

Foreign Rights
Catalogue
Novels
Fall 2011



L'école des loisirs

ABOUT US

Entirely dedicated to children's books since 1965, *l'école des loisirs'* main ambitions are to make reading a pleasure for children and to create a home for the authors. We like to consider the authors' entire works rather than simply their latest title, that is why this catalogue tries to present the books to come but also those we have already published. You will probably notice that our authors write for all ages, and some also for adults.

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Malika Ferdjough
**La fiancée
du fantôme**

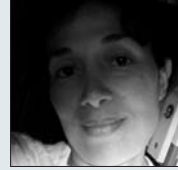
Mouche de l'école des loisirs



Illustrations
by Édith
72 pages

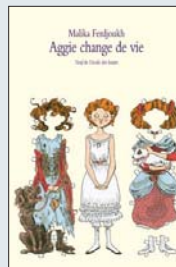
The Ghost's Fiancée

Was it really a good idea to leave London and move into this old residence, Forest Lodge, deep in the heart of Scotland? Strange, inexplicable sounds can be heard here, and an icy breath next to the bed might wake you in the middle of the night. The portrait of Lord Aloysius Mac Bligh seems strangely alive, and cousin Olivia behaves more mysteriously each day. Luckily, even though Horace is only nine years old, he isn't too afraid of ghosts.



Malika Ferdjough was

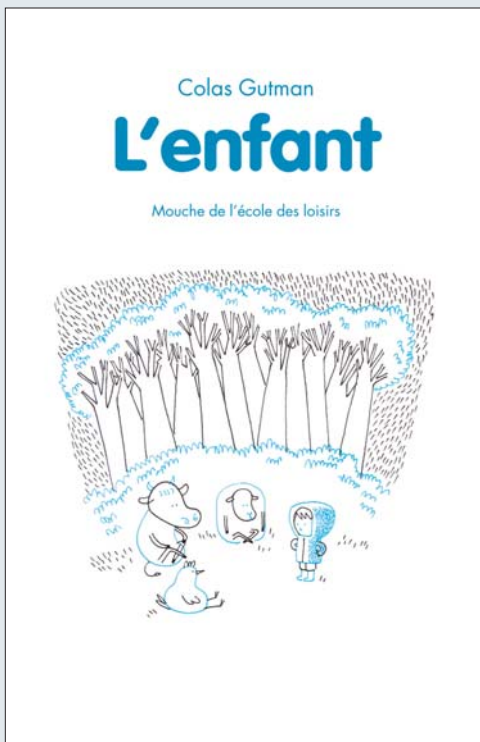
born in Algeria in 1957. She has lived in Paris since she was very young. She writes novels for young readers and scripts for television. At l'école des loisirs, she is notably the author of the series *Quatre Sœurs*. An homage to Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*, *The Ghost's Fiancée* is one of her very first novels.



SOLD
Vietnamese
German
Catalan
World
Spanish
Korean
Japanese



The child of writer parents, **Colas Gutman** thought for a long time that this was the worst career in the world. Then one day the joy of writing grabbed him and it has never let him go. His natural penchant for making people laugh permeates his latest book, *The Child*, a philosophical, comic, at times disturbing fable.



Two-color illustrations by Delphine Perret
40 pages

The Child

“Excuse me, but what are you?”

“What’s that? What am I?”

“Uh, yes. What kind of animal are you?”

I thought, “My, oh my, I must be way out in the country. Mom told me about this. Poor sheep! He has never seen a child in his life!”

“I am not an animal,” I said, “I am Leonard.”

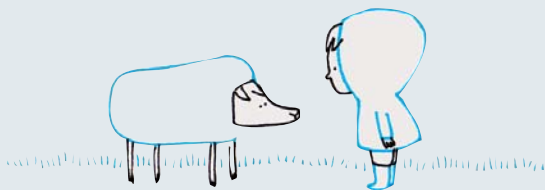
“Is that like a leopard?” the sheep asked me.

“No, it’s my first name. You, for example: what’s your name?” “Sheep.” “I see.”

That was when the sheep sniffed me and asked me this odd question: “And what purpose do you serve?”



SOLD
World
Spanish
Catalan
Korean



Fabienne Mounier
et Daniel Hénon

Le miroir mou des Bolkodaz

Mouche de l'école des loisirs



Full-color
illustrations by
Daniel Hénon
112 pages

The Magical Mirror of The Bolkodaz

At naptime, the Bolkodaz discover they can cross through their living room mirror. Once on the other side with their cat Cat, they are attacked by wolves and ferocious beasts, they become rich and unhappy, and they start talking in a skewed way. But how will the Bolkodaz return to their cozy house?



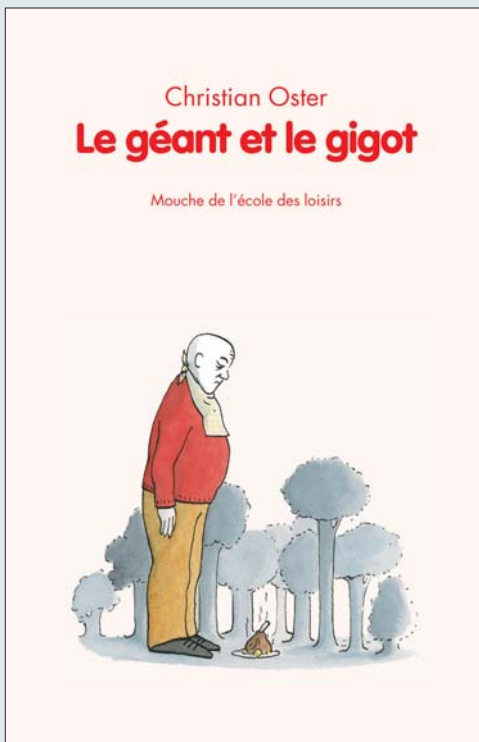
Drawing, writing, theater, music... **Daniel Hénon** and **Fabienne Mounier** are multidisciplinary artists, and together they are the founders of a theater troupe. Notable performances with the group include their adaptation of *Histoire du petit tabouret*.





Christian Oster

has practiced many professions, including library guard, bookseller, and copyeditor before turning to writing. He has published eleven novels for adults at éditions de Minuit. His book *Le grand appartement* won the Médicis Award in 1999. He is also one of the most inventive authors at l'école des loisirs, never ceasing to explore the universe of fairy tales and their infinite possibilities.

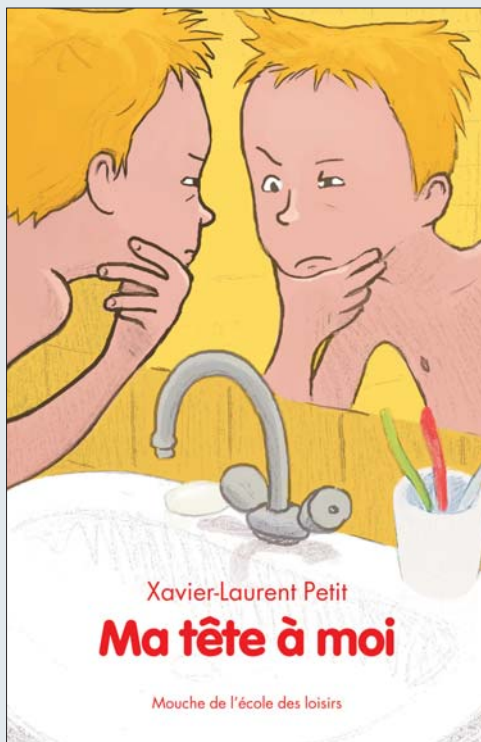


Full-color illustrations by Audrey Poussier
40 pages

The Giant and the Fairy

For the lumberjack, lima beans. For the chicken, cheese. And for the rat, radishes. In this forest, the inhabitants can only eat foods that start with the same letter their name does. But Gerard the giant is fed up with gingerbread. So he asks Fionelle the fairy to help him finally discover the taste of watermelon, whey, and... wolf.





Full-color
illustrations by
Dorothee de
Monfreid
80 pages

The Way I Look

It all started one Saturday, when Janin went shopping with his Uncle Jean and the grocer mistook them for father and son. How had Janin not noticed it before? He is the only one in his house with a pale complexion and blond hair! He has terrible nightmares, and the next day, he is in bed with a fever. But he also comes up with a good idea for making himself look like his parents and little brother.



First published under the title *Colorbelle-ébène*, *The Way I Look* is **Xavier-Laurent Petit's** first novel for young readers. The tale, inspired by a childhood memory, was originally meant to appear in a collection of short stories for adults called *L'année de la baleine*, but Xavier-Laurent Petit rewrote it and sent it to l'école des loisirs, "the quintessential publishing house for a former teacher."

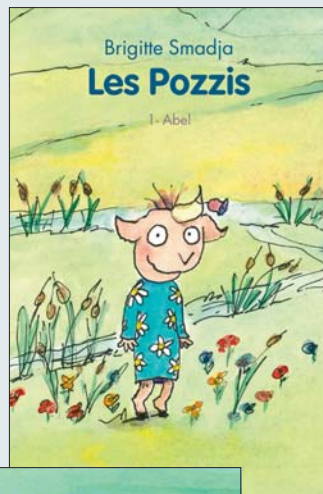
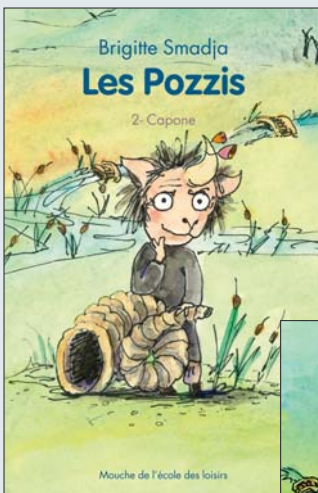


SOLD
Italian
Korean
Japanese



Brigitte Smadja thinks that we're all Pozziss and Elsewherians. Ever since a walk in Corsica, she changed universes and has created a new world. Hers. And she says it herself: The Pozziss is her first truly autobiographical tale. She tells her own story but follows a trail that climbs and descends, and arrives at a landscape in the shape of a puzzle.

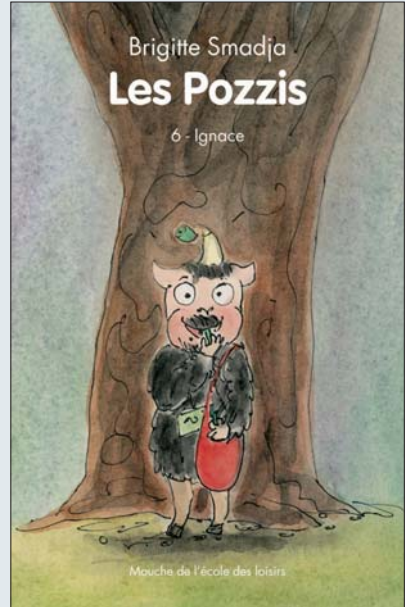
Pozziss Series



Full-color
illustrations by
Alan Mets
80 pages each

POZZIS SERIES
(6 titles)

Full-color
illustrations by
Alan Mets
80 pages



Antoche

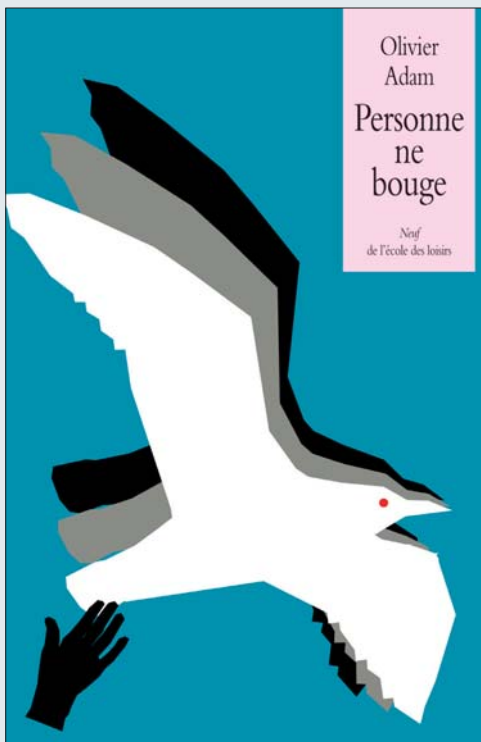
The universe depicted in this series is a mix of the fantastical and the poetic. There is something very lively and natural about it, even if everything is strangely unreal. On one side is Eden, the land of the Pozzis, and on the other is war, the land of the Elsewhere. These new Pozzis adventures are an opportunity for Antoche and Ignatius to turn over a new leaf. Because these two have not been the nicest ones in the Pozzis community, and they have plenty to apologize for.





Olivier Adam

was born in 1974. He lives by the sea. He has published novels at l'école des loisirs, at Le Dilettante (*Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas*, which became a film directed by Philippe Lioret), and at éditions de l'Olivier.

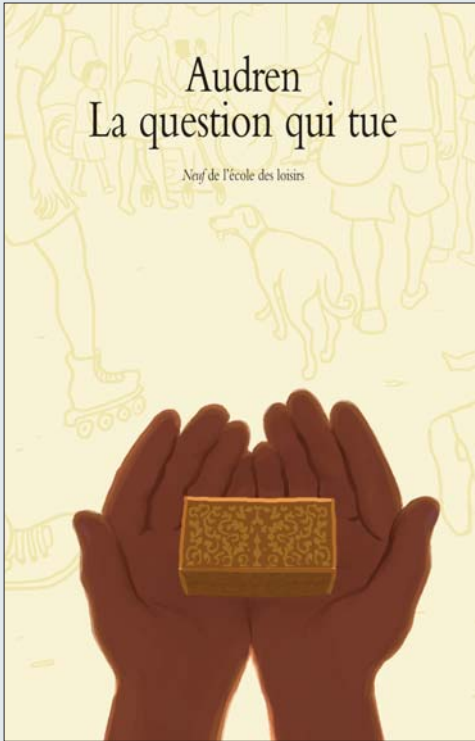


96 pages

Nobody Moves

Antoine was really frightened when it first happened. He was doing his homework in the kitchen and his mother was peeling carrots for dinner, when suddenly there was absolute silence and the world around him froze, as if for eternity. The second time it occurred he was at middle school, right in the middle of a dictation. Antoine made the most of it, altering some copies and then taking off, but when everything started to move again he had to make excuses and things turned complicated. Antoine was less surprised when time stopped again. He didn't resist. He entered the house next door and went up to Léa's bedroom. The best of all was one Saturday at the beach. Antoine was not alone this time.





80 pages

Now, That Question Kills Me!

Ever since the teacher scolded her for asking absurd questions that disturbed the class, Wendy decided she would no longer open her mouth. For more than a week, she succeeded in keeping her questions to herself. But Thursday, at the end of the science lesson, Wendy could no longer hold back the words that bounced around inside her head. She raised her hand and asked in a clear voice, “Are flowers sighs?” Madame Laroumette looked at the ceiling with a stunned, furious expression, and exclaimed, “Now, that question really kills me!”

The next day, the teacher was dead.

See her books for older kids on page 18



Audren was born in 1962. She has lived in the United States, England and Italy. She likes to break up the daily humdrum by singing and by writing novels, poems, songs (several CDs to her credit and music for films and video games). She has had brushes with a trying illness, death and danger. Since then, she lives each instant as a happy bonus.





Books hold an important place in **Marie Chartres'** life: she works in a media library and runs literary events. Her first tale for adults, *Cette bête que tu as sur la peau*, came out this year with éditions

du Chemin de fer. The character of Ismael was born from memories of her childhood fears. To counteract them, she created a little boy who has a gift for transforming unhappiness into a superpower.



SOLD
Italian



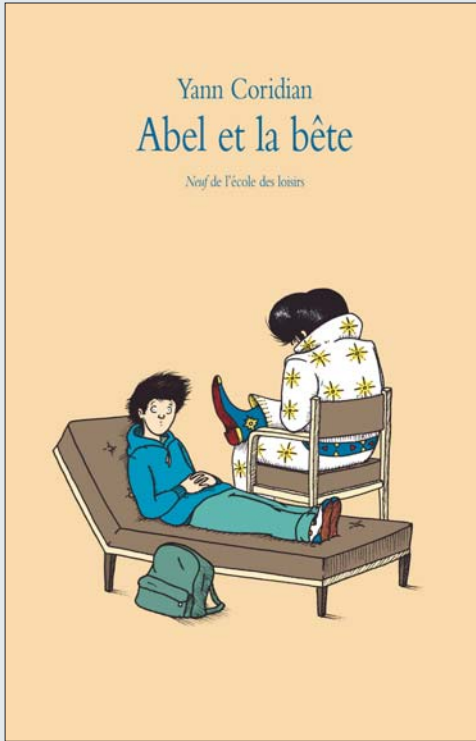
80 pages

Ismael's Nights

Ismaël's mother suffers from melancholy, an illness that makes her cry so much. Melancholy has invaded everything. It wore down Ismaël's dad, who left the house. Ismael feels all alone.

Fortunately, he possesses a magical power: he turns into a little flying boy at night. He goes to sleep in his bed in the evening, and the next morning he has been transported to his mom's bed. He is certain of one thing: there is a magic cape that grows out of the back of his pyjamas. A

cape at night has to be used for something. Who or what is Ismael supposed to save? A person? The world? The universe?



104 pages

Berty and the Beast

Berty is ten years old and lives with his father. His dad suffers from depression, and Berty must deal with this. The ordeal is going to change him. He starts by applying himself at school, prepares a big report, but then ends up running away from home. Berty will soon discover the good that words can do thanks to his fortuitous encounter with a child psychiatrist.

This book explores several difficult themes that are made approachable thanks to a light sense of humor: a child's confrontation with the illness of an adult and the way in which he takes a stand, as well as his escape into the city.



Yann Coridian

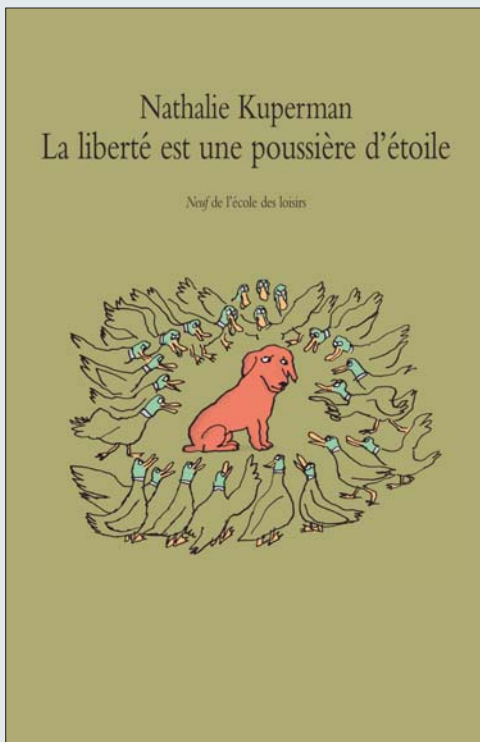
quit school at sixteen in order to dive into the world of cinema. After a multitude of jobs and just as many experiences, he became casting director. He is working on his first feature-length film while also writing new stories.





Above all else,
Nathalie Kuperman

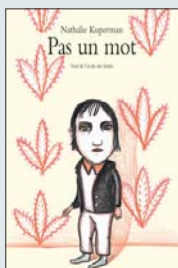
likes to watch the time pass. She lives through writing: novels for adults at Gallimard, books for children and teens, and numerous stories for young people. She also writes for radio and comic strips.



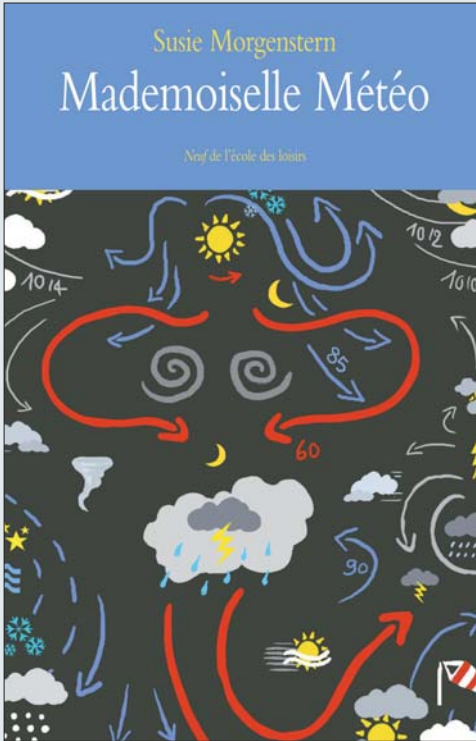
88 pages

Freedom Is a Bit of Stardust

Ever since the day Dog leapt over his parents' garden fence to get a taste of freedom, he has been locked up at the Fortress, a prison guarded by twenty-three ducks. Duck, the big boss, interrogates Dog every morning, asking him questions whose answers seem obvious. And the poor Dog is taken back to his cell, because Duck has decided that he will always be wrong, no matter what he says. Dog has only one thought in mind: to escape and return to freedom, even at the risk of confronting his worst enemy...



SOLD
Catalan

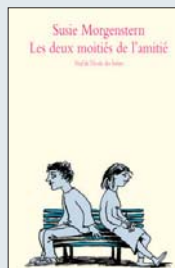


128 pages

Miss Weather Woman

In *Miss Weather Woman*, Susie Morgenstern shows how a blossoming love can be reinforced and nourished by trials encountered along the way. For Alizée, the weather is much more interesting than men. But ever since she met Axel, she no longer knows what to think. Might she be falling in love? At first sight, Axel and Alizée have very little in common. They're not from the same background, don't have the same level of education, and don't like to do the same things. Yet, through his tenacity, Axel will prove to Alizée that he is the man she needs.

SOLD
Vietnamese
Korean
Catalan



SOLD
Korean

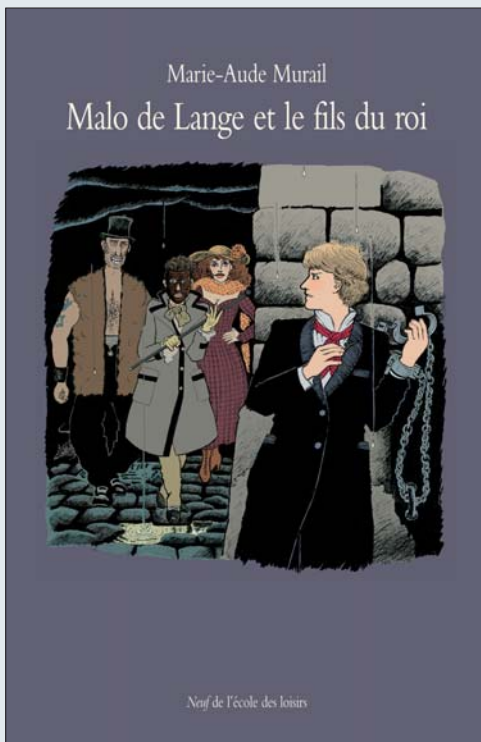


Susie Morgenstern

needs no introduction. She is a star of children's literature. Her new titles are anxiously awaited by children, and her books have received countless awards. This warm and friendly woman, originally American, always speaks from the heart. She lives in the South of France, where she was an English professor at university for many years.



For years now **Marie-Aude Murail** has explored different veins of children's literature. Whether it be political, realist, or fantasy, her motto is to never repeat herself and to never be where you expect her. She stunned us with her novel which appealed to both teenagers and adults and won numerous awards. *Oh boy!* has been translated into a dozen languages and is already a classic.



MALO
DE LANGE
SERIES
(3 titles)

266 pages

Malo de Lange and the King's Son

In this third volume, Malo turns fifteen. Our hero, the young secret agent, is in charge of protecting the youngest son of King Louis-Philippe who is eleven years old and named Toto. Spending all his time beside the prince, Malo realizes that he doesn't know how to dance, ride a horse, or draw a sword. And he especially hates Latin class. But he knows how to save the king's son!

Before chasing after Malo de Lange, Marie-Aude Murail took the time to reread the great serial

novels of the 19th century, for their narrative techniques. "You've got to go with it! Just go! Unlikelihoods, coincidences, who cares! The same handful of good and bad characters meet and meet again throughout the novel..."

See her books for older kids on page 29

Hervé Walbecq
Histoires d'enfants
à lire aux animaux

Neuf de l'école des loisirs



Illustrations
by the author
112 pages

Children's Stories to Read to Animals

With tenderness and nostalgia, Hervé Walbecq offers a way of understanding the world in his book *Children's Stories to Read to Animals* which invites us to reflect on our relationships with others. These short stories, whether serious or playful, darkly humorous or comforting, lead us into a world of poetry, where happiness is made of all sorts of little things.



Hervé Walbecq

has always lived life among animals. As a child he tamed many of them, from the smallest mammal to the most improbable insect. A bird even lived in his childhood bedroom for eight years, without a cage. This bird undoubtedly helped create the universe of melancholy and dreams found in *Children's Stories to Read to Animals*.



Audren was born in 1962. She has lived in the United States, England and Italy. She likes to break up the daily humdrum by singing and by writing novels, poems, songs (several CDs to her credit and music for films and video games). She has had brushes with a trying illness, death and danger. Since then, she lives each instant as a happy bonus.



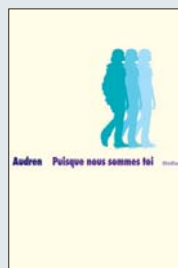
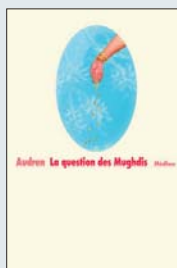
112 pages

Once Upon a Time in the East

Anna was seven years old when the Berlin Wall came down. She was living with her family in Fürstenwalde, a little town in East Germany. Growing up in GDR like Anna did meant playing with Pittiplatsch – the same stuffed animal that all her friends had. It meant standing in line for hours to get a kilo of bananas. It also meant dreaming of wearing the blue scarf of the young pioneers, and above all, learning to appreciate order and the limits one had to obey... Anna has mixed feelings about her early years in the East, a disorganized “childhood museum” that she invites us to visit.

Audren took inspiration from her German friend Anke’s childhood memories to write this story.

See her other books on page 11

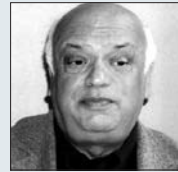




238 pages

Star's Book

What solution can they come up with so that Grandma Star will leave Algeria and join the rest of the family who has already been “repatriated” from Tlemcen to France? Grandma has accepted to follow the long path of exile for them, but on condition that people don't constantly interrupt her while she's talking. Otherwise, there's no longer any charm in telling stories, is there?



Gil Ben Aych

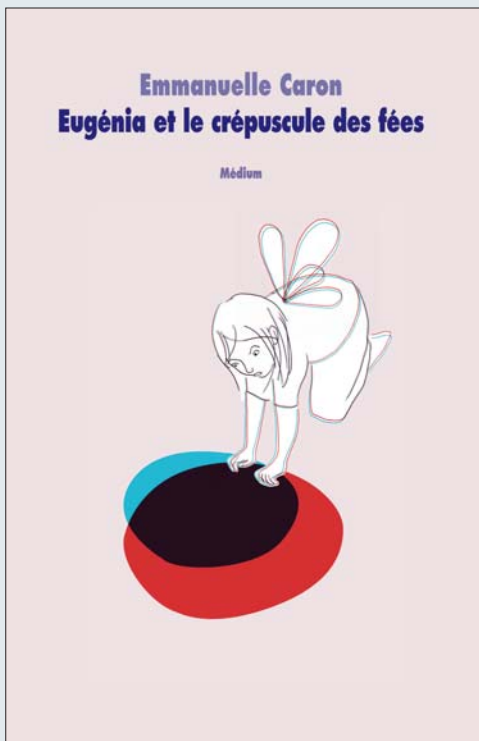
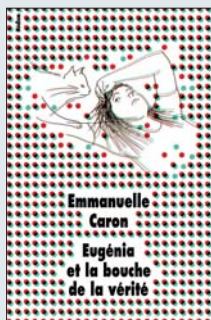
knew Grandma Star very well, because she is in fact his very own grandmother. She was an old Jewish lady living in Northern Africa, with very set ideas and a sunny way of speaking. He also made her the heroine of his novel *Le voyage de Mémé* and one of the characters in *L'essuie-mains des pieds*.





Emmanuelle Caron

was born near Paris in 1975, where she lived for nearly thirty years before leaving for Montreal. She holds a master's in literature and works as a teacher, "with, in short, quite a bit of enthusiasm". When she's not writing novels for l'école des loisirs, she writes poems, which are published in Canada.

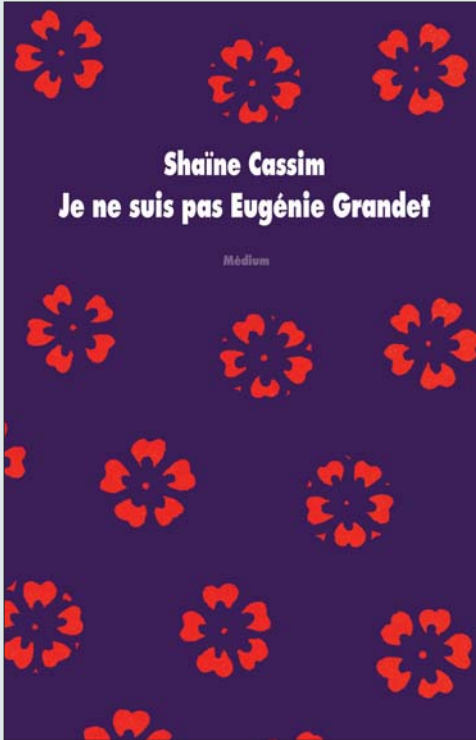


EUGENIA
SERIES
(2 titles)

196 pages

Eugénia and the Twilight of the Fairies

Nothing worked as planned. At the end of *Eugénia and the Mouth of Truth* (volume 1), the fairy Oliver made the most difficult decision of her brilliant career as magical secret agent: in a message addressed to Robert le Verrat, she offered her help to the sworn enemy of the fairies. Evidently, this act of treason didn't work. And we have to wonder how Oliver and Eugénia are going to get out of this wasp's nest. Time is of the essence. The evil influence of Renard is spreading everywhere. Soon it will be... the twilight of the fairies!



182 pages

I Am Not Eugénie Grandet

Anne-Louise is passionate and excessive, a public danger of uncontrollable emotion. Her little sister Alice is her flood barrier, her rampart. It all began when Alice tried to read *Eugénie Grandet*, the novel by Balzac. This story of a young girl sacrificed who fades away beneath the reader's eyes disturbed her. She is afraid of time passing, afraid of missing out on life. And for the first time ever, Alice distances herself from Anne-Louise. She no longer wants to be in her sister's shadow. One thing is certain: she won't have the same destiny as Eugénie Grandet.



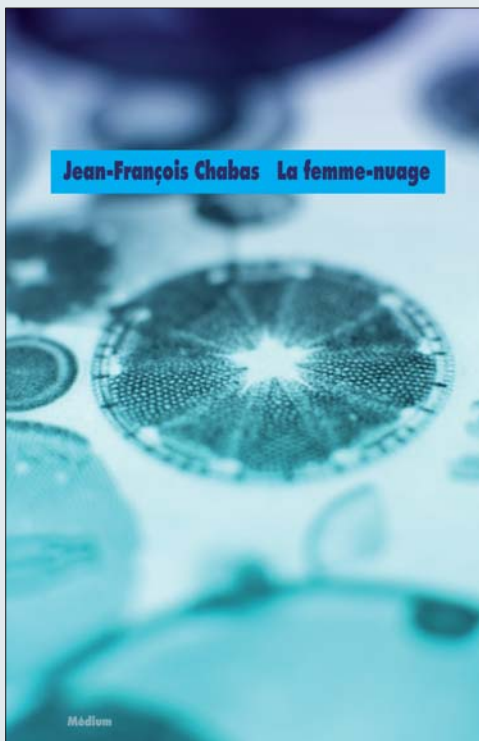
Shaïne Cassim

was born in Madagascar. She first worked as a foreign language assistant before becoming a translator and then an editor for young readers. Her novels for adolescents have been published with several different publishing houses, and she has also written one novel for adults.



“Jean-François Chabas

is on the verge of becoming the Balzac of children’s literature”, notes a critic in reference to one of his most recent novels. “In book after book, he shapes and polishes a sort of contemporary Comédie humaine.” Except that in addition to this, he explores legends, plant and animal kingdoms.



80 pages

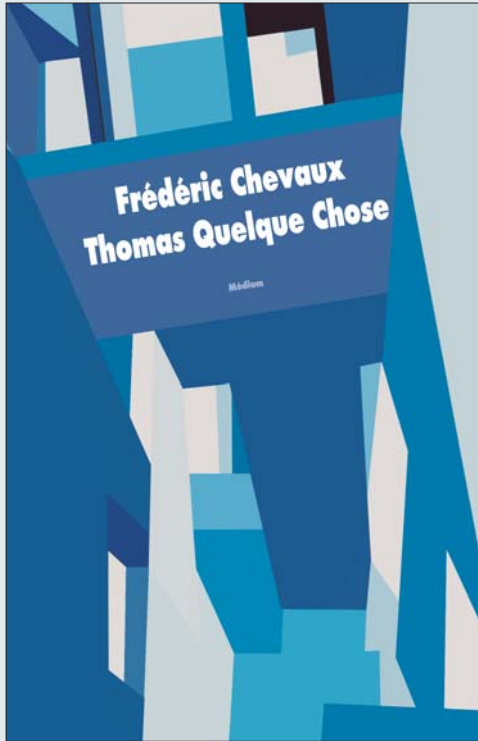
The Cloud Woman

Three mystical tales, and three characters in search of nobility who ask essential questions.

Vâ, a young girl born pure and full of laughter, becomes translucent from the slightest emotion. Will she be able to lead a normal life, or will she need to banish all ardent feelings from her heart? The Devourer is hungry for vengeance. Too much ugliness on Earth, too much violence. He wants to tear everything to pieces and swallow it all without pity. Who will be able to stop him?

The Giant of the blue lake is a colossus responsible for watching over the wild waters deep in the mountains. If he wanders off too far, he shrinks and loses his strength. The day he takes in Lynianata, an orphan lost on the boulders, his life changes completely.





88 pages

Thomas Something

Thomas' big brother Sylvain has left home to make it on his own, and their mother is inconsolable. One day, she reveals the following to her younger son: he was an accident. For Frédéric Chevaux, *Odile n'existe plus* and *Thomas Something* form part of a trilogy devoted to the subject of families. The point of departure for the first title was the tale of *Sleeping Beauty*, while for *Thomas Something*, it is the myths about the Minotaur and Icarus. Like the Minotaur, Thomas' birth was not wished for by his mother. Like Icarus, Thomas will search for a way out of this familial labyrinth so that he can redefine the contours of his own identity.

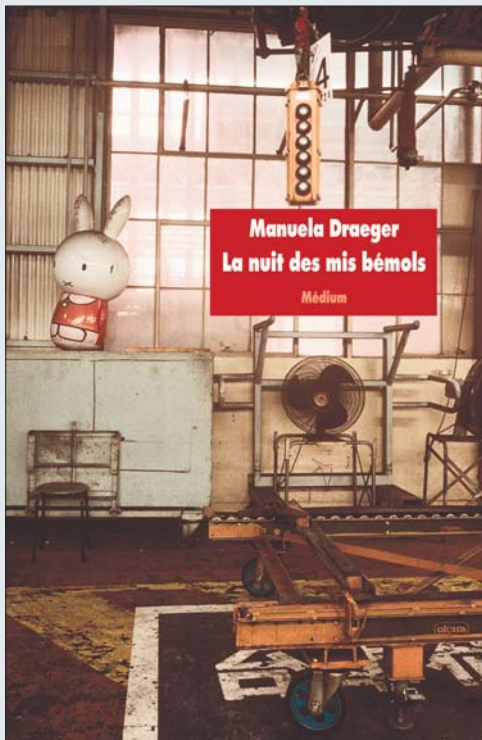


Puss in Boots, Snow White, One Thousand and One Nights, Alice in Wonderland... a quick glance at the long list of plays in which **Frédéric Chevaux** has performed will tell you that the actor appreciates fairytales. "Whether dissected and parodied on stage or referenced in a novel, I've always wanted to confront their literary strength one day," he admits.



Manuela Draeger

belongs to a community of writers that includes Elli Kronauer, Lutz Bassmann, and Antoine Volodine, among many others. She was born in Chicoutimi, Quebec in 1971, and worked in Canada as a translator. She disappeared from the scene only to reappear as an author, notably with *l'école des loisirs* for the past ten years. *Onze rêves de suie*, a novel for adults, was released in 2010 with éditions de l'Olivier.



BOBBY
POTEMKINE
SERIES
(11 titles)

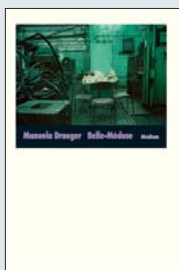
72 pages

The Night of E Flats

For once Bobby Potemkine would like to set aside his investigations. He's happy here beside the quay, with his new friend the transparent crow Jean Gouanodon, who only appears with the help of darkness. He could stay here for hours contemplating the splendor of the landscape with him. But there's a new case that Jean Gouanodon wants to entrust Bobby with.

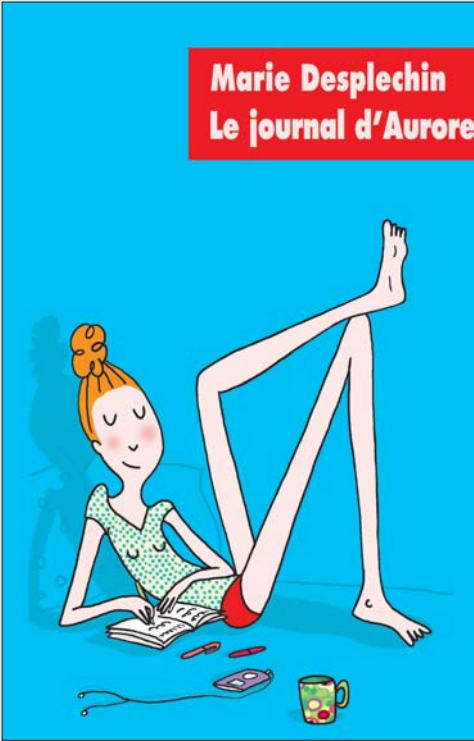
Instead of being eaten, the cherry puddings are jumping on people and nibbling them. They do

so affectionately, but still. Bobby would like to help his friend, but he already has to solve the problem of the missing E flats, which is stopping Lili Nebraska, his seductive accomplice, from playing the Cantate golde.



SERIES
SOLD
English (non
exclusive
USA)

Marie Desplechin Le journal d'Aurore



3 volumes in 1
560 pages

Anthology of Aurore's Diary

For three years now, during one of the most important periods in her life, Aurore has been writing about her traumatic experiences as a teenager. There is her first date, the time she tried to run away, math tutoring, camping trips, the birth of her rock band...

“October 5th If someone did not notice the lock that he or she just picked open, I will remind you that this is my private diary. And I curse in advance each and every one who looks at these pages. May that person be cursed to the end of his days, suffer from allergies and dandruff, and have braces.”

“Meet the adorable Aurore, with her angry glances, bad temper, and banal adventures that are an essential time in her life.”

Lucie Cauwe, Le Soir, June 2006



Marie Desplechin

studied arts and journalism and always dreamed of being a writer. She has published many works for adults and teenagers, and she works as a journalist for various magazines.

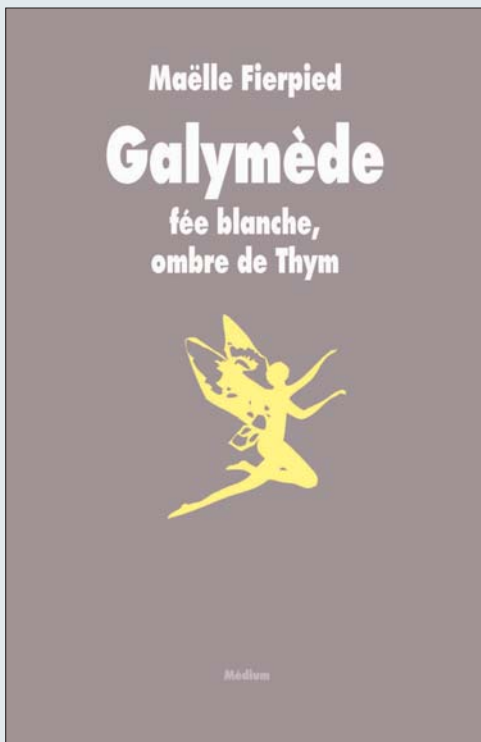


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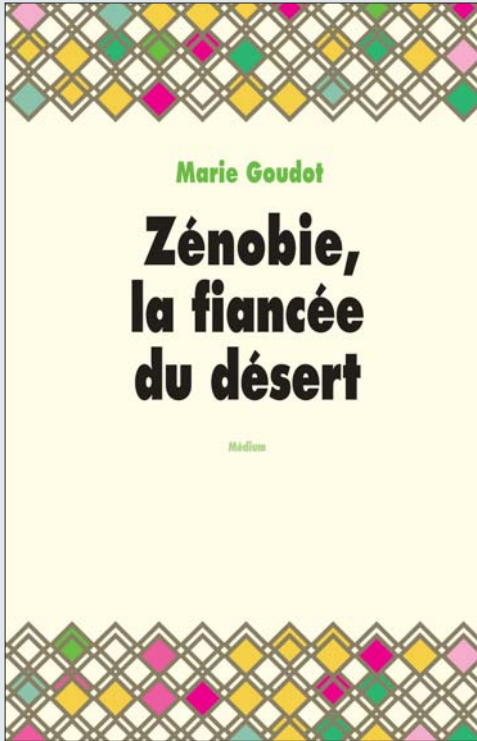
By day **Maëlle Fierpied** arranges the heros of her future books in her projects cabinet, and practices hockey (on the grass). By night, she dreamily writes fantastical science fiction novels (more than 400 pages so far), transforming herself into a Peter Pan writer in her kitchen.



420 pages

Galymède, White Fairy

Galymède is a white fairy living among humans. Her main occupation is to play fairy godmother and turn young girls into princesses. But, alas! These days nobody calls on fairies for help, because no one believes in magic anymore. She has only one remaining solution: she will take control of her own destiny. But her destiny is more capricious and much more mysterious than she had thought. It could even be linked to the Thyme shadow, a strange elf.



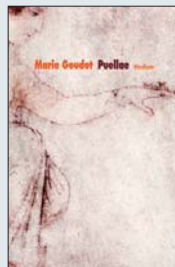
120 pages

Zénobie, Fiancée of the Desert

She rises from the desert of Syria, blue and green in an ocean of sand. Palmyra! They say that the city was founded by King Solomon. The Bible calls it “the one who guards,” and caravanners have nicknamed it “the fiancée of the desert”. Alas, the city’s days of glory are past: now a colony, it stagnates under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Among its inhabitants, Palmyra counts a young girl who resembles the city itself, Zénobie, who is impatient, beautiful, sensual, in love with liberty, proud and rebellious. And bridled. Tomorrow when she turns thirteen, she will have the right to ride a racing camel. What if this cavalcade is the first step toward an immense liberation for her, for women, for her city, and for her people?



One winter morning two years ago, after hours of traveling across the Syrian desert, **Marie Goudot** discovered the ruins of Palmyra and her palm grove springing forth from the sand. The magic of this place and the legend of the young queen who wanted to build her own empire convinced Goudot to stray a bit from her passion for ancient Greece.

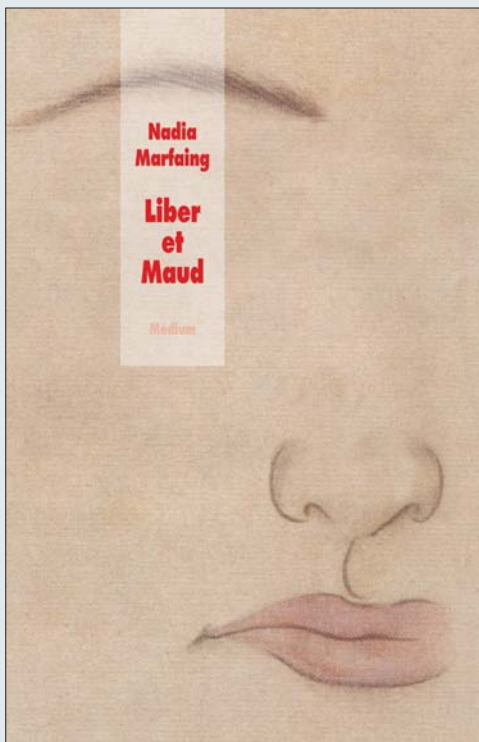




Nadia

Marfaing

is a history and geography professor who has turned the page many times to start a new chapter in her life. As a child, she spent hours devouring the books of her family's home, and told stories to herself to no end. She has always written books like she breathes, and has numerous novel projects she's working on.



196 pages

Liber and Maude

Ever since her accident, Maude is as if dead. Her eyes are empty, she has no wishes, and her bed is her only horizon. But there is Liber, of course. He is almost sixteen, and a student in the same class as Maude. Every evening after class, it's the same ritual. Maude screams, "Leave me alone!" and he stays put. Maude lets him become Mr. One-Idea-Per-Day in spite of herself. Pool, ping-pong, movies... life returns, with stolen kisses and arguments. Soon Liber is thinking about only one thing: making love to Maude. He has ideas, but receives no responses. Everything falls apart. A two months separation, Maude suddenly declares one day. To Liber this sounds like a brief suspension of their tandem life. It's a trial for the fairytale knight. But certainly not a declaration of death.



SERIES
NILS
HAZARD
(8 titles)

154 pages

The Lady Who Kills

The excavations of a tomb in the necropolis of Voltuci have revealed a text engraved on clay tablets, half in Etruscan, half in Latin. The Etruscan language will finally deliver its secrets! But as Professor Nils Hazard ventures into it, the Etruscan tomb begins to reveal a totally different secret: blocked off corridors, deathly traps, and on top of it all, two cadavers too fresh to be Etruscan but too old to be of interest to the police. Perhaps the police aren't interested, but our mystery hunter certainly wonders who is prowling around the site at night, why someone is stealing his material, and why Mateo, the village idiot, appears terrorized each time he sees a woman dressed in black. "No," he screams, "not the lady, not the lady who kills!"

See her other books on page 16



Published in 1993, *The Lady Who Kills* represents a special point in **Marie-Aude Murail's** career. "I didn't deem it necessary to get a doctorate in history to describe the dig in the land of the Etruscans; I just read some archeology books. I visited an Etruscan necropolis near Rome: it was like being Etruscan for a few moments. Upon finishing *The Lady Who Kills*, I knew that from this point on I would have the audacity to write about any era or any place in the world."



SERIES
SOLD
Greek
Italian



To change the world and “take her dreams seriously.” To open borders to nomads, wholeheartedly.

Tania Sollogoub

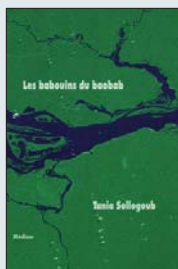
believes in this and does this, thanks to words and numbers. She teaches economics when she’s not sending out novels by mail.



80 pages

In the Land of the Moonstones

The narrator is a thirteen-year-old girl who spends winter vacations at the home of her Russian grandmother, Babou, a colorful character. Babou lives in the suburbs of Paris, in an apartment building where people from countries around the world have come by way of exile. This year, the young girl is going to meet Boris, her blue-eyed cousin. They will become inseparable. But there is more than a complicity that unites them: there is a blossoming love. It will last as long as the vacation, but will come to mean much more.





154 pages

The Return of the Dragonfly

Brian lives a happy life with his parents, in the middle of a nature reserve. But his world is turned upside down when some real estate speculators decide to build a luxury hotel here, in an area where pristine nature now reigns. Thanks to the friendship Brian shares with Maureen, a talented harpist, the love he receives from Nehalennia, a young, mysterious, introverted girl, and especially thanks to music, he will find the strength to fight, and defend the environment.



The author of more than twenty novels for children, teenagers, and adults, **Cathy Ytak** was born in 1962 in the suburbs of Paris. With a degree in bookbinding in her pocket, she became a saleswoman in a photo shop, a journalist, a language teacher, and a host for music shows on the free radio. And she took up studies in Catalan. Today Cathy Ytak splits her time between writing and literary translation from Catalan into French.

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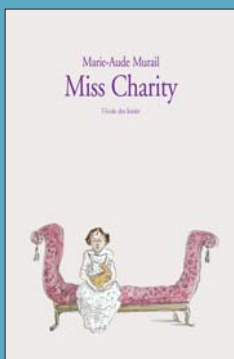
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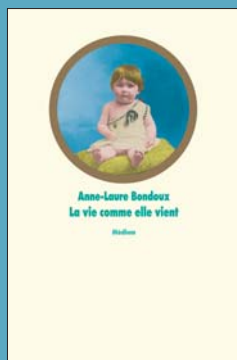
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