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Our actions contribute to developing communication and exchange between French and foreign publishers on translation projects, and between French publishers and foreign film producers for film adaptations.
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To draw attention to their books, publishers can only gain from placing them within the scope of film industry professionals, who, in turn, can only gain from drawing on resources that have already been developed and finalized.
That’s what we seek to offer in this catalogue of titles selected by publishers for their qualities of adaptability, and the availability of rights in at least one of the following languages: Chinese, Korean, and Japanese – or in English.
For each story, we present the strong story lines, a summary of key information and the person to contact to find out more.

Happy reading!

For any information please contact:
Claire Mauguière
e.mauguiere@bief.org
+33 1 44 41 13 02
Tell them of Battles, Kings and Elephants
Mathias Énard

May 13, 1506, a certain Michelangelo Buonarroti arrives in Constantinople. In Rome, he has left the tomb of Pope Julius II, unfinished. He is responding to the invitation of the Sultan who wants to give him a commission: to design a bridge on the Golden Horn, a project that was withdrawn from Leonardo da Vinci. Urgency, lots of meetings, the seduction and dangers of a foreign land.

Michelangelo Buonarroti, slave artist of princes and servant of the sublime, accepts the Turkish Grand Sultan’s invitation to reflect on plans for a bridge to span the Golden Horn, which would link the two sides of Constantinople, the harmoniously cosmopolitan Ottoman city. When he arrives amid the rich merchandise in the port of this highly coloured town, which is not yet called Istanbul, he is still feeling fragile after the crossing and has no illusions about what awaits him. A victim of sea-sickness, Michelangelo plays it by ear, allowing himself to be guided in his constant state of absence from the world, which, for him, only comes to life through his art. Only through his drawing does he understand his environment. Moreover, he draws compulsively, as soon as things slow down, as soon as he finds himself alone, as soon as he feels threatened by the world around him. Everything seems to escape him and the exoticism of this Orient – so strangely European – so different yet so similar – is only a vague excuse for the distance he maintains with himself and with others. Even physical desire, which reaches fever pitch when he meets the intoxicatingly beautiful Andalusian – a mysterious character who casts his songs and dances like so many spells – fails to pervade him entirely. A heavy figure, devoted to immaterial things, a monster of finesse, the artist nevertheless has to deal with very tangible money problems, so he applies himself impassively to the design of a bridge (what could be more material?) and must soon face the threats that become more and more precise. Because, parting from Rome, he was almost taking flight, leaving the tomb for Pope Julius II unfinished to accept an invitation from one of the pope’s old enemies. A narration that plays on the subtle overlapping of history and fiction, documentary precision and poetic flamboyance.

SETTING
Rome and Constantinople in 1506

MAIN CHARACTER(S)
Michelangelo / Male, forties

FOREIGN VERSION(S)
Available
Turkey, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Serbia, Croatia, Germany, Netherlands, Albania, Bulgaria, Korea, Japan (Kawata Shobo Shinsha), China (Shanghai Translation, to be published)

Blog
Jean-Philippe Blondel

When the narrator discovers that his father has been spying on his blog, he feels betrayed, as though he has been “virtually abused”. Outraged, he decides stop talking to him. To make amends, the father gives his son a dusty old box full of photos, letters and diaries from his own teenage years. The adolescent is suddenly immersed in a different age – the 1980s, the age of free radio and a Socialist government in France. The diaries suddenly transform the narrator’s father into a fictional character for him, experiencing his first loves and learning to be an adult. The diary comes to an abrupt end in July 1982. “Why?” The young man is intrigued by one person he has read about, someone who is only a secondary character in the diary, a background figure, a first name. It turns out that behind this name lurks a tragic secret: the character is his own uncle, his father’s brother, who died in a car accident. A generous novel about intimate thoughts, secrecy and filiation, where revelation leads to reconciliation.
And Then Came Paulette...
Barbara Constantine

A breath of fresh hope and confidence for a little group of seniors

It all begins with a violent storm that blows Marceline’s roof off as she sits huddled up alone in her home. Ferdinand, the neighbour who’s usually so grumpy and hadn’t spoken a word to her up till then, decides to offer her shelter at his place. Since his grandchildren went to live several miles away, he’s been living along on a big empty farm. Then Guy, his best friend who is now a widower, turns up. The Lumière sisters, who are terrorized by a nephew who’s hoping to get his hands on their house, soon join the group. Five people are now at the farm, aged between 67 and 95. They get themselves organized. Preoccupied by the health problems of their oldest member, they hire a student nurse, Muriel, offering her food and lodgings in exchange for a few hours care each week. Kim, just graduated from agricultural college, does a few hours gardening in the kitchen garden.

Life as a group is full of extravagant inventions and surprises. Muriel, who suffers from morning sickness as her waistline increases, soon brings a little baby girl into the home… a daughter she doesn’t want to keep. But the five companions don’t see it that way. Baby Paulette is sure to be mollycoddled!

George’s Grand Tour
Caroline Vermalle

An ode to life and a reflection on intergenerational relationships in a moving, convincing story that blends sparkling dialogues and emotions not easily expressed.

In London, during the shooting of a TV film, Adele, the young French trainee, receives a totally unexpected and unreal text message: her grandfather, who died a few days before, wishes her a Happy Birthday. Adele recalls the events of the last few months. Her 83-year-old Pappy, Georges, insolent and often grumpy, feet planted in his kitchen garden and rooted in the good old soil of Poitou, suddenly decided to go off on a road trip of France, the idealized France of his dreams, with 76-year-old Charles, neighbour and friend. After discovering the project, his granddaughter was worried about Georges’ health and made him promise to send news every day by text message. There began a weird correspondence, warm and affectionate, between the grandfather and his granddaughter who hadn’t seen each other for ten years. Between the countryside on this trip round France; the touching friendship between the two old friends and the artificial world of the film set, the author highlights the doubts and questions of a modern, independent young woman. A moving and convincing story with charismatic characters and sharp, sparkling dialogues.

Setting
Today in the French countryside

Main Character(s)
Ferdinand / Male, over 70
Marceline / Female, over 70
Muriel / Female, twenties

Foreign Version(s) available
World English, World Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Portuguese (Brazil), Hebrew, Turkish, Simplified Chinese (Shanghai 99), Complex Chinese (Yuan-Liou Publishing), Korean Munhakdongne, Japanese (Poplar Sha), Catalan, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Russian, Greek, Polish

Find out more
Prix des Libraires - Le Livre de Poche 2013
More than 450,000 copies sold in France!
Baptist, a 27-year-old intern, becomes fond of a female patient who is terminally ill. Her only son can’t make it to her bedside because of the volcanic ash from Iceland. Baptist decides to cheat death and gain time. Like a Scheherazade, he tells her stories, funny and tragic, about life at the hospital.

Setting
Today, in a French town

Main character(s)
The narrator / Male, thirties
Christine / Female, thirties
François Marie / Male, thirties

Foreign version(s)
Available
Italian and Korean (Yolimwon Publishing Group)

Find out more
More than 40,000 copies sold. Paperback soon to be published. Graphic novel and theatre adaptations on-going. The adventure of this book began in 2012. Baptist, a young intern, decided to create a blog to reconcile carers and patients. It was an immediate success. The blog now has 3 million readers.

Death to the Jerks!
Carl Aderhold
Who has never longed to kill his neighbour, when woken up on a Sunday morning by the sound of a drill? Or to get out and thump the driver who sticks to your rear like glue? One day, the hero of this novel discovers his vocation: to rid the world of jerks.

Setting
Today, in a French town

Main character(s)
The narrator / Male, thirties
Christine / Female, thirties
François Marie / Male, thirties

Foreign version(s)
Available
Italian and Korean (Yolimwon Publishing Group)

Find out more
Thirty and stony broke, the narrator has a vision one evening as he sprawls in front of a particularly mind-numbing TV show. Indignant at the sorry spectacle, he works himself into a rage and throws a neighbour’s cat out of the window. Fury spreads through the district... Who could have killed this innocent animal? A huge wave of solidarity grips the residents of the building, where, until then, lack of communication and solitude were the norm. Content and surprised to observe that this killing has re-created the social bond between people, our hero decides to keep up the good work by getting rid of all those who get on his nerves. The crusader against stupidity starts his career in crime, first following amateurish methods and plans, soon on the basis of the authentic strategy and a political manifesto. His ‘jerk hunt’ targets many groups: unbearable builders, bad-mouthing guardians, irascible road hogs, old people on organised tours, spoiled kids, noisy neighbours, the homeless who beg, arrogant personnel managers, inadequate parents, crooked politicians, drunken hooligans, tax inspectors, his wife Christine (!), her shrink, etc. Altogether, he bumps off more than 140 people for the cause: the fight for the future of humanity. Consumed by his exterminating enterprise, the narrator seems to lose all notion of limits and despises the weakness of his fellow men who haven’t got the guts to act. In the war against jerks, you don’t take prisoners! Finally, as he kills his 140th victim, the narrator himself puts himself in the damned category. Unmasked by his own friend, police superintendent François Marie, he panics and kills him. In committing this crime, the narrator becomes a member of the community of jerks.
Why don’t you love me?
Claire Castillon

The story of a little boy who is terrified, and soon becomes terrifying. A tale of everyday cruelty

The narrator is ten years old. Not very bright, plump and pensive, the kids in his class call him ‘the autist’. He begs for love and each day and measures the misery of his parents’ life as he waits for the redeeming clash. But he does have ambition: he wants to be the master of the world, or a murderer. So when he discovers that his father not only has a mistress but a hidden child, he suffocates his half-brother and manages to pin the blame on his father, who finds himself in prison serving a life sentence, or as good as. Grown into a ruthless teenager, ‘the little chump’ – as his father called him – buys bright red lipstick for his mother and puts her on the streets; she does the ironing between tricks. The years go by... The child-victim has outshone his parents in the art of destroying the lives of others, he has become the persecutor. Since Laurette – a school friend he’s madly in love with – rejects him and has never accepted his advances, he rapes her and marries Patricia, a rich girl he despises, cheats on and exploits. He even forgets Leon, their new born child, in the car park of an airport and invents a condition – multiple sclerosis – so that he never has to set foot in the communication firm his in-laws have given him. As for Aunt Paule, a chic old lady, he steals everything she has during a cruise on the Nile, after raping her. Yet when he finally gets locked up, he is rather pleased with his fate...

Chamalo
Charlotte Moundlic, Marion Billet

Chamalo, the adorable hero for 3 to 6-year-olds, to share daily adventures, great and small!

At school, at the doctor’s, going on holiday or celebrating his birthday, Chamalo is always with friends or family: Daddy, Mummy, his grandparents, his cousin Chalala and all his pals, Chamalo has no time to get bored. Chamalo is a little kitten aged 4 with no brothers or sisters. He’s a bit shy and not very confident, but even when he’s not with his family, he’s always gaining assurance thanks to his friends. Daddy and Mummy Cat are a young modern couple; Daddy Cat looks after Chamalo a lot, and he’s often the one who does the cooking. They live in an apartment. Grandpa and Granny Cat, Mummy Cat’s parents, are regular visitors, always present on special occasions, and they often take him on holiday with his cousin Chalala. Chalala is a 5-years-old pretty girl and plays on the fact that she’s older than Chamalo to impress him. Papouille is a smart little frog, autonomous and full of energy. She is Chamalo’s best friend, the sister he never had. She dares to do all the things he’s afraid to do. She’s very jealous of Chalala and often quarrels with her. Mamu, The Cat family neighbour’s son, a 2-year-old tortoise is too young to speak properly and follow the older children, he is often left out of their games. Chamalo treats him like a baby.

19 volumes have already been published.
**Kafka In love**

*Jacqueline Raoul-Duval*

How the life of Kafka, seen through his catastrophic love life with his successive lovers and fiancées will give a new vision of his work, his life. This romantic approach will give a more human and emotional approach to this enigmatic figure of the literature.

Between 1912 and his death in 1924, Franz Kafka was engaged four times but never married. Here, we follow the key relationships of his romantic life, all of which were initially long-distance, through the love letters Franz exchanges with his fiancées Felice, Julie, Milena and Dora. Here, between Prague, Berlin and Vienna, the literary genius becomes a man – flawed, scared, funny and always ironically and cruelly aware of his own limitations. Beyond the tragedy of his life and the depth of his writing, Kafka is a modern lover, seducing women, often too scared to get close to them, comical in spite of himself and always ready to make fun of himself. One of the most influential authors of the last century becomes the uniquely charming lead of a surprising romantic dramedy.

**Setting**
The whole story takes place between 1912 and 1924 in Prague, Berlin and Vienna.

**Main Character(s)**
Kafka / Male, forties
Felice Bauer / Female, twenties
Dora Diamant / Female, twenties

**Foreign Version(s)**
Available
Published by Beletrina in Slovenia, by Pascal in Poland, by Can in Turkey, by Sea Sky Publishing House in China, by Arvids in Denmark, by Gremese in Italy, etc.

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**I’ve been dreaming of her**

*Thierry Cohen*

A love story between a man, Jonas, and a woman, Lior, both consumed by loneliness. He was lonely because he was waiting for true love; she because men had always been a disappointment. The story of how love grows between an author and a reader who meet in a book shop, around a novel. If they are to love each other, they will have to abandon their masks and overcome their fears.

Jonas is an author. He’s a reserved, honest man, who refuses to get involved in any ‘here today, gone tomorrow’ love affairs. He’s waiting for Miss Right, who sometimes appears in his dreams. That woman is Lior. Too romantic by far, she’s always been duped by men, and has given up all hope of love. She is a companion to a young terminally ill woman, Serena, and she reads to her. After a tragic event, Jonas writes a novel which is given to a publisher without his knowledge. Published under the pseudonym of Raphaël Scali, it is warmly received by the critics. But Jonas has no confidence in his talent and he abandons writing. To solve his financial problems, he works for Mr. Hillel, an eccentric bookseller. On Serena’s request, Lior goes to the bookshop to buy Jonas’s novel. She falls in love with Raphaël Scali, who speaks so clearly to women about their solitude and hopes. When Jonas sees Lior, it’s love at first sight. She is surely the woman of his dreams! But he refuses to tell her that he is the author of the book she loved. He wants her to love him for what he is, and not for what he once was. To love each other, they have to discard their masks, forget their prejudices and fears. To help them, secondary characters are acting in the background, to guide them on the way to their destiny.

**Setting**

**Main Character(s)**
Jonas / Male, thirties
Lior / Female, thirties

**Foreign Version(s)**
Available
Published by Azbooka for Russia, by Piemme for Italy, and by Balgunsegang for Korea

**Find Out More**
You can contact the author on his official site:
http://www.thierry-cohen.fr/
'Trailer' for the book on the author’s site (in French)
The Interview

Manuele Fior

Raniero, in his fifties, consultant psychologist in a clinic, meets a young patient, Dora. It would appear that they experience the same visions, of a telepathic nature. Troubled by this, Raniero begins to lose his bearings. He starts to fall for Dora, who is a member of the New Convention, a group that recommends free love...

Globalia

Jean-Christophe Rufin

Imagine a unique, civilised people living under immense domes, where security and good health are guaranteed. But what if you don’t want to live like that?

Globalia is the name of a universal democracy. The perfect society, all the citizens have the right to ‘minimum prosperity’ for life: work has been banned; the population is encouraged to live for pleasure, with total freedom of expression and an ideal climate. Amazing scientific progress has given the Globalians eternal youth. But this apparently ideal democracy has some very serious drawbacks: standardisation and advertising propaganda have confined the citizens in behaviour models which they must observe, or become outcasts. All ambition and desire for creativity have been crushed into uniform, comfortable mediocrity. The freedom of expression doesn’t stand up to close examination: the press is controlled by powerful, anonymous figures who use it to manipulate opinion. Vast areas – the ‘non-zones’ – are left outside the prosperity and their population, excluded, has gone back to pre-technological conditions while in Globalia, the physical environment has been made safe and the citizens live under enormous glass domes which they are not allowed to leave. The young Baikal Smith is trying to escape from this ‘brave new world’: he feels suffocated in a so-called democracy whose limits he cannot discern. He and Kate, his girlfriend, attempt to escape, but their plans quickly come to grief. At the last moment, the young woman turns back to Globalia. Baikal is soon captured and taken to Altman, a mysterious old man – one of the powerful figures who pull the strings backstage. Looking for a new Public Enemy N° 1, to sacrifice to the press and Globalians in order to strengthen the cohesion of the group, Altman decides to make use of Baikal by excluding him from the zone, now against his will. The young man has no choice. He is left to fend for himself, abandoned in the heart of the ‘non-zones’. Meanwhile, Kate is worried about what has happened to her lover. She meets Puig, a journalist who was cast out of society for being too curious. Together, they set off to find Baikal and discover clandestine underworlds which, within Globalia, trade with the non-zones. Their quest makes them outlaws too and soon, Kate and Puig are forced to flee. After discovering the non-zone, they find Baikal, who has settled into an archaic but more humane community, where nature has resumed its proper place.
The Erotic Potential of My Wife
David Foenkinos

COMEDY - ROMANCE
NOVEL

Hector is a compulsive collector. He thinks he’s been cured of his secret vice, when he meets the lovely Brigitte - how could he tell she would clean windows so meticulously? Soon he starts a new collection... his wife’s ‘window-washing sessions’!

[The Erotic Potential of My Wife - David Foenkinos]

Verloc Nim wakes up in the middle of nowhere. He is suffering from amnesia. Thanks to a newspaper given to him by a monkey-robot, he plunges into his past... that of a dropout, a man who wanted to break free from the hyper-technology of the world he lived in, until it caught up with him.

[Aâma - Frederik Peeters]

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Hector, a polite, reserved young man, is an obsessive collector, from camembert labels to the first pages of novels. It’s a sickness. After suffering defeat at a grand championship – eliminated by a Swede with a superior collection of electoral campaign badges – Hector takes the decision to put a stop to his collecting, and so his life, the two being intrinsically linked. And that’s how he comes to attempt – unsuccessfully – to end it all. After the suicide attempt, Hector spends six months in hospital. Six long months during which he fantasizes about the nurses in their white coats. When he longs stay in hospital ends, so as not to alarm his family, Hector says he’s been to America. To make his lie more convincing, he goes to the library, his mind made up to consult an atlas of the American continent and find out all he can about the country. That’s where he meets Brigitte, who has the same inspiration: to study an atlas in order to perfect a lie. Her six months in the US were, in reality, spent in total isolation to prepare a thesis on solitude in the urban environment. They find themselves both seeking the same atlas, so they share in a convivial manner: sitting side by side in the library, they soon form a couple. Soon Hector calls Brigitte his wife. They open a travel agency for themselves both seeking the same atlas, so they share in a convivial manner: sitting side by side in the library, they soon form a couple.

Main character(s)
- Hector / Male, thirties
- Brigitte / Female, thirties

Foreign version(s) available
- German, English (Telegram), Arabic, Bulgarian, Korean (Munhaksdongje), Spanish, Finnish, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Romanian, Serbian, Czech, Vietnamese (Nha Nam)

Editions have been published
Flix Roger Simier 2004

Setting
Today, in Paris

Main character(s)
- Verloc Nim / Male, thirties
- Lilja / Female, child (before 10/12 years old)
- Professor Woland / Female, over 70

Available
- German (Reprodukt), English (SelfMadeHero), Spanish (Antiberry), Italian (Bao), Dutch (Sherpa), Portuguese (Nemo), Serbian (Phoenix)

Editions have been published
Flix Roger Simier 2004

Setting
On planets Radiant and Ona(ji), in the future

Main character(s)
- Verloc Nim / Male, thirties
- Lilja / Female, child (before 10/12 years old)
- Professor Woland / Female, over 70

Available
- German, English (SelfMadeHero), Spanish (Antiberry), Italian (Bao), Dutch (Sherpa), Portuguese (Nemo), Serbian (Phoenix)

Editions have been published
Flix Roger Simier 2004

Setting
On planets Radiant and Ona(ji), in the future

Main character(s)
- Verloc Nim / Male, thirties
- Lilja / Female, child (before 10/12 years old)
- Professor Woland / Female, over 70

Available
- German (Reprodukt), English (SelfMadeHero), Spanish (Antiberry), Italian (Bao), Dutch (Sherpa), Portuguese (Nemo), Serbian (Phoenix)

Editions have been published
Flix Roger Simier 2004
Vango
Timothée de Fombelle

From a Sicilian island to the rooftops of Paris, Vango is on the run, hunted by mysterious powers. But he is also searching for himself. Who is he? Who wants to kill him? In this breath-taking novel, constructed like a puzzle, he sees the epic of the Zeppelins, falls in love with the beautiful Ethel against the growing rumble of war ...

Vango is surrounded by mystery. At the age of three, he was found with his nanny, Mademoiselle, on an island off the Sicilian coast. He was raised like a feral child, far from society. That’s where he learned to climb cliff faces like an acrobat. At ten, in a nearby island, he discovered a secret, invisible convent where he took refuge when he realized he was being hunted, that Russians – for some reason unknown to him – wanted him dead. In Paris, at the age of nineteen, he was to become a priest until the police accused him of a crime he did not commit. That’s when the desperate chase begins for Vango. As the rumble of war grows louder, he travels on the last big airship and finds love with the beautiful Ethel, though he stays away from her from fear of putting her in danger. Frantic, on the run, Vango meets some unforgettable characters: Eckener, commandant of the Graf Zeppelin; Superintendent Boulard, who follows him, and Father Zephiro, an astonishing monk who pursues arms dealers. During his fabulous adventure, Vango discovers fragility, cruelty, the beauty of life and ultimately, the truth.

Setting
In the 1930s, in Europe and the United States

Main Character(s)
Vango / Male, twenties
Ethel / Female, twenties

Foreign Version(s) Available
English (UK - Walker Books, USA - Candlewick), Chinese (Eastern Publishing), Vietnamese (Nha Nam), and more than 15 other languages

Find out more
One of the best children’s fiction titles (The Guardian, Christmas 2013), one of the best 10 children’s books (The Independent, 2013), English Pen Award 2013, etc.

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Plague and Cholera
Patrick Deville

A wonderful epic about the destiny of an exceptional man named Alexandre Yersin, a former student of Louis Pasteur fallen into oblivion, a Swiss-French explorer in a white coat who goes to the other side of the world to discover the dreadful bacillus for the plague in the late nineteenth century.

Among the young researchers who composed the first team of the Pasteur Institute, created in Paris in 1887, the Swiss-born researcher Alexandre Yersin was the one who led the most adventurous existence. He left for Asia early on, became a sailor; then an explorer. In 1894, he discovered in Hong Kong the plague bacillus; then he settled in Indochina permanently in Nha Trang, far from the hubbub of wars, and multiplied his scientific observations, developing the cultivation of rubber trees and cinchonas. He died in 1943 during the Japanese occupation. To recount this great human and scientific adventure, Patrick Deville followed in the footsteps of Yersin around the world, nourished by correspondence and documents left in the archives of various Pasteur Institutes.

Setting
France, Switzerland, Indochina, Hong Kong

Main Character(s)
Alexandre Yersin / Male, thirties
Emile Roux / Male, thirties
Fanny Yersin / Female, sixties

Foreign Version(s) Available
Translation rights sold in English (Little Brown), Spanish (Castilian), German, Italian, Chinese complex characters (Acropolis), Korean (Kungtree), Japanese (Mizuno Sho); Vietnamese (Nha Xuat Ban Tre), Polish, Slovene, Croatian, Serbian, Arabic

Find out more
300,000 copies sold since August 2012, Femina Prize 2012, Prix des Prix 2012, Fnac Prize 2012

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**Alabama song**

Gilles Leroy gives a voice to Zelda Fitzgerald: the woman whose work and life were stolen by her husband, ‘America’s greatest writer’

Gilles Leroy

Montgomery, Alabama, 1918. Zelda is a young woman from a good family, a ‘southern belle’. The day she meets Lieutenant Scott Fitzgerald, ‘twenty-one, and already so much talent,’ is a revelation. The attraction is instant and mutual: the rebellious young woman has found her alter ego and a way of escaping her ultra-conservative environment. Scott, the Yankee lieutenant, has sworn to become a famous writer. The success of his first book projects the Fitzgeralds in the spotlights. But beneath the glamorous surface – in the couple’s private life – reality is very different. Alcohol, drugs and fits of jealousy destroy the idyll. The couple they display to the world are fictional characters. Starting out from this fact, inspired by the historical Zelda Fitzgerald – his narrator heroine – Gilles Leroy recreates a life in novel form, portraying characters that are larger than life versions of the originals but who gradually break free. Far removed in space and time, they nevertheless possess rare acuity in the here and now. A brilliant blend of biographical detail and imagination, this is Gilles Leroy’s ‘great American novel’.

**setting**
United States and Paris, 1920s-1940s.

**main character(s)**
Zelda Fitzgerald / Female, twenties
Scott Fitzgerald / Male, twenties
Lewis O’Connor / Male, twenties

**foreign version(s) available**
Vietnam, Japan (Chuokoron, 2009), China (Chasse Litte, 2009), Korea (Munhakdongne, 2013), Germany, Italy, Castilian, Catalan, Netherlands, Brazil, Portugal, Russia, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Lituania, Macedonia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Turkey, Bulgaria

**find out more**
Gilles Leroy

**Gongcourt 2007**

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**The Crime of Olga Arbyelina**

Andrei Makine

A Russian immigrant in her forties lives alone with her teenage son who suffers from a hereditary illness. More and more isolated, especially by winter when they are cut off from the outside world, their relationship appears to be unhealthy, to say the least. When the mother thinks a fastidious doctor has discovered their secret, she’ll do anything to keep him quiet

Olga was born into a noble Russian family before the Bolshevik revolution. As a teenager, she is both horrified and pleased to see the world she knows so well demolished. She breaks away from her family environment, frequents a circle of poets, schools for workers and tries her hand at painting. She meets Prince Arbéline. They live in Paris and for ten years, their life is one of pleasure and revelry, more and more intense. Finally they marry. Their child is born with haemophilia. When he is six, Prince Arbéline abandons them both. Olga, now Princess Arbélina, refuses offers of help and leaves Paris. She settles down with her child in a small town in a Russian community who occupy a former factory. Princess Arbélina keeps the library. No longer a socialite, she focuses all her attention on the child. She sees him grow up, become a teenager, wearing his father’s coat. She finds evidence that he has read some books she had hidden, which give details of all the dreadful sequels to haemophilia. Sometimes, she is astonished to realize that she falls asleep very suddenly. She notices a white powder in her evening drink, and that her bedroom door, which used to creak, has been oiled. She is surprised to find herself waiting for a presence, feeling it near her when her eyes are closed. Little by little, her mind accepts the monstrous truth. As the harsh winter prolongs their confinement of several weeks, Olga has to call in a Russian neighbour, occasional doctor, when her son is injured. He operates on the boy and waits in Olga’s house to watch over him. When spring returns, the neighbour imposes his presence on Princess Arbélina. One evening, he takes her in his arms and kisses her against her will. She thinks he might go as far as blackmail to get what he wants. During a picnic, their boat is turned over and the bodies of the sometime doctor and Princess Arbélina are found sprawled on the bank, her breasts visible beneath the clinging wet cloth of her dress.

Andrei Makine was born in Russia in 1957. He has written several novels including Le testament français, winner in 1995 of the Goncourt, the Médicis and the Goncourt des Lyceens prizes
Without Her
Alma Brami

Lea is ten. She has lost her little sister and her father. Alone, she is fighting against grief, her own and her mother’s. With the support of her friend Kevin, she manages to find peace. A beautiful book, with great depth and humour, about how a child handles mourning.

Lea is ten. Her father died of a heart attack. Shortly afterwards, her little sister Solene was hit by a car. Lea remembers the good times: the bursts of laughter, pancakes, swings, games for two, the insolence of her beloved little sister. Lea shares everything, her secrets and her pain, with Kevin. Before, it was Kevin who came to Lea’s to drink in the happiness of her family. Now Lea finds a little warmth with Kevin’s mother. Because her own mother is so unhappy that she lies in bed all day, she doesn’t have to will to do anything. Lea refuses to leave her mother to go and live with grandma. Then she tried making a deal with God, to swap grandma for Solene. Grandma stopped coming to see them. Depression and darkness have invested Lea’s house.

Her mother still shows no sign of wanting to live. Until one day, she doesn’t hear Lea moving around the house. That gets her out of bed, and she starts building a new world, new warmth around Lea. Just for the two of them.

Setting
Today, in a town.

Main characters
Lea / Female, child (before 10/12 years old)
Mummy / Female, Forties
Kevin / Male, child (before 10/12 years old)

Foreign version(s) available

Find out more
Bernard Palissy prize, Fondation Prince Pierre de Monaco: ‘Coup de coeur des lycéens’.
Shortlisted by the First Novel Festival in Chambéry

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Talking to Ghosts
Hervé Le Corre

A cop obsessed by the kidnapping of his son, and a teenager whose mother was brutally murdered. Their paths cross during an investigation with multiple developments. Both find themselves harassed and hunted by an enigmatic and terrifying killer.

Pierre Vilar is a police commandant in Bordeaux. His life and his marriage were blown to smithereens when his son Pablo was kidnapped after school. Against all probabilities, he maintains the wild hope of seeing him alive again one day, encouraged by a retired policeman who devotes his time to finding missing children. A few miles away, a teenage boy called Victor comes home from school to discover a scene of horror: his mother Nadia lying dead on her bedroom floor, her face battered and her teeth splintered. From residential home to foster family, the boy – now alone in the world – leads a painful existence, marked by the death of the one person he loved most. Two irreparable losses, two tragedies. What are the links between the death of the boy’s mother and the disappearance of the cop’s son? Commandant Pierre Vilar is leading the investigation during which his past comes to the surface. His son disappeared several years ago and a number of particularly brutal murders have put him on the tracks of a killer who seems to be playing a game of cat and mouse. Events take an unexpected turn when the retired officer, who was following a trail of paedophile networks, keeping Vilar informed, suddenly disappears. He is found dead and has clearly been tortured. When these new elements are taken into the investigation, a strange turnaround takes place: the commandant becomes the prey; he is harassed on the phone and followed in the street by a man who is as elusive as he is threatening, and who goads Vilar by sending him paedophile photos featuring a boy who just might be his son. The man appears also to be following Victor, who recognises him as one of his mother’s former lovers, a brutal individual he hated.

Setting
Today, in the Bordeaux region.

Main characters
Pierre Vilar / Male, forties
Victor / Male, teenager

Foreign version(s) available

Find out more
This novel won 5 literary prizes including the Grand Prix de littérature policière, Prix Mystère de la critique and Prix Nouvel Obs/Bibliobs of French Roman noir

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Liane and Martial, a young Parisian couple, take a dream vacation on the island of Réunion with their 6-year-old daughter, Sofa. But one afternoon, while the three are lounging around the pool, Liane goes back up to the room to get something but never comes back down. When Martial goes up to look for her, he sees that their hotel room has been ransacked and there are drops of blood everywhere. Although Martial cooperates with the police at first, he goes on the run 24 hours later, taking Sofa with him. He has gone from being the aggrieved husband to the prime suspect. And so begins a manhunt the likes of which Réunion has never seen.

Is Martial guilty of murdering his wife or is he the victim of a horrifying set-up? Because, as it turns out, this is not Martial’s first visit to Réunion. His past has now come back to haunt him in a most dangerous way.

In this fast-paced, commercial thriller (“Gone Girl” meets “The Fugitive”), Martial is the prime suspect in his wife’s disappearance and possible murder. By fleeing the police with his 6-year-old daughter while being confined to staying on Réunion Island, he sets off a thrilling police chase.
All of nine years old, Ninon observes the world. A world where adults no longer love each other, where words have lost their meaning, where people look at her wide-eyed and declare ‘My goodness!’ Because she doesn’t understand the world, Ninon decides to turn away from all that and live with her father, who is separated from Zélie, Ninon’s mother, and is left with nothing. Nothing except Ninon. Together, they reconstruct their world, build a house from scratch, milk goats, sell their produce on the market, forget about school and good manners, don’t give a damn about what people think, not even Mrs. Kaffe, the social worker.
Two men, who apparently have nothing in common apart from a slight physical resemblance, live on either side of the Channel. One, John Burny, is Scottish, an estate agent, libertine, still good-looking at forty-five. The other, Roland Desfeuillères, is a lieutenant in the French police, married, father of two children, weary of life although he’s only forty. The former is murdered in mysterious circumstances on board a train going from London to Paris. The latter has been called to the crime scene at the Gare du Nord in Paris, on the very night when he has to face up to the obvious failure of his marriage.

In the train taking him to London, where he has to stay two weeks for the investigation, Desfeuillères feels he’s leaving Paris as well as his old existence. When he arrives, since he has little information on Burny, the lieutenant goes straight to his British counterpart, who is not very keen to help. Nevertheless he tells him that Burny was a frequent visitor to the gay quarter in Soho. No sooner said than done, Desfeuillères surveys the area frequented by the victim to get a better idea of who the man was: his place of work, sports centre, where he went in the evening…. At the estate agency where Burny worked, Desfeuillères meets a former colleague, Kate Reed. The attraction is immediate and they have a fling but soon become just friends, and Kate invites the lieutenant to stay in Burny’s apartment – now vacant – for the rest of his stay. Desfeuillères accepts and is surprised to feel strangely comfortable in the former life of the hedonistic Burny. Visiting Burny’s regular bar in Soho several times, the lieutenant questions his own existence, revealed in this play of mirrors where fascination blends with revulsion. Meanwhile, the investigation is up against a brick wall. Attracted by a young illegal from Afghanistan he met in a pub, Desfeuillères discovers a new identity, which is none other than Burny.

Investigation of the murder of a gay estate agent from Scotland. The crime, committed on the Eurostar train under the Channel, provides a weary, forty-year-old French police lieutenant with a pretext to question his own existence. Crossing the Channel... and crossing over to the other side of the mirror.

Nina, age 13, has got off to a bad start to the day: she is killed in a traffic accident along with her father who was driving the car while taking a phone call. They find themselves being transported to Heaven, with a job to do: guardian angels. Nina’s father, a business man who was always on the go, has to help a baby in an Afghan refugee camp. Nina is in charge of her worst enemy at school: Priscilla. With the help of other guardian angels, Father and daughter try to accomplish their mission as well as they can and discover that the new world they live in has much in common with that of the living. Lots of humor in a moving story full of fantasy, always reflecting real life.
The Sobs of the Violin
Geneviève Turlais

Anger, rebellion, refusal, sharing, friendship, human adventure, love, all this stuff is told in this story both very moving and also with humor.

After a car accident, Guillemette's life becomes completely different. She must give up many things and she finds that very difficult to accept. For instance she wanted to become a violinist and now this dream is over. She has to go far away from her family, her friends and stay in a special centre. First she will feel anger, rebellion, refusal. Then step after step she will accept her handicap, accept the looking of others and finally will accept the look at herself. She will agree to re-live among the others and share with them.

Amazing human adventure, message of hope for all!

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