

Editions du Rocher  
Fiction  
Rights List

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Eva Misconi

[eva.misconi@elidia.fr](mailto:eva.misconi@elidia.fr) /

+33(0)1 83 62 86 41

# Noone

Yann Verdo



**18,9 €**  
February 2020  
Format : 140 x 290 mm  
380 pages  
ISBN : 978-2-26810-316-7

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Set in Victorian London, the case of a peculiar man strikes the attention of a brilliant and idealistic neurologist.

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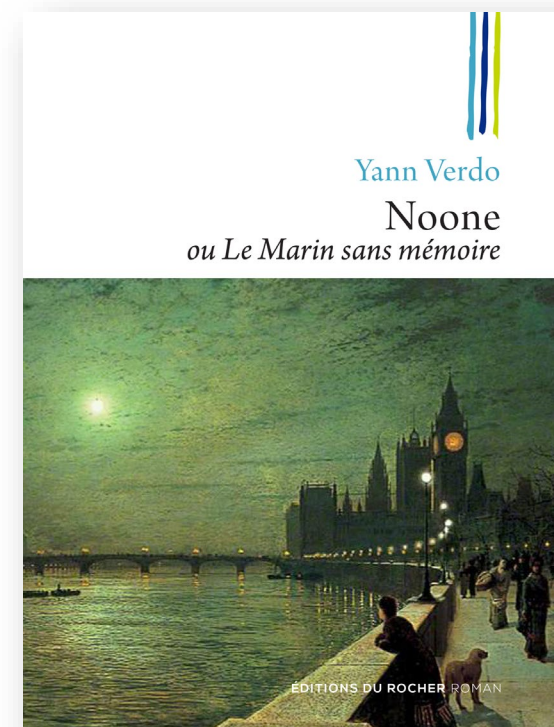
In 1889, Oscar Klives is a young practioner, who renounces a brilliant career as a neurologist to dedicate his life to the poor in a London East End hospice. One of his "patients", William Noone, is an old sailor well into his seventies, who has been diagnosed with double amnesia : complete memory loss for the past four decades as well as the oddity of forgetting, every three minutes, the present moment.

Drawing its inspiration from the true story reported by the British scientist Oliver Sacks and his strange clinical cases collection which became a literary classic, *The man who mistook his wife for a hat*, this novel is set during the Victorian era, where the paths of the deranged, the idle rich and the eternally damned cross in the narrow and damp streets of London. Oscar Klives, highly intrigued and touched by this exceptional case, notes down all his observations and strange discoveries in this novel which stands as a diary, to gradually track down the past of this peculiar man. The young doctor's quest will take on a beautiful philosophical turn, from across the Atlantic ocean to Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula, for a discovery far beyond any of his expectations.

*Noone* is an unforgettable and remarkable tale, with an impeccable poised style on identity, memory and loss.

**Yann Verdo** is a journalist for a famous French business and financial newspaper Les Echos, in which he covers the scientific ground, and contributes to the debates and new ideas tackled in the newspaper column. He has published a scientific essay at Odile Jacob: *Le Violon d'Einstein*, *Variations sur le temps*, *les quanta*, *l'infini*.

***Forthcoming***  
February 2020



# The Little Belt

Nathalie Piégay



**16,9 €**

January 2020

Format : 140 x 190 mm

240 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-311-2

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Love, passion, erotism, liberty and betrayal in our "civilized" society.

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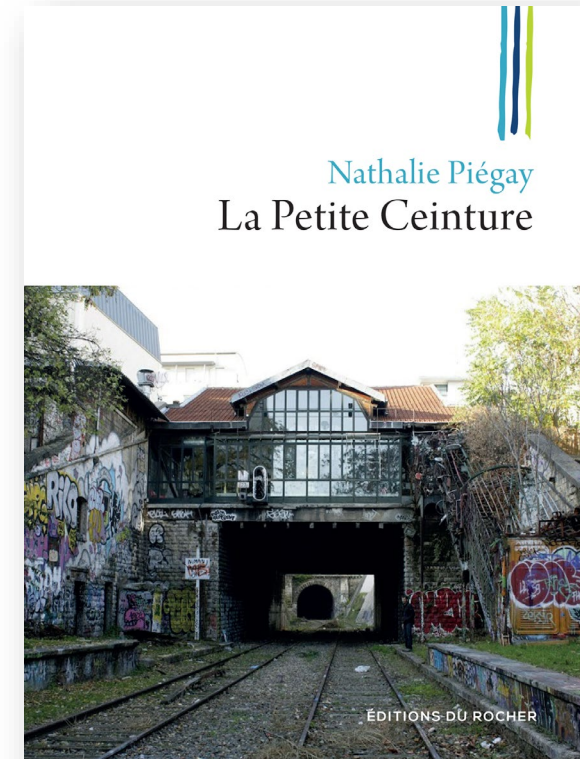
Freshly divorced and very hurt by her recent separation, Adrienne has just moved alone in a house near Fontainebleau. François, cellist, lives in the Havre with his children. After their first encounter, they will meet again. They know that for sure.

As they date near The Little Belt, the closed-down railway that goes around Paris, Adrienne repieces the self-esteem her ex-husband had shattered with his lies, and François discovers a new form of liberty.

But this is not a love story : this novel questions cruelty within the couple, forms of liberty and betrayal, the force of desire and erotism, shy and raw at once. In an urban decor marked by marginality and wilderness, Nathalie Piégay explores the motives of love and passion, a matter of secrecy and erotism.

***Nathalie Piégay** is a doctor on the works of Aragon, and one of the best specialists of Claude Simon and Robert Pinget today. She teaches modern and contemporary French literature at the University of Geneva. Her first novel Une femme invisible is a top 3 finalist of one of the most prestigious French literary prizes, the Prix Renaudot 2018.*

***Forthcoming***  
January 2020



# Monks and Knights

Eugène Green

**16,9 €**

January 2020

Format : 140 x 190 mm

240 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-311-2

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When an entire generation loses its bearings – what is to become of them ?

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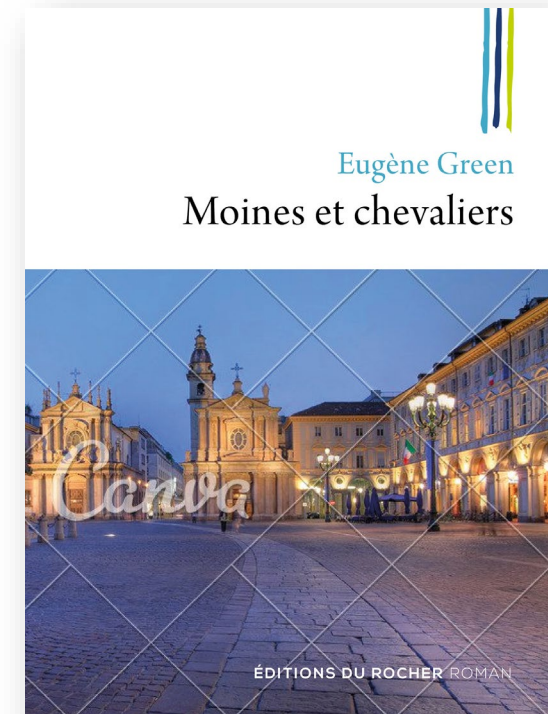
In the city of Turin, young people from different backgrounds find themselves connected to each other by a series of apparent coincidences, following the murder of a three-year-old girl and the kidnapping of a bank clerk.

Virgilio, an arts student, outstands himself from his peers with his spiritual life. His friend and fellow student Luciano is on a quest of an ideal difficult to grasp. A long family history weighs upon the shoulders of Orlando, an aristocrat. Erminia, a young farmer who becomes a worker, struggles to find her place. And Norberto, tied to the middle class, thinks he can escape his by organizing a kidnapping like that of the Brigade Rosse...

Through these erratic life routes, Eugene Green depicts a civilization that glorifies individual freedom, but denies fate or any *raison d'être*, inherent in every living creature, like monks and knights.

**Eugène Green (Prix de l'Académie Française)** is a U.S-born French film-maker, writer and dramatist. He has directed notable films such as *Le Pont des Arts*; *La Religieuse portugaise*; *La Sapienza* and *Le Fils de Joseph*. He has also published several novels translated worldwide: *L'Enfant de Prague*, *La Reconstruction*, *La Bataille de Roncevaux*, *La Communauté universelle*, and won prestigious literary prizes. At *Desclée de Brouwer*, three notable essays : *La Parole baroque*; *Présences*, *Essai sur la Nature du cinéma*; and *Shakespeare ou la lumière des ombres*.

***Forthcoming***  
January 2020



Cover underway



# The Doctrine of Signatures

Joseph Soletier

18 €

August 2019

Format : 140 x 190 mm

180 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-235-1



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The tragic story of a childhood immersed in the core of esoterism and the most archaic traditions, at the end of the XXth century.

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Aloys and Theodore were born in a singular family, raised in total disconnection with our time. Their mother, Louise, is subject to irrepressible mystical impulses, while their father, a trained biologist and amateur inquisitor, imposes on them the daily reading of pious and scientific books. Their lives are strictly governed by the Doctrine of signatures, first developed by the esoteric philosopher Paracelsus in the XVIth century, according to which one can determine the role and function of an earthly creature in the equilibrium of the world by the interpretation of its physical form. Entomology and biology thus carry a compelling voice in the outdated education of the two boys, that gradually grow completely estranged from the outside world, all the way to their fate.

A novel of troubling grace, reflecting the awe of two children facing the eternal beauty of life, while it explores the tragic, obscure and stifling dimension that can take a religion led astray.

*Joseph Soletier is a professor of Literature in Rennes. The Doctrine of signatures is his first novel and was partly inspired by his own story. He has received a book dedication by Anton Beraber, La grande idée, published at Gallimard in 2018.*



**New**  
Debut novel

# Camille and François

Gérard Pussey

17 €

April 2019

Format : 140 x 190 mm

380 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-155-2



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From post-WWII France to 9/11, follow the destiny of two lovers in this all-encompassing, unforgettable epic explored through the lense of unconditional love.

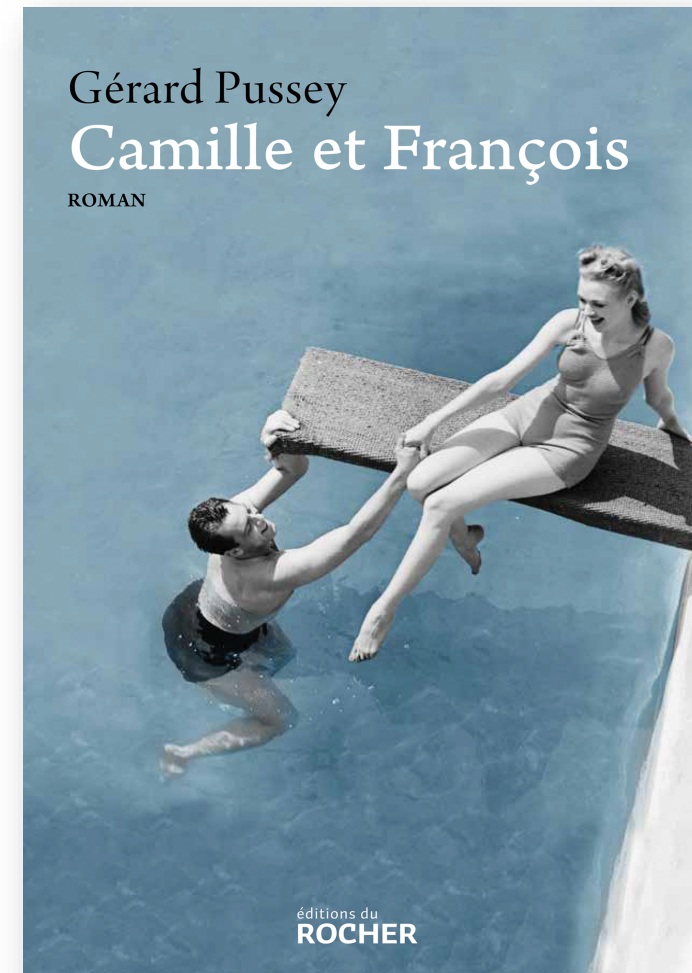
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Camille and François have known each other since childhood. She is the daughter of a widowed manufacturer; he is the grandson of a Resistance hero. When they were children, François was adopted into Camille's family, and taken care of by her loving, ardent, generous father.

The novel unfolds as their relationship grows - first close as brother and sister, they will live formidable adventures. Now they have to face each other into adulthood, sweeping everything and everybody along their way.

With Romanesque force and mastery, Gérard Pussey delivers a powerful portrayal of unconditional love, with all its pertinence and complexity interwoven into a superb, complete and grand novel, comparable to that of Chardonne, Elena Ferrante and Laurent Gaudé.

**Gérard Pussey** (*Prix Roger-Nimier ; Prix Alexandre-Vialatte ; Prix Société des Gens de Lettres ; Shortlisted Prix Renaudot and Prix Interallié*) is a renowned author, journalist and literary critic, previously translated and published at Gallimard, Denoël, Fayard and L'Ecole des Loisirs.



**New**  
Historical Fiction

# To kill Orson Welles

## Jean-Pierre de Lucovich

18 €

April 2019

Format : 140 x 190 mm

320 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-154-5



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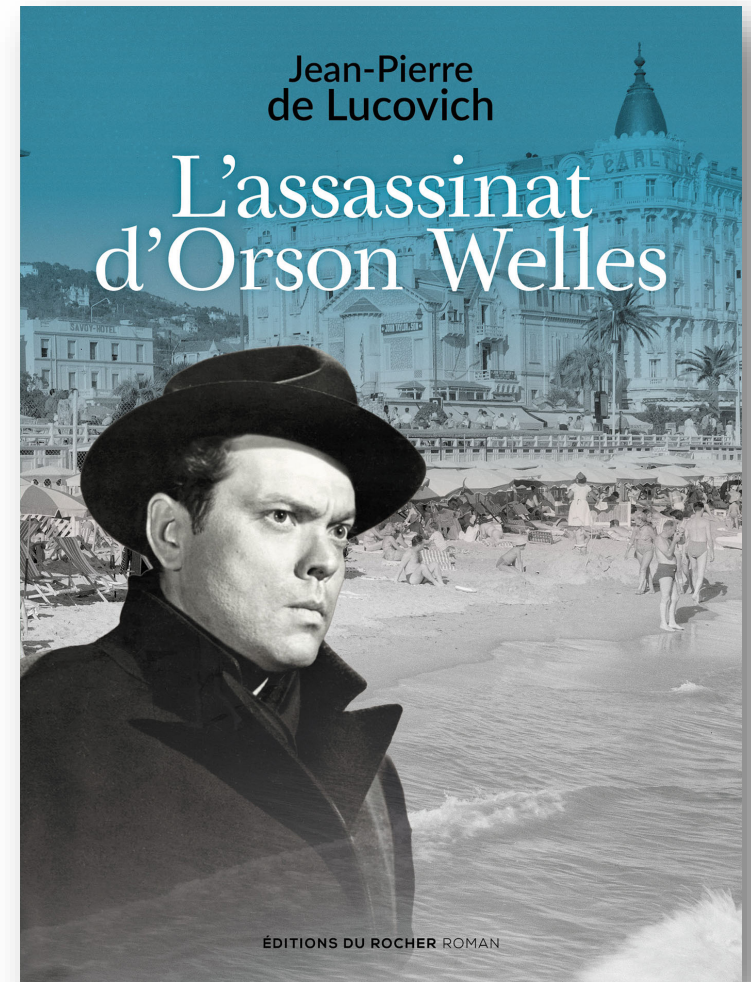
1949, Cannes. The most celebrated Film Festival in the world. A bullet, a cry, panic-stricken glances : who tried to kill grand Orson Welles?

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Carlton Hotel, Cannes, 1949. Room 604, a bullet is shot. Someone has just attempted to murder the acclaimed film director Orson Welles in his own suite. Who could possibly be bearing a grudge against the genius behind *Citizen Kane* and *The Lady from Shanghai*? To ensure his protection, Orson will hire a private detective, Jérôme Dracena, quite accustomed to life in society himself.

Set between the Promenade de la Croisette, the "très chic" districts of Paris and the ceremony opening of the Cannes Festival of 1949, with sweet, novice, ambitious starlettes and cigar-chomping producers, private detective Dracena (and Lucovitch!) will bring the reader behind the closed doors of the most remarkable and well-known film Festival in the World. In Lucovitch's universe, fiction is larger than life, larger than reality, and all the more as Orson Welles is the King of illusionists...

**Jean-Pierre de Lucovich (Prix Arsène Lupin)** has infiltrated the smart set as a reporter for *Paris Match*, *Vogue*, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, *Lui*, *Photo*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *L'Express*, *Playboy* etc. His broad experience as a journalist has enabled him to write passionate, emblematic books, such as *Occupe-toi d'Arletty!*, *People Bazaar* and *Satan habite au 21*. He is fluent in English.



**New**  
Detective Fiction



# Cracks of Time

Eugène Green



19 €

March 2019

Format : 140 x 190 mm

312 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26180-148-4

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**AWARDED PRIX DU PREMIER RECUEIL 2019 BY LA SOCIÉTÉ DES GENS DE LETTRES**

Five supernatural, mystery tales written by the timeless, offbeat U.S.-born French film-maker, dramatist and writer Eugène Green.

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Who hasn't felt, in a flash of an instant, the reality of a dream or of a sensation, coming from some sort of obscure memory ? When they occur in Literature, one tends to describe them as "supernatural", highlighting the fact that they aren't fully considered as real. But what if they were short flashes of an alternative reality ? One flick of the eye, one shudder is enough to raise this awkward feeling that vanishes just as suddenly. And if one takes the time to think, they can only be intellectually approached by language.

In each one of these five mini-fictions - whether they tackle the mysterious Latvian past of a young student, or the vivid, surreal memory of a Basque teenager, or again the form of a lycanthrope a hero from the Resistance is taking -, it is the projection of this "other" reality that suddenly emerges and insinuates itself in the world. Name them reincarnations or resurrections, they are most of all little miracles, and one shall be tested at the price of one's own liberty.

**Eugène Green (Prix de L'Académie Française)** is a U.S-born French film-maker, writer and dramatist. He has directed notable films such as *Le Pont des Arts*; *La Religieuse portugaise*; *La Sapienza* and *Le Fils de Joseph*. He has also published several novels translated worldwide: *L'Enfant de Prague*, *La Reconstruction*, *La Bataille de Roncevaux*, *La Communauté universelle*, and won prestigious literary prizes. At *Desclée de Brouwer*, three notable essays : *La Parole baroque*; *Présences*, *Essai sur la Nature du cinéma*; and *Shakespeare ou la lumière des ombres*. This is his first collection of short stories.



**New**  
Short stories

# Entrechats

## Laurence Brisset



18 €

January 2019

Format : 140 x 190 mm

192 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-116-3

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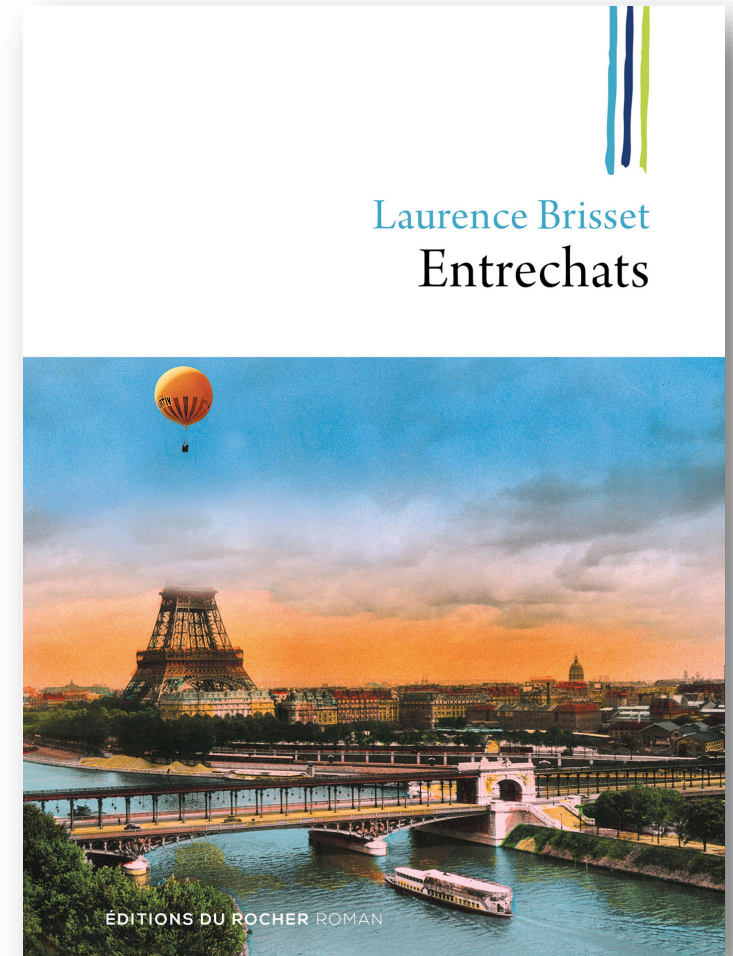
The embodiment of Woody Allen in French literature, a mock-heroic, lively, fanciful, whimsical, and enchanting novel.

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Anne, a top-model, is grieving the death of her cat while having an affair with her therapist. Jean-Olivier, an intellectual man, is unhappy in marriage, while teenagers date and separate. Beyond the intrigue tackled with great lightness, the novel holds stage to characters imprisoned by their own fantasies, while they face reality and its insignificance. And yet, it is a tremendously funny, bubbly, eloquent and playful novel, written with great finesse, humor and intelligence. The rhythm is punctuated with gems of Jewish humor from New York, and Laurence Brisset's narrative finds striking echoes with those of Jerry Lewis, Saul Bellow or Isaac Bashevis Singer.

One will step out this novel with swinging tones, one's mind filled with existential interrogations, taken head-on but never too heavy, while bearing in mind the importance of humor in life, in its way to express life, and thus to bring form and sense to reality. The most central of the many purposes of this novel.

*Laurence Brisset has published two books and is an editor at Gallimard. She is also a professional singer, sharing her time between concerts and teaching. Passionate about the Middle Ages, she is the founder and director of the De Caelis foundation, and a professor at the prestigious Higher Music Conservatory of Geneva.*



**Backlist**  
Fiction

# The invisible life of Marguerite Toucas-Massillon

## Nathalie Piégay



19,9 €

August 2018

Format : 140 x 190 mm

352 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-062-3

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**TOP 3 FINALIST PRIX RENAUDOT BEST ESSAY 2018**

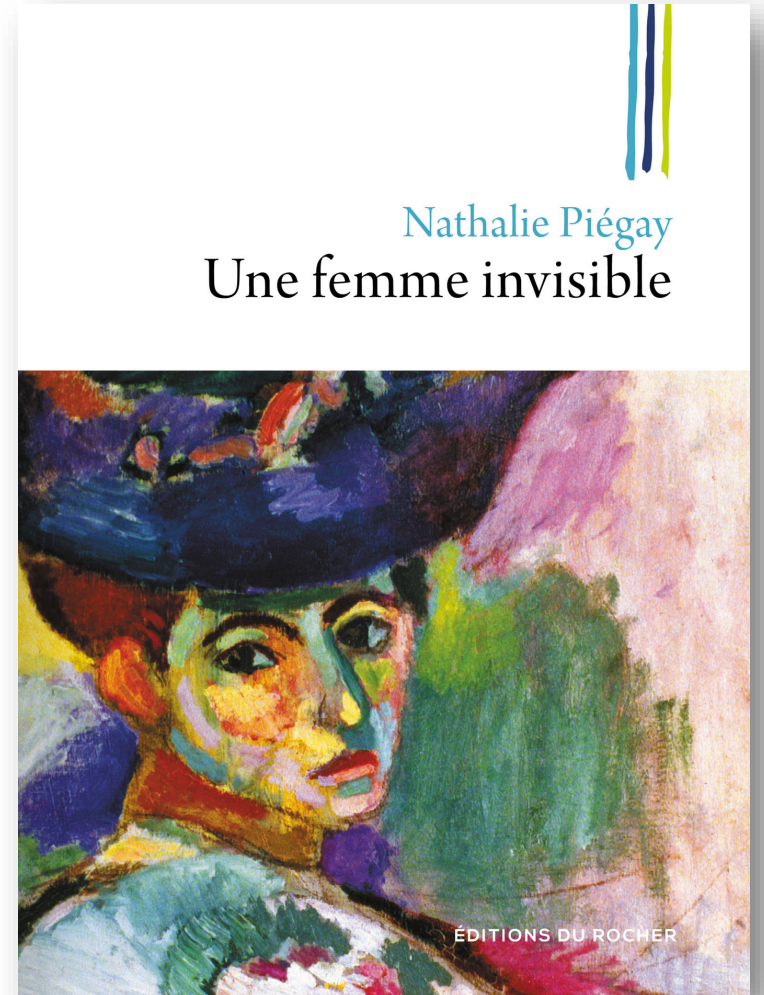
A beautifully written biographical research novel on the secret life of Marguerite Toucas-Massillon, the unacknowledged mother of Louis Aragon.

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It is rarely known that Marguerite Toucas-Massillon was the mother of Louis Aragon. And even less so that the internationally-renowned French poet, author of *Les Yeux d'Elsa* and *Le Paysan de Paris*, was the fruit of her passionate love affair with Louis Andrieux, an influential French politician, thirty years her senior and a man who would never accept to recognize his son. Marguerite, being an unmarried single young mother, had to pretend to be Aragon's sister to protect her son and family from public shame.

By peppering her beautiful, heartfelt narrative with Aragon's poems, and sweeping her way through the people and customs of picturesque rural France of the XXth century, Nathalie Piégay reconstructs the life of this docile, discreet woman from the French bourgeoisie. We discover a whole new way of considering womanhood and maternity, embodied by this loving individual who led a life of total invisibility to preserve the dignity of her most cherished ones.

**Nathalie Piégay** holds a PhD on the works of Aragon and is one of the best specialists of the poet today, and also of Claude Simon and Robert Pinget. She teaches modern and contemporary French literature at the University of Geneva. This is her first novel, and already critically-acclaimed and shortlisted for one of the most prestigious literary French prizes.



**Backlist**  
Fiction



# Angels will judge us

## Emmanuel Moses



15 €

September 2018

Format : 140 x 190 mm

136 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-068-5

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Shakespeare's *The Tempest* revisited. A novel that reflects on the power of literature and the romanesque genre.

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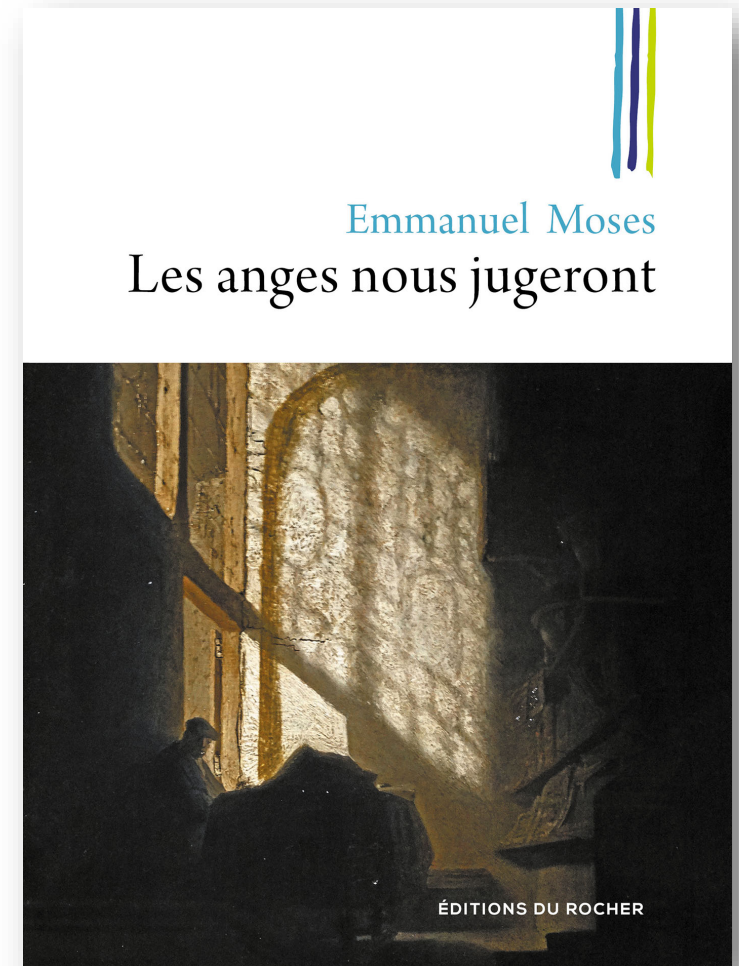
Three people have lost their way in a park in the middle of a dreadful storm. They manage to take shelter in a cabin, where they meet a father with his daughter.

Whilst the rain comes pouring down, they converse about themselves, about their hopes and dreams, and gradually reveal hushed aspects of their own lives and more broadly speaking, of the human soul. In doing so, almost unknowingly, they will unfold the mystery and power of literature. What is the essence and purpose of a novel ? Where can poetry reside ? Emmanuel Moses brings his own interpretation in this delicate, sophisticated novel, where each character plays a specific role whilst answering these questions.

As an authentic variation of *The Tempest*, this short novel stands as a witness of the intricate relationship between fiction and truth.

**Emmanuel Moses (Prix Méditerranée de Poésie 2018)** is a prolific French poet, writer and translator. This is his first novel at les Editions du Rocher, and has received notable press appraisals:

"From mousetraps to playing with shadows, Emmanuel Moses excels in lifting the veils one by one with bittersweet lucidity". **La Cause Littéraire**



**Backlist**  
Fiction

# Massacre

Anne Hansen



17 €

September 2018

Format : 140 x190 mm

216 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26810-066-1

A stunning account of violence at work portrayed in a context of terrorism, an eye-opening, uncompromising social criticism and a dark fable of the business world.

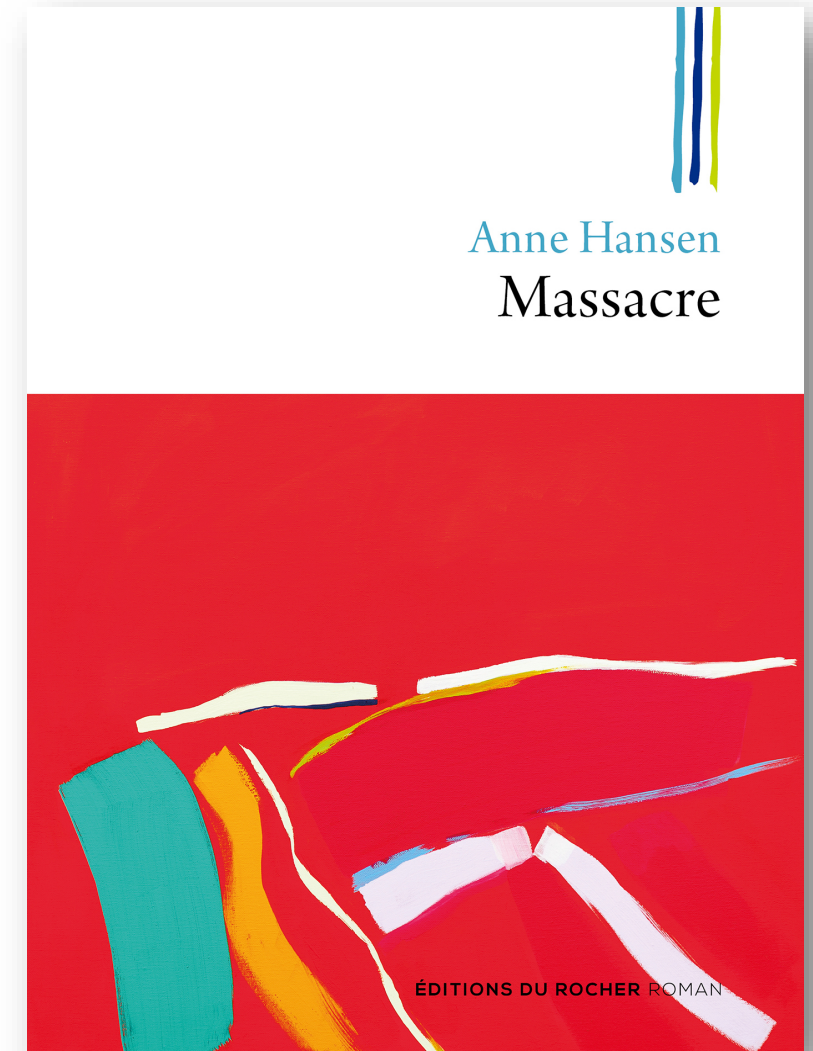
Charles Blanchot is hard-working and ambitious senior executive, who has well integrated his firm's motto « to think corporate ». Sensing he is gradually gaining power and building a good reputation amongst his peers, he decides to orchestrate a restructuring project. But he is far from suspecting its tragic consequences: Charles Blanchot is replaced, turned upon and finally brushed under the carpet. Even his own wife will end up rejecting him. His professional life will impact all aspects of his existence and in most unexpected ways.

*Massacre* explores the uncanny similarities between terrorism and violence at work today. Both lead to the same end, to eliminate, annihilate.

**Anne Hansen** is a writer and editor in advertising and communication. *Massacre* is her first novel, and has received notable press appraisals:

*"Anne Hansen ferociously takes on the world of management, with its idiosyncrasies and mannerisms of speech, its clannish organization. This is a lucid, anxiety-inducing, tragic and poignant first novel, the story of a downfall, but which in fact resembles that of a million."* **L'Opinion**

*"Cruelty, jealousy, u-turns, treason : Hansen describes this muted, merciless world with mind-blowing accuracy. The slow processes of mind-control and alienation have never been so minutiously dissected."* **Valeurs Actuelles**



**Backlist**  
Fiction

# The partition inside

## Réginald Gaillard



9 782268 092072

18,5 €

October 2017

Format : 140 x 190 mm

264 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26809-207-2

### GRAND PRIX CATHOLIQUE DE LITTÉRATURE 2018

A profound, literary and sober first novel on the tumultuous spiritual quest of a priest.

An elderly priest looks back on his younger days when 40 years previously he left Paris to take up a new pastoral post in the small provincial village of Courlaoux. Initially viewing his new mission as a punishment by the Church by being exiled into a rural, taciturn and rough-mannered community, he nevertheless grows attached to his new life. Two people in particular strike a chord with him : Charlotte, the sanctimonious simpleton whose sole activity is to clean the gravestones, and Jan the musician, in constant search for musical perfection. Both will die very tragically, but each will leave in their wake the indelible traces of God...

The quest for spirituality runs throughout the novel. As a profound and sober reading, this is a sublime literary and poetical achievement illuminating the spiritual force in simple lives, especially in today's renewed interest in spirituality and interiority.

*Réginald Gaillard is the founder of the magazine NUNC. He has published three collections of critically acclaimed poems, including: The Expectation of the Tower and The Invisible Scale, published by Ad Solem. This is his first novel.*

**Foreign rights licensed: Ediciones Encuentro** (Spanish rights World – 2018)



**Backlist**  
Fiction



# A thousand and one days in Tashkent

Lyane Guillaume

20,9 €

February 2017

Format : 140 x 190 mm

416 pages

ISBN :978-2-26807-913-4



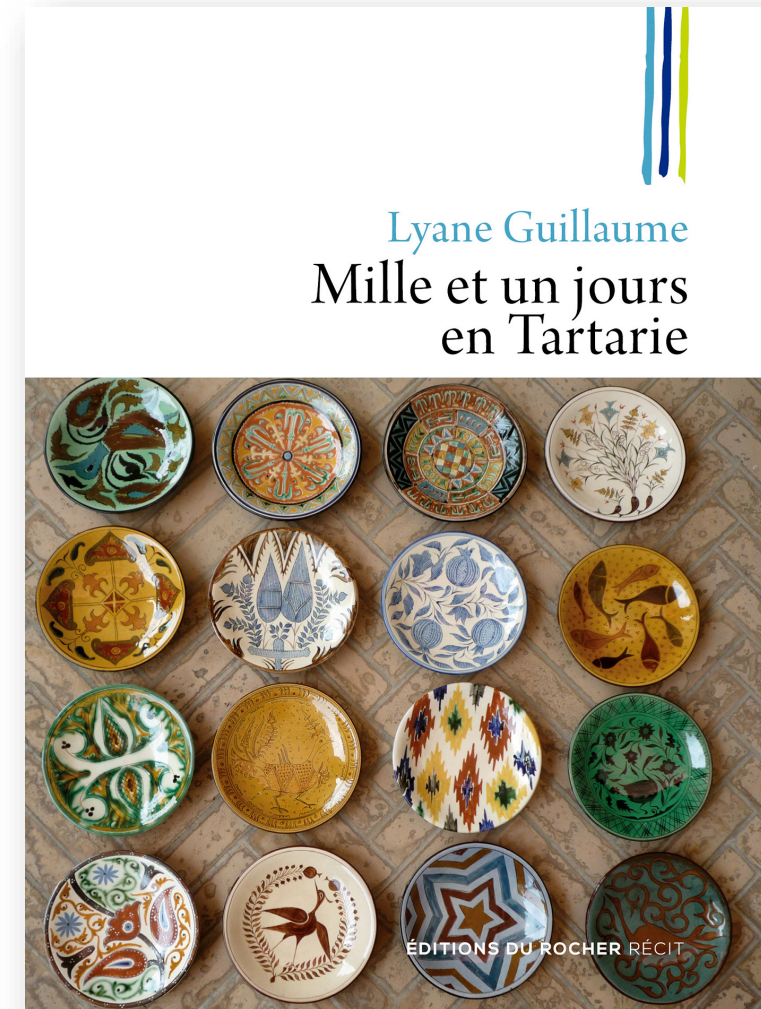
## SELECTED FOR THE SIMONE VEIL 2017

Uzbekistan, nowadays. Seven friends gather around a festive meal to celebrate International Woman's Day, and recount their personal life stories, making this novel a book of History in itself.

Lively, talkative, and smart, these women recount their life stories to Lyane, the narrator and only foreigner of the group. Memories and surprises abound. Stories and jokes fuse, a quarrel starts...

History is relived through the tales and legends of a fascinating, ferocious past, like the Arabian « Thousand and One nights ». Lyane Guillaume takes us into the dance and colorful fresco of these Uzbek women from past and present, more or less known to the public eye, in powerful positions or from humble backgrounds, who have each marked or continue to make their mark on Uzbekistan.

**Lyane Guillaume (Prix Jacky Bouquin ; Prix Balzac ; Selected Prix Renaudot ; Selected Page des Libraires)** is our bubbly polyglot globetrotter novelist and theatre lover, who coins the genre 'documentary fiction' to better describe her novels – investigative, informative, entertaining - which have been translated into English, Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian. She also writes essays, plays and animates radio talk shows. She is currently working on a new title at Editions du Rocher : a biographical novel on ballet dancer Tamara Karsavina, to be published in 2020.



**Backlist**  
Documentary Fiction

# From Kiev, with love

## Lyane Guillaume



19,9 €

May 2014

Format : 150 x 235 mm

253 pages

ISBN : 978-2-26807-613-3

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Ukraine, torn between its rural roots, its Soviet heritage and its thirst for more liberty and democracy. Delivered with tenderness and humour, this is a novel for a sacrificed generation marked by the fall of communism and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

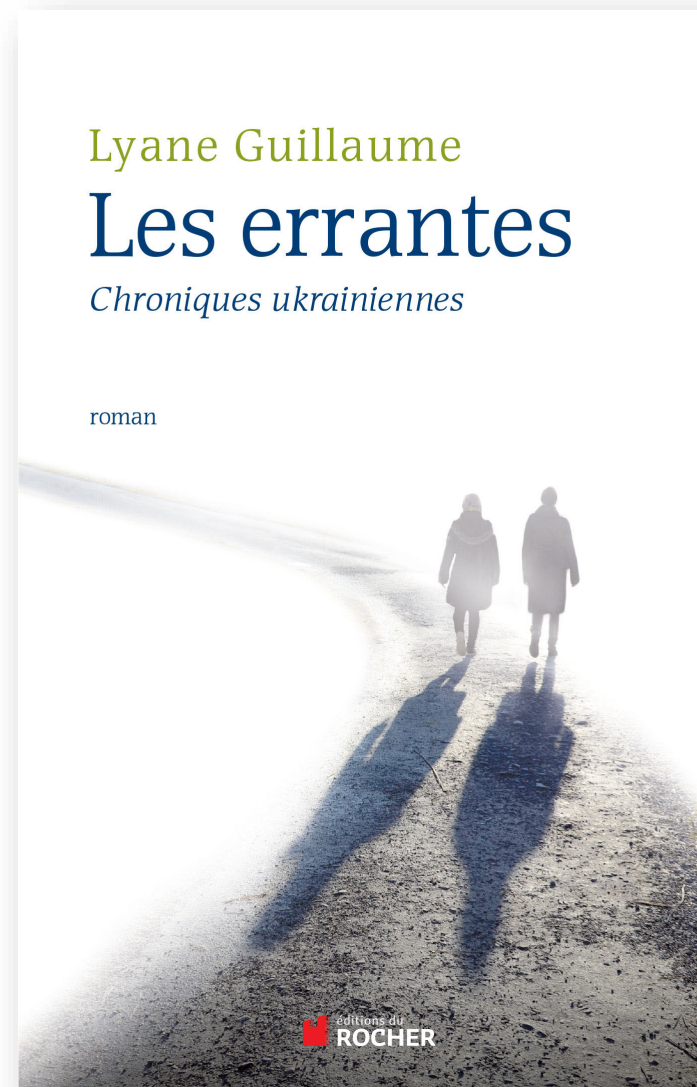
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Winter 2004 : As the Orange revolution starts in Kiev, Marina and her 18-year-old daughter Oxana, make a last journey through their native city before flying out for good to Paris. While the taxi is driving them to the airport, the reader discovers half a century of the history of Ukraine through Marina's memories and thoughts.

Delivered with tenderness and humor, this portrait of an optimistic and brave woman represents also the living history of a sacrificed generation, marked by the fall of communism and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. In addition to the question of nuclear power, a major issue since Fukushima, current upheavals in Ukraine, and recently the HBO series on the Chernobyl disaster, lend *From Kiev, with Love* special interest and particular poignancy, as a contemporary immersion in the recent past of Ukraine, and in this way helping us to better apprehend our world today, and what is at stake.

**Lyane Guillaume (Prix Jacky Bouquin ; Prix Balzac ; Selected Prix Renaudot ; Selected Page des Libraires)** is our bubbly polyglot globetrotter novelist and theatre lover, who coins the genre 'documentary fiction' to better describe her novels – investigative, informative, entertaining - which have been translated into English, Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian. She also writes essays, plays and animates radio talk shows. She is currently working on a new title at Editions du Rocher : a biographical novel on ballet dancer Tamara Karsavina, to be published in 2020.

**Foreign rights licensed: Pulsary Publishers** (Ukrainian rights World – 2018)



**Backlist**  
Documentary Fiction

# Editions du Rocher's Classics

## Current Foreign Licences

- **Michel Houellebecq, *Lovecraft, Contre le monde, contre la vie***

**Anagrama** (Castilian – 2019) ; **Nova Fronteira** (Brazilian Portuguese – 2019) ; **Ithaki Publishing** (Turkish - 2019); **Wydawnictwo Literackie** (Polish - 2019); **Cartea Romaneasca** (Romanian - 2019) **Cernunos (Dargaud)** (English in US and Canada - 2019); **Shanghai Translation Publishing House** (Chinese simplified - 2018); **SA Kultuurileht/Loomingu Raamatukogu** (Estonian - 2016); **KOKUSHOKANKOKAI** (Japanese - 2016); **Dumont Buchverlag** (German - 2016); **Rizzoli** (Italian - 2015); **Hestia Publishers** (Greek - 2006).

- **Jean Cocteau, *La Belle et la Bête, Journal d'un film***

**Film Desk Books** (English rights in the World - 2019); **East China Normal University Press** (Chinese simplified - 2016)

- **Jean Cocteau, *La Difficulté d'Être***

**Chaek-Se-Sang Pub. Co** (Korean rights - 2018) ; **El Gall** (Catalan - 2017) ; **East China Normal University Press** (Chinese simplified - 2016) ; **Grupo Autentica** (Brazilian portuguese - 2013) ; **Melville House Books** (World English Rights - 2012)

*Please note that other titles by Jean Cocteau are available for foreign rights.*

- **Alexandra David-Néel, *La Lampe de sagesse***

**Polirom** (Roumania – 2019)

- **Alexandra David-Néel, *Immortalité et réincarnation***

**Polirom** (Roumania – 2019) ; **La llave** (Spain – 2000); **Inner Traditions/Bear & Co.** (World English Rights - 1996)