

**FOREIGN RIGHTS
CATALOGUE 2024**

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CHARGE

CULTUREL

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PHOTO UPON REQUEST

Simon Chevrier

A remarkable debut novel, written in fragments,
that explores seduction, grief
and the search for oneself

Editions Stock (France, 2025) - 192 pp



**Sold in a three-way
auction**

The narrator of *Photo Upon Request* is a man in his late twenties, in search of emotions and validation. He lives in a shared apartment, looks for a job, meets men on Grindr, and supplements his income by offering sexual services through the app Giton.

When he sees a black-and-white photo, hanging above a bed—a young man with his body folded, his toe brought to his mouth like a child's thumb, the shock is sudden, brutal. Who is this man? What is his story? Thus begins an investigation that gradually takes on the shape of a rebirth.

Photo upon request paints a poignant portrait of a young man in search of meaning, but don't be deceived by its nonchalance. Beneath the surface, the emotion builds, intensifying until it grips you by the throat.

PRAISE

"I completely fell under the spell of Simon's writing and restraint. There's something clinical in the narrator's voice, but also deeply literary, and the combination of the two is emotionally explosive. I find this novel profoundly moving, both dark and luminous, and believe it marks a sensational debut into the world of literature."

Paloma Grossi, Editor

THE AUTHOR

Simon Chevrier (1992) holds a degree in English. He wrote his first novel, *Photo upon request* as part of the Master's program in Creative Writing of Le Havre University, from which he graduated in June 2023.

AS THE ANDES DISAPPEAR

Caroline Dawson

A memoir bordering the sociological autobiography
on immigration and how to embrace a new culture
without betraying your origins

Editions du Remue-Ménage (Québec, 2020) - 256 pp



**Over 80,000 copies sold
in Québec**

Rights sold:

- Book*Hug Press (NA)
- Editions de l'Olivier (France)
- Al Jadal (Arabic)
- Shkupi (Albanian)
- Radio-Canada Ohdio (audio book)

Movie rights: ToRos

Awards :

- Prix Littéraire des collégiens

Caroline is seven years old when her family flees Pinochet's regime, leaving Chile for Montreal on Christmas Eve, 1986. Once in Canada, Caroline accompanies her parents as they clean banks at night. She faces racist microaggressions at school, discovers Québécois popular culture, and explores her love of reading and writing in French. Slowly, the Andean peaks disappear from Caroline's drawings and a fracture between her parents' identity and her own begins to grow.

This expansive coming-of-age novel probes with sagacity the plurality of identity, elucidating the interwoven complexities of immigrating to a new country. *As the Andes Disappear* reflects the journey of millions and is a beautiful ode to family commitment and the importance of home—however layered that may be.

PRAISE

"What struck me when I read *As the Andes Disappear* shortly after its release, and perhaps strikes me even more as I reread it today, is that, beyond the differences stemming from vastly dissimilar personal stories, I can so easily recognize myself in the fabric of its narrative, the logic of its reflections, the conceptual framework that governs its analyses...not to mention the mosaic of emotions it conveys with strength and intensity."

Didier Eribon, Author of *Retour à Reims*

"*As the Andes Disappear* is the most recent of Quebec's classics."

Félix Morin, *Lettres Québécoises*

"I highlighted the most beautiful sentences of this sociologist-poet who, like Mallarmé, observed a world that is both intimate and social while also championing it."

Michel-Marc Bouchard, writer

THE AUTHOR

Caroline Dawson (Valparaiso, 1979 – Montreal, 2024) was a sociology teacher. *As the Andes Disappear* her debut and unique novel met an immense success in Quebec. She is also the author of the poetry collection *Ce qui est tu* (Tryptique, 2023).

FANTASTIC LOVE STORY

Sophie Divry

A page-turner that mixes scientific thriller, social novel and romantic comedy and questions the possibility of love in a world of solitude

Editions du Seuil (France, 2024) – 514 pp



25,000 copies sold

Rights sold:

- Nórdica Libros (Spain)
- Uitgeverij Oevers (Netherlands)
- Inaque (Slovakia)
- J'ai Lu (paperback)
- Voir de Près (Large print)

Awards:

- Prix France Bleu/Pages des libraires
- Prix du roman France Télévisions

Movie rights: Elzevir

PRAISE

"It's a mix of Tintin, David Cronenberg, and David Foster Wallace, encompassing detective fiction, romantic comedy, and social satire with a thorough critique of the world of work. Sophie Divry assembles these facets with virtuoso agility in this delightful novelistic Rubik's Cube."

Elisabeth Philippe, L'Obs

"While this new novel is thick, it reads at lightning speed. The author, who has written her unwavering faith in the power of fiction, reveals the breadth of her art. Portraits, dialogues, descriptions, atmospheres, events, suspense, insight, worldview

—nothing is lacking in her talent."

Alice Ferney, Le Figaro

THE AUTHOR

Sophie Divry (Montpellier, 1979) worked as a journalist for several years before becoming a fiction writer. Her novel *La Condition Pavillonnaire* was awarded Prix Wepler's special mention. Her work has been translated into several languages and unanimously acclaimed by critics. *Fantastic Love Story* is her seventh novel.

HOW NOT TO BECOME A TRAVEL WRITER

Adrien Blouët

An anti-travelogue in a locked-down Japan paired
with a hilarious reflexion on our quest for
authenticity far from home

Notabilia (France, 2024) - 206 pp



Rights sold:

- Petite Bibliothèque Payot/Voyageurs (paperback)

One evening in December 2019, a young writer arrives at the southernmost tip of Japan with the ambition to settle down for a few months, find a job, write a novel, and learn Japanese. Nothing goes as planned: a few weeks after his arrival, a global pandemic breaks out, disrupting his plans and significantly extending his stay.

With humor and a good dose of self-deprecation, the author recounts his adventures, anxieties, obsessions and natural talent for procrastination, driven by an illusory desire for authenticity.

From the humidity of Okinawa to the bustle of Tokyo nights and through the deserted valleys of Shikoku, Adrien Blouët, a reluctant travel writer, offers with this book one of the most singular travelogue about Japan published in recent years.

PRAISE

"Adrien Blouët's book is a miraculous balance between realism and fiction, comparable to the works of Bruce Chatwin or Nicolas Bouvier."

Jean-Rémi Barland, Destimed

"A delightful book."

Elizabeth Philippe, France Inter

THE AUTHOR

Adrien Blouët (1992), studied in Paris' Beaux Arts before attending Offshore school in Shanghai. His first novel, *L'Absence de ciel* was published by Notabilia and selected for The Prix du Premier Roman and the Prix Envoyé par la poste 2019. His second novel, *Les immeubles de fer* came out in France in October 2021 also published by Notabilia.

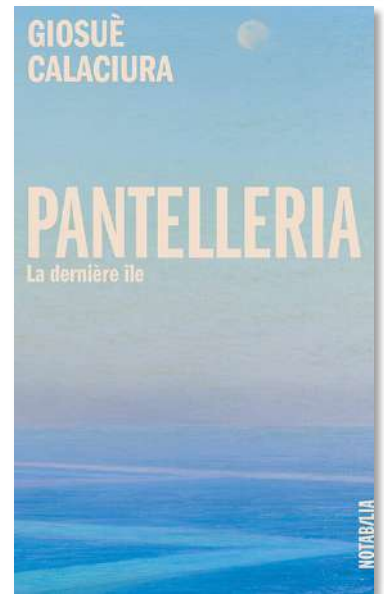
PANTELLERIA

The Last Island

Giosuè Calaciura

A poetic and erudite declaration of love to an island located at the crossroads of Europe and Africa

Laterza (Italy, 2016) - 144 pp



Pantelleria is a journey through geography and time. Giosuè Calaciura narrates with his unimitable poetic language the mythical past of the Sicilian island, located on the borders of Africa, and its present filled with contradictions.

He also offers us delightful anecdotes, such as Gabriel García Márquez's stay on the island after the publication of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, or the uncertainty of the children who, every Monday, gaze at the sky and the sea to see if their teacher will arrive on the island this week to give them lessons."

Rights sold:

- Notabilia (France)

Awards:

- Prix Nicolas Bouvier

PRAISE

"Calaciura is an important name of the Sicilian literature, and beyond. There is no doubt about it. He is, with some other writers, our only wealth."

Andrea Camilleri

« Giosuè Calaciura changed the way I write. »

Jérôme Ferrari

"Giosuè Calaciura's little book is a sublime and jealous love letter, the kind reserved for unreachable goddesses."

Fabrice Colin, *Le Canard enchaîné*

THE AUTHOR

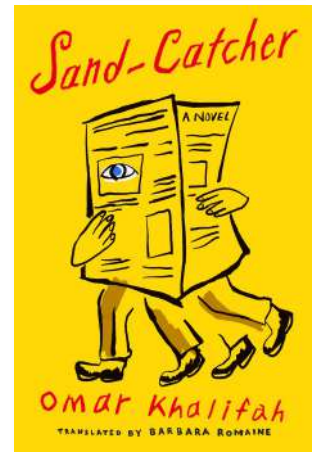
Giosuè Calaciura (Palermo, 1960) is a prolific writer. With a background in journalism, his novels draw inspiration from the reality of his homeland, Sicily, tackling issues such as poverty, immigration, and organized crime. His works has been translated in German, Spanish and French.

SAND-CATCHER

Omar Khalifah

A sardonic fable on Palestinian identity,
exile and collective memory

Dar Al-Ahlia (Jordan, 2020) – 136 pp



Four young, Palestinian journalists at a Jordanian newspaper are tasked, on account of their heritage, with profiling one of the last living witnesses of the Nakba, the violent expulsion of native Palestinians by the nascent state of Israel in 1948. Confident that the old man will be all too happy to go on record, the reporters are nonplussed when they are repeatedly, and obscenely, rebuffed. This living witness to history, has no desire to be interviewed, no desire for his memories to be preserved, no desire to serve as an inspiration for the youth of tomorrow. What he wants is to be left alone.

As threats from the team's editor-in-chief put more and more pressure on the journalists, they must decide just how far they're willing to go to get the old man on the record. After all, what possible weight can one stubborn demand for privacy have when balanced against the imperative to bear witness?

Omar Khalifah's novel is at once a polyphonic satire and a tightly plotted tale of suspense. Walking the line between gallows humor, rage, and depthless heartbreak, it is a unique reflection of contemporary Palestinian identity in all its facets.

PRAISE

"This novel smuggles humor into a context that would seem to preclude it, letting in a little satirical fresh air without ever sacrificing a keen sense of horror and injustice."

Jeremy Davies, Publisher at Coffee House Press

"Without appearing to be so, and with great humor, this tragicomic novel invites the reader to a sincere reflection on the question of what makes our identities."

Marianne Babut, Translator

THE AUTHOR

Omar Khalifah holds a PhD from Columbia University and currently teaches Arabic literature and culture at Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Qatar. Khalifah's current book project, *The Immediacy of Palestine: The Holocaust, the Nakba, and the Limitations of Memory*, is under contract with Stanford University Press. *Sand-catcher* is his first novel.

Rights sold:

- Coffee House Press (NA)
- Lenos Verlag (German)

READING AND SLEEPING / THE POCKETS' BOOK

Gonzalo Maier

Humorous and nostalgic chronicles about
everyday life, like a cosy conversation
with a longtime friend

Minúscula (Spain, 2016 /2021) - 145 pp/206 pp



The Pockets' Book is a personal and whimsical inventory that celebrates the private life of common and ordinary objects—so familiar they blend with one's own biography. *Reading And Sleeping* observes with tenderness the little pleasures found in moments of leisure and laziness.

Together, these two collections form a delightful diptych, inviting readers to look more closely and appreciate overlooked details of our daily life, that often prove to be very meaningful.

Rights sold:

- New York Review Books (NA)
- Sellerio (Italy)

PRAISE

"These are surprising, digressive, often balletic short texts, forging *crónicas* with the tradition of the English essay from William Hazlitt and G.K. Chesterton to Phillip Lopate and Geoff Dyer. The result is something very special: short books of short essays that linger a long time in the mind. Maier is the kind of writer who can't help but turn a walk around the block—or a quick search of his own pockets—into a meditation on existence."

Alex Andriesse, Editor at New York Review Books

"Gonzalo Meier's literature is the best kept secret of recent Chilean literature."

Mauro Libertella, Qué pasa

THE AUTHOR

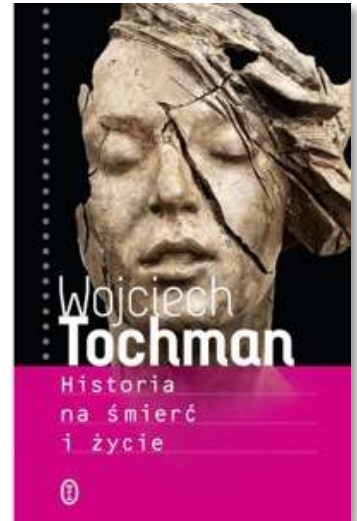
Gonzalo Maier (Talcahuano, 1981) is the the author of *Material rodante*, *El libro de los bolsillos*, and *Leer y dormir* and *Cuando Cumpli Cuarenta*, all published by Minúscula in Spain. His books have also been released in Chile (Penguin Random House) and Brazil (Dublinense). He is a University professor and regularly writes columns for various newspaper in Chile.

A MATTER OF DEATH AND LIFE

Wojciech Tochman

A reportage at the intersection of true crime
and psychological drama about a case
that shook an entire country.

Wydawnictwo Literackie (Poland, 2023) - 256 pp



**13,000 copies sold in
Poland**

In January 1996, three high school students were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a young woman. Among them was 18-year-old Monika Osińska, who, although present at the crime scene, did not participate in the murder. Partly thanks to a media campaign supported by the victim's brother-in-law, Monika became a nationally reviled figure.

A Matter of Death and Life resurrects the memory of the victim, Jola, while narrating the story of Monika and the quarter-century she spent in prison, uncertain of her release. Wojciech Tochman also recounts Monika's relationship with the brilliant journalist Lidia Ostałowska, who was the first to document this tragedy. Tochman examines the media and legal persecution fueled by misogyny and makes a case against life imprisonment, which has since been abolished in Poland.

PRAISE

"[Tochman's] style is all the more powerful for its restraint: outrage speaks terribly for itself, needs no hype, no color."
Sunday Times (UK)

"[Tochman] relies on suggestive details, pungent quotes and simple, understated prose that is powerful in its own way."
Matthew Price, The New York Times Book Review

THE AUTHOR

Wojciech Tochman (Krakow in 1969) is a prominent voice in contemporary Polish journalism and one of the architects of the new Polish school of journalism that advocates using literature to narrate reality. His trilogy on the consequences of genocides has earned him international acclaim, and his work has been published in fourteen countries. In 2015, he was awarded the Pen of Hope by Amnesty International for his commitment to human rights advocacy. He won the Kapuściński Prize in 2016 and has been a two-time finalist for the Nike Literary Award.

THE WOMAN WHO WROTE FRANKENSTEIN

Esther Cross

A moving portrayal of Mary Shelley and a fascinating immersion in 19th-century England, its literature, its doctors and its dead.

Minúscula (Spain, 2022 – Latin America, 2024) – 184 pp



Argentinian writer Esther Cross walks in Mary Shelley's footsteps. She follows her to the cemetery where, as a child, she hid to read; she studies her letters, her diary, observes her as she grieves her dead and travels with her husband, Percy Shelley, across Europe.

This non-fiction also delves into Mary Shelley's time: the 19th-century London marked by the progresses of medicine through corpses' dissection, the unstoppable development of the city, its economic disparities and literary effervescence. This non-fiction acutely depicts the British writer's relationship with her own time and how she shaped it as much it shaped her and her body of work.

Rights sold :

- La Nuova Frontiera (Italy)

PRAISE

"It is a book about Mary Shelley, about her time and her work, about the characters of clandestine medicine and dark London, about some romantic writers and some famous surgeons - all in a compact and absorbing parade, like a cabinet of literary curiosities - but, above all, it is a book about the body. In its pages, with a sober and sharp style, flesh is cut as on a dissection table, living flesh and dead flesh."

Mariana Enriquez, writer

"Cross is an exceptional writer and a subtle narrator. Since her first novel, she has continuously created captivating, original worlds that are close to poetry. (...) Her book *The Woman Who Wrote Frankenstein* is extraordinary."

Eduardo Álvarez Tuñón, writer

THE AUTHOR

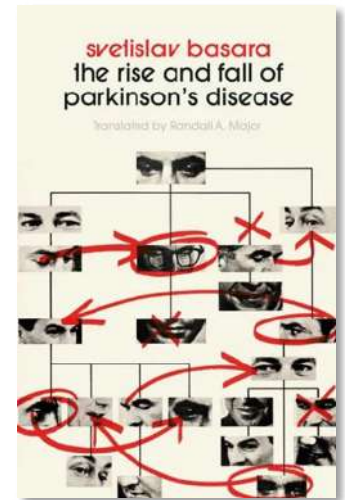
Esther Cross (Buenos Aires, 1961) is a translator and prolific writer. Considered a prominent figure of Argentine contemporary literature, her work has been awarded with prestigious prizes such as Premio Nacional de Literatura, Premio Kónex and Premio Fondo Nacional de las Artes. In 2023, she was appointed a member of the Academia Argentina de Letras.

THE RISE AND FALL OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Svetislav Basara

An unblinking and deconstruction of the Soviet psyche, exploring sanity and insanity, truth and untruth.

Dereta (Serbia, 2006) - 278 pp



Told as an eclectic collection of appropriated testimonies, treatises, missives, and police files, *The Rise and Fall of Parkinson's Disease* follows the progression of the contagion's patient zero, a Soviet citizen (sometimes) named Demyan Lavrentyevich Parkinson, as he ascends from hellish health to the sacred illness.

One of Serbia's most influential living writers known for his scathing, irreverent critiques of authoritarianism lives up to this reputation with a book as formally ambitious as it is intellectually sophisticated. His blend of grotesque absurdism and wry humor evokes the paranoid, vexing worlds of Franz Kafka's novels and the meta-textual assemblages of Paul Auster. Told from a colorful range of perspectives, the novel is a multifaceted, crystalline account of truth, lies, and history, a sprawling case study of humans in an inhuman society.

Rights sold:

- Dalkey Archive (World English)

Awards:

- NIN Award

PRAISE

"Basara is an author capable of making fun of absolutely anything."
Enrique Vila-Matas

**"Basara is to literature what Kusturica is to cinema:
a madman, a genius, a libertarian, an entertainer, a brazen, a sentimental."**
Martine Laval, *Télérama*

**"Basara goes on a mission, lays mines, shakes certainties,
sabotages reality through the absurd."**
Xavier Lapeyroux, *Le Monde*

THE AUTHOR

Svetislav Basara (Bajina Bašta, 1953) is the author of over thirty novels, short story collections, and essays translated into 10 languages. His writing has been praised for its caustic humor, its intellectual irreverence, and its impressive depiction of the absurd. He won the NIN Award twice, in 2006 for *Rise and Fall of Parkinsons Disease* and 2020 with his novel *Kontraendorf*.

THE HARMATTAN WINDS

Sylvain Trudel

An audacious and playful novel of adventure, brotherhood, and the search for a homeland – a contemporary of Quebecois literature

Les Allusifs (Québec, 2002) - 165 pp



Hidden in the reeds floating on a pond next to the highway, a woman finds a baby bobbing in a shopping basket. Adopted by the Francoeurs, Hugues remains an outsider in his semi-family. At the same time, Habéké is adopted by a Canadian family and brought to Quebec after his own family dies of famine in Ethiopia. On the margins of their small town, the boys become sworn brothers, searching for their roots, desperate to return to exile, to a paradise called Ityopia.

Narrated by the bold and imaginative voice of Hugues, Sylvain Trudel's prize-winning debut novel is at times serious and at times fantastical. In their child's world, where Hugues and Habéké haven't yet learned the prejudices of adults, they embark on adventures, digging holes to China and building fantastical contraptions to take them to far off places, like their hero, explorer Roald Amundsen.

Rights sold:

- Archipelago (NA)
- VLB Editeur (Québec)

PRAISE

"Put this book on your rereading or reading list, along with *Sentimental Education* de Flaubert."

Pierre Yergeau, writer

"A fresh little novel, teeming with life, of uncommon strength, to be situated somewhere between Émile Ajar and Réjean Ducharme. "

Gilles Marcotte, L'actualité

"What a beautiful story! And what a fervor... This first novel is a beautiful bouquet of emotions, sometimes serious and sometimes cheerful, composed with constant care. "

Réginald Martel, La Presse

THE AUTHOR

Sylvain Trudel (Montreal, 1963) is the author of multiple children's books, collections of short stories and novels, among them *Mercury Under My Tongue* (Les Allusifs, 2001), which received the Prix des libraires du Québec and *The Harmattan Winds* (Les Allusifs, 2002).

A CHOCOLATE DOLL

Amandine Gay

An autobiographical essay and striking plea to politicize adoption and rethink the concepts of family, filiation and identity.

La Découverte (France, 2021) - 368 pp



Amandine Gay was born to an unknown mother and owns nothing of her past: no medical record, no family tree, no family memories. For her story not to be a sum of silences, traumas and dispossessions, she needs to write it. This book is a trace, an archive, a piece of the puzzle she tries to complete thanks to the political analysis of what happened to her.

If families are formed through adoption, it is because more precarious families have been destroyed. Whether it is a question of class relations, global inequalities or the colonial continuum, in the Western context, adoption is inscribed in a history of violence. It is this history that adoptees inherit.

A Chocolate Doll navigates between a poignant life story and affiliations with critical theories of race, cultural studies, feminist studies, decolonial studies and queer theories. Amandine Gay responds to the urgency for adoptees - and others - to open a field of reflection, based on their experiences and expertise, analyzing the power dynamics exercised in adoption, and questioning the conventional structures of parenthood.

PRAISE

"The strength of the text is enhanced by its autobiographical aspect [...] . Amandine Gay's story captivates us, often revolts us, and touches us deeply, especially in the last pages, which are poignant." Erwan Cario, Libération

"A poignant and relentless intimate story."
Julie Hainaut, ELLE

"Speaking for herself, but also for all adoptees, Amandine Gay raises vital issues and does so with the authority of one who speaks from personal experience."
Catriona Seth, En attendant Nadeau

THE AUTHOR

Amandine Gay (1984) divides her time between research, creation and activism. She directed the documentaries *Speak Up* and *A Story of one's own* which also deals with the topic of adoption, following the journey of five adoptees. She is currently working on her second essay on how white supremacy shaped all the aspects of her life.

Rights sold:

- Editions du Remue-Ménage (Québec)

MONKEY

Zsuzsanna Szkurka

Graphic novel



ET PETIT À PETIT COMPRENDRE LES LIENS ENTRE EUX.



In 2021, at a flea market in Mexico City, Zsuzsanna Szkurka purchased a 100-year-old photo album. It had belonged to Martha Fields's family from Shreveport, Louisiana. The album, filled with family photos, also contained press clippings that documented unexpected deaths, unsolved crimes, and unexplained accidents.

Zsuzsanna embarked on an investigation to unravel the mysteries surrounding Martha's life between the ages of 13 and 19: the death of her husband at a very young age, her father's passing, the tragic plane crash of pilot John Broussard, and the numerous fires that destroyed over 300 homes in the area where she lived.

Through this investigation, which transports the reader to another time and place, Zsuzsanna explores the layers of time, the interweaving of past and present, and how yesterday's mysteries resonate in our present day.

THE AUTHOR

Zsuzsanna Szkurka (Budapest, 1979) is a psychiatrist and illustrator. She has collaborated with writer Mario Bellatin on several editorial projects, worked with visual artist Francis Alÿs and illustrated dozens of books and magazines published by Alfaguara (Spain), Sexto Piso (Mexico), Phoneme Media (USA) and Ludion (Belgium). In 2023, she was selected for a residency at Maison des auteurs de la Cité internationale de la BD d'Angoulême to work on several graphic novel projects.

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