

MG EDITOR
FOREIGN RIGHTS AGENT

SPRING LIST 2021



LIST OF PUBLISHERS



Le Muscadier publishes novels, docu-fictions and short stories for teenagers and young adults. Whether they make you laugh or cry, their books all have the same purpose: stimulate common sense and reflection. Their texts advocate openness to others, tolerance to differences and more widely how to live together.



Les petites moustaches publishing focuses on stories around art, fashion, history and key moments of life. They mostly publish novels for nine year-old children and up but released their first picture book in November 2019. The company always puts quality first in its texts and illustrations.



The editorial line of Utopique publishing focuses around family, emotions and more widely human relationships. They publish picture books, illustrated and non-illustrated novels for children aged from three to young adults.

WILD SILK

Written by **Anne Loyer** and illustrated by **Marie-Gabrielle Berland**.

23 x 30 cm, 48 pages, hardcover, full colour.

*An endearing story depicting
the importance of believing in your dreams.*

new

Soie sauvage

Anne Loyer
Marie-Gabrielle
Berland



Louise Galon is a young creator who has just settled down in Paris in order to show her work to a most fashionable stylist. Yet he does not show any enthusiasm for the dress Louise has worked on so hard. Disappointed, Louise is ready to give up on her dream.

Thankfully, a young man has been watching her closely since she has arrived, seduced by the woman's artwork. He picks up the dress that she got rid of without her knowing and sign her up to a talent contest. Louise is invited the day of the fashion show and cannot believe her eyes: she discovers a model running the catwalk with her dress on...

Strong points:

- A poetic story about believing in your dreams.
- The delicate and refined illustrations of Marie-Gabrielle Berland.
- A picture book that will delight both children and parents.

Key words: fashion — seamstress — sewing competition — dream.



The author:

After more than fifteen years in journalism, **Anne Loyer** has left the stories of others to focus on the ones in her head. For ten years, she has been writing picture books as well as novels for children and young adults. She is now a well-known and established author, who has been nominated for several book prizes such as the Babelio Prize in 2020.

*From the same author:
Karl Lagerfeld (p. 18), The Day of June (p. 33).*

The illustrator:

Marie-Gabrielle Berland is signing here her first picture book with Les petites moustaches. She's a graphic artist and illustrator in the field of fashion and animates the online sewing course run by Artesane.



I NEVER SAID

22 x 32 cm, 48 pages, hardcover, full colour.

Written by **Didier Jean** and **Zad**.
Illustrated by **Régis Lejonc**.

What did you never say to anyone?

new



Strong points:

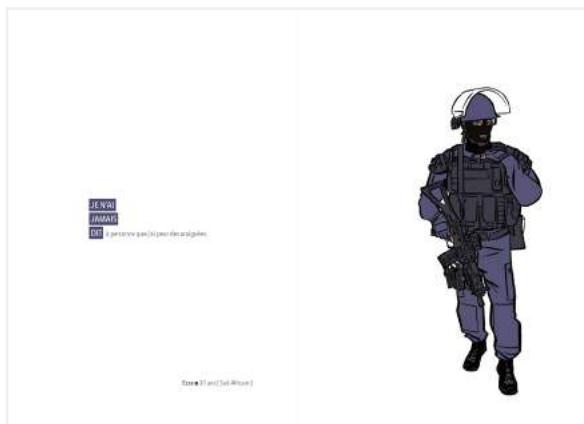
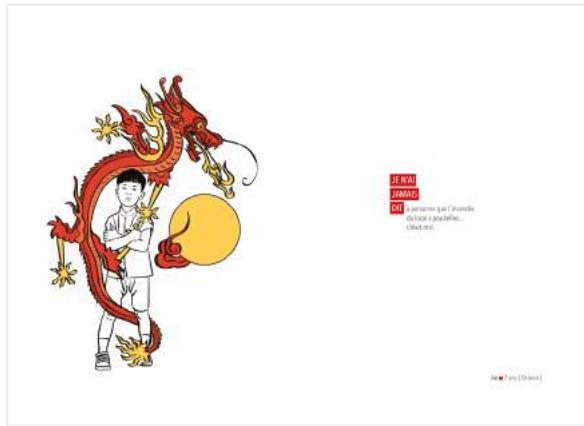
- A diversity of points of view that allows the book to be universal.
- The structure of the picture book invites the reader to reflect on what he has never said and therefore be a part of the story.
- The modern and minimalist illustrations of Régis Lejonc.

Key words: confidence — secret — diversity — dream.

Family Kisses is a collection of books with endearing stories to liberate speech within the family.



FAMILY
KISSES
COLLECTION



The authors:

Partners in crime in fiction and in reality, **Didier Jean** and **Zad** have written more than a hundred books for children, young adults and adults, which were published by prestigious publishing houses such as Hachette, Milan, Syros, Nathan and L'Atelier du poisson soluble. They mix words with painting, pastels and sometimes even with music! Their motto: constantly creating and innovating. Since 2009, they have been juggling their activities as artists and editorial directors for Utopique.

*From the same authors:
Ezima (p. 25), Two Hands to Tell (p. 36), Sweet Man (p. 37).
Other book as illustrators: For A Lifetime (pp. 16-17)*

The illustrator:

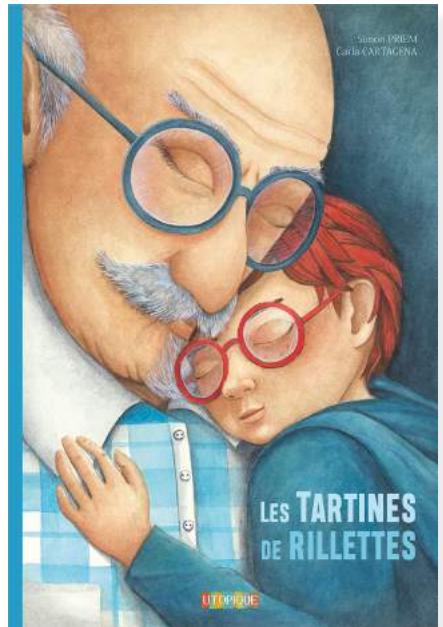
Régis Lejonc has published about eighty books with numerous children's publishers, either by himself or in collaboration with other illustrators. He has been the artistic director for Rouergue publishing and the creator of collections for L'Edune publishing. He is a versatile artist who moves from one graphic universe to another depending on projects, appreciating as much the influence of modern art, impressionist painters, poster artists from the 30s to the 50s, as that of Japanese kawaii.

RILLETTES ON TOAST

22 × 32 cm, 36 pages, hardcover, full colour.

Written by **Simon Priem** and illustrated by **Carla Cartagena**.

The story of a grandfather and grandson overcoming grief together.



When Louis visits his grandfather Albert, they share the peace and quiet of the fragrant garden and rillettes on toast for snack. But they never talk about Louis' mother – Albert's daughter – who died in an accident, nor about their grief. Until the day Louis enters his grandfather's workshop, a room that is normally off limits to him. The moment they begin to share their feelings, grief and consolation become possible.

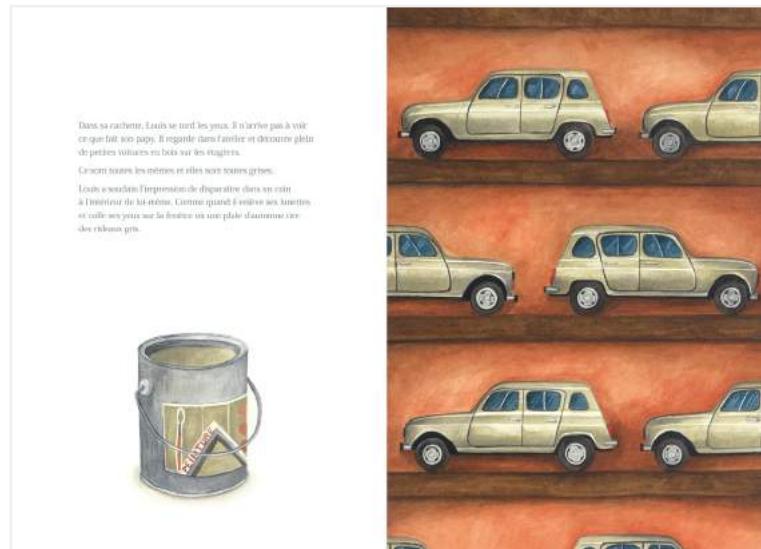


Strong points:

- A poetic story to open dialogue about grief.
- The colourful and graphic style of Carla Cartagena's illustrations.
- The complicity between the author and the illustrator.

Key words: grief — silence — resilience — grandparent — grandchild.

Family Kisses is a collection of books with endearing stories to liberate speech within the family.



The author:

Simon Priem is a school teacher and a comedian for the Clowns of Hope. He has traveled by bike along the roads of Asia for a year, to capture the world with his own eyes and has started to write ever since.

The illustrator:

Born in Chile during dictatorship, **Carla Cartegena** fled her country when she was a toddler for France. She discovered her love for coloured pencils at that time, then painting years later. She graduated from the Applied Art School of Lyon, specializing in textile design. After a decade as a graphic artist, she decided to start illustrating children's books. The concept of sharing is at the heart of her art.

A BETTER WIND

22 x 32 cm, 36 pages, hardcover, full colour.

Written by **Adèle Tariel** and illustrated by **Caroline Taconet**.



The solidarity of a family towards the tragedy of migrants.



On the North Sea shore where she lives, Louise meets a sad boy. Asaf and his parents have fled war and are camping in the woods waiting to cross the English Channel in search of a dignified life. Louise opens the family beach hut, brings them food, soon followed by her family. One day, carried by a better wind, Asaf and his family will fly to England.



Strong points:

- A current topic that still rages: the hard battle of migrants.
- An example of family solidarity that proves that beyond our origins, we are above all humans.
- The wonderful watercolours of Caroline Taconet.

Key words: migrants — war — family — solidarity — resilience — sea.

Family Kisses is a collection of books with endearing stories to liberate speech within the family.



The illustrator:

Caroline Taconet loves to tell stories, in words or in pictures. But it was only ten years ago that she really made it her profession. Working for brands, agencies and publishers, she has devoted herself more and more to drawing in order to bring out her own personal universe: a world full of strong characters in luminous settings, filled with poetry and joy.



From the same illustrator: Why I Ate Lion (p. 27).

The author:

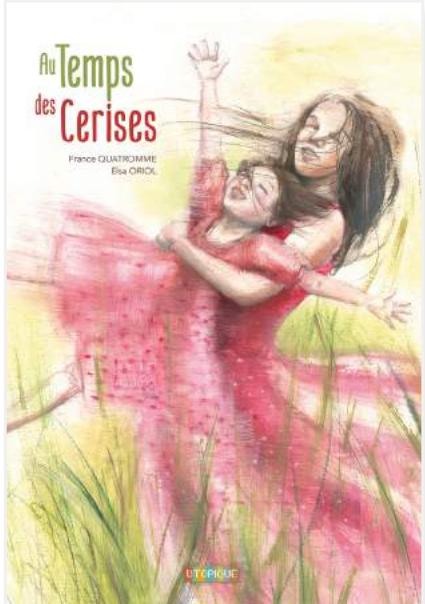
Adèle Tariel has been devouring books and magazines since she was a little girl, even hiding them under her duvet so that she could read them again after bedtime. For the past twelve years, she has been a journalist for children's press at Playbac press and she started writing stories after the birth of her daughter in 2009. She has published picture books with several publishers such as Talents Hauts, Ricochet, Kilowatt and Père Fouettard.

THE CHERRY SEASON

22 x 32 cm, 40 pages, hardcover, full colour.

Written by **France Quatromme** and illustrated by **Elsa Oriol**.

A story depicting a mother's fight against illness.



Usually, Clotilde and her mother like to go for a walk, climb up the cherry tree, twirl in the middle of tall grass...

But today, if Clotilde clutches her mother's breast a little too tightly, it hurts her!

The idea behind this picture book is to propose an allegory. Alongside the mother's illness, the reader also follows the life of a cherry tree through the seasons. The tree loses its leaves in autumn, just as the mother loses her hair. When spring comes, the mother will recover and the tree will bloom again.

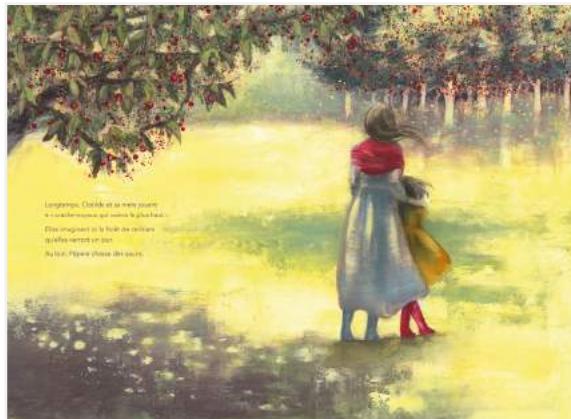
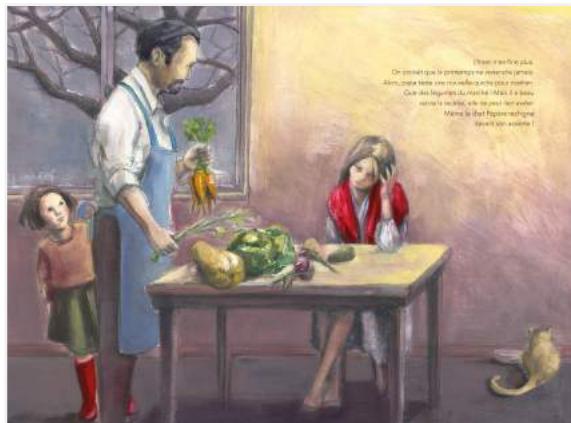
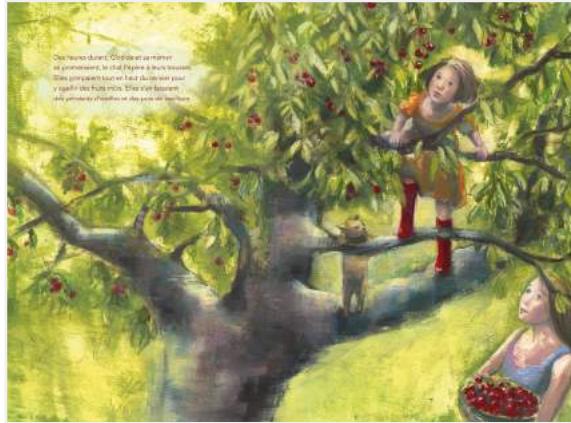


Strong points:

- A poetic book to talk to children about illness and especially cancer.
- The parallel between the cycles of a cherry tree and the cycles of life.
- The soft and luminous illustrations of Elsa Oriol.

Key words: illness — recovery — seasons — cycle of life — cancer.

Family Kisses is a collection of books with endearing stories to liberate speech within the family.



The author:

After literature studies, and a diploma in education sciences, **France Quatromme** began to work as an early childhood educator in nursery and in hospital before she changed to become a full-time storyteller. Since then, she criss-cross the roads to tell stories and she is the writer of twenty picture books.

The illustrator:

From graphic design to interior architecture where she worked for several years, **Elsa Oriol** really took a liking for painting when she began to learn oil painting techniques in workshops. Illustrating for children's books was an extension of this passion. She has worked for different media such as publishing (Kéloïdoscope, L'école des Loisirs) or press (Telerama). Whether in painting or illustration, Elsa Oriol places emotion at the heart of her creations.

PICTURE BOOK

Public: 6+



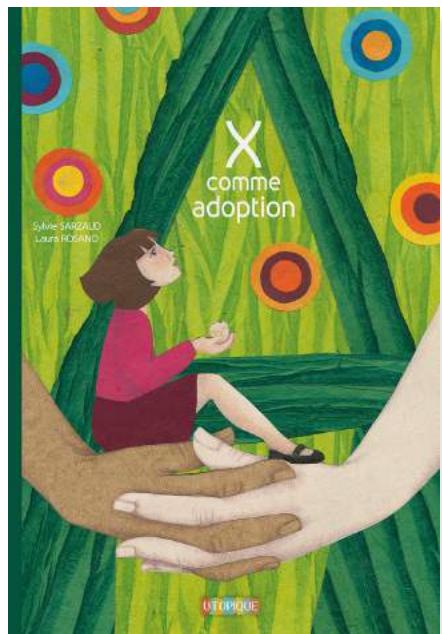
BORN UNDER X

22 x 32 cm, 40 pages, hardcover, full colour.

Written by **Sylvie Sarzaud** and illustrated by **Laura Rosano**.



A picture book explaining birth under X and more widely adoption.



One day, a classmate tells Bianca he does not want to play with her anymore, because she is sick. She is "bornunderex"! Upset, the child confides in her teacher, who, with the help of an illustrated primer, explains to children what it means to be born under X.

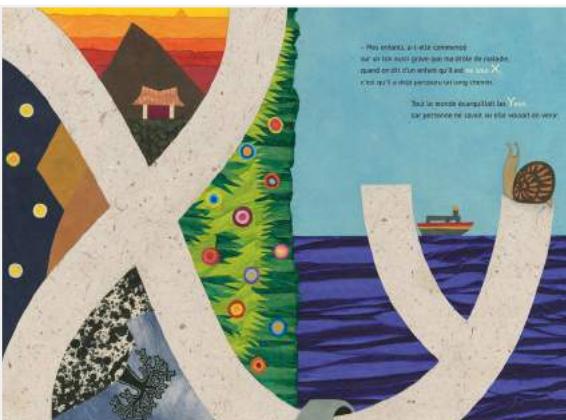
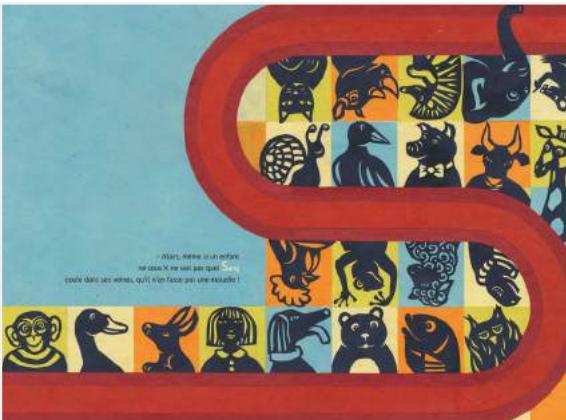
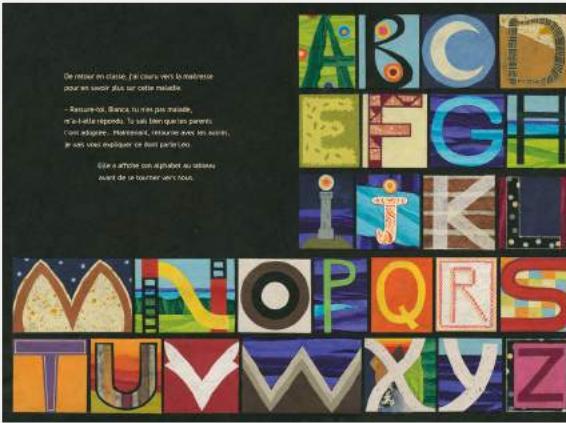
Through a visual treasure hunt, looking for the alphabet letters, this book explains that if children born under X do not know what blood flows in their veins, they should not think of it as a disease! For what counts above all is the love that is surrounding them.

Strong points:

- An original illustrated primer to deal with the topic of adoption.
- A playful book where children will enjoy find the alphabet letters.
- The bright and colorful illustrations of Laura Rosano.

Key words: adoption — birth under X — tolerance — family — alphabet — primer.

Family Kisses is a collection of books with endearing stories to liberate speech within the family.



The author:

From an early age, **Sylvie Sarzaud** was fed with beautiful stories. She enjoyed them so much, that years later, her childhood friends asked her to invent her own stories, in search of thrills and wonder. For twenty years she was a teacher, but changed direction to open a sophrology office. She has published several books, both for children and adults inspired by sophrology and more widely by well-being.

The illustrator:

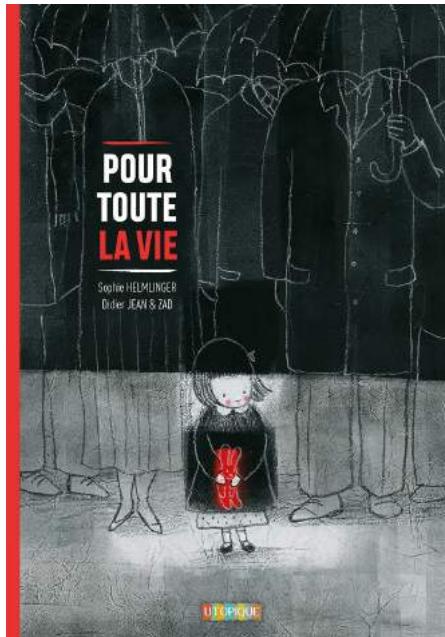
Laura Rosano was born in Milan. She studied at the European School of Luxembourg and followed literary studies in Venice. She graduated in illustration from the Instituto Europeo di design in Milan and now works as an illustrator and a teacher at school. As an illustrator, she uses different techniques and plays with drawing and paper cuts, which she rearranges according to her inspiration.

FOR A LIFETIME

22 × 32 cm, 40 pages, hardcover, full colour.

Written by **Sophie Helmlinger** and illustrated by **Didier Jean** and **Zad**.

A tender story to explain perinatal bereavement to children.



Lilou likes to snuggle up to her mommy and her big round belly. But for the past few days, her parents have been very sad. Is it because Lilou does not want to share her toys with her soon-to-be brother?

So, her grandmother Nanou is going to tell her a story. A real story: one of those you cannot change. The little brother who was in their mother's womb is dead. And when you are dead, it is for a lifetime.

Didier Jean and Zad have chosen to illustrate this story as soberly as possible thanks to a technique mixing gouache, pastel and black stone. Grey, black, white and red combine to accompany the subtle text of Sophie Helmlinger.



Strong points:

- A soft and poetic book to talk about the disappearance of a stillborn baby.
- A sensitive subject that is easy-to-understand for the youngest.
- The accuracy of the text set off by very sober illustrations.

Key words: perinatal bereavement — birth — siblings — resilience — pregnancy.

Family Kisses is a collection of books with endearing stories to liberate speech within the family.



The author:

Sophie Helmlinger is a psychotherapist and the founder of "The Nameless Child - Mourning parents" association. The picture book *For A Lifetime* is the result of almost twenty years of work in private practice and of associative commitment to listening to bereaved families.

The illustrators:

Partners in crime in fiction and in reality, **Didier Jean** and **Zad** have written more than a hundred books for children, young adults and adults, which were published by prestigious publishing houses such as Hachette, Milan, Syros, Nathan and L'Atelier du poisson soluble. They mix words with painting, pastels and sometimes even with music! Their motto: constantly creating and innovating. Since 2009, they have been juggling their activities as artists and editorial directors for Utopique.

Other books as authors: I Never Said (pp. 6-7), Ezima (p. 25), Two Hands to Tell (p. 36), Sweet Man (p. 37).

LITTLE STORIES OF FASHION

Written by **Anne Loyer** and **Sophie Guillou**.
Illustrated by **Alice Dufay**.

13 x 23 cm, 121 pages, softcover, flaps, full coloured illustrations.



Rose Bertin

Thanks to her talent, Rose has established herself as the fashion dealer that everyone at the court of Versailles wants. But a seductive stranger throws her life into turmoil...

The author of:

Karl Lagerfeld

After more than fifteen years in journalism, **Anne Loyer** has left the stories of others to focus on the ones in her head. For ten years, she has been writing picture books as well as novels for children and young adults.

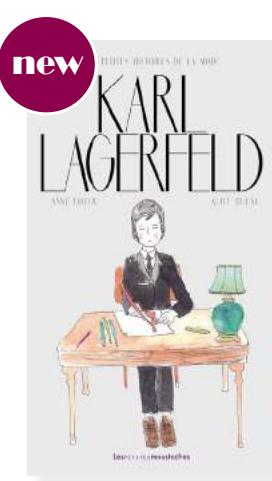
Jeanne Lanvin

At the age of ten, Marguerite has everything to be happy, but she is tired of her mother dressing her like a doll. One day, she decides to rebel.

The author of:

Jeanne Lanvin, Rose Bertin, Sonia Rykiel and Cristóbal Balenciaga

Freelance reporter, specialized in psychology and education, **Sophie Guillou** started her career as a writer in 2013. She focuses now on writing young adult novels and books about cinema.



4 existing titles:



Cristóbal Balenciaga

In July 1906, everything is quiet in the small Spanish village of Getaria. Young Cristóbal is bored. But thanks to the Marquise of Casa Torres, he will experience weeks that will change his life.

Karl Lagerfeld

While the Second World War rages, the young Karl Lagerfeld grows up sheltered from its fury. Cultivating his differences with his mother's blessing, he is nonetheless caught up in a growing desire to be elsewhere and succeed.

The illustrator:

As a graduate student from the Fine Arts School of Caen, **Alice Dufay** taught plastic arts for six years. At the same time, she worked on collage and illustration for various media such as press, publishing, label. Her approach to drawing takes the form of simple and precise lines, pure forms sketched in ink, while she evolves in a vintage and retro universe through her collages.

Strong points:

- A unique collection mixing fiction, biography and illustrated primer.
- A gateway to the world of high-fashion designers.
- The colourful and refined illustrations of Alice Dufay.

Key words: high-fashion designer — hybrid book — refined illustrations.

AND BECOMING IMMORTAL...

Written by **Martine Planells**, cover illustration by **Elisa Talentino**.

13 x 20 cm, 116 pages, softcover, B&W pictograms.

*A biographical novel about Yvette Chauviré,
prima ballerina at the Paris Opera.*



The author:

Martine Planells is a teacher, journalist and dance specialist. She is a contributor to the magazine Ballet2000 and participated to the book *My Fifteen Most Beautiful Dance Stories* presented by Agnès Letestu, prima ballerina and published by Hachette Jeunesse in 2012.

Strong points:

- A gateway to 20th century ballet and the National Opera of Paris.
- A breathtaking biographical novel written by a dance specialist.
- The success story of an incredible prima ballerina, Yvette Chauviré.

Key words: dance — ballet — National Opera of Paris — competition — willingness.

LIVING ON THE EDGE

Written by **Christine Deroin**.
With the assistance of **Manon Beaudoin**, psychologist.

14 x 19 cm, 96 pages, softcover.



A docu-fiction to talk about borderline personality disorder.



The author:

Christine Deroin is a writer and a stage director. Her books are aimed at both teenagers and adults. She generally draws inspiration from her daily life to create her characters. She also runs writing and theatre workshops for various audiences such as middle grade students, high school students, but also psychiatric patients.

Strong points:

- After each chapter, the medical expert explains and gives positive solutions to overcome the situations described.
- A fantastic docu-fiction to open dialogue between teenagers and adults.

Key words: differences — violence — disability — distress — love.

The Psy Season collection deals with daily interrogations teenagers face. Each book offers a double approach: first as a fiction and second as a documentary. All the titles form a whole like episodes from a TV show.

Help, we have a borderline personality disorder!

Julien and Aude only cross paths with each other at the shrink's, but they have a secret: a hiding place where each of them leaves a letter for the other, before or after their weekly session.

It was Aude who started the game. A game of confidences to a stranger in a waiting room. A game of mirrors in which they become each other's reflection. Borderline together but alone in their own world.

The psychologist:

Former actress, **Manon Beaudoin** is now a psychologist specialized in the borderline personality disorder. She studied in Bordeaux and joined in 2018 the service of Pr Granger, the distinguished psychiatrist in the treatment of borderline personality disorder.

ICARUS

Written by **Christine Deroin**.
With the assistance of **Angélique Excoffier**, psychologist.
14 x 19 cm, 96 pages, softcover.



A docu-fiction to talk about bipolar disorder.



Help, I'm bipolar!

Valentin is ten years old when he starts in a new school. On a wall of his classroom is a reproduction of Matisse's collage "Icarus". Valentin will do the same as Icarus, he will fly. Valentin will do better than Icarus, he will fly far away, very far away. He knows it. Well, not always. Sometimes he also thinks he's the lamest boy around.

The author:

Christine Deroin is a writer and a stage director. Her books are aimed at both teenagers and adults. She generally draws inspiration from her daily life to create her characters. She also runs writing and theatre workshops for various audiences such as middle grade students, high school students, but also psychiatric patients.

Strong points:

- After each chapter, the medical expert explains and gives positive solutions to overcome the situations described.
- A beautiful docu-fiction to open dialogue between children and adults.

Key words:

differences — childhood — disability — distress.

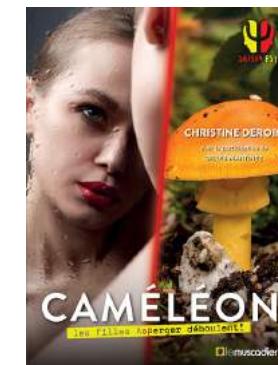
The Psy Season collection deals with daily interrogations teenagers face. Each book offers a double approach: first as a fiction and second as a documentary. All the titles form a whole like episodes from a TV show.

CHAMELEON

Written by **Christine Deroin**.
With the assistance of **Gilles Martinez**, psychiatrist.
14 x 19 cm, 96 pages, softcover.



A docu-fiction to demystify the Asperger's syndrome.



Here come the Aspie girls!

Everyone has always described Alice as a high-potential teenager but never admitted the depth of her discomfort and her true Asperger's syndrome. Moving and changing middle schools will disturb her and bring out her odd personality. Her admiration for Fanny, the most popular girl, and her desire to be just like her in order to be loved, will blow her world apart and put her at risk.

The author:

Christine Deroin is a writer and a stage director. Her books are aimed at both teenagers and adults. She generally draws inspiration from her daily life to create her characters. She also runs writing and theatre workshops for various audiences such as middle grade students, high school students, but also psychiatric patients.

Strong points:

- After each chapter, the medical expert explains and gives positive solutions to overcome the situations described.
- An important docu-fiction to stop stigmatising people with Asperger's syndrome.

Key words:

differences — autism — harassment — disability.

The Psy Season collection deals with daily interrogations teenagers face. Each book offers a double approach: first as a fiction and second as a documentary. All the titles form a whole like episodes from a TV show.

(DE)CONNECTIONS

Written by **Christine Deroin**.
With the assistance of **Alain Dervaux**, psychiatrist.

14 x 19 cm, 96 pages, softcover.

A docu-fiction to help preventing screen addiction.

**Help, I'm a screen addict!**

Manon, Clément and Enzo are teenagers. Manon is chomping at the bit to become a game designer. Enzo is addicted to network and puzzle games and his social discomfort causes him to identify with his avatars. Clement, whose childhood dog has just died, is seeking friendship among social network users.

The author:

Christine Deroin is a writer and a stage director. Her books are aimed at both teenagers and adults. She generally draws inspiration from her daily life to create her characters. She also runs writing and theatre workshops for various audiences such as middle grade students, high school students, but also psychiatric patients.

Strong points:

- After each chapter, the medical expert explains and gives positive solutions to overcome the situations described.
- The education on social media both for parents and their children.

Key words: screen addiction — social media prevention — adolescence unhappiness.

The Psy Season collection deals with daily interrogations teenagers face. Each book offers a double approach: first as a fiction and second as a documentary. All the titles form a whole like episodes from a TV show.

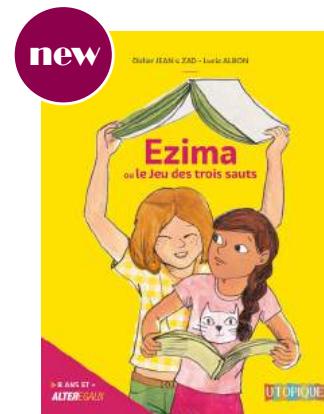


EZIMA

Written by **Didier Jean and Zad**.
Illustrated by **Lucie Albon**.

14,5 x 18,5 cm, 48 pages, softcover, full colour.

The beautiful story of a friendship despite prejudices.



new

Ezima is the new girl in school and her singing voice does not please everyone... Faced with the judgement of others, Sybille has to make a choice: defend her new friend, or ignore her in order to not be excluded from the group. When she finally finds the courage to assume their friendship, she has to put up with the mockery and harassment of her classmates. It is finally Ezima, thanks to her tenacity, her audacity, and the game of the three jumps, who will help Sybille to cross the wall set up against them both, and will be able to create a place for herself in everyone's heart...

The author:

Partners in crime in fiction and in reality, **Didier Jean** and **Zad** have written more than a hundred books for children, young adults and adults, which were published by prestigious publishing houses such as Hachette, Milan, Syros, Nathan and L'Atelier du poisson soluble. Their motto: constantly creating and innovating.

The illustrator:

Lucie Albon is a writer and an illustrator for children's books and comics. Travelling is at the heart of her creativity and she likes to sketch the attitudes of the people who cross her path.

**Strong points:**

- The topic of school harassment and immigration.
- The joyful and colourful illustrations of Lucie Albon.

Key words: prejudice — school harassment — friendship — immigration — integration.



SIXTEENTH NOTES AND RIGHT-HOOK



Written by **Hélène Gloria** and illustrated by **Julie Bouvot**.

14,5 x 18,5 cm, 48 pages, softcover, full colour.

A wonderful story about gender equality.

new



Internationally renowned trumpet player, Malik Kadar flies to Cairo, his hometown, which he has not seen since his childhood. On this unexpected trip, the musician remembers the trumpet lessons he used to take in a room above a boxing gym. He was ten years old at the time. The encounters he had in this unusual place, especially Issa, a young female boxer of his age who defied authority to practice her sport, left a lasting impression on his life.



The author:

Hélène Gloria is a writer and a librarian who has written several picture books, short novels and novels by now. She is deeply inspired by nature that surrounds her where she lives.

The illustrator:

Julie Bouvot is a young illustrator who left her native Paris to migrate to the countryside in the South-West of France, where she thrives amongst cows and haystacks. Passionate about comic books, she likes to tell stories through her drawings. She prefers to draw with colours and shapes, and thus free herself from contours.

Strong points:

- An interesting story about gender equality and fight against stereotypes.
- The lively illustration style of Julie Bouvot.

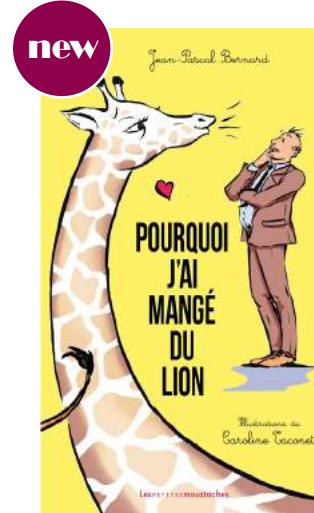
Key words: friendship — gender equality — empowerment — trumpet — box.

WHY I ATE LION

Written by **Jean-Pascal Bernard** and illustrated by **Caroline Taconet**.

13 x 22 cm, 72 pages, softcover, full colour.

A truly hilarious detective novel for children.



What could have driven the giraffe Ramona, a wise resident of the town Zoo, to eat up a lion? Were the acacia leaves not enough to satisfy her?



- It was an accident! she stammers to the compassionate Commissioner Pillière.

- A murder! roar the widow of the dead beast in front of the implacable Deputy Dentu.

What if it was ultimately a crime of passion? Not bad. But that does not explain everything...

The author:

Jean-Pascal Bernard translates or rewrites other people's books and holds an office in the national education system. Of zero zoological rigour, but carried by the breath of the great thrillers, *Why I ate lion* is his first novel.

The illustrator:

Caroline Taconet loves to tell stories, in words or in pictures. But it was only ten years ago that she really made it her profession. Working for brands, agencies and publishers, she has devoted herself more and more to drawing in order to bring out her own personal universe: a world full of strong characters in luminous settings, filled with poetry and joy.



Strong points:

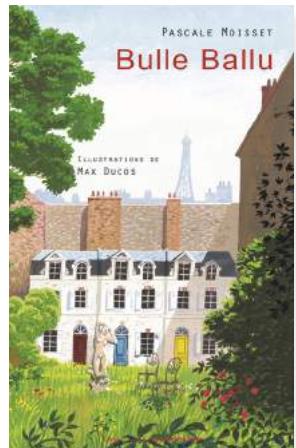
- A tender and lively detective novel for children.
- The colorful illustrations of Caroline Taconet.
- The goofy yet lovable characters imagined by Jean-Pascal Bernard.

Key words: detective novel — humour — zoo animals — love.

BULLE BALLU

Written by **Pascale Moisset** and illustrated by **Max Ducos**.

13 x 23 cm, 200 pages, softcover, W&B illustrations.



A move does not always mean bad news. For Zoé, a thirteen-and-a-quarter-year-old teenager, this is the beginning of a great adventure. After all, three families who decide to live together around the same garden always make room for more laughter and shared moments.

But suddenly, this dream threatens to come to an end. One of the families is about to implode.

The parents announce their split, they have to move out, causing turmoil in the Bubble. More determined than ever to stay together, Zoé and her friends will redouble their efforts and inventiveness to save their little paradise.

The author:

Pascale Moisset likes to play with words and make them rhyme in a way that allows her to create her own musicality. She has written novels for adults as well as for children. And when she is not writing, Pascale Moisset works on issues of gender equality.

From the same author: One for all, all for one (p. 34).

Strong points:

- A poetic and original novel in free verse.
- The topic of new family models such as blended families.
- A story that is well anchored in our daily life with the presence and the craze that social networks can generate.

Key words: friendship — blended family — solidarity — social media.

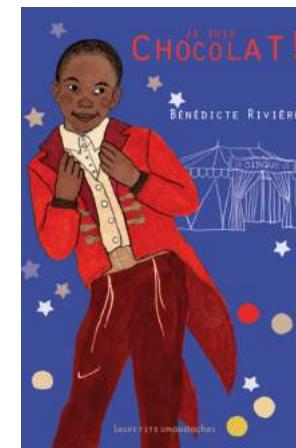


I AM CHOCOLATE!

Written by **Bénédicte Rivière**.

13 x 20 cm, 111 pages, softcover.

Discover the heart-rending destiny of Rafael, known as Chocolate, the very first black clown to be successful in Europe.



My name is Rafael and I was born in Cuba. I am the son of runaway slaves. When I was a child, I lived in Havana, at Old Jaba's house. But one day, she sold me to a Portuguese merchant. And here I am on a boat, sailing towards the Old Continent! It is on this ship's deck that I found Habana, my seagull. Quickly, she shared all my adventures.

Because my life has been incredible! I, the slaves' son, the child everybody used to point at, I was going to be the first black artist to become famous and be applauded by the Paris smart set...

The story of Rafael has been adapted on the big screen in 2016 and portrayed by Omar Sy, the famous french actor who played in the Intouchables in 2011.

The author:

Bénédicte Rivière is an actress who often works in voice acting for french version of cartoons. In 2013, she started to write picture books for several publishing houses such as Sarbacane, Actes Sud Junior, Gautier-Languereau, Elan vert, Gründ, Circonflexe... She divides her time between recording in studio and writing, and regularly runs "theatre and writing" workshops where physical expression and writing are intimately linked. *I am Chocolate!* is her first novel.

Strong points:

- The first-person narration helps the reader to strongly identify with Chocolate.
- Chocolate's incredible travel is the occasion to know a bit more about geography and history.
- The echo to the eponymous film Chocolate retraces the artist's childhood.

Key words: circus — clown — friendship — immigration — the naughty nineties.

GLOWS OF TRAVERSE

Written by **Anne Samuel**.

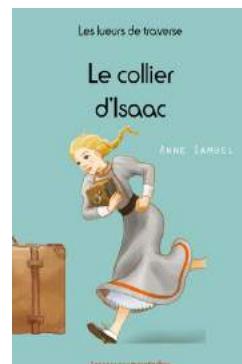
13 x 20 cm, ~150 pages, softcover, B&W pictograms.

Embark with Mona on her incredible time travel adventure through History.



Book 1: The Silver Leopard

Mona doesn't know where she comes from and lives with her foster father. On her 13th birthday, she uncovers a painting in her family's library and finds herself carried away in the Middle Ages. She will be taken care of by Master Isaac and his Apprentice Colin and introduced to the cornerstones of artistic expression. But everything she builds will be challenged by her encounter with Alienor of Aquitaine, on her way to the Second Crusades.



Book 2: Isaac's Necklace

When Mona returns from the Middle Ages, she finds back Max, the man who raised her, and her life as a middle grade student. But how could this time travel happen? What happened to her friends Isaac and Colin, who disappeared so suddenly?

These haunting questions will take her from the busy streets of New York to the schoolhouse in Nancy at the dawn of the 20th century.

The author:

Passionate about history and art in all its forms, **Anne Samuel** became a cultural mediator for the museums of the City of Paris after studying at the Sorbonne, then worked for the House of Victor Hugo and the Carnavalet Museum. Now she is a biographer and a teacher. The themes she values are transmission, beauty and truth.

Key words: adventure — history — art history — time travel.

GLOWS OF TRAVERSE



Book 3: The Hexagonal Ring

Mona begins 8th grade. She is happy to see her foster father, but she never felt more offset. How could she be an ordinary girl when she is able to time travel and when four of her best friends are trapped in the past?

The jewels from her suitcase have not delivered all their secrets and the hexagonal ring is obsessing her more than anything else...



Book 4: The Opal Medallion

Mona was not able to return home. A sudden arrival in 1789, a woman from theatre who offers her to go on stage, a trip to Paris, everything is rushing for the teenager who had to leave her loved ones again.

Will she succeed in interpreting the signs that mark out her journey through time with the help of great figures such as Olympe de Gouges and Abbot Grégoire?



new

Book 5: The Kiev Star

"They sit across each other in the train that bring them back to Paris. Maxime cannot help but look at his daughter. She is no longer the one he left for a simple phone call in a Nancy library office. Her face is emaciated and you can see the torments he did not experience on it."

It is in 1941, in this fifth and final book that Mona will finally find all the answers.

Strong points:

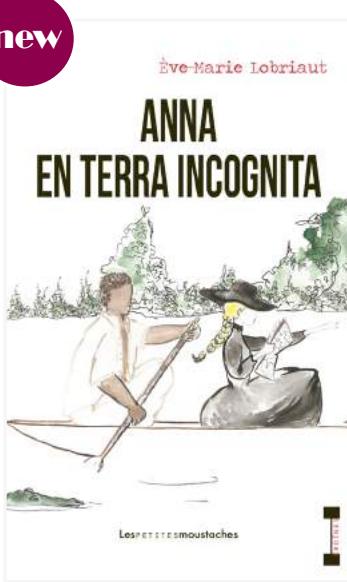
- An enjoyable and delightful time travel book series.
- Mona's search for her origins, which readers can relate to.
- A glimpse of western art and history.

HEROINES

Written by Sophie Guillou, Anne Loyer and Ève-Marie Lobriaut.

13 x 21 cm, ~150 pages, softcover.

*A collection to highlight great women,
whether they are fictional or real.*



Anna in Terra Incognita

July 1885. Hit by a violent fever, Edouard Darcy dies on his return from Africa. Driven by the promise she had made to him shortly before, and seeking to escape from an arranged marriage, his 17-year-old daughter Anna decides to follow in his footsteps. She intends to be the first one to discover the civilization he has told her so much about: the Pygmies living on the banks of the River Ogooué. Through her adventures, she will learn more about Africa, human nature and herself...

To create Anna, Ève-Marie Lobriaut was inspired by the life of Marie Kingsley, a female explorer of the 19th century who was the first European adventurer to explore the unknown lands of Gabon.

The author:

After a fifteen-year career in journalism, it was when she gave birth to her daughter that **Ève-Marie Lobriaut** decided to tell the stories that were lying around in her drawers. With the support of her friend Anne Loyer, she plunged into the world of children's literature and created strong characters, far from simple stereotypes! Today, she divides her time between writing for the press, publishing and teaching French in Canada.

Strong points:

- Important themes such as the status of women in the Victorian era, the emancipation of women, Africa, slavery and the discovery of another culture.
- A strong female figure to represent the spirit of adventure
- The powerful writing style of Ève-Marie Lobriaut.

2 existing titles:



Adrienne Bolland's Crazy Escape

With her boyish cut, Adrienne is a young woman who likes to party with her friends. But she's nearly 24 years old now, and she wonders what she is going to do with her life. Getting married, no way! Working in an office neither. All that she wants is to be as free as a bird.

In April 1921, outbreak of joy in the streets of Santiago de Chile and Buenos Aires. While no one believed this feat even possible, the French aviatrix Adrienne Bolland, unknown until then, just passed the Andes mountain range aboard her plane, where many experienced pilots have lost their lives.

From the same author: Little stories of fashion (4/5 titles, pp. 18-19) and Lucy (p. 35).



The Day of June

In 1940, for her fourteenth birthday, June receives a Leica from her grandfather. While the Blitz is raging, this gift, like her meeting with the war photographer Robert Capa, will change her destiny.

In June 1944, June now known as Jude is about to disembark with the Rangers at Pointe du Hoc. In the barge that is taking on water, in the heart of the night and the cold, anxiety prevails. Clutching her camera, the young reporter wants to believe in her mission: bring back pictures to testify the extraordinary courage of those around her.

From the same author: Wild Silk (pp. 4-5) and Karl Lagerfeld (p. 18).

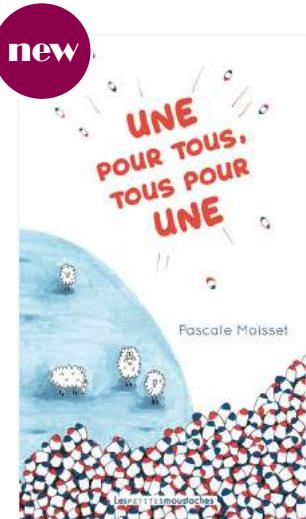
Key words: women — strong personalities — female empowerment — independence.

ONE FOR ALL ALL FOR ONE

Written by **Pascale Moisset**.

13 x 22 cm, 145 pages, softcover.

A story about gender equality, rugby, fresh air... and sheep.



The author:

Pascale Moisset likes to play with words and make them rhyme in a way that allows her to create her own musicality. She has written novels for adults as well as for children. And when she is not writing, Pascale Moisset works on issues of gender equality.

From the same author: Bulle Ballu (p. 28).

Strong points:

- The issue of gender equality, especially in sport.
- The importance of essential notions such as mutual aid and support.
- The fun and captivating writing style of Pascale Moisset.

Key words: friendship — gender equality — rugby — sport.

LUCY

Written by **Sophie Guillou**.

13 x 21 cm, ~260 pages, softcover.

Relive your adolescence with Lucy!

Book 1: Lucy in the Sky

Lucy has two best friends with whom she shares everything. But between high school and family, her daily life is a bore. Luckily, her drama class brightens up her week, for this is where she gets to see Adrian. How can she ever get him to notice her?



Book 2: Lucy is rebelling

Ninth grade starts badly for Lucy: her two best friends are not in her class and her boyfriend is becoming distant. So, she starts hanging out with Flow, a venomous charming repeating student who encourages her in crazy escapes...



Book 3: Lucy does not give up

After the turbulence she experienced, Lucy has decided to calm down. A scandal within the school will turmoil the monotonous daily life. Accused of stealing, a student is threaten to be expelled, so Lucy decides to take his side...



The author:

Freelance reporter, specialized in psychology and education, **Sophie Guillou** started her career as a writer in 2013. She focuses now on writing young adult novels and books about cinema.

From the same author: Little stories of fashion (4/5 titles, pp. 4-5), Adrienne Bolland's Crazy Escape (p. 33).

Strong points:

- A hilarious novel that is sure to take you back to your teenage years.
- Endearing and evolving characters.
- An initiation novel where readers can relate to the troubles Lucy encounters.

Key words: adolescence — friendship — middle school — first love.



TWO HANDS TO TELL

Written by **Didier Jean** and **Zad**.

14,5 x 18,5 cm, 128 pages, softcover.



The authors:

Partners in crime in fiction and in reality, **Didier Jean** and **Zad** have written more than a hundred books for children, young adults and adults, which were published by prestigious publishing houses such as Hachette, Milan, Syros, Nathan and L'Atelier du poisson soluble. Their motto: constantly creating and innovating.

From the same authors: I Never Said (pp. 6-7), Ezima (p. 25), Sweet Man (p. 37).

Other book as illustrators: For A Lifetime (pp. 16-17)

Strong points:

- A gateway to sign language and the impaired-hearing world.
- Initially published in 1999 by Syros, and reprinted several times by now, the novel has been a huge success and won the Renaudot Youth Prize and the Jack London Prize in 2001.

Key words: disability — sign language — deafness — friendship — tolerance.



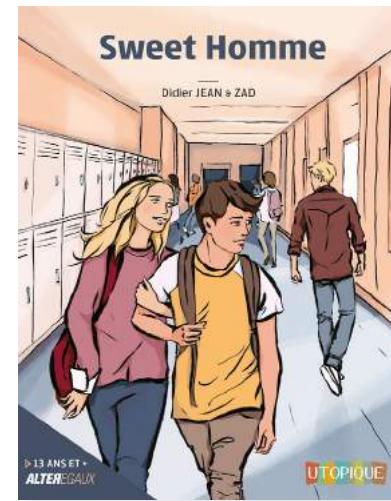
SWEET MAN

Written by **Didier Jean** and **Zad**.

14,5 x 18,5 cm, 128 pages, softcover.



A caring book dealing with homosexuality.



The authors:

Partners in crime in fiction and in reality, **Didier Jean** and **Zad** have written more than a hundred books for children, young adults and adults, which were published by prestigious publishing houses such as Hachette, Milan, Syros, Nathan and L'Atelier du poisson soluble. Their motto: constantly creating and innovating.

From the same authors: I Never Said (pp. 6-7), Ezima (p. 25), Sweet Man (p. 37).

Other book as illustrators: For A Lifetime (pp. 16-17)

Strong points:

- A fun narration with endearing and profound characters.
- Initially published in 2003 by Syros, the novel has been entirely modernized and updated.
- The importance of arts such as dance, video, music and spontaneous painting.

Key words: homosexuality — love — friendship — arts.

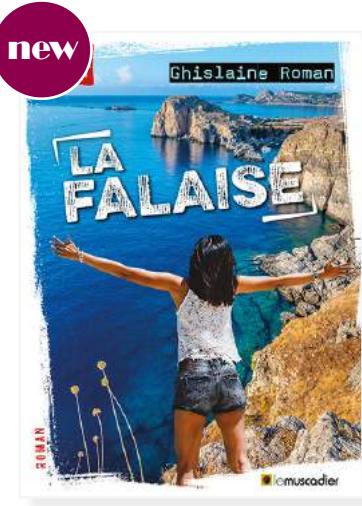
THE CLIFF

Written by **Ghislaine Roman.**

14 x 19 cm, 132 pages, softcover.



What would you do if you discovered your mother was abused as a child?



"I see exactly the scene in slow-motion. My dad opens the newspaper and becomes livid. My mother widens her eyes, her way to ask him what's happening. My dad creases the pages, lets them fall on the ground and says 'Gee whiz!' At that moment, I don't suspect anything."

Fifteen-year-old Charlotte discovers that her mother was abused as a child. As her love for Pablo awakens her desire, she will have to face the wave that is hitting her family. She will discover the abjection of which adults are capable of: some knew and said nothing. Between rage and tenderness, Charlotte will have to find her own way...

The author:

Ghislaine Roman has been writing children's books for over twenty years. She has published about thirty picture books, some of them mischievous and funny, others dealing with social issues such as human's responsibility towards nature, relationships within the family, grief but also power.

Strong points:

- Ghislaine Roman is a well-established author, thanks to her bestseller *The Book of Maybes* published by Milan in 2003.
- A sensitive story about a difficult and contemporary topic.

Key words:

child abuse — family — first love — adolescence.

Staying Alive is a collection of novels and short stories that portrays our modern world. The books within are addressing ecological, social and ethical issues towards pre-teens to young adults and more widely all readers who resist the enslavement of minds.

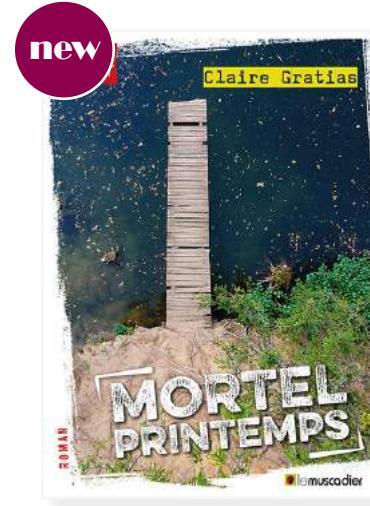
A DEADLY SPRING

Written by **Claire Gratias.**

14 x 19 cm, 356 pages, softcover.



A thrilling hard-boiled fiction with a spectacular outcome.



The author:

After a career as a French teacher, **Claire Gratias** began to write books for children and young adults. She has written about thirty picture books and novels. Mastering the art of hard-boiled fiction, she creates texts that keep her readers on the edge of their seats while inviting them to think about current topics.

Strong points:

- Same characters as the ones in her successful *The Summer I Saw the Killer*, published by Rouergue in 2019.
- Claire Gratias has won many book prizes and is very popular amongst young adults.

Key words:

hard-boiled fiction — treason — rivalry — secret — resiliency.

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RAISED FIST

Written by **Yaël Hassan**.

14 x 19 cm, 180 pages, softcover.



Junior is a middle school student in eighth grade. Their French teacher asked them to write the documented biography of a person who tried to change the world. Consequently to George Floyd's death and the many anti-racist protests that followed around the world, the young man chooses to write about the life of Tommie Smith, an African-American athlete who distinguished himself raising a black-gloved fist at the Olympic games of 1968.

This novel, deeply embedded in a hot topic, is set in a very uncommon time frame : during a lockdown, virtual lessons, away from school and its obligations, the discovery of neighbours... and maybe love.

The author:

After spending her childhood in Belgium, her teenage years in France and her early adult life in Israël, **Yaël Hassan** settles down for good back in France. A car accident puts an end to a twenty-year career in tourism. While she is recovering, she writes her first novel *A Grandfather Fallen from the Sky*, which won many prizes such as the Youth Novel Prize in 1996. She is now a very successful writer.

Strong points:

- The author's huge popularity amongst young readers.
- A strong text dealing with current problematic issues.
- The lockdown situation that readers can relate to.

Key words: racism — police violence — lockdown — discrimination.

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THE LAST QUEEN BEES

Written by **Christophe Léon** and **Patricia Vigier**.

14 x 19 cm, 202 pages, softcover.

A merciless fight against deforestation and bees disappearance.



The authors:

Former student of fine art school and pro tennis player, **Christophe Léon** has published not only general literature but also novels and short stories for young adults. Wildlife protection, social matters and the dangers of globalisation are important themes for him. Since 2015, he is in charge of the Staying Alive collection.

After literature studies she wished she could have pursued until retiring, professor and librarian, **Patricia Vigier** decided to start writing and passing on stories.

Strong points:

- The militant and incisive writing style of Christophe Léon, associated with the expertise of Patricia Vigier as a professor and librarian.
- The necessity to address wildlife protection issues to young readers.

Key words: climate issues — biodiversity — ecology — neocolonialism.

Staying Alive is a collection of novels and short stories that portrays our modern world. The books within are addressing ecological, social and ethical issues towards pre-teens to young adults and more widely all readers who resist the enslavement of minds.



HOW I BROUGHT NINA'S SMILE BACK

Written by **Nicolas Michel**.

14 × 19 cm, 146 pages, softcover.



Gaspard is a responsible boy. He is even too responsible for his own parents who are... disorganized and messy, sarcastic and squabbling, absurd and eccentric, surprising and extravagant, unconventional and jokers. But Gaspard won't give up on that: he has to take care of the family. Otherwise, who will?

And he's doing a great job, a pretty great job! Until the day he accidentally makes the beautiful Nina cry. So, Gaspard decides to do everything he can to bring Nina's smile back, even if it means dropping his perfect child act... or not.

The author:

Nicolas Michel grew up in the south of France before moving in Finland and in Uganda. Writer and journalist, he is the chief editor of the *Young Africa* magazine where he writes about literature, history and contemporary art. He also contributes to other magazines.

Strong points:

- An amusing and intelligent feel-good book.
- Nicolas Michel is a well-established author who has worked for renown publishing houses such as Gallimard and Talents Hauts.

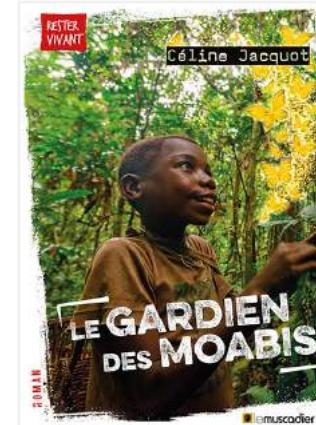
Key words: humour — differences — school — fantasy — first love.

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THE MOABIS GUARDIAN

Written by **Céline Jacquot**.

14 × 19 cm, 160 pages, softcover.



An ecological adventure novel in the heart of Congo.

Mobou is a ten-year-old Baka Pygmy. He lives with his family in a camp located in the heart of the Congo basin. Mobou loves to hunt. The mysterious forest teeming with life is his favorite playground and the Gambian rat his favorite prey.

One day, the little people of the forest hosts an official from Kinshasa: the government has just sold a portion of their territory to foreign loggers. The Pygmies are ordered to move... into concrete huts. So, with his family and a couple of researchers from an NGO, Mobou sets up a whole arsenal of defense. His goal: to force the tree killers to leave the forest.

The author:

As a freelance journalist, **Céline Jacquot** has traveled all around the world, from the lowlands of Bagan (Birmania) to the holy churches of Lalibela (Ethiopia). In her backpacks, she has brought back words, stories from elsewhere, faces and emotions. Through her writings, she mixes children's dreams with the hardness of reality.

Strong points:

- A hot topic: deforestation and more widely the environment protection issues.
- Endearing characters readers will enjoy identify with.
- The fluid and easy-to-read writing style of Céline Jacquot.

Key words: deforestation — wildlife preservation — environment — fight — Africa.

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WHAT IF TOMORROW... V.2

Written by **Michel Piquemal**.

14 x 19 cm, 120 pages, softcover.



When dystopia allows to denounce the excesses of the present.



What if tomorrow... humans were to become stupid? What if tomorrow... we could spy on each other's private lives? What if tomorrow... money had an expiration date? What if tomorrow... our pets wore glasses?

After the success of his first book What if tomorrow..., Michel Piquemal comes back with a new set of science-fiction short stories. Eleven powerful and corrosive stories describing the possible decline of a world very similar to ours – the world of tomorrow.

The author:

Michel Piquemal is one of today's major authors in children's literature. He has published more than 200 books, is translated into a dozen of languages and won many literary prizes. He dedicates himself to the transmission of humanist values by publishing many philosophical books for children at Albin Michel.

Strong points:

- Humorous and philosophical short stories in the spirit of *1984* by George Orwell.
- A way to question our modern habits and our environment.
- The incisive and spicy writing style of Michel Piquemal.

Key words:

science-fiction — society — future — humour.

Staying Alive is a collection of novels and short stories that portrays our modern world. The books within are addressing ecological, social and ethical issues towards pre-teens to young adults and more widely all readers who resist the enslavement of minds.

ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT

Written by **Claire Mazard**.

14 x 19 cm, 88 pages, softcover.



A powerful fiction to break the silence around incest.



Marie-Bénédicte, a twelve-year-old girl, receives for her birthday a computer to which she is going to reveal her terrible secret: it has been five months that every Wednesday afternoon, her uncle Laurent – her mother's younger brother with whom she used to spend such beautiful vacations as a child – sexually abuses her. She writes about her uneasiness, her suffering, her feeling of guilt, her discouragement facing her relatives and friends who cannot or will not see anything.

But how could she break the silence?

The author:

Claire Mazard essentially writes novels for young adults. Her stories are either detective novels, adventure novels, or novels based on real-life facts. With more than fifty books, she became one of the most important figures in french children's literature, writing for several high-profiled publishing houses such as Syros, Nathan, Casterman, Flammarion etc.

Strong points:

- An impactful yet easy-to-read book dealing with an important issue: incest.
- Initially published by Casterman, the novel received the Tatoulu Prize in 2000.

Key words:

incest — rape — self-reconstruction — hope.

Staying Alive is a collection of novels and short stories that portrays our modern world. The books within are addressing ecological, social and ethical issues towards pre-teens to young adults and more widely all readers who resist the enslavement of minds.