book, a true "self-portrait of someone else."

280 pages

Rights held: World

"A 'cathedral of questions' – on madness, shame, the concept of the muse and artistic creation – which is coupled with numerous ethical, intimate and literary questions. Can we talk about someone who existed? Is it appropriate to talk about oneself? And what form should this false investigation take?"

Le Devoir

An accomplished writer, **Élise Turcotte** has received many literary awards for her poetry, short stories and novels. She won the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal in 2011 as well as two Governor General Literary Awards, for her novel *Guyana* in 2002, and for *Rose: derrière le rideau de la folie*, a poetry book for children, in 2009. In 2011, Élise Turcotte was honored with the prestigious career grant from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Élise TURCOTTE

L'apparition du chevreuil

After receiving threats on social media, a writer takes shelter in the woods. There, instead of the peace she was longing for, she finds herself haunted by her troubled family past and surrounded by a nature as hostile as the civilization she left. The cabin nearby is supposed to be abandoned, but what if someone was hiding there?

Like a deer in the snow, this gripping story provokes a necessary clatter and tells a family drama that has to be revealed once and for all.

160 pages

English and Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Le mot et le reste)

★★★★

“Breathtaking!”

Le Devoir

“This novel shines bright with intelligence and spectacular originality.”

L'Actualité

“Rich and masterful, Élise Turcotte’s prose links the particular and the systemic with rare fluidity.”

Nouveau Projet



9

WINNER
Prix Ringuet de l'Académie
des lettres du Québec

LONG LIST
Prix France-Québec

FINALIST
Prix des Libraires
du Québec



HOT
TITLE

Éric CHACOUR

Ce que je sais de toi

In Cairo in the eighties, a young doctor follows the path set out for him. Between the clinic he runs and the prestigious practice he inherited from his father, Tarek leads a life that leaves little room for asking himself questions. But a chance encounter with a person very different from him will jeopardize his marriage, his career, and even his heart and force him into exile.

Between Egypt's Levantine community and Montreal's harsh winters, from the reign of Nasser to the dawn of a new century, Tarek flees, wanders, and reminisces. But does he realize that thousands of miles away, someone is compiling the chapters of his story and discovering the twists and turns of his life?

A poignant look at absence and reconciliation, *Ce que je sais de toi* paints a subtle, witty, and tender portrait of a family being torn apart and a society undergoing dramatic change. Éric Chacour's debut novel reveals the luminous mind and breathtaking humanity of an author who writes in sumptuous, well-crafted prose. A book rich in garlic, anise, and family secrets.

10

© SMITH

SHORT LIST Prix Renaudot,
LONG LIST Prix Renaudot
des Lycéens, LONG LIST Prix
Femina, WINNER Prix Première
Plume, WINNER Talents Cultura,
FINALIST Prix du Roman Fnac,
FINALIST Fondation Prince Pierre
de Monaco Discovery Grant,
LONG LIST Prix des Deux Magots

Over 10 000 copies sold

296 pages

English excerpt available

Rights held: World


**Rights sold: Canada/United States (Coach House Books),
Denmark (Holgers Forlag), France (Éditions Philippe Rey/
Folio-Gallimard) after auctions, Greece (Metaichmio)**

“The resonance of this novel is so strong, its construction so original that it is hard to believe that this is Chacour's first book. It adds to the enchantment.”

Journal de Montréal

“Simply put, Éric Chacour's first book, *Ce que je sais de toi*, is one of the best novels published in the last few years.”

Fugues



Born in Montreal to Egyptian parents, **Éric Chacour** has lived in both France and Quebec. He has a degree in applied economics and international relations and now works in the financial sector. *Ce que je sais de toi* is his first novel.

Marie Hélène POITRAS

Galumpf

A love is born in the belly of a church and dies at the end of every night. A little girl tries to tame a big dog while her neighbors keep a close watch. A man seduces a woman with help from a horse. A radio host is confronted with utter silence. Islanders struggle with their boredom and rage. A writer recalls her first words.

In her trademark incisive, poetic prose, Marie Hélène Poitras offers up short stories that travel back to the dark frenzy of Montreal at the turn of this century (much like the setting of Stéphane Larue's *The Dishwasher*) and then lead up to the present day. Along the way, she takes a few detours, even visiting the suburban Ottawa of her childhood, a place that permanently shaped her relationship to the world and language.

Whether set in the horse stables Poitras knows so well or on an imaginary island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the stories examine our relationships with one another uncompromisingly and with great curiosity and depth. They also probe the strange, essential thing that is empathy to better grasp its connection to the strange, essential thing that is writing. To wrap up the collection, she includes an essay that explores the foundations of her literary approach and links writing to horseback riding, in the same way Murakami links writing to running.

A powerfully stirring collection that lies at the intersection of desire, pain, compassion, and selfishness, the difficult terrain where humanity takes shape.

192 pages

Rights held: World

“A gem of intelligence and tenderness.”

Littérature du Québec

“Marie Hélène Poitras’s collection, *Galumpf*, with an intriguing title to say the least, is powerful and wonderfully written, with great finesse. To read and savor.”

Lettres québécoises



© Ai Natori

11





12

FINALIST
Grand Prix
du Livre audio

Spanish excerpt
available

English PDF
available

Marie Hélène POITRAS

La désirata (*Sing, Nightingale*)

Under the blinding skies of Noirax, a long tradition of secrets lies dormant. The men of the Malmaison insist on this silence, feed their broods, and collect a string of women known as the desideratas.

Father is content since all's calm on his estate. He's locked the door to the House of Perfume to keep the truth from seeping out. After a failed romance, his son, Jeanty, is back home and exploring a new identity. Soon, Aliénor arrives to seek answers and rock the boat. The Crone also shows up, but isn't who she appears to be. The curtain rises.

La désirata pays tribute to stifled voices in graceful, lyrical prose punctuated by dark nursery rhymes. A luminous tale of rebirth, restoration, and revenge.

184 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Coach House Books)

“A tale that is both beautiful and cruel, like only fairy tales can be. One that is deep and rich in what is found within and between the lines, like only fairy tales can be.”

Sélection Reader's Digest

Born in 1975, **Marie Hélène Poitras** received the Prix Anne-Hébert for her first novel *Soudain le Minotaure*. *La mort de mignonne et autres histoires* (2005) was short-listed for the Prix des libraires du Québec. In 2012, she published *Griffintown*, a novel inspired by the Montreal neighborhood of the same name, winner of the Prix France-Québec and a finalist for the Prix Ringuet. *La désirata* is Poitras's third book with Alto.

Marie H el ene POITRAS

Soudain le Minotaure

(Suddenly the Minotaur)

In this terse, prize-winning novel, Marie H el ene Poitras, with an imagination tutored by the Minotaur myth, offers a controversial tale about a thug who exults in his ferocious urges and is as incorrigible as a primal force. Torr es (the bull) enthusiastically and unapologetically seeks hectic transcendence through rape and recurring fits of epilepsy. Ariane (Ariadne), straying into his twisted, downtown Montreal labyrinth, suffers the consequences of his random sexual predation, though significantly, her refusal to be a terrorized and passive victim haunts him.

Ariane's deliverance from his maze, her conquest of persistent fears, is prolonged past her assailant's capture. Once more she must learn to live and love – in particular, men – to pick up and follow the thread of human trust, to feel sure again about her flat's dark places and her walk-in cupboard's contents. On the site of the Berlin Wall, in a reunified Germany that has survived its own and other regimes' violent perversions, she permits herself to be gently hoisted up and passed from palm-to-palm over a vast and joy-filled crowd.

176 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Ph ebus), Mexico (Editorial Paraiso Perdido)

Griffintown

A western set in contemporary Montreal.

After the long winter, John once again takes the reins of his carriage as many other coachmen of the Griffintown district. While newbie Marie tries to establish herself in this rugged and unruly environment, La Mouche prepares her revenge. A story of murder, love and envy set against the backdrop of the modern-day cowboys of Montreal.

216 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Cormorant), France (Ph ebus), Italy (Nuova Frontera), Spain (Algaida)



© Henrik Uldalen

WINNER
Prix Anne-H ebert
English PDF available



© Mikko Lagerstedt

“Enthralling and
incredibly alive.”
– *Huffington Post*

Over 12 000 copies sold!

WINNER
Prix France-Qu ebec
English PDF available



© Teodelfina Detry

14

FINALIST
Prix littéraire des
collégien-ne-s

FINALIST
Prix des Horizons
imaginaires

FINALIST
Prix Jacques-Brossard



Elsa PÉPIN

Le fil du vivant

As torrential rains lash Quebec, Iona, a harried mother of two, is torn between her deep maternal instincts and the need to find herself again. To escape the perfectly ordered but exhausting life imposed on her by her husband, Nils, she reminisces about her youth, her experiences with drugs, and her mad love for a boy who'd do anything to test her limits.

When floodwaters threaten Montreal, Iona is jolted out of her reverie. Nils drives his wife and children up north to take shelter at a luxurious estate belonging to his family. They hole up with friends and relatives far from civilization in a waterlogged forest that's full of surprises. As the food supply dwindles and mayhem breaks out across the province, tensions mount in the opulent old mansion between those who'll fight fiercely to protect their resources and those, like Iona, who put faith in solidarity and embrace the forces of chaos.

In this lush, lyrical novel, Elsa Pépin conjures up a disaster but laces her story with love and hope. She reveals the extremes governing our lives and shows how startlingly porous the borders are between the self and the world, water and earth, and life and death.

232 pages

Spanish and English excerpts available

Rights held: World
Optioned by audiovisual producer

“Elsa Pépin’s pursuit of beauty feels like a balm. *Le fil du vivant* is both an apocalyptic tale and a tribute to the women devoted to human survival, those who lose themselves in others. Filled with lucidity, tenderness, realism and violence, this story stays with you for days, well beyond the last page.”

Les libraires

Elsa Pépin was born in Montreal in 1978. A journalist and editor, she’s been writing books for the past decade that focus on the body, parent-child relationships, and our connection to the world around us. Published in 2014, her story collection *Quand j’étais l’Amérique* (Éditions XYZ, Quai n° 5) won the Prix littéraire des enseignants AQPF-ANEL and was short-listed for the Prix France-Québec. *Le fil du vivant* is her second novel.

Quand viendra l'aube

During a stormy summer following her father's death, Dominique Fortier keeps a journal in which she explores the power of memories to outlive us and expand our reality. She records the mysteries, great and small, that surround us and mark our lives: a river flowing backward, birds that speak, a fog that lifts like a curtain rising, a half-broken watch, and enough questions to last a lifetime. *Quand viendra l'aube* summons the voices of François Villon, Emily Dickinson, and Rebecca Solnit to illuminate grief. Within these pages, the author of *Paper Houses* and *Pale Shadows* delivers a deeply personal and moving testimony tinged with shades of blue, the color of nostalgia, emptiness, and the sky at dawn, when shadows fade and ghosts reveal themselves for what they are: memories that refuse to die.

104 pages

Rights held: World

Au péril de la mer (*The Island of Books*)

In its golden age, Mont-Saint-Michel's library was known as the Realm of Books. That is where a painter haunted by the memory of his lost love and a novelist searching for this sacred place of literature will meet, 500 years apart, through the pages of an old journal.

Written in the spirit of Pascal Quignard and Alberto Manguel, *Au péril de la mer* is both a novel and a journal. But first and foremost, it is a wonderful homage to books and to those who create them.

184 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Albania (Dritan), Armenia (Guitank), Canada (Coach House Books), France (Les Escales/Pocket), Italy (Alter Ego), Macedonia (Begemot), Slovenia (Druzina), Spain (Minuscula), Ukraine (Anetta)

Dominique Fortier is a writer and translator living in Outremont, Quebec. Her novel *The Island of Books* won the Governor General's Award for French fiction. *Paper Houses*, a semiautobiographical meditation on the life and work of Emily Dickinson, received the prestigious Prix Renaudot for nonfiction in 2020. *Les ombres blanches* continues Fortier's exploration of Dickinson's world.



Over 6 000 copies sold

15

Over 8 000 copies sold
WINNER Governor General's
Literary Awards

English PDF available





© Emily Dickinson

Dominique FORTIER

Les villes de papier (Paper Houses)

One of the most important writers of the nineteenth century, a mythical figure of American literature, Emily Dickinson remains an enigma to this day. With *Les villes de papier*, Governor General’s Literary Award–winner Dominique Fortier explores the quiet existence of “the lady in white” from the inside, through the books she loved, her garden, her ghosts. Inspired by episodes of both Emily’s life and her own, the author gives us a novel as limpid as it is earnest about how the worlds we build within ourselves in turn build us.

192 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold in 16 countries:

Arabic language (Al Arabi), Bulgaria (Helikon/Labyrinth), Canada and US (Coach House Books), China (CITIC Press), Croatia (Disput), Estonia (Loomingu Raamatukogu), France (Grasset/Livre de poche), Germany (btb - Random House Germany), Italy (Alter Ego), Korea (Gimm-Young Publishers), Russia (Ivan Limbakh), Slovenia (Mladinska knjiga), Spain (Minuscula), Sweden (Ramus), Turkey (New Human)

“A masterpiece.” – *RDI Matin*

Over 34 000 copies sold

WINNER

Prix Renaudot (nonfiction)

Prix littéraire des lycéens AIEQ
and two other literary prizes

FINALIST Prix Femina
(nonfiction)

English PDF
available

16



© Rachel Monnier

Les ombres blanches (Pale Shadows)

It’s 1886 and Emily Dickinson has died. She has left our world, but a poetess is about to be born. Rescued by her sister Lavinia, poems scribbled on flaps of envelopes and packages of sugar will forever change the lives of those closest to Emily: her distant and secretive brother Austin, her sister-in-law Susan, their beguiling and ambitious neighbor Mabel (who’s also Austin’s mistress), and young Millicent, a dreamy, whimsical girl who’ll become Emily’s spiritual heir.

With finesse and compassion, *Les ombres blanches* chronicles a body of work that was very nearly lost, the loves, sorrows, and devotion of those who brought it to light, and the passing of a reclusive woman known as “the Myth.” Dominique Fortier delivers a tender, profound, and poetic tale about grief, legacy, and the mesmerizing power of words.

192 pages

Rights held: World

**Rights sold: Canada and US (Coach House Books),
France (Grasset), Italy (Alter Ego), Russia (Ivan Limbakh)**

WINNER Prix Malesherbes

FINALIST Prix Ringuet de
l’Académie des lettres

FINALIST Governor General’s
Literary Awards

FINALIST Prix des Libraires
du Québec

LONGLIST Prix Cazes

Over 8 000 copies sold

English PDF
available

Martine DESJARDINS

Méduse

(*Medusa*)

She has been called Medusa for so long she has forgotten her real name. She walks with her head down, her face hidden behind the wildness of her hair, sparing people the sight of her Deformities – a pair of eyes so horrendous they repulse women and petrify men. She has never dared to look at herself in a mirror. Banished from her family's home, she is locked up at the Athenæum, an institute for misshapen girls that stands on the shores of a jellyfish-infested lake.

In this dark and provocative book, Martine Desjardins offers a radical tale of oppression, shame, and female force. With a contemporary, feminist twist on a Gothic universe, this novel sheds a crude and refined light on monstrosity.

216 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Talonbooks),
France (L'Atalante), Italy (Alter Ego)

La chambre verte (*The Green Chamber*)

The spirit of Scrooge meets the quirkiness of Neil Gaiman in this satirical Gothic tale.

Told from the point of view of an old house with secrets of its own, *La chambre verte* reveals how its inhabitants, the Delorme family, built their fortune ... and how they lost it. A darkly humorous, tragicomic family tale about blinding greed and bitter revenge.

Winner of the best SF/Fantastic Fiction of the year in Quebec.

272 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Talonbooks), France (Denoël),
Spain (Impedimenta)

Martine Desjardins was born in Mont-Royal, Quebec, where she still lives with her fox terrier Winnie. After studying languages, Russian and Italian, as well as comparative literature, she began freelancing for several magazines. Lavishly written, her books are often filled with a twisted humor and a touch of quirkiness. She is a Governor General Award finalist (*Maleficium*) and has won the Prix Jacques-Brossard twice (*Maleficium*, *La chambre verte*).

Over 4 500
copies sold

© Marcella Bolívar

FINALIST
Prix Aurora-Boréal -
Best Novel

FINALIST
Prix Jacques-Brossard

English PDF available

17

WINNER
Prix Jacques-Brossard

FINALIST Prix des
Horizons imaginaires
Over 4 000 copies sold

English PDF available

Over 10 000
copies sold

© John Duckworth

18

FINALIST
Prix des cinq continents
de la Francophonie

English PDF available soon

Hélène DORION

Pas même le bruit d'un fleuve (*Not Even the Sound of a River*)

When Hanna finds notebooks in her mother's belongings, she decides to travel up the St. Lawrence river, to try to find the thread which could tie her life to Simone's, this silent woman who distanced herself from her own life. Along the river, Hanna will meet Antoine, her mother's true love, and will go all the way back to 1914, to the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland*. She will discover how personal tragedies which affect generations sometimes stem from a catastrophe, and how the survivors can be the true castaways. Through this journey, there will be the power of art and that of friendship to escort a luminous and demanding interior quest.

184 pages

English and Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Book*hug), France (Le Mot et le Reste/Folio), Serbia (Prometej)

“This brilliantly written novel is a subtle but powerful reminder that our memory is long, spans generations and centuries, and reveals the echoes of life's dramas, big and small, long after they occur. A book that will stir up a whirlpool of emotion and change you for the better”

Elle Québec

Hélène Dorion has published over thirty works (novels, poetry, essays) for which she has received numerous literary awards such as the prix Mallarmé, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Prix Anne-Hébert, The Université de Montréal's Études françaises magazine award, and the Prix Léopold-Senghor. Her books have been translated and published in over fifteen countries, and in 2012, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France paid tribute to her career.

www.helenedorion.com



Annie PERREAULT

Les grands espaces

In the North, Anna sets out across Lake Baikal, a huge stretch of ice twenty-five million years old. When she collapses from fatigue, a man known as the Grizzly goes to her rescue and brings her to his den. The two loners gradually open up to each other, recounting their nomadic lives, loss of friends, and relationship with the great outdoors.

In the South, an invisible writer pieces together fragments from her life that have filtered into her novel. The artistic process she reveals is a graceful and subtle form of autofiction that evokes Deborah Levy's writing.

246 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Héloïse d'Ormesson)

La femme de Valence

(The Woman in Valencia)

A magnetic novel, intense and chiseled, a meditation on the defiant act of voluntarily vanishing.

While on vacation in Valencia with her family, Claire witnesses a distraught woman jumping off the roof of her hotel. This event will forever change the way she sees herself and interacts with others. Addressing issues of indifference and empathy, this first novel by Annie Perreault is a striking example of great pacing and explores with sensitivity how a single event can ripple through people and time.

216 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Le Nouvel Attila), Canada and US (Baraka Books)

Born in the mid-seventies, **Annie Perreault** graduated from McGill University in Russian studies and French literature. In 2015, she published *L'occupation des jours*, for which she received an honorable mention from the Prix Adrienne-Choquette, one of the most renowned prizes for short stories in Quebec. *La femme de Valence* is her first novel and was short-listed for the Rendez-vous du premier roman (First Novel Festival).



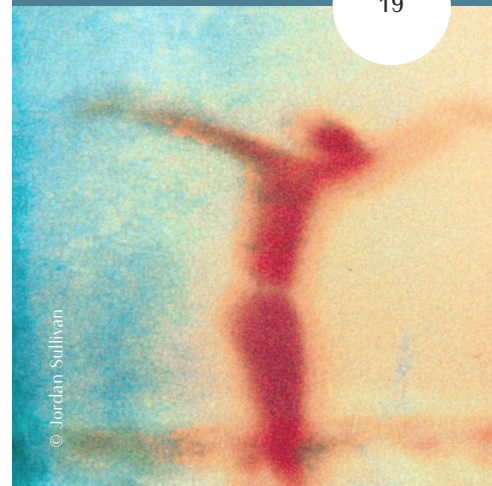
© Kate Smuraga

LONG LIST
Prix des Libraires du Québec

★★★★

"[This book] crosses landscapes like so many lives lived, which are immense, like the dizzying expanse of Siberia, but also tempestuous and melancholy, like the Russian soul."
Lettres québécoises

19



© Jordan Sullivan

FINALIST
Prix des Rendez-vous
du premier roman

FINALIST
Prix Ringuet
de l'Académie
des lettres du
Québec



© Marthina Jung

20



© David Gagnon

WINNER
Prix France-Québec,
Prix Senghor for first novel

FINALIST
Prix des Libraires
du Québec

More than
10 000 copies sold

Christine EDDIE

Un beau désastre

Raised in a poor and wilting neighborhood by an optimistic astrologer of an aunt, the young MJ is afflicted with the twenty-first century blues. But in the summer of his (not so) sweet sixteen, life will surprise him. Love, art and the support of his colorful community will quell even his darkest thoughts. Despite all that is wrong in the world, MJ will find that hope is the best remedy for disaster. In our modern times wavering between catastrophes and promises, Christine Eddie's lucid coming-of-age novel appears like a glimmer of hope and shows us that, even through the thickest concrete, flowers will always grow.

192 pages

Rights held: World

“Christine Eddie’s words are like the rainbow shining through the rain clouds, like a smile glimpsed in a bustling, indifferent crowd.”

Le Devoir

Les carnets de Douglas

(The Douglas Notebooks)

On the same day, two teenagers free themselves from a life that would have left them feeling trapped. They chance upon each other two years later, in a village far too remote to be found on any map. In the heart of a bountiful yet savage wilderness, they fall in love, far from the roar of the twentieth century. That is until life takes an unpleasant turn as it so often does. The novel contains the kind of passion found in films and spotlights the fragile beauty of our world.

200 pages

English and Spanish translations available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Éditions Héloïse d’Ormesson), France (Paperback - Le Livre de poche), Canada (Goose Lane)

Christine Eddie was born in Paris and moved to Montreal just a few weeks later. She grew up in Acadia and turned twenty in Quebec, where she still lives today. She is the author of many articles and short stories, one children’s book and four novels, and the recipient of several literary awards (prix Senghor, Prix France-Québec, Prix Arcade au féminin, Concours de nouvelles XYZ).

III - Classics

Larry TREMBLAY

Le deuxième mari

Samuel knows nothing of the woman he is about to marry. For years, his father has spared no effort to make his son attractive, fattening him like a goose for the big day. His family is overjoyed. Madam is rich, so this union will resolve all their financial problems.

On the island where they live, the husband must obey his wife. Those who break the rules suffer the consequences in a world where armed guards roam the streets. Once married, Samuel will have to satisfy all his wife's desires. He need only be patient and learn to love her.

With characteristic finesse and audacity, the author of *The Orange Grove* delivers a fascinating novel that resembles a distorted mirror and upends social norms, prejudice and willful blindness.

144 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Quattro Books), Ukraine (Anetta)

L'orangerie (*The Orange Grove*)

Somewhere in the Middle East, twin brothers have lived peacefully under the shade of the orange trees until, one day, a bomb falls from the sky and kills their grandparents. The horrors of war destroy their childhood and alter their destiny. Men come to take their revenge for the blood that has been shed. One of the brothers must wear an explosive belt over the mountains and into a military camp. Who will be the chosen one?

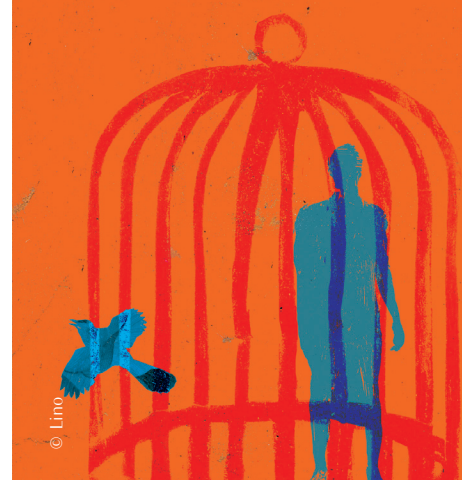
152 pages

Rights sold in 25 countries:

Albanie (Dritan), Azerbaijan (Nebula), Canada (Biblioasis), China (Haitan Press), Croatia (HENA), Czech Republic (Argo), Denmark (Holgers Forlag), France (La Table ronde/Folio/Folio+ Collège/Voir de près), Germany (C.H. Beck), Greece (Armos), Holland (Nieuw Amsterdam), India - Tamil language (Kalachuvadu Publications), Israel (Sendik Books), Italy (Beisler), Macedonia (Antolog Books), Mexico (Penguin Random House/Nube de Tinta), Saudi Arabia (Page Seven), Slovenia (Druzina), Spain (Penguin Random House/Nube de Tinta), Spain - Catalan (Gregal), South Korea (Openhouse for Publishers), Sweden (Vaktel), Taiwan (New Century Publishing), Turkey (Bilgi), UK (Peirene Press), Ukraine (Anetta), US (Milkweed)

Larry Tremblay is a writer, stage director, actor and Kathakali specialist. Translated into a dozen languages, his theatrical works have been staged in many countries and have garnered numerous literary prizes. In 2006, Gallimard published *Piercing*, a collection of his short stories.

larrytremblay.ca/portrait/



“Formidably effective.”

– *La Presse*

21

Over 185 000
copies sold



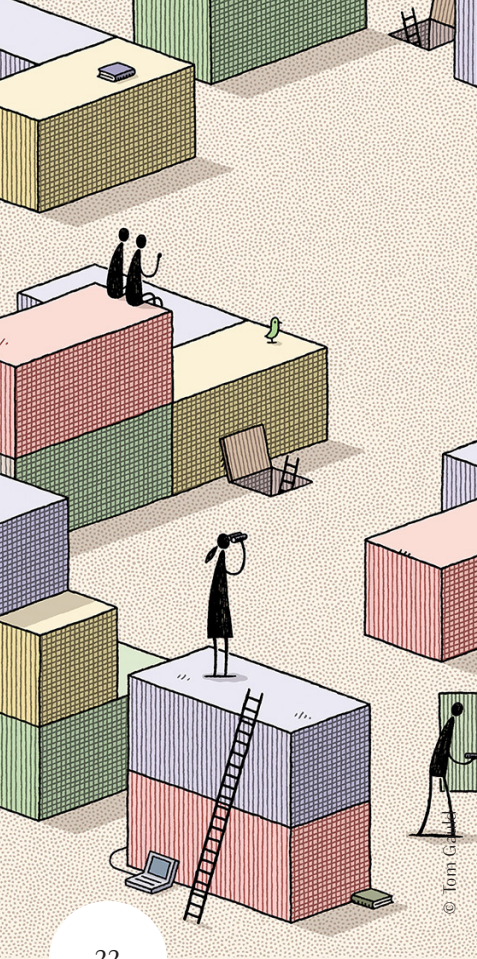
WINNER

Prix des Libraires du Québec
Prix Folio des lycéens
and 13 other literary prizes!

Opera adaptation by Nouvel
Ensemble Moderne

Movie rights optioned by
Max Films

Comic book adaptation by
Rue de Sèvres



22

WINNER
Governor General's
Literary Awards

WINNER
Prix France-Québec

Over 20 000
copies sold

English PDF available



Nicolas DICKNER

Six degrés de liberté (*Six Degrees of Freedom*)

Lisa is a young girl who wants to push the limits of human experience and free herself from the constraints of modern life. Her only problem is that she doesn't have a dime to her name. Her best friend, a computer hacker trying to manipulate international marine traffic, might just have the solution for her: living and traveling as a stowaway in a shipping container.

Demonstrating a wild imagination and sparkling erudition, Nicolas Dickner is in top form here. Considered a unique writer in both Quebec and beyond, he is part of an elaborate family tree whose branches include Kurt Vonnegut, Philip K. Dick, William Gibson, Nick Hornby, and Haruki Murakami.

344 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold:

Canada (Penguin Random House), China (Haitian Press), France (Seuil/Points), Georgia (Agora), Germany (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt), Holland (Nieuw Amsterdam), Macedonia (Begemot), Slovenia (KUD Sodobnost International), Spain (Txalaparta), Turkey (Everest Yayinlari)

Nicolas Dickner studied visual arts and literature at Laval University in Quebec City. Afterwards, he traveled extensively in Europe and Latin America before settling in Montreal, where he now resides. Dickner's first novel, *Nikolski*, garnered rave reviews and prestigious awards. With his most recent novel, *Six degrés de liberté*, winner of the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award, Dickner irrefutably confirms his unique position in Quebec's literary landscape.

Nicolas DICKNER

Nikolski

A classic of Quebec literature.

In the spring of 1989, three young people, born thousands of miles apart, set out to discover what – or who – might anchor them in their lives. Their stories weave in and out of other wondrous tales: stories about such things as fearsome female pirates, urban archaeologists, unexpected floods, fish of all kinds, a mysterious book without a cover, and a dysfunctional compass whose needle obstinately points to the remote Aleutian village of Nikolski.

328 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Vintage Canada), Croatia (Leykam), France (Denoël/Libretto), Germany (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt), Holland (Ailantus), Israel (Keter Books), Italy (Voland), Macedonia (Antolog Books), Poland (Pauza), Romania (RAO), Russia (Centre Polygraph), Spain (Txalaparta), UK (Portobello), Ukraine (Anetta), US (Trumpeteer)

“*Nikolski* offers a breathtakingly original perception of the world, mixing geography, cartography and longing in a language and construction both intellectually sophisticated and emotionally affecting.”

The Globe and Mail

“Despite the preponderance of clues and artefacts scattered throughout the story, Dickner does not tie everything up in a neat package. He lets certain threads dangle, giving *Nikolski* more substance and nuance. The story lingers in the mind long after the last page has been read, leaving the reader in its strange and wonderful orbit.”

The Gazette



23

WINNER
Prix des Libraires du Québec

Prix littéraire
des collégien-ne-s

FINALIST
Governor General's
Literary Awards

Over 100 000
copies sold

English PDF available



© Karoline Georges

WINNER — Governor
General's Literary Awards

WINNER of three other
literary prizes

Over 8 000 copies sold

English PDF available

24



© Karoline Georges

FINALIST
Prix des Libraires du Québec

English PDF available

Karoline GEORGES

De synthèse (*The Imago Stage*)

An image-obsessed woman, famous on the web through her avatar, is reunited with her dysfunctional family when she learns her mother is terminally ill. She has long lived in the virtual world. Can she stand what awaits in the reality she has escaped for so long? Written with a scalpel-like precision, this is a story about image and about what we choose to show or hide. Set in the past and not-too-distant future of Montreal, *The Imago Stage* is an ominous tale of oppression, suppression, and disembodiment.

240 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

**Rights sold: Canada (Coach House Books),
France (Folio SF), Germany (Secession Verlag),
Macedonia (Begemot), Ukraine (Anetta)**

Sous béton (*Under the Stone*)

Since his birth, all the Child has ever known are the blind walls and the concrete of the tiny unit he shares with the Mother and the Father. There, on the 5969th Floor of the Building, days are all the same until, slowly, something changes. While the Father becomes increasingly violent due to the mind-numbing drink and the Mother is constantly afraid of being expelled from the Building, the Child, motionless in his room, experiences a transformation that will open the doors to an unexpected horizon.

Karoline Georges explores what we might be next through a visionary literary experience, part sci-fi and bildungsroman from the future.

184 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

**Rights sold: Canada (Anvil Press), France (Folio SF),
Germany (Secession Verlag)**

Multidisciplinary artist **Karoline Georges** has studied film and art history in Quebec. Her body of work includes photography, audio and video performances. Her novel, *Ataraxie*, was critically acclaimed, and her following book, *Sous béton*, confirmed her as a cutting-edge author on the literary scene.

www.karolinegeorges.com

Matthieu SIMARD

Ici, ailleurs

(The Country Will Bring Us No Peace)

They erected the tower before we bought the old man's house. Since then, the village has slowly become deserted.

However, a few still linger – Fisher, the handyman who does nothing with his hands; Madeleine, the once sexy waitress – but those who remain don't want anything to do with us. It's not a problem: we didn't come here to get mixed up in their lives, but to forget. To begin anew.

We came here so as not to be elsewhere. We may never leave.

A novel about silence, tinged with the fantastic, *Ici, ailleurs* describes the brutality of absence, sneaking into your memory and embracing you like a lover beneath ice-cold sheets.

128 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Coach House Books), Italia (Zona 42), UK (Influx)

Les écritements

Forty years ago, Jeanne promised herself never to look for Suzor, her great love who disappeared one night without a trace. Now eighty years old, she learns that he has Alzheimer's and her promise holds no longer: she must find him before he loses all recollection of the tragic events that took place in their past.

A tender novel told in an irresistible voice with mordant and subtle humor, *Les écritements* offers up a reflection on the vagaries of human memory, on the things we inadvertently forget and those we chose to dismiss from our minds. A feel-good novel in the spirit of *And the Birds Rained Down* and *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*.

240 pages

Rights held: World

Matthieu Simard is the author of seven novels, including *Llouis qui tombe tout seul*, which earned him a nomination for the Grand Prix Littéraire Archambault. The first volume in his series for young adults, *Pavel*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award. More recently, he wrote the screenplay for a film adaptation of his bestselling book *Ça sent la coupe* (directed by Patrice Sauvé). Matthieu Simard lives in Montreal.

© Luke Bird

"Simard wrote one of those books that perfectly suits itself: all of the elements, the prose, the characters, style, the structure, and the gambits work for the feelings and experience it aims to express, right through to the beautiful and haunting ending."

Montreal Review of Books

English PDF available

25



WINNER
Prix France-Québec



© Martin Wittfooth

Christiane VADNAIS

Faunes

(*Fauna*)

A thick fog rolls in over Shivering Heights. The river overflows, the sky is streaked with toxic green, parasites proliferate in torrential rains and once safely classified species – humans included – are evolving and behaving in unprecedented ways. Against this poetically hostile backdrop, a biologist, Laura, fights to understand the nature and scope of the changes transforming her own body and the world around her.

Ten lush and bracing linked climate fictions depict a world that is gorgeous and terrifying in its likeness to our own.

144 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Arabic language (Al Arabi), Canada and US (Coach House), France (L'Atalante), Italy (Codice Edizioni), Macedonia (ILI ILI), Spain (Volcano).

To be adapted for the theater

★★★★

“A new novelist you must read.”

La Presse

“Vadnais’s exciting debut immerses the reader into the dreamy and menacing near-future world of Shivering Heights, a flooded wilderness in the twilight of the human race. [...] This dark, sensual novel invites the reader to imagine nature thriving in the toxic aftermath of human domination, and makes for an essential addition to the recent crop of eco-fiction.”

Publishers Weekly

26

WINNER — Prix des Horizons imaginaires

WINNER — Prix de création littéraire de la ville de Québec et du SILQ

FINALIST — Les Rendez-vous du premier roman

English PDF available



Born in 1986 in Quebec City, **Christiane Vadnais** has a master in literary studies. Her novel *Faunes* received a tremendous number of positive reviews from readers and critics alike, a rare response for a first book.

IV - Recent Acquisitions

- ARNOTT, Robbie** – *The Rain Heron* – Actes Sud (Arles)
- * **BERNSTEIN, SARAH** – *Study for Obedience* – Penguin Random House Canada
- DAUTREMER, Rébecca** – *Des souris et des hommes* – Tishina (Paris)
- ENRIQUEZ, Mariana** – *Notre part de nuit* and *Les dangers de fumer au lit* – Éditions du sous-sol (Paris)
- GAULD, Tom** – *The Revenge of the Librarians* – Transatlantic Agency (Toronto)
- GROFF, Lauren** – *Matrix* – L'Olivier (Paris)
- * **HOOPER, Emma** – *We Should Not Be Afraid Of The Sky* – Curtis Brown (New York)
- * **JOHNS, Jessica** – *Bad Cree* – The Cooke McDermid Agency (Toronto)
- * **KAUFMAN, Andrew** – *The Ticking Heart* – The Rights Factory (Toronto)
- * **LANSENS, Lori** – *This Little Light* – AJA (Paris)
- MANDEL, Emily St. John** – *The Sea of Tranquility* – Payot & Rivages (Paris)
- McDOWELL, Michael** – *Blackwater* – Monsieur Toussaint Louverture (Cenon - France)
- * **MICHAELS, Sean** – *Do You Remember Being Born ?* – The Gernert Company (New York)
- MITCHELL, David** – *Utopia Avenue* – L'Olivier (Paris)
- O'NEILL, Heather** – *When We Lost Our Heads* – William Morris (New York)
- * **RICHARDSON, C S** – *All the Colour in the World* – The Cooke McDermid Agency (Toronto)
- * **SMITH, Neil** – *Jones* – The Cooke McDermid Agency (Toronto)
- TAGAQ, Tanya** – *Split Tooth* – Cooke Agency (Toronto)
- WHARTON, Thomas** – *The Book of Rain* – AJA (Paris)
- * **WHITEHEAD, Joshua (dir.)** – *Love After The End* – Agence Deborah Druba (Paris)
- WINTERSON, Jeanette** – *Frankissstein* – Libella (Paris)

* French translation rights available.



Alto

Anne-Marie Genest
amgenest@editionsalto.com
418.522.1209 #2

280, rue Saint-Joseph Est, Bureau 1
Québec (Québec) Canada G1K 3A9

editionsalto.com/droits-rights/

Contact

Books and More #BAM

www.bamlitagency.com/
contact@bamlitagency.com

Québec, ville de
LITTÉRATURE

