

**RIGHTS LIST**  
**FALL 2023**

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**EDITIONS**

**FOREIGN RIGHTS**  
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# EDITIONS

## OVERVIEW

### A UNIQUE PUBLISHING MODEL

**Reading makes you happy!** A simple idea & XO Editions' guiding principle! Our ambition is to share this happiness with as many people as possible.

Hence the company's motto – **XO READING FOR PLEASURE** – and the choice to publish **quality works geared toward a mass-market audience.**

The notion of pleasure is essential. One of the major challenges ahead will be to get the young generation, so hooked on screens and social media, to discover the pleasure of reading books.

### PUBLISHING STRATEGY

**An intentionally small number of titles (25 titles per year)** so as to give a maximum of attention and resources to each title and thus optimize their sales potential, both in France and abroad.

**An ambitious strategy aimed at discovering new talent** and propelling our authors to the top of bestseller lists in France and around the world.

### ACHIEVEMENTS IN 23 YEARS

**521 titles published** (an average of 23 titles per year)

**354 titles hit bestseller lists (nearly 70% of our production)**

**238 titles have been widely licensed internationally** (52% of our production, with the exception of the 59 titles we acquired abroad)

**Average sales of 48,000 copies per title**, which is 10 times above average for the trade market in France

# PUBLISHING POLICY

## XO NOVELS

### CONTEMPORARY & HISTORICAL NOVELS

After the publication of two major authors of historical novels, **Christian Jacq & Max Gallo**, XO Editions has welcomed new authors whose debut novels became best-sellers. For example **Guillaume Musso** (14 titles published by XO, **#1 bestselling author since 2011**, with **26 million copies sold** in France, **translated into 41 languages**, a unique and remarkable achievement in publishing), but also Romain Sardou, Mireille Calmel, Nicolas Vanier, Mark Miller, etc.

### CRIME & THRILLER NOVELS

#### XO'S TRADEMARK : MAJOR THRILLER AUTHORS

With almost **6 million copies sold** in France out of his 11 novels, **Bernard Minier** is one of the most widely read French authors, and his talent is internationally renowned (**translated into 27 languages**).

**Nicolas Beuglet** (**2 million copies sold**), Henri Loevenbruck, Olivier Bal, Olivier Descosse, Olivier Merle and, at the crossroads between thrillers and spy novels, Cédric Bannel, also stand out for their talent and success on the XO Editions list.

### XO BLOCKBUSTER MEMOIRS

Next to fiction, XO stands out as a publisher of blockbuster memoirs, including those of Ingrid Betancourt, Farah Pahlavi, Mireille Darc, Sylvie Vartan, Michel Sardou, Gérard Depardieu, Renaud Séchan, Patrick Sébastien, and Vincent Lagaf.



## READING FOR PLEASURE

## XO FRENCH & WORLD HISTORY

XO Editions excels in publishing books on the history of France, Europe and the world.

XO is the publisher of numerous works by the academician **Max Gallo** (from *Louis XIV* to *A History of World War II*), all widely acclaimed by the readers. We are also the publisher of the gripping historical narratives of **François-Guillaume Lorrain** (*Louis XIV: A King's Childhood* and *The Age of Treason*) as well as of **Frédéric Mitterrand**, with *The Duel*, *Napoleon III & Victor Hugo*, and *1938: The Eye of the Hurricane*.

## XO GENERAL NON-FICTION

A **committed publisher**, XO is dedicated to publishing titles that are thought-provoking and that sensitize the general public to the big questions facing our society. Among them are publications shedding light on violence against women (**Burned Alive, 700,000 copies sold** in France; **translated into 36 languages**), bullying, harassment, end of life, the plight of refugees.

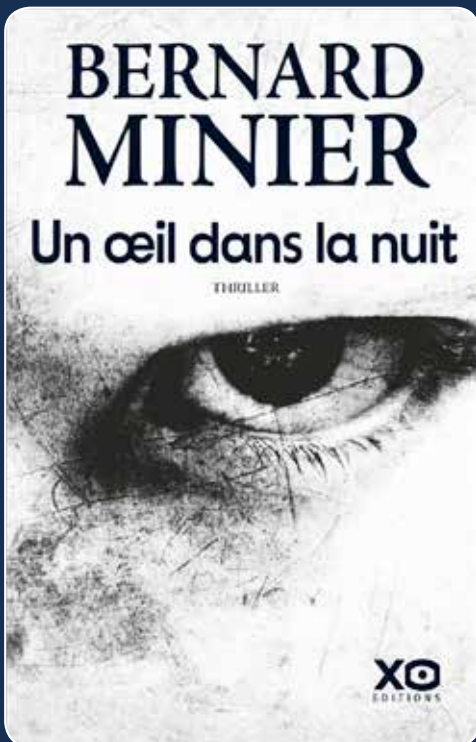
XO is equally committed to **educating our youth** and has published works of reference aimed at parents in preschool and elementary education.

## XO ESSAYS

The catalog includes works by major celebrities, including **French President Emmanuel Macron** (his book *Revolution* has been **translated into 22 languages** worldwide), Luc Ferry, Jacques Attali, and Nicolas Bouzou, as well as anthologies such as *The Black Book on the Condition of Women* edited by Christine Ockrent, or *The Black Book on the Condition of Christians in the World*, edited by Monseigneur di Falco.

## XO ADVENTURE NARRATIVES

Our list of publications also include narratives from adventurers such as **Mike Horn** (**over 6 million copies sold in France**) or **Nicolas Vanier** whose dreams and achievements inspire us all.



PUBLISHED  
APRIL, 2023  
P. 512

**ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE**

**200,000  
COPIES SOLD**

**#1  
3 WEEKS  
IN A ROW**

**BERNARD MINIER'S NOVELS  
TRANSLATED INTO  
27 LANGUAGES**

## AN EYE IN THE NIGHT (UN OEIL DANS LA NUIT)

With five movies under his belt, that were considered scandalous at the time of their release, the horror movie director, Morbus Delacroix, has become a cult favorite with the younger generations. Then, from one day to the next, Morbus stopped making films, and went into seclusion together with his wife up in the mountains, refusing all interviews, and any visitors. Except for one: Judith Tallandier, a young film student. To Judith's great surprise, after an email exchange, Morbus agreed to receive her in his lair hidden from the world. He is provocative, misanthropic, excessive, brilliant, and mad. Movies are his life. He's a cross between Tarantino and Kubrick.

While Judith is driving toward the mountains to meet the legendary horror movie director, a patient is discovered dead, killed under brutal circumstances in a psychiatric ward in Toulouse. Other equally dramatic events ensue that all seem to be related to a cursed movie that never came out on the big screen: Orpheus or the Spiral of Evil, the latest movie made by Delacroix.

**GRUESOME MURDERS,  
A RECLUSIVE HORROR FILM DIRECTOR,  
A COLLEGE GIRL FASCINATED BY THIS EYE  
IN THE NIGHT...**

**WHAT IF THE UNSPEAKABLE IS RELATED TO  
A CURSED FILM?**

**MARTIN SERVAZ FACES ONE OF  
THE MOST COMPLEX CASES OF HIS CAREER**



© Emanuele Scorzolletti

# BERNARD MINIER

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**BERNARD MINIER** was born in Béziers in 1960 and grew up in the Southwestern France. He now lives near Paris and writes full-time. Published in 2011, his first novel, *ICED (Glacé)*, marks the beginning of the investigations of Martin Servaz and was adapted in TV series currently available worldwide on **NETFLIX**. The success of his ensuing 11 novels have made him an essential French thriller author.

## BERNARD MINIER • ABOUT AN EYE IN THE NIGHT

**With *An Eye in the Night*, readers rediscover Martin Servaz in a surprising setting: the world of horror films. Are you a fan of the genre?**

I was just a bit of one before I started writing *An Eye in the Night*. Like others of my generation, I saw *The Exorcist*, *Psycho*, *Rosemary's Baby*, and a few others, but that was it. As always with work, I immerse myself 200% in the universe I want to depict, meaning that for months, I not only read books on the subject - testimonies and directors' memoirs - but more importantly, I watched two hundred horror films, usually between the hours of 9 pm and 1 am. I managed to dig up 150 films worth the detour from 1920 to today. The list is at the end of the book. There are some stunning successes in the genre, and new American, Korean, French, Spanish directors and others are emerging around the world.

**Morbus Delacroix, the main character in your book, is a horror film director who seems to elicit fascination. Who is he really?**

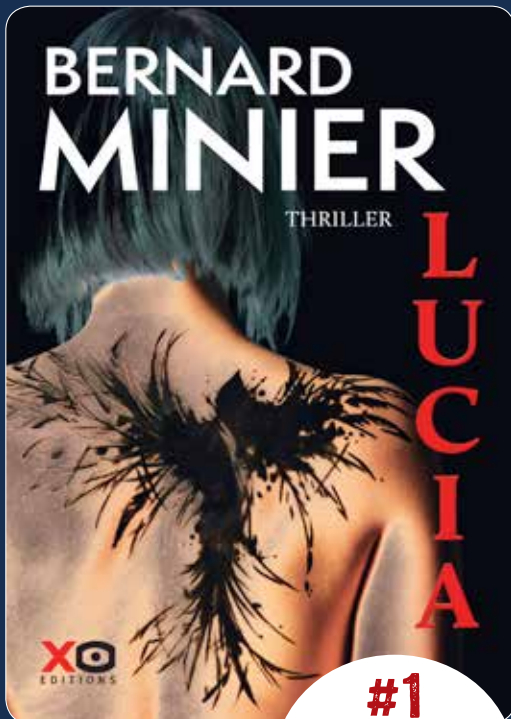
I had much fun creating this character, as well as that of the former producer Kenneth Zorn or the YouTuber Max Renn. These characters are a boon for an author as they offer many possibilities. Morbus Delacroix has become a cult favorite with the younger generations, with five horror movies under his belt that were considered scandalous at the time of their release but are revered by fans. Then from one day to the next, Morbus stopped making movies, and went into seclusion together with his wife up in the mountains, refusing all interviews, and any visitors. Of course, he also has a dark worrisome side to him. He strings a narrative that I hope is fascinating but also unique on the art of movie-making. He's a cross between Tarantino and Kubrick.

**Is this also the occasion for you to evoke the literature of the genre, the thriller in particular, and its relationship to the press?**

Precisely. When Morbus Delacroix talks about the horror genre in film and its relationship to the critics and to movies in general, it's a mirror I hold up to the thriller genre in literature, which I thrive on. At one point, Morbus says something like: "In the end, I came to understand that it is popular culture, not the realm of the intellectual or the bourgeoisie - where transgression is expected, codified, instantly recognizable and hence devoid of subversive potential. Popular culture stirs things up, is visceral, uncomfortable." It's somewhat provocative, a little excessive, I'll admit, but in the book it's pure Morbus Delacroix. The thriller, like the horror movie, appeals to the emotions of the reader or viewer, at the same time introducing a certain view of the world: a dark, anxiety-provoking, corrupt and dangerous place. Both tell us that, no, the world is not innocent, it has teeth, and it bites.

**Today, particularly among young people, we are witnessing a renewed interest in horror films. Did you anticipate this, and how do you explain it?**

It's not just the young people. In 2022 movies like *Smile*, *X* were favorably reviewed and they sold over a million tickets at the box office. Take the British astrophysicist Rosemary Coogan, who was chosen to go into outer space that year: She confessed to spending many evenings watching horror films with her friends. I'll admit that when the idea came to me in 2021 to write this story, I didn't expect this renewal of interest in the horror film genre. I think what people appreciate about them is their all-out nature, that what you see in them you won't see anywhere else, their anything-goes aspect. There is no self-censoring, no politically correct, they just go for it. It's a transgressive genre, instinctual, visceral, and above all, it does not preach. But the horror film is only one of the themes I explore in *An Eye in the Night*. There's also friendship, kinship, and a certain form of conspiracy.



PUBLISHED  
MARCH, 2022  
P. 480

**#1**  
**ON FRENCH**  
**BESTSELLER**  
**LIST**

**ENGLISH SAMPLE**  
**AVAILABLE**

**FILM RIGHTS**  
**UNDER NEGOTIATION**

**378,000**  
**COPIES SOLD**

**2<sup>ND</sup> VOLUME OF THE**  
**«LUCIA» SERIES TO BE**  
**RELEASED IN 2024**

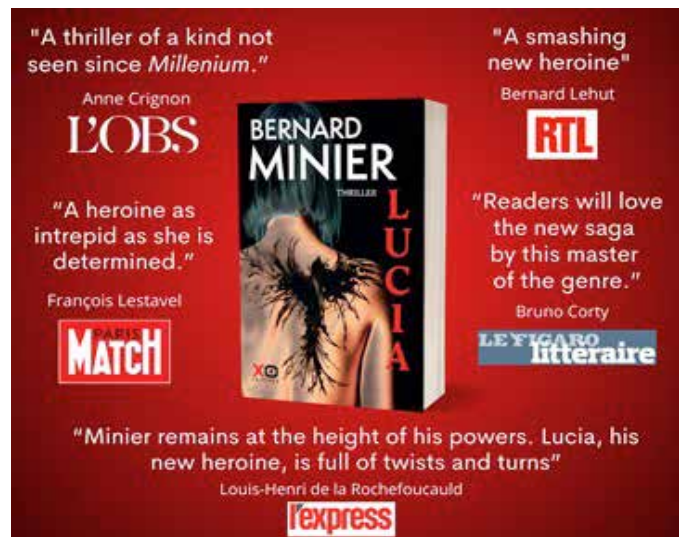
## LUCIA

A group of criminology students at Salamanca university discover the existence of a serial killer who has gone undetected for several decades and who stages his crime scenes to resemble Renaissance paintings.

In Madrid, Detective Lucia Guerrero finds her colleague crucified on a calvary and sets out to follow the trail that leads to the man they nicknamed "The Glue Killer".

They are all confronted with their own past, their worst fears, and a truth more terrifying than any legend or myth.

**A NEW & ENDEARING HEROINE**  
**WHO FOLLOWS A TRAIL OF**  
**UNSPEAKABLE CRIMES**



**FEAR, MYSTERY, SURPRISES, TERROR & ANGUISH**  
**ARE ALL ON THE MENU**

**BAROQUE PAINTING IS THE APPETIZER &**  
**MYTHOLOGY THE DESSERT**

**CONTEMPORARY SPAIN IS THE BACKDROP**



© Emanuele Scorzellelli

# BERNARD MINIER

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TRANSLATED IN 27 LANGUAGES  
5.9 MILLION COPIES SOLD

## BERNARD MINIER ABOUT *LUCIA*

**With *Lucia*, your new thriller, you cross the Pyrenees to take us to Spain. You say this choice echoes your own trajectory...**

My mother was born in Northern Spain, in the highlands of Aragon—where part of the novel is set. She arrived in France at the age of eight. I myself discovered my mother's birthplace when I was a teenager, and then in my twenties, the rest of Spain. That was at the time of La Movida, the great cultural and political counterculture movement that originated in Madrid and shook all of Spain at the beginning of the 1980s. It was electrifying, exciting, crazy. To be young and live through it was a privilege, a stroke of luck. Spain became home to the avant-garde of many movements (for example, the one to combat violence against women). You can feel it in Spanish literature, film and TV series.

**Why did you choose a female character, going as far as naming the book after her?**

A beautiful name and a beautiful title. I don't know how you could better bring this new story to life than by giving it the name of its heroine. And what a heroine she is: rebellious, tough, insolent. I'm sure that readers will become as attached to Lucia as they were to Servaz. That said, female characters have always played a big part in my novels, ever since *Iced*, in which Irène Ziegler and Diane Berg took up almost as much space as Servaz. The main character in *M*, *The Edge of the Abyss*, was Moira, an expert in artificial intelligence. My core readership is made up of women, as insolent as Lucia herself. They don't let me get away with anything. Besides, Lucia didn't appear out of thin air: she takes after some admirable women living among us. It gave me the greatest pleasure to bring her to life. Lucia Guerrero, la Guerrera: the Warrior. She has to fight for her place in a world that remains a world of men, even if less and less so, that of the Spanish police, the Guardia Civil.

**Without giving away the plot, what is the gruesome reality this Guardia Civil detective will have to face?**

A killer who gets his inspiration from Renaissance paintings, to be more precise, paintings that were themselves inspired by Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. As we know, the Greek and Roman Gods were as violent, jealous, perverted, dishonest and manipulative as mere mortals. It follows that the *Metamorphoses* are filled with murders, punishments and abominable acts. Lucia will also work with a group of criminology students and their professor from the University of Salamanca (this group actually exists, I met them...but naturally I embellished a bit).

**And as usual, you spent time on location. You delved deep into the extraordinary city that is Salamanca, and met some of the university faculty, members of the Civil Guard, experts.**

I agree 100% with Michael Connelly when he said "I want not only the streets, the restaurants and the bars to be real, but also the bureaucracy and the political system - everything that makes up our day-to-day. If the novel's universe is realistic, my characters take on a realistic shape." And Salamanca itself is like a movie set. It's a vehicle for time-travel. My writing is quite visual, and Salamanca had all I needed: a plethora of old stone; narrow streets lit by lanterns; monuments imbued with history. Take the Plaza Mayor, by far one of the most beautiful squares in Spain. You can find medallions of the busts of Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, better known as El Cid, of the Catholic monarchs Isabelle and Ferdinand, of Christopher Columbus, of Hernan Cortès, and of Francisco Pizarro.



PUBLISHED  
APRIL, 2021  
P. 480

#1  
ON FRENCH  
FICTION LIST

#3 MOST SOLD  
THRILLER  
IN FRANCE  
IN 2021

430,000  
COPIES SOLD

PRAISES

## THE HUNT

(LA CHASSE)

**“THERE IS A DARK PLACE  
THAT NO SUNLIGHT CAN BRIGHTEN...”**

Full moon.

A deer leaps out of the forest. His eyes are those of a... man.  
Chased! Hunted!

It is not an ordinary wild beast hunted in the Ariège forests..

Secret society, gangland killings & inflaming tensions in the suburbs.

On the paths of fear, Servaz's life and honour are in jeopardy.

**A SEARINGLY TOPICAL NOVEL  
SET ON THE PATHS OF FEAR**

•  
**THE EXCESSES OF OUR TIME :  
MANIPULATION, VIOLENCE & REVENGE**

“Sharp as ever, Bernard Minier depicts a country on the verge of implosion, territories no longer controlled by the forces of law, and extremists who try to take advantage of this situation. This thriller, like the previous one, will definitely inspire scriptwriters!”

LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE

“An investigation with multiple twists that focuses on a few days, a simple and rhythmic writing, multiple cultural references and complex characters, full of doubts and flaws. (...) *The Hunt* is more political than Minier's previous novels. It is also the most accomplished one.”

LE MONDE DES LIVRES

«A hallucinating prologue (...), an investigators team behind its hero, Martin Servaz, plunged once again into a tortuous affair mixing petty criminals, ex-military and dirty cops, during a manhunt where masked killers and gamekeepers enjoy blurring the tracks of a deadly game. The backdrop is the oppressive landscapes, the heavy and confined atmospheres that Bernard Minier loves.»

LIBÉRATION





© Emanuele Scorselletti

# BERNARD MINIER

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TRANSLATED IN 27 LANGUAGES  
5.9 MILLION COPIES SOLD

## BERNARD MINIER ABOUT *THE HUNT*

**Your new thriller begins with a staggering scene: a being emerging from the forest that looks like a deer but has the eyes of a human... Is this a way of setting the scene for the presence of mystery?**

To be honest, this prologue is typical of what I like to do in beginning a story. It's a sort of ritual or liturgy: a scene that immediately grabs the reader by the throat, plunging him or her headfirst into something that is both very anxiety-making and very mysterious. It's a way of making the reader understand that this is going to be a bumpy ride, that I'm not going to give people time to get their breath – it's a way of saying "Strap yourselves in for the emotional rollercoaster that's just starting."

**You have doubtless never gone so far in depicting contemporary social ills, for example the discrediting of authority – particularly the police – the retreat into nationalistic ideas, conspiracism and ordinary racism. Does our society worry you to that point?**

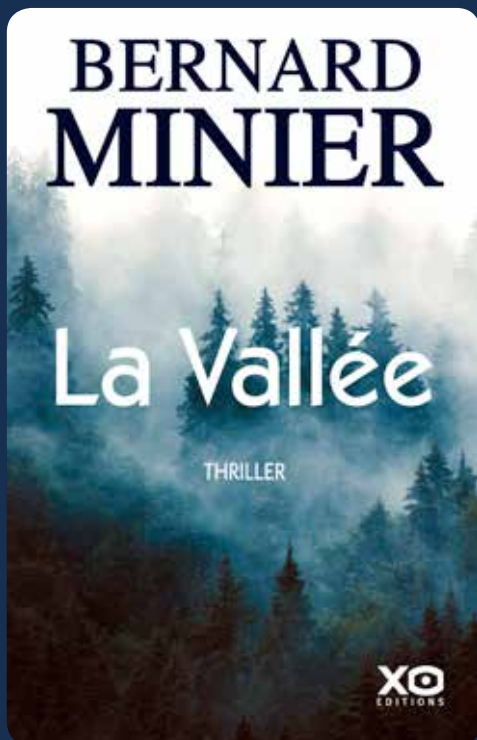
That trend was already started in *M, le bord de l'abîme* [M, the Edge of the Abyss] and *La Vallée* [The Valley]: I increasingly want to talk about the times, the society in which we live and above all its ills, the great dangers that threaten it – but in as exciting and captivating a way as possible. What worries me is that society has never been as divided, torn apart and violent...

We now have a culture of systemic confrontation. Increasingly large sections of the population no longer believe in anything or have any values to live by. They are drowning in conspiracism, hatred of others, a "kick 'em out" mentality... There is also the question of the relation between the police and the judicial system and even that of the relation between democracy and the judicial system. Criminal groups are trying to make this country into a narco-state – with all the violence and corruption that goes along with that. In Toulouse alone there have been 32 fatal score settlings in two years. Then there is the question of racism. Can we say, yes or no, that French police and society are racist?

I don't have a definitive answer to offer to all these questions but I bring concrete facts that enable an analysis : sometimes astounding realities and real data, as well as testimonies that are just as grounded in fact. Recently, every time I turn the TV on, I come across news that reflects what is happening in the novel – it's incredible! Of course I intertwine all that with a story that I hope is captivating although I'm not too worried about that angle: I don't think readers will get bored reading *The Hunt*.

**Without revealing too much of the plot, the theme of the righter of wrongs runs all through your novel. Is that a reflection of what you observe in real life?**

It is clear that the justice system itself is powerless in the face of certain issues: juvenile delinquency (which is an important theme in the book), for example, the stranglehold that drug dealers have in certain areas, corruption, etc. In these conditions, there will be a powerful temptation for some people to exert justice themselves or to overturn governments that have been democratically elected. Whether it be people in the general public, the police, the judiciary or even the army. Another theme of the book is that of certain operations carried out by the French army in Africa. It's almost inevitable that secret, clandestine groups will eventually form to make up for the weakness of the establishment in dealing with security and justice. When I went to research this, I discovered to my amazement that some people are already preparing for the day things will explode by gathering together and arming themselves. And I'm not just talking about a few crazed survivalists...



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APRIL, 2021  
P. 548

FILM RIGHTS OPTIONED  
BY GAUMONT

#1  
ON FRENCH  
FICTION LIST

615,000  
COPIES SOLD

PRAISES

## THE VALLEY (LA VALLEE)

**"I THINK SOMEONE IS ACTING  
AS IF THEY THINK THEY ARE GOD..."**

A cry for help in the middle of the night.  
A valley cut off from the world.  
An abbey filled with secrets.  
A mysterious forest.  
A series of terrible murders.  
Terrified inhabitants who want justice done.  
The accusations of a poison pen writer.  
A community on the brink of chaos.

**MANIPULATION, SUBMISSION & FEAR**

**A VALLEY CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD**

**A HIGH-ALTITUDE & CONFINEMENT THRILLER**

"While masterfully leading his story, Minier pursues his reflection on the evils that concern us all."

LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE

"A perfectly mastered suspense and style, endearing characters, and once again *a hell of a story*, to quote the title of one of his previous novels."

LIBÉRATION

"Fearsome efficiency. Addictive!"

FRANÇOIS BUSNEL, LA GRANDE LIBRAIRIE

"This spectacular 6<sup>th</sup> investigation of his favorite hero, set in a forest as grandiose as it is oppressive, should once again delight his legions of fans. And no doubt make new emulators..."

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE



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# BERNARD MINIER

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TRANSLATED IN 27 LANGUAGES  
5.9 MILLION COPIES SOLD

## BERNARD MINIER ABOUT *THE VALLEY*

**Readers have the pleasure of meeting Martin Servaz again in your new thriller, *The Valley*. What's happened to him since *Sœurs*?**

There's been a big change in his life; he is no longer single. That has consequences of course – mainly positive but not solely – professionally as a cop and personally. And it really is a huge change because until now he had vowed never to share his life with anyone. So readers are going to meet a radically different Servaz, rejuvenated and happier – at first, at any rate...

**You chose an isolated valley, cut off from the world, as the claustrophobic setting for this eighth novel. Can you tell us why...?**

I've always liked shutting my characters in. I know that's a strange thing to say given what we are experiencing but the novel was of course written before the terrible trial we're currently undergoing. Just as the people in *Iced* or the teenagers in *A Hell of a Story* are enclosed in a valley or on an island – everything is infinitely more heightened, tense and dangerous when the characters are all shut up together and left to their own devices. Here, the valley of the title is cut off from the world because one side of a mountain has collapsed onto the only road into and out of it. I was interested to see how everyone would react in such circumstances.

Since then, as I've said, current events have caught up with me and as we all know, we are increasingly imprisoned and cut off from each other. The claustrophobic enclosed world of *The Valley* is an incredible echo of all the enclosed worlds that have been grown up almost everywhere. In *The Valley*, as in real life, people can no longer go to work and children are deprived of school. I repeat that the book was written before.

**The book also features an abbey full of secrets. Was this an opportunity for you to develop a theme of Good versus Evil?**

I believe it goes further than that. This valley and little town are the reflection of contemporary society and culture. We are living in a terrible era in which too many people – not everyone, far from it – feel the need to judge rather than understand and to destroy those who don't think like them, thereby creating enemies. The choice to set part of the action in an abbey allowed me to deal not only with this conflict of the past versus the contemporary era but also to talk about this terrifying obsession with purity that has overtaken us.

**Your novel gives an important place to female characters – a doctor, a mayor and also a formidable psychiatrist. Is that a question of equality or a pretext for exploring the subtle relations between the sexes?**

That was absolutely not premeditated. It just came about like that: these female characters imposed themselves on the story as it developed and I have to say I took enormous pleasure in bringing them to life. But you have to remember that, since *Iced*, women have had the upper hand over men – with the Servaz-Ziegler duo, I had already taken a wicked pleasure in reversing the traditional male-female roles of these police partnerships in thrillers.

# BERNARD MINIER

AN INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR

5.9 MILLION COPIES SOLD & TRANSLATED IN 27 LANGUAGES



774,000  
COPIES

TV-SERIES ON NETFLIX  
WORLDWIDE

ICED / 2011

### A BREATHTAKING FIRST NOVEL

In the Pyrenees, the body of a headless horse is found with traces of DNA belonging to an infamously dangerous serial killer, currently locked away in a neighboring psychiatric hospital. A few days later, the first human victim is found.

FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
AVAILABLE



603,000  
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THE CIRCLE / 2012

### AN OPPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE

A surprise phone call from the past, a mysterious e-mail, both signs that the most twisted of all serial killers may be back...

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AVAILABLE



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DON'T TURN OUT  
THE LIGHT / 2014

### PREPARE FOR THE WORST

What happens when someone takes control of your life and your relationships? And what is hiding in the darkness? Don't turn out the lights... and if you do, prepare for the worst!

FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
AVAILABLE



672,000  
COPIES

A HELL OF A  
STORY / 2015

### DANGER IS NOT WHERE YOU THINK

Temporarily abandoning the commander Martin Servaz, Bernard Minier delves into a universe where danger is not where we think and intimacy is an illusion... he brilliantly tells us a dark and tension filled story... A hell of a story.

549,000  
COPIES



N° 1 ON THE FRENCH  
BESTSELLER LISTS

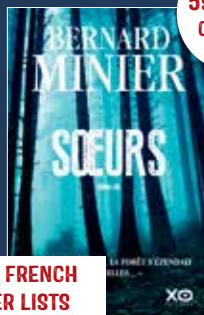
NIGHT / 2017

### AN INSANE CLIFFHANGER

A stormy night on the North Sea. Kirsten Nigaard, the Norwegian inspector, is investigating on a murder on the off-shore platform. A few days later she finds herself in the office of Martin Servaz: the missing man is Julian Hirtmann, the illusive killer that the police have been pursuing for years.

FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
AVAILABLE

593,000  
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N° 1 ON THE FRENCH  
BESTSELLER LISTS

SISTERS / 2018

### A NIGHTMARE WRITTEN IN BLACK INK

A spouse, two sisters, three communicants... and what if the investigation from 20 years ago indicated the wrong man? For Servaz, the past, resurfacing, will turn into a nightmare.

«Immense, enormous, the forest stretched out before them. Poor, fallen souls, I had to kill you...»

480,000  
COPIES



M, THE EDGE OF  
THE ABYSS /  
2019

### WELCOME TO THE DARKEST SCENARIO

While Moira is just starting her mission at Ming, the Chinese digital giant company, she is convinced that the truth that awaits her at the end of the night will be more frightening than the most terrifying nightmares.

# THE MASTER OF OPPRESSIVE ATMOSPHERES & GRIPPING PLOTLINES!

A GLOSSY TELEVISION SERIES, ADAPTED FROM "ICED",  
AVAILABLE ON **NETFLIX** IN MORE THAN 190 COUNTRIES

## PRAISES FOR BERNARD MINIER

«Over the past few years, France has produced some of Europe's most striking and original crime novelists. Bernard Minier is up there with the best.» **THE SUNDAY TIMES**

«A super-accelerated version of a Hitchcock thriller, with thrills and shocks on nearly every page. Minier reels out lurid, quick and dirty prose.» **THE SPECTATOR**

«Bernard Minier's novels confirm his status in the forefront of crime fiction's French renaissance. A gripping read.» **THE TIMES**

«The king of the thriller genre.» **EL PAIS**

«The greatest European thriller author.» **LA REPUBBLICA**

## RIGHTS SOLD IN 27 LANGUAGES

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SPAIN



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NETHERLANDS



GERMANY



JAPAN



POLAND



**BULGARIA:** Enthusiast  
**CZECH REPUBLIC:** XYZ  
**DENMARK:** Lindhart & Ringhof  
**GERMANY:** Droemer-Knaur  
**GREECE:** Minoas  
**HUNGARY:** Gabo  
**INDONESIA:** Penerbit Haru  
**ISRAEL:** Kennerit  
**ITALY:** La Nave di Teseo  
**JAPAN:** Harper Collins Japan  
**KOREA:** Balgunsesang  
**LATVIA:** Zvaigzne ABC  
**LEBANON:** Centre Culturel Arabe  
**NETHERLANDS:** Xander  
**NORWAY:** Aschehoug  
**POLAND:** Rebis  
**ROMANIA:** Editura Trei  
**SERBIA:** Publik Praktikum  
**SLOVAKIA:** XYZ  
**SPAIN:** Salamandra  
**SWEDEN:** Akademijs  
**UK:** Hodder  
**UKRAINE:** Folio  
**US:** St. Martin's Press  
**TAIWAN:** Sharp POint Press  
**TURKEY:** Pegasus  
**VIETNAM:** Innovative



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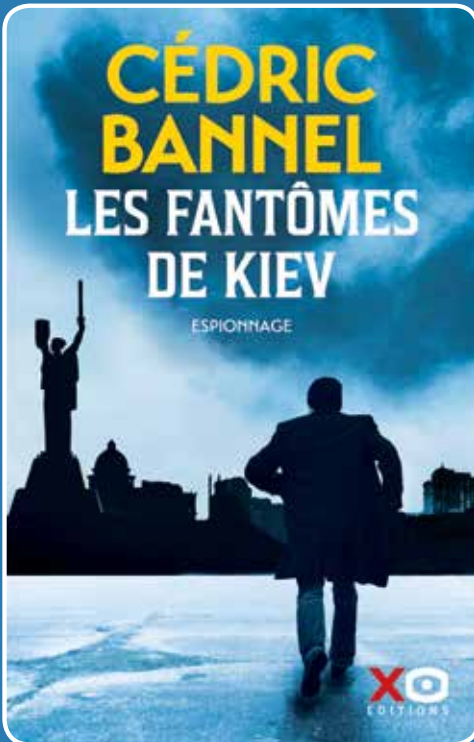


PUBLISHED  
OCTOBER, 2023  
P. 176

LANDS OF MYSTERY

(TERRITOIRES DU MYSTÈRE)

An extraordinary writing secrets manual, which is both an essay on literary creation and an intimate account of the author's journey, from the birth of writing to success. Bernard Minier conveys his passion for literature in a tour de force as dizzying as it is virtuosic.



PUBLISHED  
MAY, 2023  
P. 512

**THE MASTER  
OF  
FRENCH  
SPY FICTION**

**FILM RIGHTS  
UNDER NEGOTIATION**

## PRAISES

"At once a fast-paced spy novel and a realistic geopolitical thriller, *The Ghosts of Kyiev* can be read in one go, like sipping a shot of vodka."

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE

"A spine-chilling story... The plot is thrilling, the action scenes flawless and the suspense unbearable."

LE FIGARO LITTÉRAIRE

"

## THE GHOSTS OF KYIV

(LES FANTÔMES DE KIEV)

In Moscow, Olga Ranevskaya, head of the Kremlin's undercover operations, plots revenge on France. Vladimir Putin wants to use his security forces to punish France for supporting the Ukrainians : the Russian secret service have managed to discreetly steal a batch of anti-aircraft missiles supplied by France to Kyiv. Their goal: get them into the hands of an Islamist group so that they can destroy French planes and airports.

Edgar Van Scana, the best of French agents, is determined to foil the Russian maniacal plan. But in Ukraine, Edgar moves ahead like a ghost... He only has two pieces of information: the picture of an arms cache, without any indication of the date the photo was taken or the location, and a code name: *Fire Tornado*.

But what chances does he have in the face of the Russian intelligence juggernaut, especially when the mission is headed by Olga Ranevskaya, and Vladimir Vladimirovitch Poutine is out for cold-blooded vengeance.

**A HIGH-OCTANE INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE**

**THE SECRET WAR OF INTELLIGENCE AGENTS**

**A THRILLING STORY OF  
POWER, SHADOW & REVENGE**



# CEDRIC BANNEL

---

**CÉDRIC BANNEL** has taken his place as the French master of the espionage novel. He has a broad range of relevant experience.

As former diplomat in London, he was once involved in the fight against the illicit financial flows and money laundering. Buoyed by his recent successes, he decided to join XO Editions with this new novel.

## CEDRIC BANNEL **ABOUT** *THE GHOSTS OF KYIV*

**A gripping espionage novel, *The Ghosts of Kyiv* echoes the Russian aggression against Ukraine, plunging the reader into the secret wars of intelligence agents. What is this maniacal scenario that your hero, Edgar, the best of the French spies, tries to foil?**

Through its military, financial and diplomatic support, the West has enabled Ukraine to inflict heavy defeats on the Russian army. If going to war with NATO is not an option, all Western governments know that the Kremlin will not hesitate to try to punish his enemies. The Russian secret service managed to discreetly steal a batch of anti-aircraft missiles supplied by France to Ukraine. Their goal: get them into the hands of an Islamist group and thus have French planes destroyed and airports paralysed. The book - pure fiction, by the way - chronicles the search efforts led by Edgar Van Scana, one of the French Intelligence Services' best black agents, to find the missiles before the worst happens and disrupt the Russian operations.

**Your book is extremely well documented on the strategies developed by the secret intelligence services. Where does this exceptional knowledge come from?**

In the same way that most authors of crime novels are not policemen themselves, you don't need to be a former intelligence agent to write reliable spy novels. But it does require access to accurate and reliable information, and a very good understanding of the way a national state functions.

I was lucky enough to start my professional life at the French Ministry of Finance in the department of money-laundering control of foreign investments in France, and international financial sanctions against Iraq, Serbia and Libya. Our regular correspondents were the main French intelligence services, which proved to be an unparalleled source of information. Then, as a diplomat in London, I continued to work on the mechanisms of international financial sanctions, together with our Western partners.

Life is made up of encounters. During the time I worked for the French authorities, I've met many people, some of whom have become close friends over the years. So when I started writing espionage thrillers, it was only natural that I turned to them to help me make my novels as realistic as possible.

**The intelligence service of the Russian Federation's army are at the centre of your novel. What makes them so special and ... feared?**

Edgar Van Scana, my hero, faces the 29155 Unit, an elite group of the GRU - the foreign military intelligence agency of the Russian army. This very offensive elite Unit is tasked with foreign assassinations and other activities aimed at destabilizing European countries like the elimination, by means of poisons and radioactive weapons, of those who represent an embarrassment to Russian power. The West can never legally prove that Russia is behind these actions, but everyone knows that the GRU is responsible of these political crimes. This allows the GRU to leave a clear 'signature' while cynically denying their involvement. The reader will discover their very special methods throughout the novel.

**There's a real craze for spy novels again. How do you explain it?**

This new craze for spy fiction can be explained by the return of History (with a capital H) in our lives! After the fall of Communism, many of us believed that History has reached an end, that we would no longer suffer from wars, except perhaps economic wars. And now, suddenly, Europe, a «herbivorous» power, has found itself confronted with ferociously carnivorous enemies: Islamic terrorism, and then Putin's «Russianism». In this cruel war environment, the intelligence agencies are on the front line and this could explain the renewed interest in the men and women of espionage. It is up to us, the authors, to use fiction to shed intelligent light on the complexity of the world. In this respect, I have always been convinced that thrillers can really play a special role in understanding geostrategic dynamics.



PUBLISHED  
NOVEMBER, 2023  
P. 512

**AN ICE & FIRE  
THRILLER**

## THE DEVIL'S CIRQUE

(LE CIRQUE DU DIABLE)

Massif de la Meije. A frozen body, completely naked. Found by a group of snowboarders who end up stranded in the Devil's Cirque, an inaccessible place they thought to be first humans to have trodden it. A place of terrifying legends. Haut-Var region. Three calcified cadavers. Found in an abandoned sheepfold in the middle of the forest.

Ice and fire!

And two criminal cases handed over respectively to two investigators so different from each other. Paul Cabrera - a cop who looks like a biker, a hothead with a remarkable record of service, an MMA enthusiast transferred over to the crime unit after earning his stripes with a police squad of dubious reputation. And Chloé Latour, a brilliant investigator and group leader at the Crime Unit in Marseille, who hides beneath an aloof demeanor secrets that have been haunting her for so many years.

From the untouched glaciers to the centuries-old woods, from extreme sports enthusiasts to survivalist groups, the link between the two murders will gradually become clear. Crimes committed by a murderer with uncommon skill whose perversity is only matched by his or her determination.



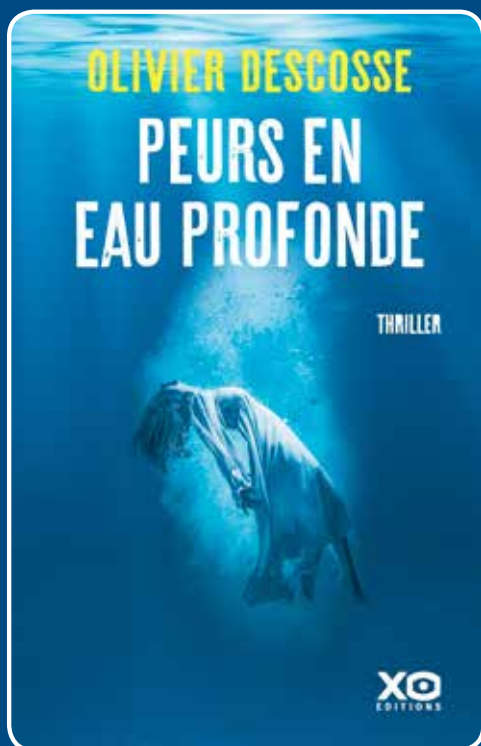
© Bruno Levy - Photo12.com

**OLIVIER DESCOSSE** is a lawyer in Marseille. Fascinated by the most bizarre and extreme places on earth, he is the author of 14 novels. In 2022, he published his first novel with XO, *Deep-Sea Terror*.

**AN UNORDINARY MANHUNT  
IN A HOSTILE NATURE WHERE  
DANGERS LURK EVERYWHERE**

**A TERRIFYING SECRET LIES HIDDEN  
INSIDE THE HEART OF THE DEVIL'S CIRQUE**





PUBLISHED  
MARCH, 2022  
P. 491

## DEEP-SEA TERROR

(PEURS EN EAU PROFONDE)

Off the coast of Marseille, the body of a young woman is found in the nets of a trawler. She is completely naked, covered with bites and her left foot has been severed.

For Chloé Latour, head of the Crime unit, it is the beginning of a relentless chase that will take her into the shadowy world of professional divers and shipwreck hunters – specialists who dive to the bottomless depths and confront the worst dangers.

Jean Sardi is one of the best among these divers : a technical diving whizz. He knew the victim intimately and could well have a motive linked to the terrible secret that has made him seek refuge in the silence of the sea depths.

Domestic murder or crazed ritual? The presence in the victim's lungs of plankton unknown in Mediterranean waters intrigues the Crime unit detectives.

As the mystery thickens, other bodies float to the surface, sewing terror among the deep-sea divers.

### PRAISES

"A very salty plot. We suffocate at every twist and turn, hoping to reach the last page quickly, like a breathless diver dreaming of surfacing."

**NOUS DEUX**

"Identities hidden beneath oceans of mystery and a violent, surprising epilogue. Olivier Descosse unfolds his plot as a kind of Stephen King or Jean-Christophe Grangé of the deep-sea territory."

**LA PROVENCE**

"A breathtaking thriller, in which the character plunges back into the abyss of his past."

**VAR MATIN**

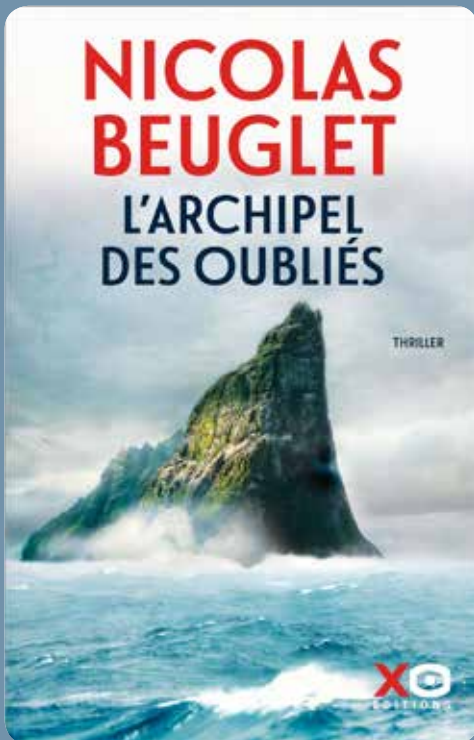
**A LOCK-UP ON THE EDGE OF ASPHYXIA**

•

**A CLAUSTROPHIC SETTING**

•

**A FAST-PACED INTRIGUE  
SET IN THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD  
OF DEEP-SEA DIVING**



PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER 2022  
P. 395

**#1  
ON FRENCH  
PAPERBACK  
LIST**

**91,000  
COPIES  
SOLD**

## THE ARCHIPELAGO OF THE FORGOTTEN

(L'ARCHIPEL DES OUBLIÉS)

**THIS STORY WILL MAKE YOU DOUBT  
EVERYTHING... EVEN YOURSELF !**

Detectives Grace Campbell and Sarah Geringën know this much: even though they have diametrically opposite personalities, they must work together to catch “the faceless man” — the architect of a diabolical plan to destroy humanity. And they have only one lead: a manor house lost in the Scottish mists.

Behind the closed shutters of the residence, a dour young widow moves about in the shadows. But is this woman really who she pretends to be? What the two detectives uncover is beyond their worst assumptions!

In a race against time, Grace and Sarah travel from Loch Ness to Norway, pushing back the boundaries of fear to reach the mysterious Archipelago of the Forgotten - the last stronghold against the reigning chaos of the world.

AN ENTIRELY ADDICTIVE THRILLER

AN ODE TO THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

### PRAISES

“In 6 years and as many novels, Nicolas Beuglet has become one of the giants of the French thriller genre. (...) A thrilling read.”

**BERNARD LEHUT, RTL**

“Beuglet’s novels are a real shock ... The present has never been so worrisome.”

**LE POINT**



# NICOLAS BEUGLET

NICOLAS BEUGLET is 48 years old.

A former TV screenplay writer, he has chosen to devote himself to writing.

He published at XO Editions: *The Scream*, *The Alliance*, *Devil's Island*,

*The Last Message*, *The Passenger with No Face*.

*The Archipelago of the forgotten* is his 6<sup>th</sup> novel.

**2,1 MILLION COPIES SOLD**  
**OUT OF HIS 6 NOVELS**

## NICOLAS BEUGLET ABOUT *THE ARCHIPELAGO OF THE FORGOTTEN*

**In *The Archipelago of the Forgotten*, you bring back your two heroines, the Norwegian Sarah Gerigën, and the Scottish Grace Campbell.**

This was already the plan when I was writing *The Last Message*, the first volume in the Grace Campbell trilogy. And at the end of *Devil's Island*, last volume of this trilogy, Sarah is left with a terrible dilemma. However, I discovered that she was capable of figuring out the problem on her own, without my guidance. So I left her alone for a while and began working on a new investigator, Grace Campbell. Three years later, I knew that Sarah was ready to tell us who she had become. I also knew that she would need help to wrap up the investigation she had begun in my "absence".

**Grace and Sarah seek to understand the true intentions of the Olympus corporation...**

Indeed, Grace and Sarah discover that they have both been trying to defeat Olympus, the malevolent organization, and have both found evidence that seems to prove that the multinational organization is about to launch its third and final plan to take over our civilization, and it's doubtful that this plan will contribute to the well-being of humankind.

**In your novel you bring to light what Thomas Edison was working on during the last six years of his life, namely, perfecting a "necrophone" capable of capturing the aura of the dead. Isn't this unexpected?**

Intellectually, I'm interested in that which seeks to go beyond what we understand and can observe in the present. Anything that asks the question "what makes us who we are" as a species and as an individual. I have followed the research done in this field, especially scientific research. That a man as pragmatic as Thomas Edison would have worked tirelessly on a machine that communicates with the dead says a lot about the deeper answers we, as humans, are seeking, even the most materialistic among us.

**One of your characters cites Bernanos' *France Against the Robots*, declaring that modern society is a universal conspiracy against any inner existence. Do you denounce in your works the pan-digital and the difficulty of maintaining a critical mindset?**

The digital is nothing more than a new tool. What worries me the most is its ability to condition the world's population at an industrial level. I believe that despite the laws in place - we all want to respect the rules that allow us to live in harmony - humans also need to know that they can escape a certain level of surveillance to feel at peace. Yet the digital, in the guise of protecting us of course, has the potential to invade our private lives and our intimacy. What is a human being when even their most inner thoughts are known and controlled by a higher power? Nothing more than an existential absurdity, or a machine.

**You bring up the question of transhumanism and the metaverse, that crazy race towards the immortality of the body and the soul.**

I deeply believe that certain corporations have an economic interest to sell us on the technological revolution by nourishing our imaginations with a Hollywood image of the world. But my sense is that the greater part of humanity does not want this immaterial or a virtual existence. There is and there will always be a curiosity about it, a desire to try it, but most people will realize that, when they are cut off from the earth and reality, they die. The only real danger is that these gigantic corporations won't give us the choice.



PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER 2021  
P. 368

**#1  
ON FRENCH  
LISTS**

**302,000  
COPIES  
SOLD**

## THE PASSENGER WITH NO FACE

(LE PASSAGER SANS VISAGE)

The anonymous letter left on her doorstep is more than a signal: it's an electric shock. Inspector Grace Campbell knows that she has no other option left this time. She has to open the security door at the bottom of her apartment – and thereby face the secret that has been haunting her for so many years...

The nail-biting suspense takes us from the isolated Scottish countryside to the depths of the Black Forest where the most chilling fairy tale of our childhoods is re-enacted. Grace could never have imagined she would be riding this train that appeared out of nowhere, having to confront the Passenger with no face...

With this new gripping thriller, Nicolas Beuglet plunges us into the most terrible perversions of our society, raising the question along the way: what if, among the powers that run the world, faceless monsters are hiding?

**"YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE  
SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH..."**

A CHILLING & NERVE-RACKING THRILLER

A TRAIN, A PASSENGER WITH NO FACE &  
A TERRIFYING SOCIETY

### PRAISES

"Nicolas Beuglet probes the psyche of his heroine, who becomes increasingly endearing as her secrets are revealed. As is often the case, between two traps and three twists, Beuglet develops a social and historical theme close to his heart."

**PARIS MATCH**

"Nicolas Beuglet takes us on a whirlwind tour of Europe, inspired by spine-chilling legends and historical facts. Explosive!"

**MARIE FRANCE**



# NICOLAS BEUGLET

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**2,1 MILLION COPIES SOLD**  
**OUT OF HIS 6 NOVELS**

## NICOLAS BEUGLET ABOUT *THE PASSANGER WITH NO FACE*

**In *The Passenger with No Face* we find out what is hidden behind the heavy security door of inspector Grace Campbell's flat...**

Grace has always been petrified by the possibility of being confronted with the secret shut away for years behind her security door. Until an anonymous letter points her to a new lead in the tragedy that marked her earliest years. Who sent it? How much can she trust the mysterious author? Grace launches into an investigation that will plunge her into terrible doubts: are her parents implicated in her childhood tragedy? Was the police failure due to incompetence or connivance? What is the origin of that memory of a terrifying figure dressed in a strange, colourful costume watching her from the corner of her room? All these questions make Grace realise that her personal history is linked to a case that surpasses the imagination and yet which is all too real.

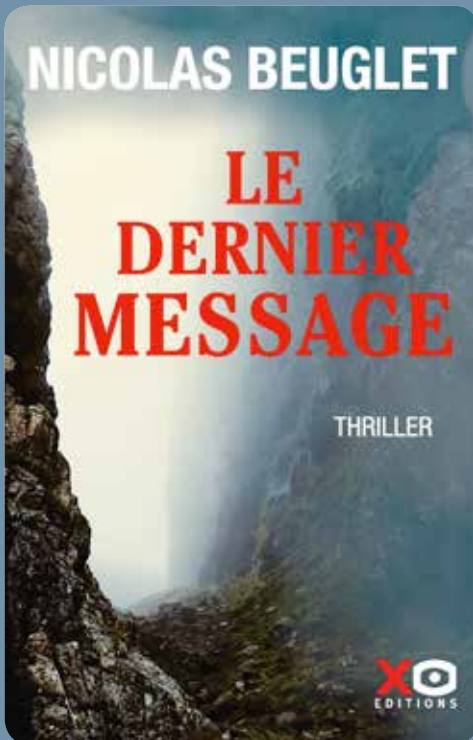
**In your new novel, you revisit the Grimm fairytale *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, putting it at the heart of Grace Campbell's investigation. How did that idea come to you?**

The story about the Pied Piper was the one that most traumatised me in my childhood. I didn't really understand why until recently, when I realised that firstly it ends badly and secondly, it is almost the only tale that doesn't contain any magical or fantastical elements. Cinderella has the fairy, Little Red Riding Hood the wolf who dresses up, Tom Thumb an ogre, Hansel and Gretel a witch... In the story of the Pied Piper, the narrative is dry, factual – and therefore cruelly realistic. That made me want to find out more about its origin and that was when, to my amazement, I found out that the village of Hamelin had medieval records of the sudden disappearance of 130 children... I had to tell that story.

**As in your previous novels, you base the story on real events to depict the dark side of humanity. How did you undertake that important research work?**

The real event you are referring to is the most revolting paedophile scandal, which I actually had not heard of before accidentally coming across it in my research to flesh out the past of my heroine Grace Campbell. It is the German case of what is called the "Kentler experiment": over a period of 30 years, the Berlin social services deliberately placed neglected children with paedophiles under the pretext that they would be loved by their adoptive parent. That fact is so crazy that for a while I thought it must be fake. Unfortunately not. There were two university reports about it. As well as reading them attentively, I also contacted one of the authors who said it was still difficult to measure the scale of the scandal because even today the Berlin authorities were blocking access to over a thousand files on the subject.

I wanted to know how his research was proceeding but I didn't receive a reply. I can understand: it's a very sensitive subject that could, from what we are beginning to know, have repercussions in high places. What I cannot understand, on the other hand, is that no investigative journalist has ever delved into the story to expose how widespread it was... When it's so huge. So, to reply more precisely to your question, I worked on this subject in the spirit of a journalist, to reveal that the worst can be committed with the knowledge and even the support of authorities supposed to look after us and our children.



PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER 2020  
P. 395

**ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE**

**#1  
ON FRENCH  
LISTS**

**316,000  
COPIES  
SOLD**

## THE LAST MESSAGE

(LE DERNIER MESSAGE)

**An abbey and its wind-battered walls, a body mutilated in the strangest of ways, indecipherable scientific formulas... Inspector Grace Campbell does not yet know that the last message is about to change the course of humanity.**

The island of Iona, west of Scotland. Great stretches of brown grass interspersed with black rocks. And, at the end of the “Street of the Dead”, the grey silhouette of the abbey. Behind its wind-battered walls, a resident has just been found murdered, his body mutilated in the strangest of ways. The police investigation is headed by Scottish inspector Grace Campbell.

After a year of sidelining, she knows that her career is at stake. When Grace arrives at the monastery under the driving rain, she pushes open the heavy front door and is met by the shifting gaze of the five monks who live there. All they can say about the victim is his name: Anton. They all know, on the other hand, that he had a secret study hidden away in the walls, a space strewn with scientific formulas...

What was Anton researching? Why has he been killed with such savagery? As she tries to recover her lost self-confidence, Grace does not yet realize that the solution to one of the most intriguing puzzles of mankind rests solely on her shoulders...

**BE WARNED...**

**THE LAST MESSAGE MIGHT PLUNGE YOU TO  
THE DEPTHS OF ANGUISH AND INSANITY...**

•  
**THE MYSTERIOUS & SOLITARY FIGURE  
OF THE SCOTTISH INSPECTOR  
GRACE CAMPBELL**



# NICOLAS BEUGLET

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**2,1 MILLION COPIES SOLD**  
**OUT OF HIS 6 NOVELS**

## NICOLAS BEUGLET **ABOUT** *THE LAST MESSAGE*

**In *The Last Message*, we meet your new heroine, Grace Campbell. Can you tell us something about her?**

Grace is a young Scotswoman of 32, a police inspector in Glasgow. At work, she is known for her ability to laugh at herself and for her gentle approach: she has an astonishing empathy for victims, who confide in her freely. This great ability to listen probably comes from her solitary life – for Grace has chosen to live absolutely alone, without family or friends. Why? The reason for that decision hides behind a locked door in her apartment...

**The starting point of your story is a particularly brutal crime, committed in a monastery on the little, windswept island of Iona. The victim is also a mystery...**

When Grace turns up at this isolated monastery, all the monks are suspects. They can't look her in the eye, they speak in hushed tones and nobody seems to know who the victim was. He was a resident of the community who had rented a room there for two years. All they know about him is his name, Anton, and his habit of holing himself up in his little room for hours on end, doing nobody knows what. The way he was killed, unprecedented in the history of crime, is proof enough that he was not just a random victim.

**In all your novels, you plumb the depths of humanity. Here, you deal with the development of human intelligence. Is it a way of exorcising your own fears and preoccupations?**

It isn't the shadowy parts of humanity that interest me so much as the ideas, phenomena and realities that shape us – or rather, deform and traumatize us without our even realizing they exist. I like to shed light on ideas that we do not talk about but which change everything. The spark that ignited *The Last Message* came from the observation, both fascinating and terrifying, that for over 20 years now, western human intelligence has been in decline.

Homo sapiens has been on earth for thousands of years and it is in our era that they are becoming their most stupid! Why now? What has happened? Is it just chance or the consequence of certain choices of which we haven't realized the significance? Or, even worse, is it organized by certain people? The question is all the more pressing since intelligence is at the basis of our whole survival as a species. Just as a war for water is being talked about, this is a war over intelligence that is looming on the horizon...

**Without giving away the plot, could you tell us more about this “last message” that involves the reader in mind blowing trains of thought?**

It's important to know that I write thrillers based only on facts – little-known facts but real ones nonetheless. *The Last Message* is based on scientific research that has been carried out in universities but which has not yet reached the public domain. In fact, I wonder whether that isn't precisely because it is too unsettling. These discoveries are, as you say, truly mind blowing because they challenge all one's beliefs – and when I say “one”, I mean “you” as well. So the only thing I can tell you with certainty is that this last message is likely to plunge you into a very strange state indeed...



PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER 2019  
P. 320

**N°1**  
**FOR 4 WEEKS**  
**IN A ROW**

**300,000**  
**COPIES**  
**SOLD**

## PRAISES

"The third moving and unforgettable opus in Nicolas Beuglet's trilogy is a masterful blend of fiction and historical reality.."

LE POINT

"Family secrets and revenge, history and epigenetics, this is a blood-curdling thriller!"

ICI PARIS

## DEVIL'S ISLAND

(L'ÎLE DU DIABLE)

### REVENGE IS A MATTER OF MEMORY

The body covered with a strange white powder... the extremities gangrenous... A face frozen in a grimace of pain...

Sarah Geringën is gripped with horror when she sees her father's body. And is paralysed with fear when the pathologist gives her the key found in his stomach. What if her father was not the man he seemed to be?

From murky Norwegian forests to icy Siberian plains, the former Special Forces inspector goes on a journey to confront a terrifying family secret. What will she discover in that old manor house isolated in the woods? Will she dare venture onto Devil's Island?

Nicolas Beuglet's novel is a spine-chilling thriller that exhumes a horrifying unknown event from the depths of history and poses intriguing questions.

**How much of our ancestors live in us,  
for better or worse?**

A THRILLER INSPIRED BY  
RECENT DISCOVERIES & DRAMATIC EVENTS  
•  
SPINE-CHILLING AND TERRIBLY ADDICTIVE





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**OUT OF HIS 6 NOVELS**

## NICOLAS BEUGLET ABOUT *THE LAST MESSAGE*

**Your new thriller *Devil's Island* begins where you left off in *The Alliance*: Sarah Geringen is in a sticky predicament in a prison cell... What is she doing behind bars?**

Sarah has been imprisoned as a result of the daring and determination that characterise her. In her job she has a reputation of being cold and taciturn but with a formidable efficiency that makes her one of the best inspectors in the country. Which is why the government had called on her to find out who assassinated the Norwegian Prime Minister in *The Alliance*. But at the most critical moment of her investigation, Sarah inadvertently caused the death of an innocent bystander whom she was trying to save. The circumstances are unclear and while the enquiry is being carried out, she is incarcerated. She is consumed with remorse and also with grief at the break up with the love of her life, Christopher.

**Sarah is confronted with a murder that will shake her to the very depths, uncovering the pain of a past filled with shadows...**

When she learns of her father's murder, Sarah is convinced it is the result of a burglary gone wrong. Her father was a peaceable man with a straightforward life. However, when she sees the terrifying staging of the murder, she realises he was not the man he seemed to be. His body is covered in a mysterious white powder, his extremities are frozen to the point of gangrene and his face is contorted with suffering. Stranger still, the pathologist finds a key in his stomach. What does it open? What terrible act can her father have committed to deserve such a death?

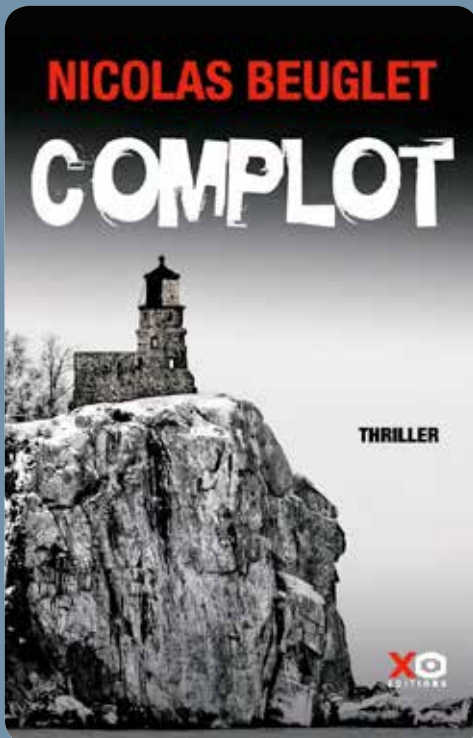
For me, finding out that someone you love is not the person you thought he was, is the most anxiety-making experience. Especially if that shadowy area has repercussions for oneself...

**Your thriller deals with an incredible affair of revenge. A meal best eaten very very cold... And which takes us back to an unknown but chilling historical event. What can you tell us about this, without spoiling the intrigue?**

One day I was helping friends move a small public library. A history book had been left on a shelf and when I saw its terrifying title, I was immediately captured. The book described in detail a terrible event that took place somewhere in Europe during the 1930s. The facts were so appalling that I was certain I would find references to them in every history textbook and in large number of articles but in fact there were none! It is extraordinary that such an affair is not known all over the world, particularly since what happened there inevitably left deep traces in our collective memory.

**At the end of the book we finally understand the complex personality of your heroine. *Devil's Island* seems to conclude a trilogy. Is that right?**

As an investigator, Sarah is a woman who fights for the truth – but in fact, most of all she is fighting herself. Eaten up with a guilt she does not understand, she immerses herself in work, trying to make amends for an unknown sin. All while hoping desperately for a child. In this latter aim, Sarah will be pushed to the furthest reaches of her unconscious. What will she find there? The redemption she hopes for or a truth that will destroy her? Her inner conflict reflects our own: we all have to move forward in life despite the traumas we have inherited from our parents. I feel that the psychological battle Sarah wages with herself captures the question that propels everyone's life: to what degree are we capable of / do we want, freedom?



PUBLISHED  
MAY 2018  
P. 496

**382,000  
COPIES  
SOLD**

## PRAISES

"A spine-chilling feminist thriller!"  
PARIS MATCH

"A topical thriller about the importance of women throughout the history, misogyny and the origins of male domination."  
LE QUOTIDIEN DU MÉDECIN

## THE ALLIANCE (COMLOT)

An island stricken by icy winds, in Norway on the edge of the Arctic Circle. Atop a cliff, the naked and martyred corpse of a woman. The country's Prime Minister. Her hands grip a piece of white chalk. Below, on a cornice, the hollowed out head of a bull.

Faced with this crime scene, as terrifying as it is bizarre, the Norwegian authorities have no other choice but to call in Sarah Geringën, the ex-special forces agent and super-investigator who was in charge of the investigation in *The Scream*, Nicolas Beuglet's previous novel.

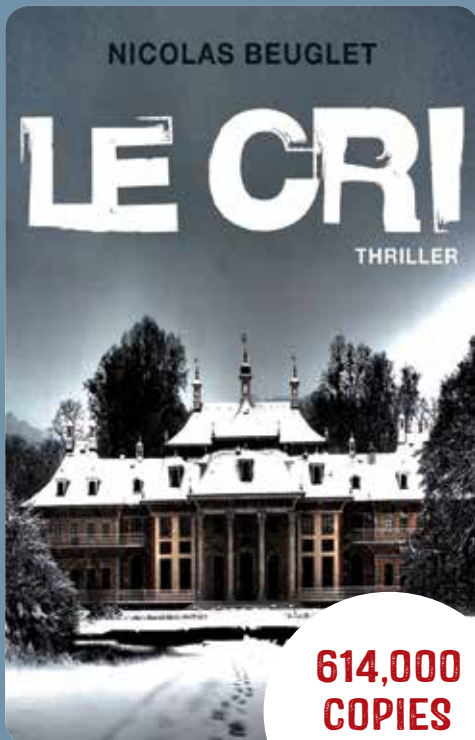
Sarah discovers that the victim was killed by sword and that between her toes there is a miniscule tattoo with the word "Etta". While researching the crime she discovers that the same type of crimes happened... 2700 years ago. Soon after, she unearths a sanctuary beneath the Prime Minister's house. Inside she finds a computer and the references of three women in charge of carrying out an incredible mission: restoring the power of women.

Next to the names of these women are three dates, very close together. This sounds like a guarantee of mayhem. Sarah is sure that these women are in danger. When she starts feeling the shadow of a killer hovering around her the elite policewoman understands that a deadly hunt has begun to stop them.

And keep men in power....

**A REMARKABLE THRILLER  
FULL OF ACTION & SUSPENSE**

**AND WHAT IF, LONG BEFORE MEN,  
WOMEN RULED THE WORLD?**



PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER 2016  
P. 496

614,000  
COPIES  
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RIGHTS SOLD FOR AN  
INTERNATIONAL TV SERIES TO  
SKYVERSE NORDIC

FULL ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
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**Slovakia** : Albatros Media

## THE SCREAM (LE CRI)

### THE DISCOVERY OF A GREATLY TALENTED WRITER

Psychiatric Hospital in Gaustad, Oslo. At dawn after a night of bitter cold, the body of a patient is found strangled to death in his cell, his mouth open in a silent scream. Rushed to the scene, the disconcerting inspector Sarah Geringen immediately senses that this case will be unlike any other...

The mysteries pile up: why does the victim have a scar in the form of the number 488 on his forehead? What do the indecipherable drawings on the walls of his cell signify? Why does the hospital staff seem so uncomfortable with the identity of this man who had been interned in the Gaustad Hospital for over thirty years?

For Sarah it is the beginning of a terrifying investigation that will send her from London to Ascension Island, from the mines of Minnesota to the heights of ancient Nice. Subjected to a relentless countdown, Sara's destiny will be linked to that of a French investigative journalist, Christopher, and she will discover, while digging up CIA records, a staggering truth about one of the questions that haunts each and every one of us: life after death...

A FASCINATING THRILLER OF  
RARE COMPLEXITY, INSPIRED BY  
REAL DISCOVERIES & EVENTS



CO-EDITION WITH

*phileas*

PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER, 2023  
P. 146

## THE SCREAM (COMIC BOOK)

Pierre Fournier (Scenario)  
Laval Ng Man Kwong (Drawings)

Laval's drawing and colorimetry are strongly reminiscent of the Francis Bacon's works on fear and horror? The scenarion leads to an unexpectewith finale throught multiple paths and twists ? With a backdrop of experiments on humans, locked away in an asylum. A major psychological thriller comic!



PUBLISHED  
APRIL 2023  
P. 450

**FILM RIGHTS  
UNDER NEGOTIATION**

**THE NEW  
NOVEL BY  
OLIVIER BAL**

### PRAISES

*“Roches de sang is one of the greatest thrillers of this year. A plunge into the heart of banditry, the weight of tradition, vengeance and a certain code of honor. Through his magnificent descriptions of Corsica, the author, halfway between John le Carré and Dennis Lehane, leads us along a breathless path of the cross. A path on which his heroes, with their flaws and weaknesses, deliver a poignant lesson in redemption.”* **ELLE**

*“Olivier Bal joins the list of the top thriller writers. A highly effective plot, an apprenticeship novel, where the road to reunion is strewn with pitfalls and deadly traps.”* **PARIS MATCH**

## BLOODY STONES

(ROCHES DE SANG)

### BEHIND THE SCENES OF ORGANIZED CRIME

Corsica, 1993. After having fled his island, Ange Biasini is forced to return home. His younger brother Theo needs his skills as a former professional freediver to mount a series of unusual robberies involving the yachts of three billionaires. In the process, they will be confronted with something they should never have seen.

London, 2019. In an apartment overlooking the Thames, the police have just found a strangled man – a Serbian billionaire. Marie Jansen, an agent for Europol, who had been investigating him, is captivated by a message written in Italian in blood:

CHE LA MIA FERITA SIA MORTALE

Marie, who grew up in Corsica knows what these words mean: “May my wounds be mortal.” Thus begins a terrifying investigation that will bring her to the “scarred one”, the Godfather, in his lair.

**A BREATHLESS HUNT & QUEST  
FOR REDEMPTION  
IN THE HEART OF EUROPE**

**WHAT IF THE VICTIMS  
WERE ACTUALLY  
THE CULPRITS?**



# OLIVIER BAL

---

OLIVIER BAL is 43 years old.

Three years ago, he has taken the thriller world by storm. A winner of the Prix de la Ligue de l'imaginaire, he is the author of *Beware of Angels*, *The Clara Miller Affair* and *The Forest of the Vanished* all published by XO Éditions

## OLIVIER BAL • ABOUT *BLOODY STONES*

### **A new thriller and a new heroine, the investigator Marie Jansen, whose personal history overlaps with the case she's working on. Who is she?**

Marie Jansen is a thirty-year-old woman who works for Europol, the European criminal police. Together with her team, she's investigating Miroslav Horvat, a Serbian magnate suspected of extortion and corruption. One year after the investigation began, they are prepared to arrest him. But at the start of the novel, Horvat is found dead on the balcony of his London apartment, stabbed and strangled. By his side, inscribed in blood, are the words *Chè la mia ferita sia murtale*. Marie, raised in Corsica till the age of 18, is the only one who understands the language, these words, and their meaning: *May my wound be mortal*. This is when Marie's trek across Europe begins. The trail she follows to catch an uncatchable murderer—leads her back to her native island.

### **And yet she's not a field investigator...**

No, her role at Europol is to organize cooperation among the various local police departments. She's a complex character, acting more as an observer, keeping her distance. But due to the unusual circumstances, this time she's going to have to get her hands dirty and brave the danger, as much as she would prefer not to. She has a husband who loves her, a little girl, Romy, and a beautiful home in The Hague, where she works in one of the highest security offices in the world. She's done everything she can to build a wall between her past and the present. But now she will be forced to confront her demons, and the terrible wound she hides.

### **Let's move on to your characters Angel and Theo, brothers both belonging to the Red Rocks clan that inspired the title of your book. Two outlaws faced with their own conceptions of good and evil...**

Yes, Angel and Theo are at the heart of the novel. I've always wanted to tell the story of a brotherhood, a family tragedy. Angel, the eldest, and his younger brother Theo love one another as much as they want to rip each other to pieces. Angel is a brooding and taciturn man who fled Corsica but was forced to return to the island to help his younger brother. Theo on the other hand is a blabbermouth with a sunny disposition who lives in the moment, taking each day as it comes. The thing they have in common is that they both grew up in the shadow of a terrifying father, Orso Biasini, former godfather of the Mistral clan.

Their father grew to be more and more aggressive and paranoid over time—an ogre of a father who imprinted himself on his sons. Angel, believing he is protecting his younger brother, becomes a soldier for the Mistral, joining his father in a mad descent into violence. As for Theo, he has always felt left on the sidelines, never feeling seen by the father he loves despite it all. *Bloody Stones* is essentially the story of an impossible redemption. As their uncle Barto said "Our family has been causing bloodshed for so long we believed our hands would be stained red forever." As the novel progresses, the two brothers will be forced to make life-altering choices.



PUBLISHED  
APRIL 2022  
P. 480

THE NEW  
VOICE IN  
THE FRENCH  
THRILLER

## PRAISES

"Secret society, corruption and trafficking, manipulation, untouchable stars and hallucinated disciples, fial fireworks... All the ingredients for an effective thriller. Bonus: the heroine's unusual personality, condemned to live behind her sunglasses to avoid the stimuli of her freewheeling memory!"

LIBERATION

Whith this third volume of the Paul Green series, Olivier Bal has rises to the level of the best Los Angeles thriller writers. Thrilling!"

PARIS MATCH

## BEWARE THE ANGELS

(MEFIEZ-VOUS DES ANGES)

**"YOU'VE BEEN WARNED. IF YOU ENTER THE COMPOUND, IT WILL ALREADY BE TOO LATE!"**

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

He infiltrates The Compound and is shocked to discover its strange rituals, forbidden places, and mysterious guru.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Inspector Sarah Shelley receives an urgent phone call. The body of a young woman was just discovered, slashed beyond recognition. She had most likely bled to death.

What if this crime took us to the heart of The Compound?

In the underbelly of Los Angeles, Sarah Shelley and Paul Green set out on a lugubrious trail. They will have to confront one of the most notorious sects in the country.

**HERE YOU ARE WELCOMED WITH OPEN  
ARMS...  
TO PUT YOU BACK ON THE PATH!**

**THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF THE HUMAN SOUL &  
THE HEIGHTS OF MANIPULATION**

**A BREATHLESS & TIMELY THRILLER**



PUBLISHED  
APRIL 2021  
P. 448



PUBLISHED  
MARCH 2020  
P. 490

**ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE**

## THE FOREST OF THE VANISHED

(LA FORÊT DES DISPARUS)

**A TERRIFYING EXPLORATION OF A CLANNISH  
AND CLAUSTROPHOBIC COMMUNITY**

Redwoods. A small, isolated town in Oregon, set between the Pacific ocean and an ancient forest of giant redwood trees. A town with a sinister record : every year, several ramblers disappear there without trace.

In the heart of the forest, a man lives in total isolation. Here, he is known as The Foreigner... but his real name is Paul Green, the former journalist who investigated on the Clara Miller affair.

One evening, teenager Charlie knocks at his door. She is wounded, panicking, in terror after having encountered the Red Man in the forest. She believes only Paul can help her – will he agree to put himself in danger to protect Charlie?

**A CROSS BETWEEN THRILLER & GOTHIC TALE**

## THE CLARA MILLER CASE

(L'AFFAIRE CLARA MILLER)

**A CURSED LAKE, A ROCK STAR,  
A HEADSTRONG JOURNALIST  
THE BLOODY RED CARPET OF CELEBRITY...**

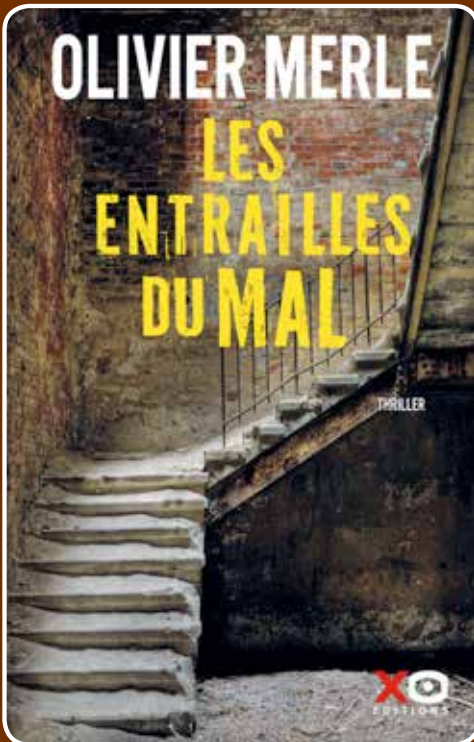
The body floated up to the surface of the water, like those of the other women. Six in total... This cursed place, in the forests of New Hampshire, is known as Suicide Lake.

Clara Miller was a journalist. Like Paul Green, *the Globe* reporter who takes up Clara's case; they had known each other as students and she had been his platonic love. He is certain that she did not commit suicide.

A man intrigues him: Mike Stilth, the mega-pop star holed up several kilometres away at Lost Lakes. He has transformed his manor house into a fortress where he lives with his two young children, Noah & Eva, who know nothing of the outside world.

The star is surrounded by a handful of loyal staff who guard his privacy

Paul Green is patient, however. In his old, beat-up Ford, he unwearingly circles the property, seeking to find out whether there is a road leading directly to the lake.



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OCTOBER 2023  
P. 352



PUBLISHED  
OCTOBER 2022  
P. 416  
VOL. 1



PUBLISHED  
FEBRUARY 2021  
P. 544  
VOL. 2

## THE GUTS OF EVIL

(LES ENTRAILLES DU MAL)

**« ARE YOU PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE?  
THE HOUR OF RECKONING HAS COME! »**

The anonymous letter Inspector Grimm receives is an accusation and a threat. Grimm doesn't understand the accusation. What did he do? When?

The threat on the other hand, is explicit. His life is in danger. You don't write that kind of letter innocently, but as a prelude to murder.

While investigating the notorious Drajić, a Serbian pimp, and his sidekick The Chinaman, Grimm uncovers the terrifying and elusive darkness lurking in their shadow, and the threat it carries. This shadow draws him back into the distant past, plunging him into the nightmare of his childhood Grimm thought was safely behind him.

And yes, he is guilty of the act his mysterious accuser accuses him of. From this point onward, the inevitable faceoff becomes Hubert Grimm's ultimate combat for nothing less than his very existence. Because the hatred that separates these two human beings is so powerful, so ingrained, it can only fade if one of the two is killed.

**THE STORY OF A UNEXPECTED AND HORRIFYING  
VENGEANCE**

**A TERRIFYING INVESTIGATION IN WHICH THE  
POLICEMAN BECOMES THE PREY**

**IS FIGHTING HIS TOUGHEST BATTLE YET**





# OLIVIER MERLE

---

**OLIVIER MERLE** was born in Rennes in 1956. He's the author of *Free to Love*, and two other investigation by Major Grimm, *In the Shadow of the Wolf* and *Sacrifice Manor*, all published by XO Editions. He won the Charles-Exbrayat Award in 2013.

## OLIVIER MERLE ABOUT *THE LAST MESSAGE*

**In *The Guts of Evil*, Commandant Hubert Grimm of the Rennes judiciary police returns to center stage. A protagonist who is as rich as he is complex.**

Grimm has just been transferred to Rennes for disciplinary reasons. His skill as an investigator, his flair and his energy just barely make up for certain psychological weaknesses, including his pessimism, his solitude, and his difficulty expressing his emotions. He's cerebral and tortured. He is clearly not adapted to the world around him, but he does not lack humanity.

Every criminal case he confronts tortures him and he zeroes in on the evidence like a person obsessed, turning it around in all directions, entirely consumed with solving the crime. It's the one thing that staves off his depression—a tendency he's had ever since childhood. In this third opus, Merle lifts the veil on Grimm's personal tragedy. The drama he's lived is an absolute horror, and although the scars will never heal completely, his decisive encounter with his father ends thirty years of silence and denial.

**The investigation directly implicates Grimm, who finds himself one of the victims...**

Indeed, and it's the inversion of the usual formula that gives this novel its suspense and originality. Grimm goes from hunter to prey. Moreover, he is unaware of who's hunting him and why. To understand and solve the crime, he needs to investigate himself, a fact that worries and destabilizes him; he is aware of the high price he'll have to pay for what he uncovers.

**You also uncover a story of corruption in the midst of the police force. Have you always been interested in the figure of the corrupt cop?**

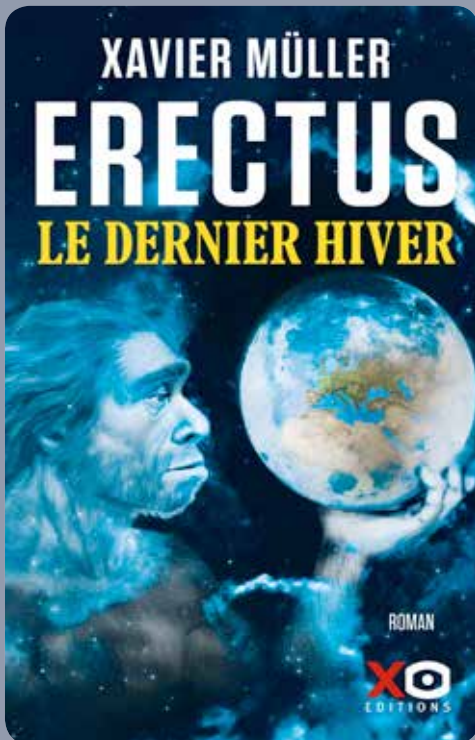
It's a classic figure in novels and detective films. It allows you to introduce a mole in the midst of the police force, which, on the inside, slows down or messes up the investigation. In this sense, this type of character allows the intrigue to take interesting twists. A novelist would be mad to let that chance go. As for Grimm, with his disdain for authority, the confrontation with the instigator is sure to let the sparks fly.

**The murder of women, and more generally, violence against women are a central theme of the novel. Why is that?**

The first feminist revolution of the 1970s proved ineffective and insufficient, despite what society would have us believe. The Me Too movement and the Weinstein affair in 2017 unsettled us and exposed the stubborn archaic nature of the patriarchal system that we'd hoped had faded. In particular, the monetization by the media of the monthly number of women killed is flat-out terrifying. These femicides are the ultimate proof of the daily violence women face, and this has proven to be one of the cancers affecting our society.

**When we look at your journey, we discover that you are at once a geologist, a university professor and a novelist. Where does this taste for literature come from?**

When I was young, I would write short texts and poems even. Then, the professional world swallowed me up, and I became an academic researcher with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and a university professor. I let my writing go, but I regularly felt the urge to write, which was frustrating. I had to wait till I was almost fifty to get back to it, first in YA literature. I suppose the shadow my father cast (Robert Merle, Prix Goncourt, 1949) was too intimidating for me to dare step into my own limelight. Only after he died did I begin to publish regularly, with my first novel in 2019 and a thriller in 2021. It was a new path that, for a long time, I was afraid to take, though I should have.



PUBLISHED  
NOVEMBER, 2022  
460 P.

**ERECTUS  
SERIES  
185,000  
COPIES SOLD**



**XAVIER MULLER** is 47 years old. He holds a PhD in physics. He works as science journalist for prestigious specialized magazines, and contributes to the publications of National Science Research Center (CNRS).

## THE LAST WINTER (LE DERNIER HIVER)

**AN EXPLOSIVE FINALE  
TO A DIZZYING TRILOGY**

There you are - two lovers out to admire the extraordinary meteor lighting up the night sky as it rains a shower of gold. And then suddenly, the person you love falls asleep, and when he wakes up, he isn't the same : he thinks you're his enemy, or worse, his prey.

From Paris to Rome and Tahiti, the third pandemic spreads, reversing time, going back to the beginning, wiping out evolution: it's the Mega-regression. A nightmare. The angel of death descends on humanity.

There is one hope: the unusual DNA identified by a group of scientists. And there is one problem: the DNA resides in the body of a child born in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

For paleontologist Anna Meunier, and Wuan, her partner turned Homo Erectus, it's time to breach a powerful taboo: the one that separates the dead from the living and forbids the modification of the past.

**WHAT IF THE PAST, THE PRESENT & THE FUTURE  
WERE JUST ILLUSIONS?**

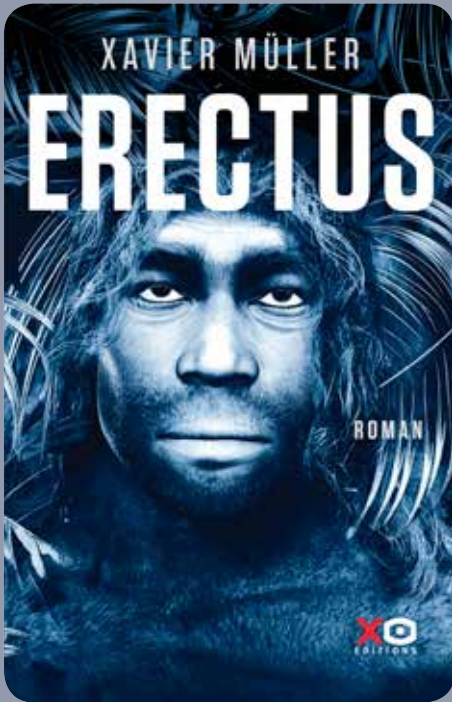
**PRAISES FOR «ERECTUS» VOL1**

“Beware! A dystopian all-nighter guaranteed! Once you opened this book, no chance you'll unhand it!”

**LE PARISIEN**

“You will devour this powerful thriller that can be read like a chilling speculation about the future of mankind.”

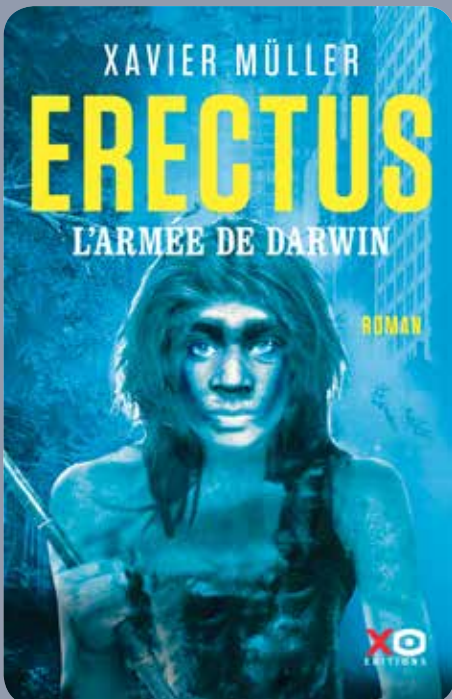
**SUD OUEST**



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APRIL 2028  
P. 450

### RIGHTS SOLD IN 6 COUNTRIES

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**RUSSIA** / Family Leisure Club  
**CZECH REPUBLIC** / Albatros Media



PUBLISHED  
FEBRUARY 2021  
P. 496

**ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE**

## ERECTUS (VOL. 1)

**A FAST-PACED  
SCIENCE THRILLER**

In the heart of Kruger Park, South Africa, animal and plant species are suddenly changing and turning back into their prehistoric form. Anna Meunier, a young French paleontologist, explores the region to trace the trail of contamination. But soon the very first human cases of regression are discovered. What was only a risky assumption becomes a global nightmare!

As States mobilize, anti-prehistoric militias are forming everywhere. Erectus try to flee the places where they are parked. At the UN, the debate is raging: should these erectus be considered as men? Should they be protected or should the population be protected from them?

Upon learning that her companion, Yann, is infected too, Anna embarks on quest to get back the love of her life.

## DARWIN'S ARMY (VOL. 2)

**THE RETURN OF THE REGRESSION VIRUS MORE  
POWERFUL THAN EVER...**

Everyone thought the nightmare was over: having transformed part of humanity into prehistoric men, the Kruger virus had finally run its course.

Seven years later, the world is once again in a state of terror. The erectus who were thought to be sterile are reproducing in their wildlife reserves. Dozens are being murdered daily while others are disappearing...

Who is hiding behind these deadly operations?

In Kenya, French researcher Anna Meunier tries to protect her partner Yann, who has been transformed into a prehistoric man. To her, erectus are ancestors worthy of respect rather than savage beasts.

However, the terrifying threat still looms. A secret organisation is behind a new wave of contamination. Even worse, it is kidnapping erectus from the reserves in order to mine their extraordinary abilities.



PUBLISHED  
FEBRUARY, 2023  
P. 336

## I LOVE YOU

(JE T'AIME)

### A TENDER, FIERCE & OPTIMISTIC LOVE STORY

- Do you have a light? she asked to keep silence at bay while at the same time thinking to herself “what the hell are you doing?”

She hadn't smoked for six years.

He took out a matchbox and waited.

- Do you need a cigarette?

She babbled:

- Um, yes, if you have some.

He hands her the pack and lights a match. He leans his tall frame in towards her, suddenly feeling like he's got the entire street to himself and is alone with her.

It's well known, not a second in the universe goes by without clusters of stars colliding, entire worlds forming and coming apart, and it's then that Camille meets Kamil.

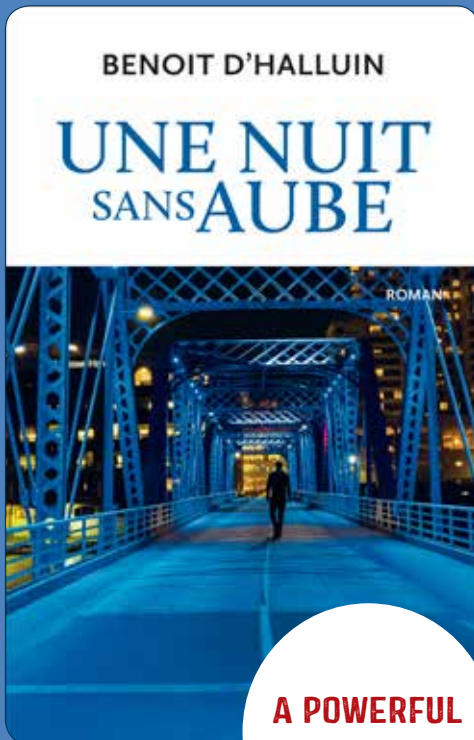


**ROMAIN SARDOU** has written thrillers set in medieval and modern times, as well as historical fiction, philosophical fiction, cartoons & Christmas tales.

A TENDER EXPLORATION OF  
THE EARLY STAGES OF LOVE

•  
A MODERN FAIRY TALE,  
SET IN THE HEART OF PARIS

•  
WHAT IF LOVE STORIES  
DON'T ALWAYS END IN DISASTER



**A POWERFUL  
DEBUT NOVEL**

PUBLISHED  
MARCH, 2022  
P. 368

**ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE**



« I wrote, put aside and picked up this novel again and again several times. I wanted it to be both simple and profound, poetic but relevant. Like my perfumes, I wanted it to be able to reach a large number of people, both homo and heterosexual, and to resonate for them.

I would not be pretentious enough to say it is a useful book but I sincerely hope that it is an accurate one.»

**BENOIT D'HALLUIN**

## A NIGHT WITH NO DAWN (UNE NUIT SANS AUBE)

**SECRETS & TRUTH  
DARK & LIGHT  
LOVE & LOSS**

**The Catskill mountains**, in Upstate New York. In the mildness of the Indian summer, a young man is walking across a bridge when a car comes straight at him and hits him.

A plush house in Western **France**. In the middle of the night, Catherine receives a call from a stranger. He tells her that her 28-year-old son, Alexis, is in a coma. The stranger has already bought two tickets to New York and offers to come and pick her up.

Who is this man? What is he hiding from her?

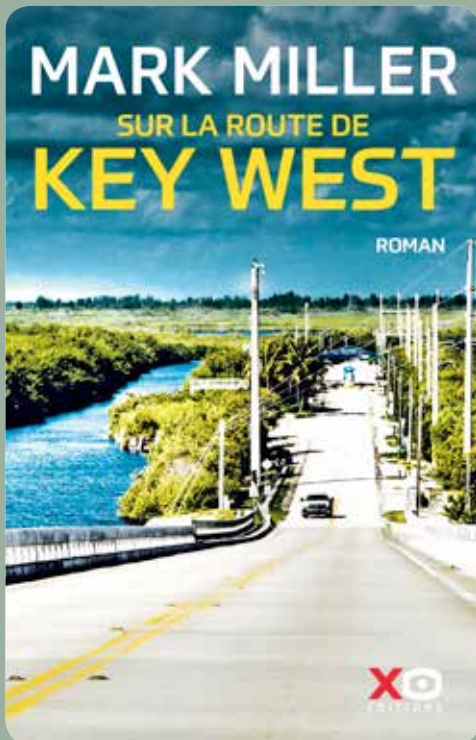
Catherine and the stranger do not know each other but they have no other choice: they have to trust each other. The beginning of a long journey along the road of truth.

At the end of a night that seems to never end.

**WHEN LONELY PEOPLE MEET EACH OTHER &  
WHEN DESIRE FLIRTS WITH DESPAIR**

**FAMILY SECRETS, THE ACCEPTANCE OF  
DIFFERENCE & THE CHALLENGES OF LOVE**

**A NOVEL FULL OF TWISTS WHICH TELLS  
THE DESIRES & UNCERTAINTIES  
OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE**



PUBLISHED  
MAY, 2022  
P. 384

**ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE**

**20,000  
COPIES  
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## THE ROAD TO KEY WEST

(SUR LA ROUTE DE KEY WEST)

**AFTER "MIDNIGHT! NEW-YORK",  
THE NEW NOVEL BY MARK MILLER**

**My name is Tom Baldwin, I am a writer, and writers have too much imagination. That's what Annabelle, my ex-wife, used to say all the time. Josh, my wonderful little Josh, used to say "Daddy, he writes all the time."**

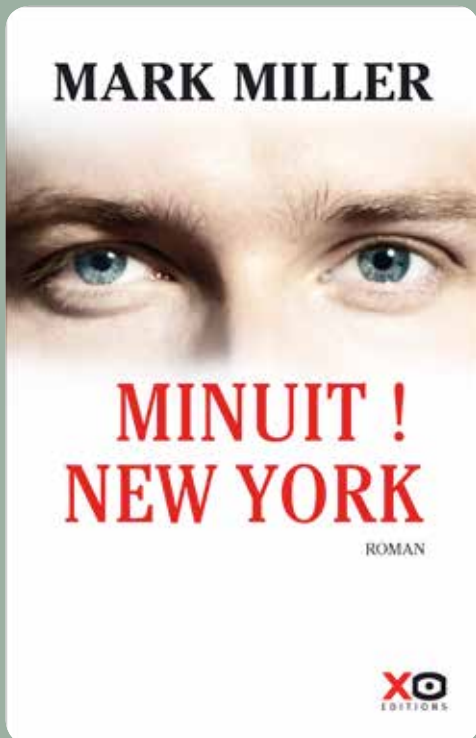
Two days before Christmas, Tom Baldwin and his son Josh are involved in a terrible car accident. When Tom wakes up in the hospital, he learns that Josh has died.

How to go on living after such a tragedy? Tom, however, seeks refuge from his pain: he leaves New York to settle in the Florida Keys, in a heavenly beachside spot.

When he decides to rent a house facing the ocean, he doesn't know that his life will be turned upside down. He meets Kay, his neighbor, a mysterious woman who seems fascinated by the writer. Then, one day, Tom receives an anonymous e-mail telling him : "Your son is alive."

**THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!**

Following the success of «Midnight! New York», XO EDITIONS received a second manuscript from Mark Miller, an author who lives in the United States, writes in French and wishes to remain anonymous. Once again, the publisher was blown away by the rhythm and power of this new novel.



PUBLISHED  
JUNE, 2021  
P. 418

**ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE**

**100,000  
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GERMANY : PIPER (on pre-empt)  
ITALY : MONDADAORI (on pre-empt)  
LITHUANIA : Alma Litera  
POLAND : FOKSAL  
PORTUGAL : ASA / LEYA GROUP  
RUSSIA : AZBOOKA ATTICUS  
SERBIA : VULKAN

# MIDNIGHT! NEW YORK

(MINUIT! NEW YORK)

**AN UNPUNISHED CRIME  
AN IMPOSSIBLE LOVE  
A DARK SECRET**

Lorraine runs an advertising agency in Paris. Years ago she lost her father, a renowned gallery owner and art dealer shot down in Manhattan.

Over the last while, she is being harassed and threaten to death by a mysterious individual who claims to be the murderer of her father.

In New York, Leo, an artist, has just got out of prison for forging and selling fake old masters. A wealthy collector whom he scammed now wants him dead.

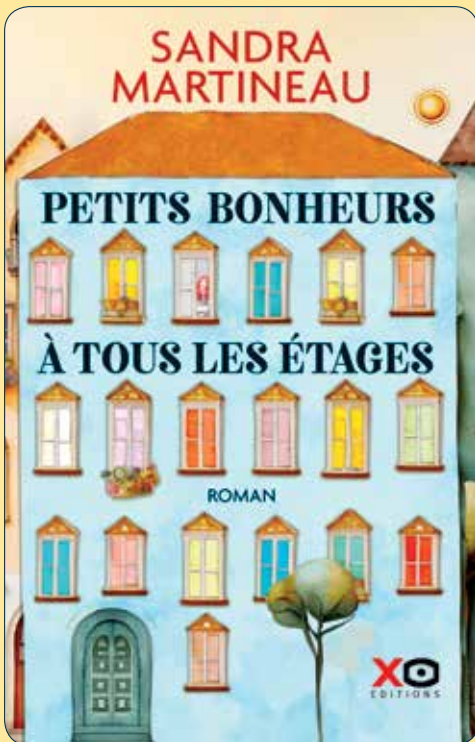
When Lorraine and Leo meet in Central Park, they both ignore that their destinies have long since been linked. And that their love is as unstoppable as it is doomed. And still, one single choice can change your whole life!

ALL THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS  
OF A BESTSELLER CLEVERLY REUNITED

•  
A POIGNANT LOVE STORY

•  
BREATHTAKING SUSPENSE & FAMILY SECRETS &  
ENDEARING CHARACTERS

•  
A FABULOUS CANVAS MADE OF  
PAINTING & MUSIC REFERENCES



PUBLISHED  
APRIL, 2023  
P. 350



LOOK TO ANOTHER SKY  
TO BETTER SEE THE STARS

PUBLISHED  
MAY, 2022  
304 P.



## SANDRA MARTINEAU

was born in Saint-Brieuc in 1978 and she now lives in the Sarthe region. She joined XO Editions in 2021, where she published *Look to another sky to better see the stars* which was acclaimed by the press and the readers.

# LITTLE PLEASURES ON EVERY FLOOR

(PETITS BONHEURS  
À TOUS LES ÉTAGES)

## HUMOR, TENDERNESS & FRIENDSHIP

Joanna Baron's partner is a prominent tax expert, and by his side, she leads a peaceful existence in a chic neighborhood in a town in the Paris area.

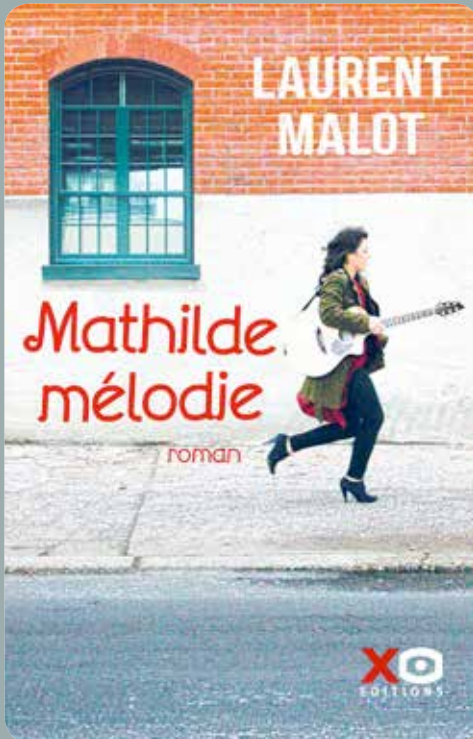
But when her partner is arrested for criminal conspiracy and money laundering, this mother of three finds her life upended. With no money or place to live, she is forced to move to a low-income housing complex on the wrong side of the highway.

There, between life's surprises and happenstance, Joanna and her children cross paths with Djibril, a mysterious neighbor always surrounded by bimbos; Raymond, a young retiree at pains to declare his love to one of his neighbors; and then there's Fatou, who works three jobs as she home-schools her three children, always wearing a smile on her face. They are all "little pleasures on every floor" that will change Joanna's vision of the world and bring her unexpected energy.

A TENDER, HUMOROUS &  
OPTIMISTIC NOVEL

THE WAY TO BELONGING  
IS A DISCOVERY OF THE SELF  
THROUGH OTHERS





PUBLISHED  
FEBRUARY, 2023  
P. 320

## MATHILDE MELODY

(MATHILDE MÉLODIE)

**A SOCIAL SATIRE ALONG THE LINES  
OF THE *FULL MONTY***

By age 38, Mathilde has stopped dreaming. She has an especially difficult time imagining she'll ever sing again because singing inevitably takes her back to the car accident that cost her daughter a leg. Convinced she is responsible, she hides away in the small town and leads a monotonous life working at the Delattre mattress factory.

Nina, 13, doesn't resent her mother; quite the contrary. It is Nina who encourages her to sing again. Delattre is a small business on the verge of bankruptcy, but there is a national singing competition offering a one million Euro prize to the business whose employee wins the contest. Mathilde has no choice: either she represents the mattress factory in the competition, or she'll be fired.

Mathilde emerges from her apathy, a little worse from the wear, and blossoms once again. She begins to believe in herself, fights, confronts a colleague's jealousy, and meets a Mexican asylum seeker, as handsome as he is a good guitarist. Both have been rattled by life, but Mathilde and Jorge team up to face obstacles, escape the traps that have been set for them, reinvent themselves, and come out on top.



**LAURENT MALOT** was born in 1970.  
He is a novelist and author of screenplays.

**AN UNFORGETTABLE MOTHER-DAUGHTER  
RELATIONSHIP**

**A DELIGHTFUL SOCIAL SATIRE ABOUT SOLIDARITY  
WHEN FACED WITH CHANGES**



PUBLISHED  
FEBRUARY 2023  
P. 528

**ENGLISH SAMPLE  
AVAILABLE**

**40,000  
COPIES SOLD**

## THE MISSING OF BLACKMORE

(LES DISPARUS DE BLACKMORE)

### THE MULDER & SCULLY OF THE 1920s

Blackmore, October 1925. On this island cut off from the world, off the coast of Guernsey, murders and one disappearance after another spread terror. While the police waffle, Lorraine Chapelle, the first woman in her graduating class at the Criminology Institute of Paris, is called in for reinforcement. This resolute Cartesian pursues her investigation with the help of Edward Pierce, a British detective specializing in the occult.

Together they confront Blackmore's darkest secrets, including the mysterious statues strewn across the landscape, rumored to belong to a cult lurking in the shadows. And then there is that ceaseless brutal wind, the Murmur of the Mist. The duo will have to untangle the real from the fake, the secrets, and the lies, in a diabolical race against the clock.

**A GRIPPING & ENIGMATIC THRILLER  
IN THE STYLE OF  
H.P. LOVECRAFT & AGATHA CHRISTIE**

**A DUO OF INVESTIGATORS  
AS IMPROBABLE AS TOUCHING**

**AN ODE TO THE POPULAR LITERATURE  
OF THE 1920s**



# HENRI LOEVENBRUCK

**HENRI LOEVENBRUCK** was born in Paris in 1972. He is the author of over twenty novels that have been translated into many languages. His Gabriel Joly series set during the French Revolution was a huge success.

## HENRI LOEVENBRUCK **ABOUT** *THE MISSING OF BLACKMORE*

**This thriller is set in the 1920s on an Anglo-Norman island cut off from the world. Did you plan to surprise your readers with something completely unexpected?**

I've wanted to use an island as the backdrop for an investigation for a long time. And after the lockdown we've just experienced I was convinced that an island was the best setting possible to put intrigue into play in a disturbing detective story. I soon found myself thinking about the Anglo-Norman islands, at once so close and so remote, full of that peculiar mix of French and British culture that I've been awash in all my life. The 1920s appealed to me in the same way. It's a fascinating period, immensely quixotic, brimming with culture, that saw the real beginnings of the women's liberation movement—progress that should have begun made during the French Revolution, but in reality, only arrived after The Great War.

**Your island is not completely imaginary. How much of the description of Blackmore is real and how much is fiction?**

Blackmore is a fictional version of Alderney Island, the younger sibling to Jersey and Guernesey, that I simply cloaked in mystery. Just as Stephen King created the town of Derry and H.P. Lovecraft created Arkham, I really wanted to come up with a place that was at once imaginary and anchored in a kind of reality. That's why I spent a lot of time researching the available documentation on the island, testimonies and period photographs. I went for long walks around those Anglo-Norman islands so that I could anchor my story in reality while giving it a slight touch of fantasy.

**The heroine, Lorraine Chapelle, was the first graduate of the Paris Institute of Criminology. Is she based on a real person?**

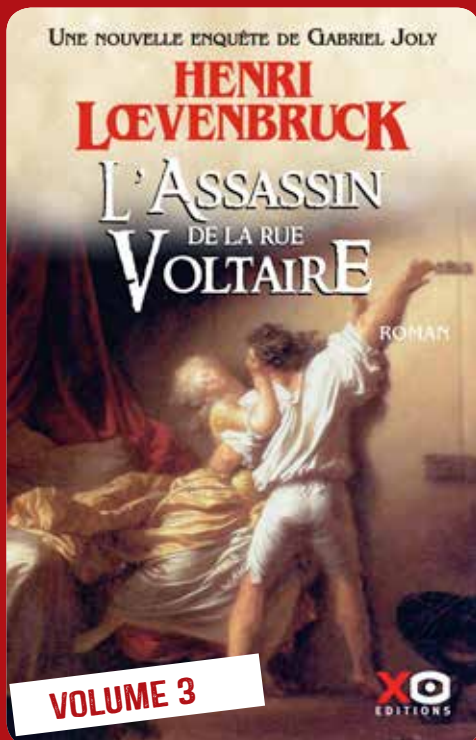
Not directly—although it's likely that a Lorraine Chapelle did exist at that time—but in any case, she represents a cosmopolitan and feminine youth that was steeped in the anarchic currents of the 1920s. Most of all she illustrates that desire among young women to access the same education that men received, a dream with roots in the 18th century. It was on the list of grievances addressed during the French Revolution in the general assembly of 1789. That dream has not fully come to fruition. Lorraine is one of those women who, for centuries, has struggled against the patriarchy, trying to stir things up.

**Why did you choose to make her a young graduate of the Criminology Institute?**

Because it was at the time that forensic policing was born and made its biggest leaps forward, thanks in part to the work of Edmond Locard, mentioned several times in the book. It's also when connections start to be made between the worlds of criminology and psychiatry when renowned criminals like Landru or the members of the Bonnot clan were arrested thanks to forensics, and I thought it would be interesting to give science a major role in the solving of the crime.

**At Lorraine's side, we meet another detective, Edward Pierce, a Brit, with whom she forms a duo as improbable as it is touching. Who is he?**

I had a lot of fun creating this pair of investigators whose way of working couldn't be more different. Lorraine is a scientist who only swears by rational proof; Edward, on the other hand, describes himself as a "detective of the strange," who lets mystery, the inexplicable and the science of the occult guide him. In some ways, they are the Mulder and Scully of the 1920s, very different but complementary, with humanism as their common denominator. Both are prickly, marginal, and swim against the tide. Edward is a gay man at a time when this sexual preference was not at all accepted. People consider him an introvert. Lorraine is confronted with a world of men.



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OCTOBER 2021  
P. 480

**GABRIEL  
JOLY SERIES**  
**282,000**  
**COPIES SOLD**



**HENRI LÆVENBRUCK**  
was born in Paris in 1972.  
Writer, musician and  
lyricist, he is the author of  
over fifteen novels widely  
translated.

## THE MURDERER OF THE RUE VOLTAIRE (L'ASSASSIN DE LA RUE VOLTAIRE)

**SOMETIMES THE COMÉDIE-FRANÇAISE  
TURNS BLOODY**

Paris, August 1789

On one end, The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen is being drafted... On the other end, people are assassinated...

Behind the curtains of the Comédie-Française, bodies are horribly mutilated.

The shadow of a dark man... Actors, spectators, revolutionaries, the suspects are all over !

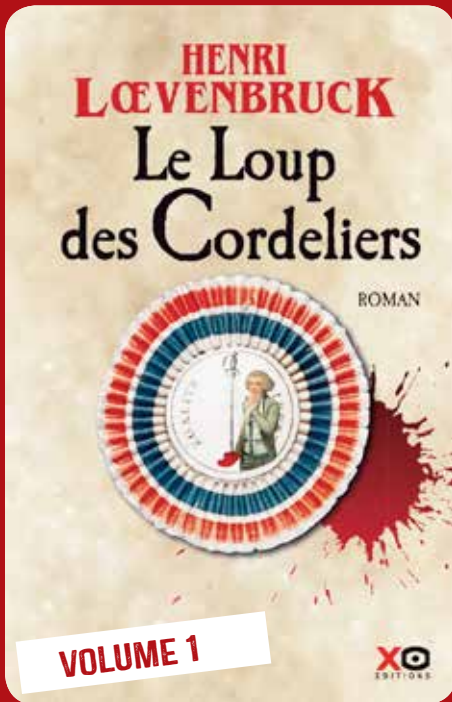
An infernal hunt!

The nascent revolution is continuing to shake the whole of France. In Paris, the mysterious Wolf of the Cordeliers – whom had been thought dead – reappears in the alleyways of notorious neighbourhoods. As for Gabriel Joly, young investigative journalist, he is taken over by a strange case of murders in the Comédie Française.

With the help of his faithful friend, the extraordinary pirate Récif, Gabriel will carry out a secret investigation with his usual sagacity. Real and false testimonies, hot pursuits : will he succeed in unmasking the author of these odious crimes? And what if the Wolf of the Cordeliers himself became his best ally?

**A COMPELLING SAGA BETWEEN CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATION & GREAT HISTORY**

**GRIPPING HISTORICAL THRILLERS  
IN THE VEIN OF ALEXANDRE DUMAS**



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OCTOBER 2019  
P. 560

## THE WOLF OF THE CORDELIERS (LE LOUP DES CORDELIERS)

**A DIVE INTO THE MYSTERIOUS BACKSTAGE  
OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION...**

In May 1789, a wind of revolt blows in Paris. Gabriel Joly, brilliant young provincial, goes to the capital where he dreams of becoming the greatest journalist of his time. His first challenge: to unmask the Wolf of the Cordeliers, this terrifying vigilante who, at night, holds a wolf on a leash and commits bloody murders to protect women in the streets of Paris...

His investigations lead Gabriel Joly on the trail of the great actors of the just-starting Revolution: Danton, Desmoulins, Mirabeau, Robespierre, but also the mysterious young woman Théroigne de Méricourt and the Masonic lodge of the Nine Sisters...

On July 14, a man discreetly escapes from the Bastille prison, the same day it capitulates. Will Gabriel Joly discover the true identity of the Wolf of the Cordeliers, and reveal one of the largest plots of the French Revolution?



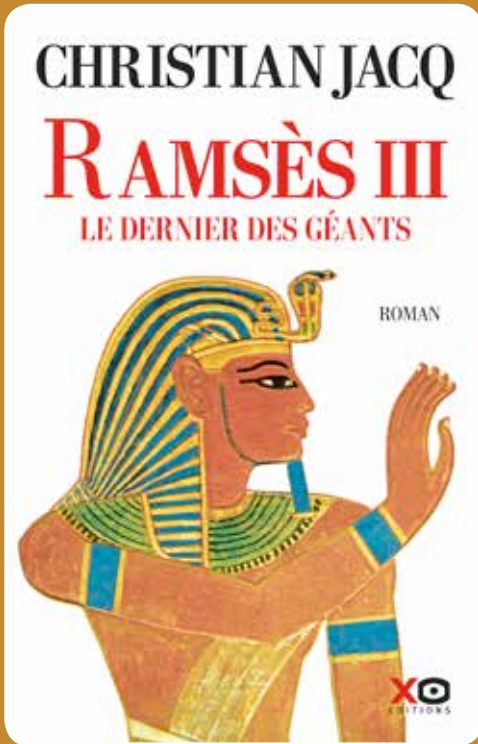
PUBLISHED  
OCTOBER 2020  
P. 480

## THE RED HAND MYSTERY (LE MYSTÈRE DE LA MAIN ROUGE)

**THE TURMOIL OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**

July 1789. As Parisian revolutionaries storm the Bastille, brilliant young journalist Gabriel Joly – newly arrived in the capital – makes the greatest discovery of his new career. He has uncovered the identity of the Wolf of the Cordeliers, a mysterious vigilante who haunts the streets of Paris at night... However, just as he is about to be foiled, the Wolf disappears!

A high-speed pursuit ensues that will take Gabriel Joly to the Corsican scrublands on the trail of the Red Hand, a strange secret society whose members have connections with the Revolution raging in the capital.

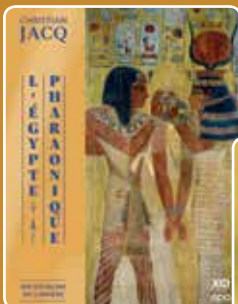


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OCTOBER 2023  
P. 391

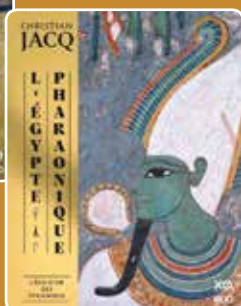
**CHRISTIAN  
JACQ'S NOVELS  
SOLD OVER  
30 MILLION  
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### ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

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P. 428



PUBLISHED  
OCTOBER 2023  
P. 456

## RAMSES III THE LAST OF THE PHAROHS

(RAMSÈS III  
LE DERNIER DES GÉANTS)

### THE BEST-DOCUMENTED CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY IN EGYPTIAN HISTORY

He was the last of the pharaohs. Twenty years after his illustrious predecessor Ramses II (with whom he had no blood relation), Ramses III (1187–56 BCE) faces challenges that only a king with exceptional stature could overcome. Twice menaced by Libyan invasions and threatened by the Sea Peoples, Ramses III assembles a navy and wins the first naval battle in history.

But the most formidable enemy emerges from within: a dignitary going by the name of The Shadow, who surrounds himself with felons. Their malicious plot includes a secret weapon, black magic, the only kind that can thwart the protection of the Goddess Isis, the Great Royal spouse.

But that's forgetting the vigilance of the elder in charge of the king's security, and his assistant, the North Wind donkey. In extremis, the plotters are arrested and condemned to death. A brilliant strategist, the pharaoh goes on to ensure peace for his subjects and oversees the planting of thousands of trees.

### INVSIONS & NAVAL WARFARE & CONSPIRACIES

•  
WITH ISIS, THE GREAT ROYAL WIFE,  
RAMSES III FACED ALL THE CRISIS

•  
THE LAST GREAT MONARCH OF  
THE NEW KINGDOM

**CHRISTIAN  
JACQ'S NOVELS  
TRANSLATED IN  
27 LANGUAGES**



**CHRISTIAN JACQ** declared one day that his greatest happiness was to write on the banks of the Nile... A beautiful summary of a passion that took him over very young, after he discovers Egypt aged thirteen, through his readings. With his erudite and enchanting pen, Christian Jacq, one of the most widely read French authors in the world, brings Ramses III, the last great pharaoh, back to life.

## CHRISTIAN JACQ ABOUT *RAMSES III, THE LAST OF THE PHAROHS*

**Ramses III was the last great pharaoh of Ancient Egypt. Of no relation to Ramses II, and ascending the throne twenty-six years after the end of Ramses II's reign.**

When Ramses II's rule ended in 1212 BCE, Egypt was at the height of its wealth and power. By the time he ascended the throne, twenty-six years after Ramses II's rule ended, Egypt had suffered crises, especially economic ones, but most of all, the land was threatened by invaders until then held at bay. There are no biographies of the pharaohs because these life stories didn't interest the ancient Egyptians. The written record we do have tells of their actions, emphasizing the adherence to rituals deemed essential to assure the country's unity. Ramses III rose to supreme power around the age of forty and reigned for around thirty years. He was an experienced dignitary and yet, nothing presaged his rise to pharaoh. By accepting the responsibility, with the permission of his wife –who would become a formidable queen– he makes a surprising decision: to align himself with the reign of Ramses II, whom he admires. And so he becomes third in the line of Ramses, “Sons of the Light”. He was a determined leader, courageous, who maintained tradition, was aware of dangers, and who cared a lot about honoring the prestigious name he carried.

**Ramses III's reign was brutal, with three assassination attempts, and the very real threat of the violent Sea Peoples.**

At that time, the Middle East was in full efflorescence. But in Egypt, the peace assured by Ramses II was a distant memory. Because of all its riches, Egypt was the envy of many different foreign populations that united under the name “The Sea Peoples”. Under the command of tribal chiefs, they decided to invade Egypt simultaneously by land and sea. Well-informed and forward-thinking, Ramses III creates a new kind of army: a marine fleet. This is how he prepared the country for the first naval battle in history, not confronting the enemy at sea but leading it into the canals of the Nile.

**He also had to confront traitors and felons. Tell us about that...**

Despite Ramses III's absolute belief in protecting his country, his noble character, and his vision of the future, the way he was running the country didn't make everyone in his court happy. Ambitions quietly fomented and the struggle for succession began as he advanced in age. As the years went by, the plots continued to thicken. However, the treasonous attempts failed as long as the ruler's power remained intact.

**Under his reign, women were very respected, and numerous laws protected them. What status did women have in the society at large?**

Ramses III could rightly boast of a significant accomplishment: a woman could walk alone freely and safely under his reign. Since the earliest dynasties, Egyptian women married the man of their choice, used contraception, left their worldly goods to whomever they wanted to, were protected in the case of divorce and could ascend to various positions of power, including supreme power. Let's not forget that the word “Pharaoh” designates a couple, made up of the king and the Great Royal Spouse. The Great Royal Spouse had a palace of her own and had a significant role in diplomatic affairs.

**What resources did you have access to write this novel?**

There is ample documentation when it comes to the reign of Ramses III. As to rituals, his tomb in the Valley of the Kings and his Medinet-Habou temple illustrate the notable events of his reign, as does Karnak. Not to mention the longest papyrus known (42 meters long), the “Harris papyrus, the ” Judicial Papyrus of Turin” which recounts the conspiracies that occurred during the pharaoh's reign.



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P. 384

CHRISTIAN  
JACQ'S NOVELS  
SOLD OVER  
**30 MILLION**  
COPIES

CHRISTIAN  
JACQ'S NOVELS  
TRANSLATED INTO  
**27 LANGUAGES**

## THE SECRET MISSION OF SINOUHE THE EGYPTIAN

(LA MISSION SECRÈTE DE  
SINOUHÉ L'ÉGYPTIEN)

### A FASCINATING NOVEL ABOUT EGYPT'S GREATEST SPY

They say the Egyptians invented everything, including the spy novel. The first one was written in the twelfth dynasty, and Christian Jacq takes it as a loose inspiration for this extraordinary story about the head of the Egyptian secret service: Sinouhé.

Sinouhe has been called upon by the pharaoh Amenemhat to solve a very dangerous case: find the enemy hidden in Palestine who wants to federate the tribes to invade Egypt. When Amenemhat is poisoned, Sinouhé is accused of the crime. His only way out is to flee after he is condemned to death for contempt of court.

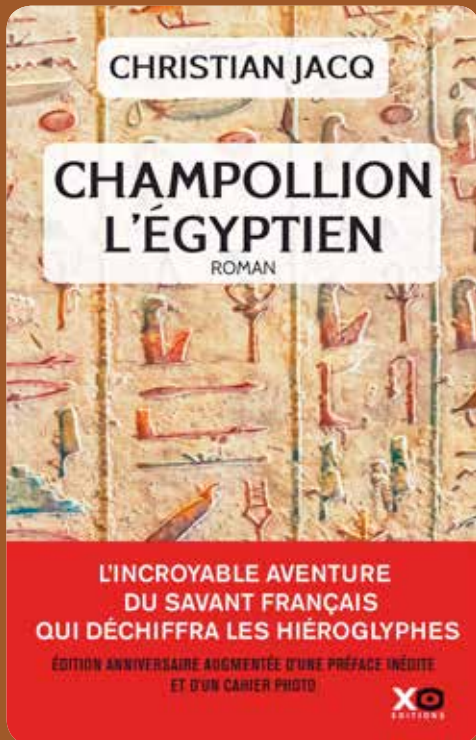
When he is as good as gone, Sinhoue attempts to complete his mission. First, he is captured by the enemy at the end of a perilous voyage. He finds his way back to Egypt, convinced that he was betrayed by one of his three former colleagues

Will he be able to spread the truth before he is put to death?

THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF  
EGYPT'S GREATEST SPY

•  
A MASTERPIECE OF  
ERUDITION & STORYTELLING





PUBLISHED  
MAY, 2022  
P. 384

**CHRISTIAN  
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**CHRISTIAN  
JACQ'S NOVELS  
TRANSLATED INTO  
27 LANGUAGES**

# CHAMPOLLION THE EGYPTIAN

(CHAMPOLLION L'ÉGYPTIEN)

**THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE OF  
THE FRENCH SCHOLAR WHO  
DECIPHERED THE HIEROGLYPHS**

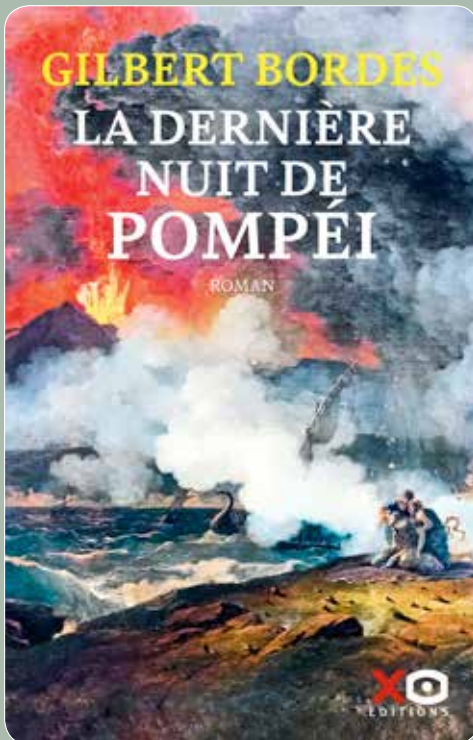
From July 1828 to December 1829, Jean-François Champollion made his dream come true and finally travelled the land of the Pharaohs to test his fabulous discovery, the hieroglyphs' key, the access to an ancient civilisation.

He was not, however, be spared anything. Neither the destructive tyrants' schemes nor the traps set by traffickers of ancient stones.

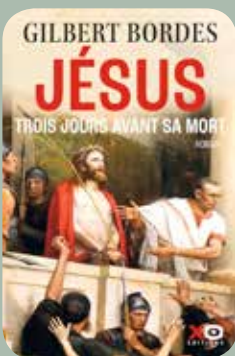
Despite the death threats, Champollion, with an admirable courage and ridiculous means, obstinately followed his quest on the shores of the Nil river, determined to save what can still be.

**THE LONG-AWAITED REPUBLICATION  
OF CHRISTIAN JACQ'S GREAT NOVEL**

**A STORY THAT TRIGGERED,  
AMONG MILLIONS OF READERS,  
AN UNDYING PASSION FOR ANCIENT EGYPT**



PUBLISHED  
OCTOBER, 2023  
P. 354



*JESUS, THREE DAYS  
BEFORE HIS DEATH*

PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER, 2022  
288 P.



**GILBERT BORDES** used to be a teacher, then he became a journalist, before turning to writing. Author of *The Night of the Owls* (the “RTL Grand Public” Prize in 1991) and *The Winter Children*, Gilbert Bordes showed great talent for historical writing.

# THE LAST NIGHT OF POMPEII

(LA DERNIÈRE NUIT DE POMPÉI)

## AN UNFORGETTABLE CHAPTER IN HUMAN HISTORY

When the nobleman Marcus landed in the port of Pompeii on October of 79 CE, after years of absence, he didn't know that three days later a fiery Vesuvius would plunge the city into a night of horror.

He returns to discover a city in which the nobility have had to cede to a new class: freed slaves, tradesmen and artisans who had amassed considerable fortunes and modernized a city that now offered running water.

Marcus meets up with his elder son, Julius, who has survived the earthquake, become the most renowned gladiator in town. He also crosses paths with Rectina, his childhood sweetheart.

October 21st, 79. The Pompeiians have no idea that the gentle hill that dominates their city, was on the verge of eruption. They are unaware of the strange signs: the drying up of waterways, the nauseating and unfamiliar smells, the flight of animals. Overnight, the city-state is destroyed, and left frozen in time by a Vesuvius of fire and blood. Rich or poor, the volcano didn't discriminate among its victims during this last night of Pompeii...

**A RELENTLESS COUNTDOWN THROUGH THE  
LAST MOMENTS OF A PROSPEROUS CITY**

**A DEVASTATING NOVEL ABOUT  
ONE OF HISTORY'S GREATEST CATAclysms**



PUBLISHED  
NOVEMBER, 2022  
P. 460



### MAREK HALTER

was born in 1936 in Warsaw. His life's work – which focuses largely on Jewish history – is dedicated to furthering peace, human rights, and interfaith dialog. Marek Halter's works have been translated into more than 20 languages and have sold millions of copies around the world: *The Book of Abraham*, *The Kabbalist of Prague*, *The Cannan trilogy (Sarah, Tsippora, Lilah)*, *Mary of Nazareth*, *The Women from Islam (Khadija, Fatima, Aïcha)*.

## THE JEWISH GIRL OF SHANGHAI

(LA JUIVE DE SHANGHAI)

**FROM NAZI GERMANY  
TO COMMUNIST CHINA**

Ruth and Clara meet in Germany in 1937. Ruth is Jewish and dreams of becoming a fashion and dressmaker icon, and Clara, the daughter of rich bourgeois family, fights alongside the Communists. They both must flee the Nazi regime and find refuge in Asia.

Clara, the first one to leave for China, flees by boat to Shanghai. Ruth has to cross Europe all the way to Siberia before joining her friend Clara.

Thanks to the Japanese consul in Lithuania, she obtains a visa for Kōbe, a major port in Japan, the land of the rising sun. When she finally arrives in Shanghai - a bustling city where an underworld of spies, opium dealers and resistance fighters rub shoulders - she miraculously finds Clara, who has become a Communists agent.

What happens next? It is Bo Xiao-Nao, Ruth's daughter, who picks up the thread of the story. She comes across a secret diary left behind by Ruth. As she flips through it, she discovers the fascinating destiny of the woman who will forever be known as the Jewish girl of Shanghai...

**THE LITTLE-KNOWN STORY OF  
THE SHANGHAI GHETTO**

**THE DESTINY OF TWO REMARKABLE WOMEN**

**A POIGNANT NOVEL  
ABOUT A FORGOTTEN EXODUS**



PUBLISHED  
OCTOBER, 2023  
P. 350



THE TEMPLAR  
OF THE SHADOWS  
VOL. 1

PUBLISHED  
MAY, 2023  
368 P.

## THE TEMPLAR OF THE SHADOWS

(LE TEMPLIER DE L'OMBRE)

In her usual engaging style, Mireille Calmel continues her voyage to ancient Cathar to better shine a light on the mysterious order of the Knights Templar.

January 21, 1380. Nearly two years after her brother – one of the Knights Templar death and the tragic events that devastated the valley of Razès, Margaux de Dente seems to have found peace at last. The massive arrest of knights of the templar has distanced the threat of the “alchemist” who was working on destroying her people.

All she thinks of now is bringing her child into the world. But a shadow lurks, fleeting, deadly.

A shadow who believes this child is the ultimate pact with the devil. To vanquish this invisible enemy, Margaux can only count on a few people close to her, among them, Michel, whose love is quashed by the weight of a terrible secret.

**A GRIPPING MEDIEVAL THRILLER**

**A NOVEL OF FEVER AND PASSION**

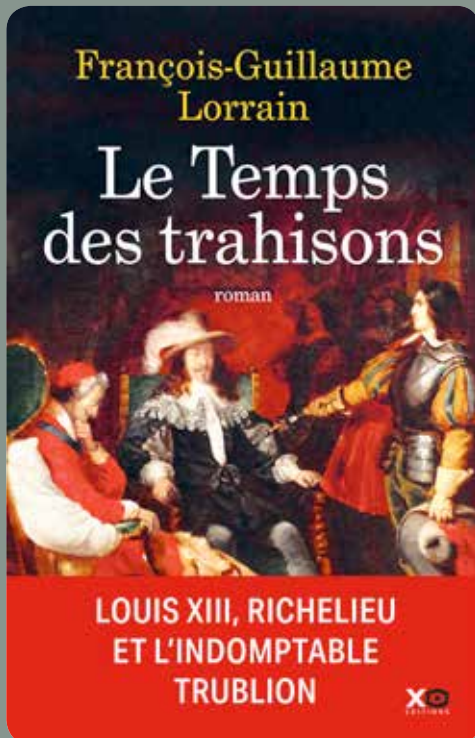
### MIREILLE CALMEL,

born in 1964, has been writing since the age of eight. Like many authors, her writing career started discreetly, with songs and short stories. Then, she took several years to write her first novel, *Eleanor's Bed* (XO, 2002), the success of which was like a fairytale come true for Mireille. Her novels published with XO, have all been best-sellers.



© Bruno Lévy / Photo12.com

**MIREILLE  
CALMEL'S NOVELS  
3 MILLION COPIES  
14 LANGUAGES**



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SEPTEMBER, 2023  
P. 304



**FRANÇOIS-GUILLAUME LORRAIN** is a journalist, writer and translator. A graduate of the prestigious École Normale Supérieure, he is the author of a dozen novels and mysteries.

## DAYS OF BETRAYAL

(LE TEMPS DES TRAHISONS)

What happens to the relationship between two people when a third wheel, uncontrollable, enters the picture?

In his new novel François-Guillaume Lorrain vividly depicts the fatal triangle formed by king Louis XIII, his Prime Minister Richelieu, and a young troublemaker, the Marquis de Cinq-Mars.

King Louis XIII is under the yoke of his prime minister Richelieu, who for 20 years has held the reins of a France threatened by an outside enemy, Spain, and internal enemies, the great lords. Enter the Marquis of Cinq-Mars, a young elegant twenty-year-old, appointed by Richelieu to watch over - in other words spy on - the king and become his confidant.

Things were already tense between the king and his cardinal: Richelieu complains of the cold lunacy of a sovereign in decline; Louis XIII complains about a minister who spies on him and curbs his power. Cinq-Mars, an ambitious man adored by women, will soon rebel against his creator, Richelieu, and climb the rungs of power at a dizzying speed, devising plots that put the very existence of the divided and fragile kingdom in peril. For this conspiracy, he'll pay with his life.

**THE TRAGEDY OF A SOLITARY POWER  
UNDERMINED BY MISTRUST AND PARANOIA**

•  
**A FATAL TRIANGLE  
AT THE HEAD OF THE STATE**



PUBLISHED  
SEPTEMBER 2022  
P. 384

**MOVIE  
TO BE  
RELEASED  
WORLDWIDE  
IN 2024**

## AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD

(C'EST LE MONDE À L'ENVERS)

**BEFORE THE WORLD IS IRREVERSIBLY  
TURNED UPSIDE DOWN...**

Stanislas is a ruthless Parisian stockbroker. Dédé is a homeless man – and a bit of a poet – who lives on the street, downstairs the businessman's Paris apartment building. That world order seemed unshakable.

And then suddenly, a record-breaking heatwave hits the country and turns the world upside down. Between panic in the stock markets, electrical outages and fuel shortages, the climatic cataclysm is so huge that chaos reigns, and people take to the road.

Stanislas and his wife are thrown into this unprecedented climatic exodus. They ask Dédé to cobble together a few bikes. Their goal is to reach the farm Stanislas and his wife had bought – as trendy investors – in the countryside.

The trip is a nightmare. Patrick, the farmer in charge of the land, receives them coldly. Between Stanislas, Sophie, Dédé, and Patrick, the cohabitation gets off to a rocky start. But in this upside-down world, the most stubborn certitudes will be shaken. And friendships that were once unlikely are formed to combat a cataclysm no one thought could ever happen.

A STRONG AND POSITIVE MESSAGE ABOUT  
ECOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD

A NOVEL THAT IS BOTH SOBER & HUMOROUS



# NICOLAS VANIER

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**NICOLAS VANIER** is the author of many travel books and adventure novels. His previous books published by XO Editions have all been bestsellers. He is the movie director of *Belle et Sébastien*.

## NICOLAS VANIER **ABOUT** *UN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD*

### **In concrete terms, what does an upside-down world mean?**

With this novel, I address a topic that worries me a lot: the people we designate as “climate refugees.” Their number is increasing by tens of thousands every day. Because — and it’s completely unfair — it’s not in the countries that caused the warming of the planet that the disastrous effects are being felt the most. There will come a time, and this time is imminent, when tens, hundreds of thousands of people won’t be able to live where they do now. And all because of us!

### **Let’s turn our attention to Stanislas, your hero. He is successful and has an enviable position in life...**

Yes, he’s a broker who started out with nothing. He worked like a madman to create a shelter for himself. He’s so rich that he thinks he’ll be protected from everything. But he can’t protect himself from what has begun to happen around him. Because as the native people told us very early on, the day we run out of water there will be no more forests, and then what good is all that money? You won’t be able to buy water or buy back the trees.

### **This cataclysm alters his view of the world and his relationship with others...**

When this kind of chaos erupts, it reveals who we really are, the good and the bad. Indeed, the moral of this story is that we can’t get out of this predicament without solidarity — a rare commodity these days.

### **Does this mean that at this time, we are all gripped by blindness and our egos?**

We don’t think of the other, we don’t open our eyes to what is happening to our world, or rarely, and then with outsized self-interest. Self-interest rather than concern for future generations’ lives, or their survival for that matter.

### **On the other hand, the younger generation is not afraid to sound the alarm. This is hopeful, isn’t it?**

Young people around the world are saying: “You want us to go to school to prepare for our future, but we don’t want the world you are preparing for us.” I think that’s a strong message.

**NICOLAS VANIER SOUNDS THE ALARM ABOUT THE DRAMATIC DETERIORATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. HE CALLS FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE ECOLOGY THAT PROLONGS WHAT PIERRE RAHBI, THE PHILOSOPHER-FARMER, NAMED A “HAPPY SOBRIETY.”**

“All my life I’ve observed nature with my eyes and also my heart. The present worries me terribly. But mustn’t we smile at the absurdity of life in order to comprehend the magnitude of the impending chaos?”

**NICOLAS VANIER**



NOVEMBER 24, 2016  
270 P.  
FULL ENGLISH  
TRANSLATION  
AVAILABLE

## EMMANUEL MACRON REVOLUTION (RÉVOLUTION)

"To regain hope, we need to confront the reality of our world.

Some believe that our country is in decline, that the worst is yet to come, that our civilization is withering away. That only isolation or civil strife are on our horizon. That to protect ourselves from the great transformations taking place around the globe, we should go back in time and apply the recipes of the last century. [...]

I am convinced that they are all wrong. It is their models, their recipes, that have simply failed. France as a whole has not failed.

I am convinced that our country has the strength, the resilience, and the desire to progress. Its history and its people make this possible."

**In *Revolution*, Emmanuel Macron reveals his personal history and his inspirations, and discusses his vision of France and its future in a new world that is undergoing a 'great transformation'. This is a remarkable book that seeks to lay the foundations for a new society — a compelling testimony and statement of values by a political leader who has become the flag-bearer for a new kind of politics.**

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“Emmanuel Macron has stood up for liberal values. He put forward a vision for the important role that France plays in Europe and around the world, and he is committed to a better future for the French people. He appeals to people’s hopes and not their fears.”

**BARACK OBAMA**

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