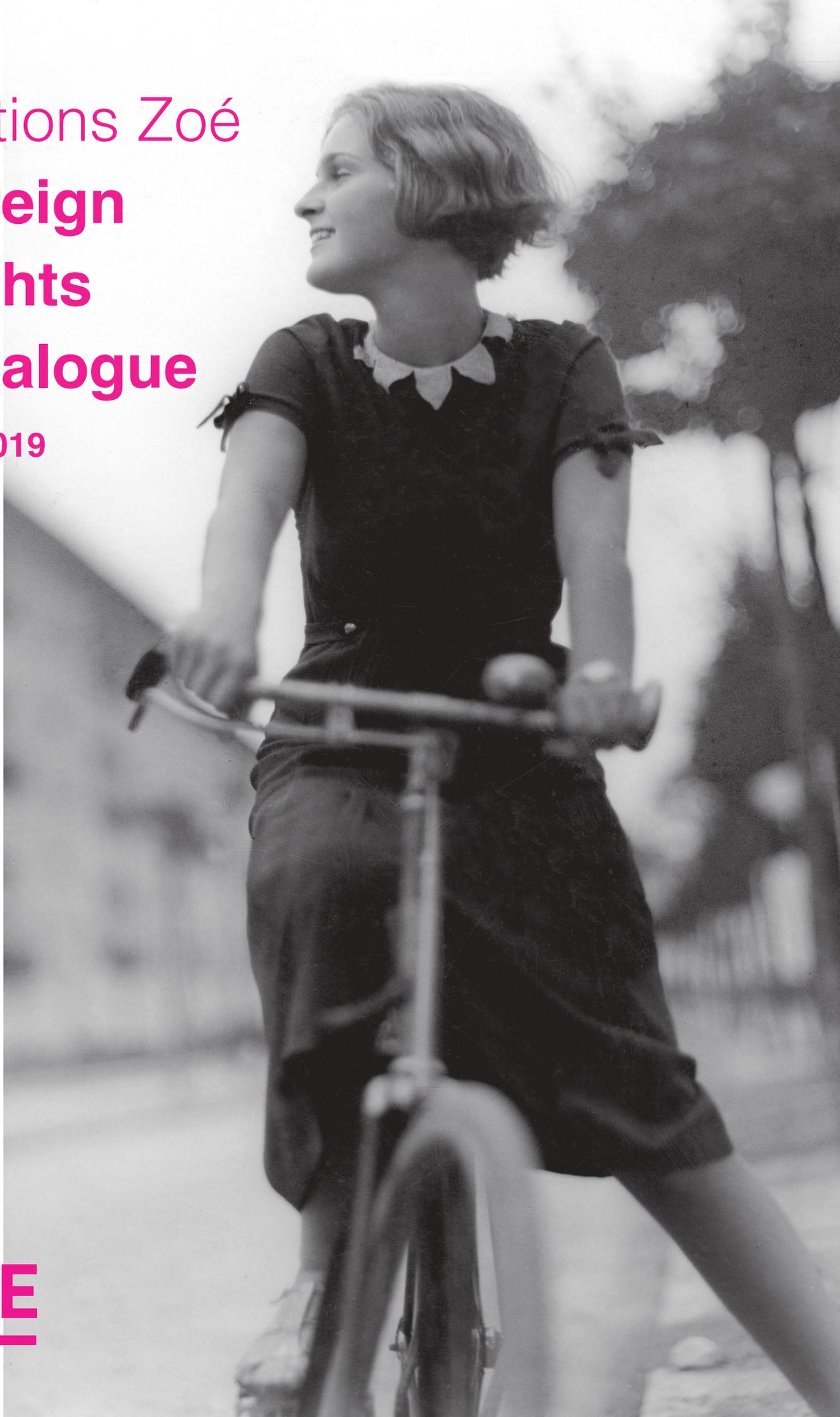


Editions Zoé  
**Foreign  
Rights  
Catalogue**

Fall 2019

**ZOE**



Editions Zoé  
46 chemin de la Mousse  
CH-1225 Chêne-Bourg-Genève  
Switzerland  
+41 22 309 36 06  
lpecher@pierrestier.com  
www.editionszoe.ch

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# Editions Zoé

## Who we are

---

Since our beginnings as a Swiss independent publishing house in 1975, we have added to our catalogue innovative writers who create new worlds and strong atmospheres. It comprises different collections:

The “Domaine français” includes francophone Swiss writers from the “patrimoine” as well as the new generation, who stimulate and enrich the discussion about contemporary literature. Among them, the bestselling titles by Nicolas Bouvier (*Le Dehors et le Dedans*) and Agota Kristof (*L’Analphabète*) stand out: they have been translated into more than twenty languages. These great figures are followed by promising young talents such as Elisa Shua Dusapin, Bruno Pellegrino, Max Lobe and Aude Seigne.

The “Domaine alémanique” represents in their French translations the most prominent voices of German speaking Swiss writers such as Matthias Zschokke, Lukas Bärfuss, Robert Walser and Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

The “Collection Ecrits d’ailleurs” presents works by anglophone writers from the Commonwealth and the diaspora whose distinct voices reflect on their often mixed identities and conflictual existence in a globalised world. We thus publish Helene Cooper, David Chariandy, Richard Wagamese, Ivan Vladislavic and many more in French.

“Zoé poche” is a paperback collection of some of the greatest Swiss authors, and the 100 tiny booklets of “Minizoé” allow readers to discover Swiss literature in no more than 64 pages.

I wish you a nice journey through this catalogue that gathers our most important French titles available from our frontlist and backlist.

**Caroline Coutau**

Chief Editor



### ***Want to contact us?***

Editions Zoé  
46 chemin de la Mousse  
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www.editionszoe.ch

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Aude Seigne  
Noëlle Revaz  
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# Highlights 2018-2019

**Roland Buti**  
**Gabriella Zalapì**  
**Michel Layaz**  
**Elisa Shua Dusapin**  
**Max Lobe**  
*Stand-by*  
**Bruno Pellegrino**

*Our new books for years 2018-2019,  
available for translation*



## Roland Buti Grand National



### **Grand National**

Roland Buti

Novel

Paperback textbook

160 pages

First Printed: August 2019

Rights sold:

- German (Zsolnay - pre-empt)
- Italian (Solferino - pre-empt)
- Large print French (À vue d'œil)

English excerpt available

# Grand National

## Roland Buti

---

The narrator, Carlo, lives on the Geneva lakeside, between the city, the allotment gardens and the palaces of another era. He is a landscape gardener, his wife Ana has just left him, his daughter studies in London, his mother is missing from her retirement home and his Balkan employee has been beaten up by so-called strangers. Day after day, the world around him falls apart. His daughter is suddenly an adult, his wife his caretaker, his Balkan employee a confidant and his mother... Who really is his mother, that skinny old woman, beloved by rich old men from an obscure past? The narrator's tender gaze and his sense of humour, transfigures everything: the gardens, the plants, the beloved ones, the secrets, the disappointments, the desires or sorrows of a simple and wonderful humanity.

### **About the author**

Roland Buti (b. 1964 in Lausanne) studied Literature and Literary History and teaches in a grammar school. He published a volume of short stories *Les Âmes Célestes* ("Celestial Souls") in 1990, then *Un Nuage sur l'œil* ("A Cloud over the Eye") in 2004, followed by *Luce et Célie* in 2007. Published in 2013 *Le Milieu de l'Horizon* ("Year of the Drought") was short-listed for the Prix Médicis and awarded the Swiss Literature Award.

• **A mother escaping from a retirement home to seek refuge in a Swiss palace**

• **Previous novel, *Le Milieu de l'horizon*, sold in 8 countries + film**

"The knowledge I had of her body and her faintest gestures made me shiver. Her dangling arms and ample undulating moves actually betray a fake poise. I got an exact notion of the trouble which, at that very moment, was confusing the thoughts of the woman I had loved and who had left me, but strangely and oddly enough, it helped me to conceal my distress." **Grand National**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# Antonia

## Gabriella Zalapì

---

Antonia is a young woman who lives in 1960's Sicily, in a wealthy environment. Her husband, Franco, a man with small, sharp, mischievous eyes, limits her to the role of the perfect housewife, and her son, cornered by an authoritarian nurse, avoids her. When she inherits from her paternal grandmother, she throws herself headlong into the papers and photos recovered in the beautiful mansion, Villa Clara, a haven of peace, sweetness and harmony where she spent a part of her youth.

In her diary, Antonia recounts two years of her life, her unsurprising days, her useless attempts to get closer to her son, a sticky and confused awkwardness which clears up as she plunges back into her past. She is the eldest daughter of a woman from a Jewish family who fled Vienna in 1940 to the Bahamas, who had a hard time being a mother herself. Her father-in-law had an incestuous relationship with her. Her father died too young. She had an egocentric and spendthrift maternal grandmother. A return to Europe ten years later, was full of breaks, relentless moves from Vienna to London, then Geneva, and Sicily to a paternal grandmother who finally brought her some family warmth. This is why Antonia feels out of place. This beautiful novel, intimate and humble, is a brief snapshot of the stolen life of so many women.

### About the author

Born in Milan, Gabriella Zalapì is a visual artist who lives in Paris. Her work revolves around painting and photography. She likes to work with archive images, press images or videos.

- **Grand prix de l'héroïne 2019 *Madame Figaro***
- **Behind the European elegance of 1960s, the brutal tyranny undergone by women.**

"The word 'mother' sounds like a profound impossibility, it throws me into both lies and rejection, I cannot find my place, I am an imposture." **Antonia**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)



Gabriella  
Zalapì

**Antonia**

Journal 1965 – 1966

**ZOE**



### **Antonia**

Gabriella Zalapì

Novel

Paperback textbook

112 pages with photographs

First Printed: January 2019

Rights sold:

- Mass market Paperback (Livre de poche)



## Michel Layaz Sans Silke

**ZOE**



### **Sans Silke**

Michel Layaz

Novel

Paperback textbook

160 pages

First Printed: January 2019

# Without Silke

## Michel Layaz

---

The 19-year old Silke ends up as the tutor of young Ludivine, in a mansion in the wilderness. Ludivine is a playful little girl, and Silke gladly joins her in her games. They soon take to each other. During nine months, they kiss trees, learn to fly like birds, sleep under the stars, together bonded in a fantasy world, oblivious to Ludivine's parents, who are completely absorbed by their exclusive relationship. The girl's friendship will, however, be a factor of disruption within the vulnerable triangle of the family.

*Without Silke* showcases Layaz's fascination for childhood and its strange innocence. He very accurately captures a little girl's gestures as she braces with joy after having scored at a pool game; as she strokes her own shoulders while focusing intensely; and whose imagination is somewhat crazy, odd, and brilliant.

### **About the author**

Michel Layaz ranks among the key contemporary French-speaking Swiss writers. His books have been translated in German, Italian, English, and Bulgarian. His latest novel, *Louis Soutter, probablement*, ("Louis Soutter, Probably") was awarded by a Swiss literary prize in 2018.

"But how does one actually manage, without perspective or maturity, to best describe two hearts united by love, pride, and selfishness, totally oblivious to a third one – this one absolutely devoid of cruelty?" **Without Silke**

• **A must-read novel on childhood, whether you've enjoyed *Lolita* or *En attendant Bojangles***

• **A surgically precise writing on family wounds**

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# The Balls of the Pachinko

## Elisa Shua Dusapin

---

Claire, who is turning thirty, spends the summer with her grandparents in Tokyo. She wants to talk her grandfather into leaving the Pachinko he runs and join her and her grandmother on a journey back to their native Korea, where they haven't been since the war. While coaxing them into coming with her, Claire sees to Mieko, a young Japanese girl to whom she teaches French. Elisa Shua Dusapin excels in describing typically ambivalent family relationships in this story of filiation set at the crossroads between Korean, Japanese, and European cultures. Her sober writing aptly describes her characters' inwardness as she leads the reader in an atmosphere of muffled violence where the Far-East has a part to play.

### About the author

Born to a French father and a South-Korean mother, Elisa Shua Dusapin was brought up between Paris, Seoul and Porrentruy. Her debut novel published by Zoé, *Hiver à Sokcho* (*Winter in Sokcho*), was awarded by the Walser, Alpha, and Régine Desforges Prizes. She was also the recipient one of the SGDL's "Révélation" Awards.

"There is a lot to be found in this short novel. The young novelist tackles it all with a feel for sensitivity, with a sober and sensitive style, fitted to inwardness." *Livres Hebdo*

- **Recipient of the Régine Desforges, Robert Walser and SGDL awards for her debut novel, *Hiver à Sokcho***
- **A talent for evoking mixed cultural identities**
- **Intergenerational transmission and filiation among women**

"The skilled player, however, knows that he just cannot let his hand go of the curser. He stays in command. He feels the slightest jamming, which he overcomes with a soft adjustment of the wrist, or a tiny relaxation of the phalanges. It is imperceptible. It makes all the difference."

### **The Balls of the Pachinko**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

Elisa Shua  
Dusapin  
Les Billes  
du Pachinko



**ZOE**



### ***Les Billes du Pachinko***

Elisa Shua Dusapin  
Novel  
Paperback textbook  
144 pages  
First Printed: August 2018  
Rights sold:  
- Korean (Book Recipe)

**Max Lobe**  
**Loin de Douala**



**ZOE**



**Loin de Douala**

Max Lobe

Novel

Paperback textbook

176 pages

First Printed: March 2018

English excerpts available

Rights sold:

- English - World (Hope Road)

# Far Away From Douala

## Max Lobe

Will Jean and Simon eventually find Roger? The latter left his bad-tempered mother to follow his dream: becoming a football star. To do so, he must leave Douala and cross Nigeria to go to Europe.

Jean and Simon's adventures on Roger's tracks bear the hallmarks of an initiatory trip, as they discover the North of Cameroon and its sumptuous wildlife, and witness its devastation by Boko Haram and poverty. They party. And young Jean lives through both the separation with his mother and his discovery of a different sexual identity. Max Lobe, cocky and witty, has a knack for giving a voice to his characters, and rendering the atmosphere of the streets, trains, police precincts, markets, and rough bars.

### About the author

Born in 1986 in Douala, Cameroon, Max Lobe lives in Switzerland, where he writes with rhythm and generosity. After *39 rue de Berne* (2013), *La Trinité bantoue* (*The Bantu Trinity*, 2015), and *Confidences* (2016 – winner of the Ahmadou Kourouma award), he tackles the urgent issues of immigration in his own, natural way.

“Nearby, some whores are giggling. They must find it funny, seeing Simon bargaining with the long-legged tranny. ‘Four thousand francs, deal? Five thousand?’ And there he goes again, stuffing his money in the bra. ‘All right, all right. I’ve seen your guy Roger. He was around a couple of days ago.’”

- **Cameroon as you’ve never seen it before**
- **A novel with colourful, endearing characters**
- **An initiatory trip on the footsteps of a lost elder brother**

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# Stand-by

## Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, Daniel Vuataz

---

*Stand-by* is what happens when TV series screenplays' edginess meets a sensorial range which only literature can express. Éditions Zoé asked three Swiss authors, Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, and Daniel Vuataz, to come up with a totally updated version of traditional literary series.

When a volcano near Naples suddenly erupts, Europe is gradually paralyzed by an amazing ash cloud: airplanes are grounded, communications are jammed. Alix Franzen, who had planned to fly from Paris to New York, must change plans. In Montenegro, three teenagers, Nora, Vasko and Virgile, are left to themselves and discover the thrill and worries of independence. In the meantime, a team of young Europeans doing their compulsory climate service are stuck in Greenland, out of reach.

### About the authors

Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, and Daniel Vuataz were all born between 1985 and 1988. All are TV series enthusiasts.

"A few kilometres away from Naples, at the heart of an area formerly known as the Phlegrean Fields, the first magma chamber exploded. A plume of molten rock pierces Earth's crust. With phenomenal and unpredictable violence, the eruption begins." *Stand-by*

- **An original and exciting climate-fiction**
- **Three talented authors team up for a literary adventure**
- **Forget Netflix: this is the link between Balzac and *Breaking Bad***

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch)  
or contact [lpacher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpacher@pierreastier.com)



### ***Stand-by***

Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne,  
Daniel Vuataz  
Drawings by Frédéric Pajak  
Serialized illustrated novel  
(2 seasons)  
Paperback textbook  
English excerpts available



**Bruno Pellegrino**  
**Là-bas,  
août est un mois  
d'automne**

**ZOE**



***Là-bas, août est un mois  
d'automne***

Bruno Pellegrino

Novel

Paperback textbook

Size : 140 x 210 mm

224 pages

ISBN : 978-2-88927-507-8

First Printed: January 2018

Rights sold:

- Italian (Armando Dadò)

# August Is A Fall Month Over There

## Bruno Pellegrino

---

This novel tells the story of a brother and sister who have always lived under the same roof, and are bound by a tacit pact. Madeleine smokes cigars, has a passion for space conquest, maintains the household and, first and foremost, protects her brother. Gustave has set upon making an inventory of the world and of what is to be gone as he walks, takes pictures, and writes. The rural world, its rituals and objects, are changing, just as wilderness itself. Bruno Pellegrino skilfully portrays this uncanny couple and the cocoon which they have sown amid their own environment, halfway between self-sufficiency and symbiosis. This praise of slowness and freedom takes us back to a world shimmering with colours and feelings which is the rural world of the 1960s', revisited with 21st century words.

### About the author

Bruno Pellegrino was born in 1988 and lives in Lausanne. He received several awards for his short stories and texts. *Là-bas, août est un mois d'automne* is his first novel. It draws freely upon the lives of poet Gustave Roud and his sister Madeleine.

"I write about people who could actually name things, flowers, and animals, when I need an app on my phone which identifies birds by their song and plants by the shape of their leaves. This is probably why I find these two characters fascinating: their slow and knowledgeable way to experience the thickness of days."

• **Prix François Mauriac 2019 by l'Académie française**

• **The 1960s' rural world told in today's words**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

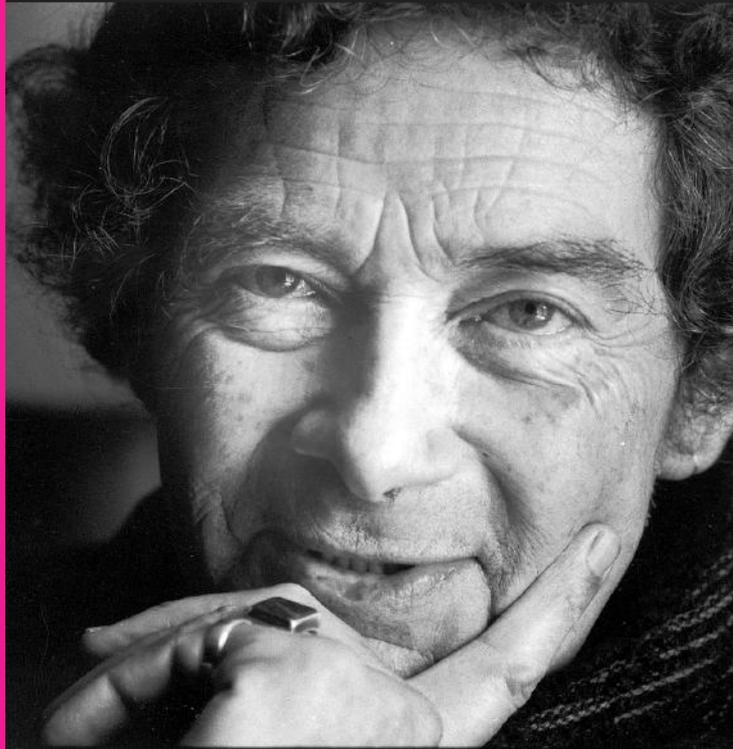
# Zoé Classics

Ella Maillart

Agota Kristof

Nicolas Bouvier

*Here are our most famous authors, already translated in many languages.*



# The Land of The Sherpas

## Ella Maillart

---



### ***Au pays des Sherpas***

Ella Maillart

Illustrated book

Paperback textbook

Size : 170 x 200 mm

144 pages

64 photograph

ISBN : 978-2-88927-389-8

First Printed: 2017

Rights sold:

- Spanish (Tushita Edicions)

- German (Nagel & Kimche)

Initially written in English in 1955, *The Land of The Sherpas* is now published in French for the first time. Through the vibrant relationship between text and photographs, this book moves from an outside representation of the world of the Sherpas to a more penetrating vision. Ella Maillart was already the famous traveller we know when writing this book, but her stay in Nepal in 1951 was for her the true quest to find meaning in the heart of Asia.

The first part of the narrative resembles an ethnological investigation: the observer describes items and customs from an outside point of view. After her climb to the sacred lake Gorsainkund, the author's viewpoint shifts to where the faith can be found. Ella Maillart examines rituals, legends and daily spirituality with a unique touch of emotion. 65 photographs that she took during her trip are published here with the text.

### **About the author**

Ella Maillart (1903-1997) was one of the most audacious travellers from the first part of the twentieth century. Sailor, novice archaeologist in Crete, movies' extra in Berlin, explorer in the Soviet Republics, correspondent in Manchuria, nurse in Chinese Turkestan... Her interest for travelling led her to follow a spiritual path in Nepal, an experience that is at the heart of this book.

- **Unpublished narrative by Ella Maillart**
- **Meet the Sherpas, through photos and texts**



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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# Where Are You, Mathias?

## Agota Kristof

*Où es-tu Mathias ? (Where are you, Mathias?)* and *Line, le temps (Line, Time)* summon Agota Kristof's obsessions: childhood and its terrible clairvoyance, despair and the illusions of life, the deceit of words, nostalgia, wit, and the world of dreams. Sandor, the main character of *Où es-tu Mathias ?* carries us off in the maze of uncertainties which Agota Kristof readers are familiar with. Lighter and funnier, *Line* is the main character of a short text written for the stage. She is a young woman in love like she will never again be as an adult.

### About the author

Born in Hungary, Agota Kristof (1935-2011) lived in Switzerland from 1956. She first worked in a factory where she learnt the language of her chosen country, before making a name for herself as a writer in the French language. Her debut novel, *The Notebook*, published in 1986, opened her "twin brothers" trilogy and met considerable success. As novelist, playwright and poet, her work earned her international recognition.

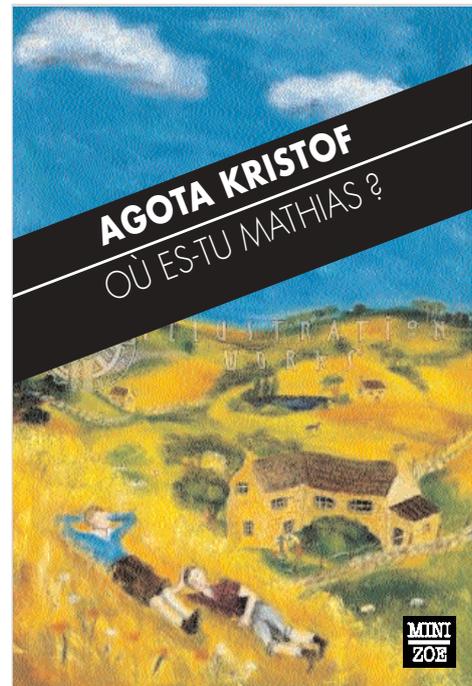
- **Two short texts which summon Agota Kristof's power**

- **A raw and vivid writing**

"Sandor was playing with the case, and yet no one came. At tea-time, he decided it was pointless. Cocks were singing in the courtyard, but there was nothing they could do about the stubbornness of the dream – and he was right: it was too early. Cocks always sing too early. Outside, on the outside, there was nothing. Screams, stars, and that was it. And all of this was still as pale as a slap in the face."

### **Où es-tu Mathias ?**

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact [lpacher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpacher@pierreastier.com)



### ***Où es-tu Mathias?***

Agota Kristof

Short texts, Paperback textbook

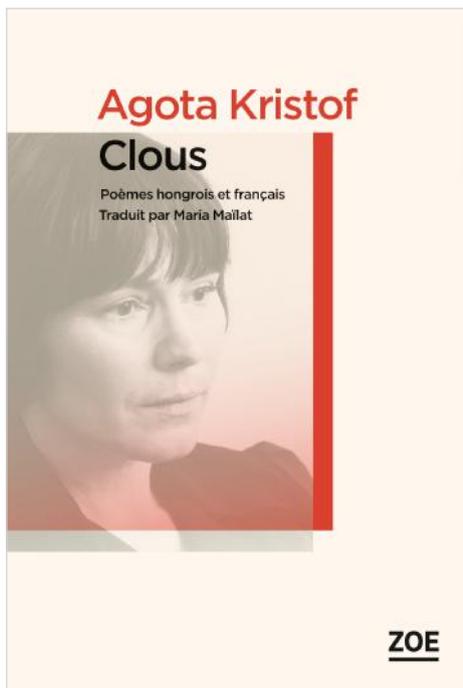
Size : 105 x 150 mm, 48 pages

ISBN : 978-2-88182-548-6

First Printed: 2005

Rights sold:

- Arabic (Al Kamel Verlag)
- Chinese (Horizon)
- Greek (Agra)
- Italian (Casagrande)
- Japanese (Hayakawa)
- Georgian (Nectar)



### **Clous**

Agota Kristof

Poetry

Paperback textbook

208 pages

First Printed: 2016

Rights sold:

- Italian (Casagrande)

# Nails

## Agota Kristof

---

Agota Kristof was born in Hungary in 1935. She came to Switzerland in 1956 and worked in factories while learning French and writing theatre plays. In 1987 she became famous with her first novel, *The Notebook*. She later published masterpieces like *The Proof* and *The Third Lie*, translated into thirty languages. She died in July 2011.

Agota Kristof's poetry is today published for the first time, according to the text she had left for publishing a few years before her death.

*Nails* collects poems written in Hungarian by Agota Kristof before she fled from Hungary in 1956. Having left the poems there, she rewrote them from memory and added new ones, choosing a French title but not translating the content. These poems became the source for several texts in prose she later wrote. To this day they had remained unpublished.

The bilingual book published today contains both the original Hungarian edition of the poems and their first translation in French. They are completed with a few texts directly written in French. Agota Kristof's sharp style and favourite themes (loss, distance, death) are already present here, as well as other themes such as love and nature.

- **Unpublished poetry by the author of *The Notebook* and *The Iliterate*.**

- **A more hopeful facet of Agota Kristof**

“Published with portraits of the author, these texts can be read as a deeply moving poetic autobiography.”

**Le Devoir**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# The Illiterate

## Agota Kristof

---

Agota Kristof was born in Hungary in 1935. She came to Switzerland in 1956 and worked in factories, while learning French and writing theatre plays. In 1987 she became famous with her first novel, *The Notebook*. She later published masterpieces like *The Proof* and *The Third Lie*, translated into thirty languages. She died in July 2011.

*The Illiterate* is her only autobiographical account: eleven chapters for eleven moments of her life. She begins when, as little girl in Hungary, she used to read lots of books, and stops her story at the point where her first books written in French came out. Happy childhood, poverty after the War, loneliness at boarding school, the death of Stalin, the tension between her mother tongue and “enemy” languages that were Russian and German, flight to Austria, then Switzerland with her baby.

“I know I will never write French as native French writers do, but I will write as I am able to, as best as I can.

I did not choose this language. It was imposed on me by fate, by chance, by circumstance.”

- **The only autobiographical book by a great literary icon**
- **More than 25.000 copies sold in French**
- **A classic, studied in schools**

“This is a book of relevance today because we live in a world of migration, and Kristof shows it to us from within. It is one of the last books she wrote, slim and clean, but containing the accumulations of a lifetime.”

**Independent on Sunday**

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or contact [lpacher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpacher@pierreastier.com)

### Agota Kristof

#### L'Analphabète

Récit autobiographique



ZOE



#### *L'Analphabète*

Agota Kristof  
autobiographical recital  
Paperback textbook, 60 p.  
First Printed: 2004

Rights sold:

- Arabic (Al Kamel)
- Catalanian (Laertes)
- Chinese (Horizon)
- English (UK - CB Editions)
- Greek (Agra)
- German (Piper)
- Italian (Casagrande)
- Japanese (Hakusui)
- Korean (Hankyoreh)
- Lituianian (Zara)
- Mongolian (Zokhist Dorno)
- Polish (Noir sur Blanc)
- Spanish (Alpha Decay)
- Slovenian (Modrijan)
- Swedish (Wahlström & Widstrand)

NICOLAS BOUVIER

LE DEHORS  
ET LE DEDANS



EDITIONS  
ZOE



### ***Le Dehors et le Dedans***

Nicolas Bouvier

Poetry

Paperback textbook

112 pages

First Printed: 1998

Rights sold:

- Greek (Stigmè)
- German (Lenos Verlag)
- Italian (Edizioni ETS)
- Spanish (Peru / Jaime Campodónico)

# Inside and Outside

## Nicolas Bouvier

This is the only book of poetry ever written by Nicolas Bouvier. Between 1953 and 1997, he wrote these lines and summoned an incredible universe, as the tireless traveler he was.

### **About the author**

Nicolas Bouvier was born in Geneva in 1929 and died in 1998. He was a writer, a picture hunter, an iconographer and a photographer. He began to travel when he was 17.

Through Eastern Europe and Asia, he discovered the world and described it with a powerful style. He lived in several countries, from Ceylon to Ireland and Japan, finding abroad material to write the finest travel stories.

- **The most important traveling writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

- **More than 9.000 copies sold in French**

“When you knew how to live with nothing  
Your life followed you like a swarm of bees  
And you paid without haggling  
Beauty exorbitant price”

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch)  
or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# Stories of a picture

## Nicolas Bouvier

---

We all know Bouvier as traveler and writer, but he was also a great iconographer. He worked in the 90's for a Swiss magazine and wrote a column entitled "Stories of...". Through twenty-five texts about pictures, he tells stories that have a taste of childhood.

"Sometimes Elephant can be vindictive, but he is more often careful. It has few reasons to attack a congener just for aturbaned princes' pleasure. You should stuff them with Indian hemp or any other toxin to increase their fighting spirit, and elephant drivers should whip them to death if they want them to fight. The guy you see caught under the defeated animal's paw appears to be in a bad state. If he doesn't die, he will limp the rest of his live and will have deserved it."

### About the author

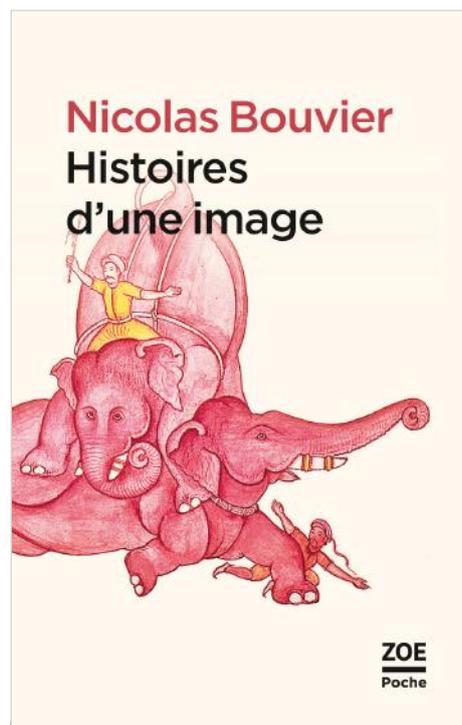
Nicolas Bouvier was born in Geneva in 1929 and died in 1998. Writer, picture hunter, iconographer, photographer, he began to travel when he was 17.

- **A book by Nicolas Bouvier as iconographer**
- **More than 8.000 copies sold in French**
- **25 texts from all around the world**

"Thanks to these twenty five short mischievous texts, we get to know that the crocodile can boast in its egg, that Japanese history lists several executioners bitten by chopped-off heads [or] that while hunting the seal the polar bear hides its black nose in order to hide better [...]."

**Libération**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)



### *Histoires d'une image*

Nicolas Bouvier

illustrated book

Paperback textbook

112 pages

First Printed: 2001

Rights sold:

- Mass market paperback (Zoé)

- German (Lenos Verlag)

Nicolas Bouvier  
Thierry Vernet  
**Correspondance**  
des routes croisées



***Correspondance des routes croisées***

Nicolas Bouvier/Thierry Vernet  
Letters

Paperback textbook

1670 pages

First Printed : 2010

Rights sold:

- mass market paperback (Zoé)

# Crossroads Correspondence

## Nicolas Bouvier & Thierry Vernet

---

“Life is so incandescent. Here and there. Old chap, I am building a large bridge going to you.” (Thierry Vernet to Nicolas Bouvier, August the 17<sup>th</sup>, 1955).

Since high school, Nicolas Bouvier and Thierry Vernet were best friends, dreaming together about world harmony through travels and artistic creation. Nicolas became an author and Thierry a painter. *Crossroads Correspondence* gathers letters that were exchanged between Nicolas Bouvier and Thierry Vernet before the publication in 1964 of the first edition of *L'Usage du monde*, about their trip through Asia.

### About the authors

Nicolas Bouvier (1929-1998) was born in Geneva. He was a writer, a picture hunter, an iconographer and a photographer. He began to travel when he was 17. He lived in several countries, finding abroad material to write the finest travel stories.

Born in Geneva in 1927, Thierry Vernet studied plastic arts. He traveled with his friend, writer Nicolas Bouvier, in the East and illustrated the account of this trip in *L'Usage du monde*. He worked for many theatres as set decorator. He died in 1993.

- **Correspondence between two great artistic figures**
- **Wonderful letters about friendship and traveling**
- **More than 9.000 copies sold in French**

“This is a story of a strong and eternal friendship. Just imagine the return of Orestes and Pylades in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.”

### **Le Figaro**

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# Our Favorites

**Jérôme Meizoz**

**Elisa Shua Dusapin**

**Jérémie Gindre**

**Catherine Lovey**

**Arthur Brügger**

**Catherine Safonoff**

**Michel Layaz**

**Roland Buti**

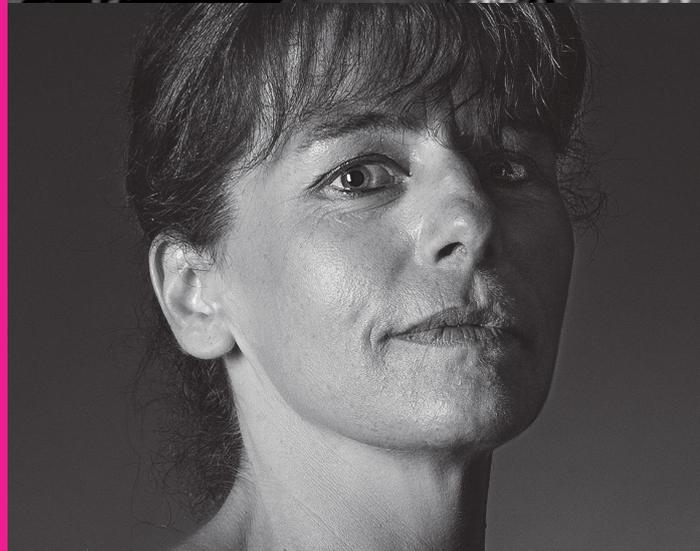
**Anne Brécart**

**Aude Seigne**

**Noëlle Revaz**

**Max Lobe**

*Some of the best authors from our backlist*



Jérôme Meizoz  
Faire le garçon



ZOE



***Faire le garçon***

Jérôme Meizoz

Novel

Paperback textbook

160 pages

First Printed: 2017

Rights sold:

- German (Elster Verlag)

# Acting as a Boy

## Jérôme Meizoz

---

How can one live a man's life with a "girl's heart"? Why must one "act as a boy"? Jérôme Meizoz outlines a sentimental education of sorts, both tender and raw, in a book which is both a novel and a survey.

The survey takes him back to his childhood in a rural Catholic environment, where he gradually became aware of society's deceptions and tricks.

The novel introduces the reader to the story of a young man who chooses to sell himself to women in order to escape the world of factories, offices, and a preordained destiny. He becomes the confident of lonely women to whom he sells his caresses and attention.

### About the author

Born in Valais, Jérôme Meizoz is a writer and teaches at Lausanne University.

"He likes the contrast between bodies; he likes to compare and study them. The weary flesh. The bodies which, step by step, are losing the game. The wrecks. Women quite often weep. The beauty of yore, which is gone and cannot be mourned." **Acting as a Boy**

- **A masculine take on the gender issue**
- **A hybrid and innovative text, both investigation and fiction**

"With retrospective anger, now informed of the reasons, ends, and means, Jérôme Meizoz revisits the great lies of the differential instruction of girls and boys (...). He depicts the social violence at work in this training process." **Le Monde**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# Winter in Sokcho

Elisa Shua Dusapin

---

*Winter in Sokcho* is the story of an encounter between a young French-Korean woman who has never been to France and an illustrator from Normandy who has come to this small provincial town looking for inspiration. Obsessed by her body and her diet, the young woman grows more and more attracted to the artist and his drawings. He in turn is attracted to her who in the course of a few winter months will introduce him in unexpected ways to this strange and rather closed culture on the shores of the Sea of Japan.

The simplicity of the plot and language is deceptive: the suspension of time, the elliptical way to tell the story and the barely suggested intimacy all give the story its density and its depth, enhanced by the mixture of cultures. As soft as snow falling on waves, the apparent gentleness fails to hide the violence that originated the separation of North and South Korea barely fifty years ago, with the border running only a few kilometers from Sokcho.

## About the author

Elisa Shua Dusapin, born in 1992 of a French father and a South-Korean mother, was raised in Paris, Seoul and Porrentruy. She obtained a degree in literary studies at the Swiss Literature Institute in Bienne and pursues her literary career while still making trips to East Asia.

“A humble and poetic first novel.” **Le Monde**

- **A fascinating story set in an exceptional world**
- **Won the Robert Walser Price 2016 and Prix Régine Desforges 2017**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

Elisa Shua  
Dusapin  
Hiver à Sokcho



**ZOE**



## ***Hiver à Sokcho***

Elisa Shua Dusapin

Novel

Paperback textbook

144 pages

First Printed: 2016

Rights sold:

- Korean (Book Recipe)
- Spanish (Alianza Editorial)
- German (Aufbau Verlag)
- Mass market paperback (Folio)
- English (World - Daunt Books)
- Portuguese (Brazil - Ayine)

Joëlle Kuntz

# L'histoire suisse en un clin d'oeil



EDITIONS **ZOE** LE TEMPS EDITIONS



## L'Histoire suisse en un clin d'œil

Joëlle Kuntz  
Illustrated non-fiction  
Paperback textbook  
192 pages

First Printed: 2006

Rights sold:

- German
- English
- Russian
- Romanian

# Swiss History in a Flash

## Joëlle Kuntz

What are the origins of Switzerland? Where does its renowned neutrality come from? How did Switzerland manage to gather four different languages under a single flag? These questions – and more – are answered in this clear and clever book in just under 200 beautifully illustrated pages.

Authored by a talented journalist, *L'Histoire suisse en un clin d'œil* makes us understand Switzerland by explaining the underlying logics of its political, economic, and linguistic policies. From the Middle Ages to the present day, Joëlle Kuntz tells the story of how Switzerland developed its own soul, political culture, and prosperity – which indeed owe much to its neighbors – and gives the confederation its unique identity.

### About the author

Born in 1946, Joëlle Kuntz is a former journalist and columnist for the Swiss daily *Le Temps*. She authored several works, including *Terminus. Réflexions sur les frontières d'un monde globalisé* ("Final Stop. Thoughts on the Borders of a Globalized World"), Hachette-Littérature, 2004.

"The book sorts out myths and reality – not an easy task, which Joëlle Kuntz carries out with both subtlety and conciseness." *L'Hebdo*

- Almost 35,000 copies sold
- The perfect traveler's handbook
- Unbridled and provocative at times



For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch) or contact [lpacher@pierrestier.com](mailto:lpacher@pierrestier.com)

# Mr and Mrs Rivaz

## Catherine Lovey

---

In this novel we discover the hectic and ordinary life of a young woman as she suddenly loses control. With scathing irony and a vibrant style, Catherine Lovey takes us through a contemporary world swarming with stories and characters driven from hospitals and universities to cruise ships and mountains.

Above all, *Mr and Mrs Rivaz* is the story of a woman's struggle to recover the meaning of her life and the world she lives in.

### About the author

Born in Valais, Catherine Lovey has studied economy and forensics. She works as a journalist, now specialized in economics. Her four novels (translated in Russian or in Italian) show her insatiable curiosity and her constant reflection about our society.

- On the importance of having a good doctor
- About the good use of hermits and wise men

"You fixed your choice on these two old people who happened to go this way and who are so offbeat that they become magnificent."

"Catherine Lovey is a forensic-expert journalist. She knows how to write and how to dissect souls. What could we still hope for? The next Lovey's book."

**Figaro Madame**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

Catherine Lovey  
Monsieur  
et Madame Rivaz



**ZOE**



### ***Monsieur et Madame Rivaz***

Catherine Lovey

Novel

Paperback textbook

320 pages

First Printed: 2016

Rights sold:

- Romanian (Cartea Adeleana)
- Russian (Arkadia Publishing)
- Georgian (Academic Press of Georgia)
- Persian (Novin Ketabgooya)

Arthur Brügger  
L'Œil  
de l'espadon



**ZOE**



### ***L'Œil de l'espadon***

Arthur Brügger

Novel

Paperback textbook

160 pages

First Printed: 2015

Rights sold:

- Mass market paperback (Pocket)
- German (Piper Verlag)
- Italian (Longanesi)

# The Eye of Swordfish

## Arthur Brügger

---

Charlie is 24 and is fishmonger's apprentice at the Great Store. He spends his time carving, hollowing out, wrapping the fishes, cleaning up the worktops, then visiting the Great Fridge and the Huge Skip. Sometimes he drinks a coffee or smokes a cigarette with colleagues, when he is not dealing with unknown or regular, harsh or kind customers. But Charlie doesn't like his own image anymore.

Thanks to him, Emile, a strong idealist, discovers a reality more subtle than he thought : no, employees of the Great Store are not stuck in routine idiots.

A first novel as simple as a fable but as effective as a good documentary.

### **About the author**

Arthur Brügger lives and works in Lausanne. He graduated at the Swiss Literary Institute, before his short story *Trompe-l'œil* won the Prix du Jeune écrivain 2012. He shares his time between many activities, such as music, writing and publishing.

"You see the containers, they're full to the brim. You want the right word to describe it? there's one adjective, "aseptisé". Just nice to look but when you scrape off, that becomes disgusting."

### • **Deep reflection about food wasting**

### • **Won the Prix Bibliomédia 2016**

"When you will have watched it with Charlie's naive but accurate look, it won't be possible for you to see the fishmonger's shop like before."

### **Livres Hebdo**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# The Flight Zone

## Catherine Safonoff

---

The flight zone is the distance a prey needs to keep with predator to save its life. In other words: knowing and respecting the limits with the others and the world to live a not too painful life. Here is the intimate story of a woman who needs to figure the reality precisely. Safonoff's narrator is constantly choosing between what is veiled and what is clear. She thinks about differences between memories and truth and can describe all the ambivalence of a woman, whose sense of irony does not prevent her from being amazed. In search of complete honesty, this novel subjugates.

### About the author

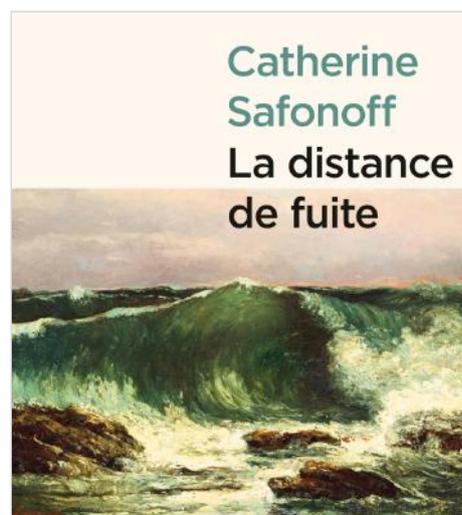
Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. She worked as journalist for the *Journal de Genève* and the Swiss French Radio. Her pen is always acute and smart to describe the everyday world and her lost loves. She has published seven books in the Editions Zoé and won several literary awards such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

“I feel the pictures leaving my head, I feel a hand that digs them up, roots them up, as in May or June when I pull a dandelion flower up with a big chopper (I don't remember the word). There is always a piece of root and the yellow flower comes back to life, while my ideas fade one by one: I stay and I am afraid.”

- **Another way to understand everyday life**
- **Humour, truth & seriousness: a perfect balance**

“Nothing spoils the mockery, the biting honesty with which the author – “so miserable to be old” – keeps on dealing with the “everyday happy little things” as well as their darker side.” **Livres Hebdo**

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or contact [lpacher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpacher@pierreastier.com)



**ZOE**



### ***La distance de fuite***

Catherine Safonoff

Novel

Paperback textbook

336 pages

First Printed: 2017

Rights sold:

- Romanian (Editura Fides)

Catherine Safonoff

Le Mineur  
et le Canari



ZOÉ



### ***Le Mineur et le canari***

*Catherine Safonoff*

Novel

Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2012

Rights sold:

- German (Rotpunkt Verlag)
- Bulgarian (Panorama Plus)
- Mass market paperback (Zoé)
- Romanian (Editura Fides)

# The Miner and the Canary

## Catherine Safonoff

A woman falls in love with her psychologist, Dr Ursus. A clear situation that straightaway stops expression of feelings and desire. For her, it means real opportunity to love. In this controlled and protected frame, nothing wrong may happen. The patient writes, as if she were charmed.

Without risk she can love his eyes, his voice, his clothes, his kindness and his implacable logic. She just has to keep the right distance and let her endless love flow.

What about canary? This symbol belongs to an old tradition. In the old days, miners brought with them this little singer bird that warned when a firedamp explosion was threatening.

### **About the author**

Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. She worked as journalist for the Journal de Genève and the Swiss French Radio. Her pen is always acute and smart to describe the everyday world and her lost loves. She has published several books in the Editions Zoé and won several literary awards such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

• **Winner of the Swiss Literature Award 2012 for her whole work**

• **Winner of C.-F. Ramuz Award 2015 for her whole work**

“This softest text is deeply distressing, full of tender concern and delicate humor. It also is a story of promised brightness. On the shores, sun will come back.”

**Le Monde des Livres**

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch)  
or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# About My Mother

## Catherine Safonoff

---

An old woman loses her mind. That is why her only girl reconstructs the past as well as she can. Through bits of memory and everyday incidents, the narrator attempts to deserve her mother's love. *About my Mother* is a notebook that is alternately poetic, funny and dark. It is written to forget bitterness and death.

This quest of filial love is also a passionate attempt to see a fugitive lover again. Which love will triumph? To this question, narrator gives a singular answer.

### About the author

Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. She worked as journalist for the Journal de Genève and the Swiss French Radio. Her pen is always acute and smart to describe the everyday world and her lost loves. She has published several books in the Editions Zoé and won several literary awards such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

“Those years, I have tried to forget my last man and to support my first woman who was coming into the death”

- **A fine and sensitive novel**
- **Winner of the Swiss Literature Award 2012 for her whole work**

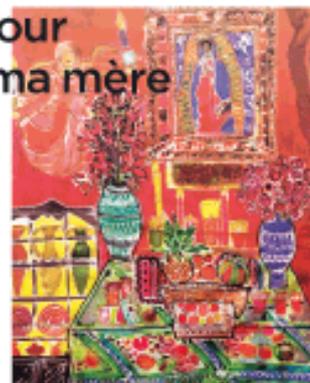
“This novel is a double bereavement: of the lover and of the mother. When you finish reading, you are relieved and calm”

**24 Heures**

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Catherine  
Safonoff

Atour  
de ma mère



ZOÉ  
Poche



### ***Autour de ma mère***

*Catherine Safonoff*

Novel

Paperback textbook

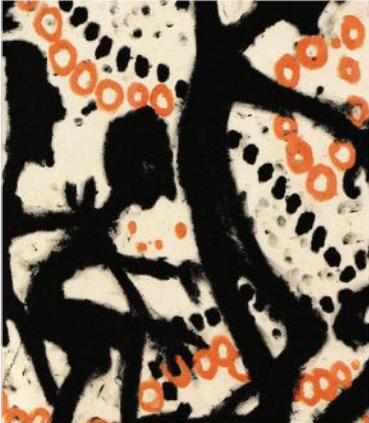
272 pages

First Printed: 2006

Rights sold:

- Romanian (editura Fides)
- Bulgarian (Panorama Plus)
- Mass market paperback (Zoé)

Michel Layaz  
Louis Soutter,  
probablement



ZOE



**Louis Soutter,  
probablement**

Michel Layaz

Novel

Paperback textbook

240 pages

First Printed: 2016

Rights sold:

- German (Verlag die Brot-  
suppe)

## Louis Soutter, probably Michel Layaz

---

The drawings of Louis Soutter (1871-1942) are known today all over the world, but during his lifetime only a few people such as Jean Giono or Le Corbusier noticed his talent. Soutter was also a brilliant musician but his eccentric and antisocial lifestyle brought him to an old people's home when he was 52. There he painted the most unclassifiable works of art history.

With a unique style Michel Layaz manages to translate the strangeness of this special life marked by loneliness and power of creation.

### About the author

Michel Layaz was born in Fribourg and lives in Lausanne. After having written several novels he spent a year at Swiss the Institute of Rome. Together with Noëlle Revaz and Agota Kristof he represented Switzerland at the Salon du livre de Paris in 2006. Michel Layaz has won many literature prizes (Prix Dentan 2003, Prix RTS 2004) and is now considered as one of the best Swiss writers.

“ No one can jail a man and hold his soul.”

“Michel Layaz tells graciously the tortuous destiny of this cursed artist who was seen like a mad man for he was unclassifiable.” **L'Express**

- **A biopic book about a great artist**
- **A life off the beaten tracks, from Colorado Springs University to a Swiss old people's home**
- **Swiss Literature Award 2017**

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch)  
or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# My Mother's Tears

## Michel Layaz

---

Why does this mother treat her youngest son so differently? Why did tears drop the day she gave birth to this third son she praises and persecutes? Now adult, this last son reconstructs his childhood out of things he finds in the deserted parental flat. He is sure they hold the key of this mystery. Funny moments and tragic scenes alternate, revealing intimacy with no sentimentalism.

### About the author

Michel Layaz was born in Fribourg and lives in Lausanne. After having written several novels he spent a year at Swiss the Institute of Rome. Together with Noëlle Revaz and Agota Kristof he represented Switzerland at the Salon du livre de Paris in 2006. Michel Layaz has won many literature prizes (Prix Dentan 2003, Prix RTS 2004) and is now considered as one of the best Swiss writers.

“Sitting on my bed, quiet, I caressed my burning cheeks, pleased that this moment was behind me, feeling no hate against my father, convinced that I needed this slap and the imminent reconciliation. Pain and sadness would not last, I just had to close my eyes and be born again.”

### • **Won the Prix Dentan 2004**

“In this fine sensual collection of child memories, the narrator delivers nostalgic evocation of playful, threatening or forbidden things, remembering his mother. He regrets her as an oedipian object that he describes in a blurred way, as if he were the prisoner of an everlasting secret.”

**Le Monde**

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MICHEL LAYAZ

---

LES LARMES DE MA MÈRE



EDITIONS  
**ZOE**



### ***Les Larmes de ma mère***

Michel Layaz

Novel

Paperback textbook

160 pages

First Printed: 2003

Rights sold:

- Bulgarian (Colibri)
- Massmarket paperback (Seuil)
- English (Seagull books UK)

MICHEL LAYAZ

LA JOYEUSE COMPLAINTE  
DE L'IDIOT



EDITIONS  
ZOE



### ***La Joyeuse Complainte de l'Idiot***

Michel Layaz

Novel

Paperback textbook

160 pages

First Printed: 2004

Rights sold:

- German (Verlag die Brotsuppe)
- Bulgarian (ed. SONM)
- Italian (ed. Clichy)
- Massmarket paperback (Seuil)

# An Idiot Happy Complain

## Michel Layaz

In this book, reader discovers an unordinary boarding school where strange teenagers live. The Residence accommodates young boys whose offbeat mind did not match with the rest of the world. This community survives through its strong and impetuous CEO, Madame Vivianne. Every inmate has its place and peculiarity that is told by one of the residents.

### **About the author**

Michel Layaz was born in Fribourg and lives in Lausanne. After having written several novels he spent a year at Swiss the Institute of Rome. Together with Noëlle Revaz and Agota Kristof he represented Switzerland at the Salon du livre de Paris in 2006. Michel Layaz has won many literature prizes (Prix Dentan 2003, Prix RTS 2004) and is now considered as one of the best Swiss writers.

“You should not believe people living in The Residence are backwards, or captives, or delinquents, or madmen, or bandits, or bad lots; everyone is a bit of each, and you would minimize them in vain to simple phrases.”

### **• Innovative voice based on wordplays**

“Monologue of The Residence boarder, who lives in an Institute for more or less backward teenagers. From portrait to exploit, in an innocent but high language, Layaz tells the life of these boys "who learned how to master their feelings to avoid suffering too much from the world".” **Libération**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# Race Carpet

## Michel Layaz

---

“Loser!”, said a teenager in a supermarket to the hero of this book. This interjection overwhelms its addressee, whose life suddenly shatters. Until now he had sheltered in himself while making sure no extraordinary events would break his implacable logic.

In order to avoid making his whole life fall apart, the man decides to record on his phone elements from his daily life, work, library, colleagues, race carpet, few friends, family, and all the books he has read to find rare precious expressions. Unfortunately, nothing can drive the “Loser!” out of his mind.

### About the author

Michel Layaz was born in Fribourg and lives in Lausanne. After having written several novels he spent a year at Swiss the Institute of Rome. Together with Noëlle Revaz and Agota Kristof he represented Switzerland at the Salon du livre de Paris in 2006. Michel Layaz has won many literature prizes (Prix Dentan 2003, Prix RTS 2004) and is now considered as one of the best Swiss writers.

“I hesitated to beat him. My arm stiffened, as hard as a crowbar. The boy had a white face and black hair with random locks. Nobody ever called me a loser. I imagined my fist like an iron spur in the flesh of this indolent and perfumed head, while I knew I would not hit...”

### • The most recent book of the great Swiss writer

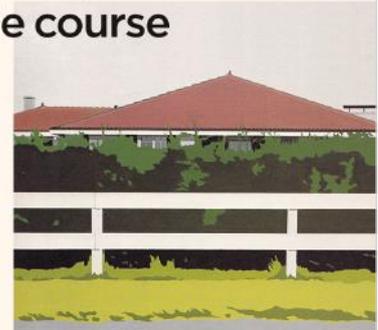
“Far away from his first books, Michel Layaz makes this peculiar portrait with mastery and rigour. His accurate writing is as efficient as a race carpet.”

### Le Temps

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or contact [lpacher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpacher@pierreastier.com)

Michel Layaz

Le Tapis  
de course



ZOE



### *Tapis de course*

Michel Layaz

Novel

Paperback textbook

160 pages

First Printed: 2013

Rights sold:

- German (Verlag die Brot-  
suppe)

**Roland Buti**

**Le Milieu  
de l'horizon**



**ZOÉ**



### ***Le Milieu de l'horizon***

Roland Buti

Novel, Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2013

Rights sold:

- German (Nagel & Kimche)
- Cinema (Box Prod)
- Latvian (Zvaigzne ABC)
- Danish (Arvids)
- Italian (Jaca Books)
- English (GB - Old Street Pub.)
- Spanish (Piel de Zapa)
- German club (Büchergilde Gutenberg)
- Mass market paperback (Zoé)
- Swedish (Sekwa Förlag)

# The Middle Of The Horizon

## Roland Buti

In 1976, Switzerland is experiencing an abnormally hot, dry summer. Gus is thirteen years old, and his father has invested everything he had in a poultry farm. But, the heat is rapidly killing off the young chicks, and the man is slowly retreating into himself to flee from reality.

The day his mother leaves from the farmhouse with another woman, Gus is brutally torn away from his childish world and has to run the farm by himself. While the government declares a state of emergency, deploying army and fire services across the countryside, Gus finally becomes a man: he not only loses his illusions about life, but also his innocence in the arms of a young girl who seduces him.

When at the end of the summer storms break out, the relief is short-lived. This small world, which Roland Buti describes so wonderfully, is put to the test a second time – by floodwater.

### **About the author**

Roland Buti was born in 1964 in Lausanne, where he studied Literature and History. He actually teaches in a high school. He published several books at Editions Zoé.

- **A movie being prepared**
- **Won the Prix du public RTS and the Swiss Literature Award 2014**

"It is not the end of the world, it is rather the end of one particular world. Roland Buti tells a masterful story without tears, in an overwhelming and moving novel."

### **Le Nouvel Observateur**

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or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

# Luce & Célie

## Roland Buti

---

*Luce et Célie* is the story of two women born during the 30's, who lead a hard life. Fate gathers them through Jean, Célie's despicable husband and Luce's terrible employer. In the middle of the 60's, while consumer society emerges, what happens when these unfortunate women break social rules to take revenge on their oppressor?

### About the author

Roland Buti was born in 1964 in Lausanne, where he studied Literature and History. He actually teaches in a high school. He published several books at Editions Zoé.

“Handle this book with care! (...) It's more than a plot, it's deeper. Like a black mass.” **La Liberté**

- **By the same author who wrote**  
*Le Milieu de l'horizon*
- **A historical and social thriller**
- **Discover another side of Switzerland**

“She feels a void inside, because the time she should have devoted to Maurice – hours of caress, days of worry, years of kindness – suddenly vanished. What would she do now with these useless moments?”

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch)  
or contact [lpecher@pierreastier.com](mailto:lpecher@pierreastier.com)

Roland Buti  
**Luce et Célie**



**ZOE**  
Poche



### ***Luce et Célie***

Roland Buti  
Novel  
Paperback textbook  
176 pages  
First Printed: 2004  
Rights sold:  
- Mass market paperback  
(Zoé)

Anne Brécart  
La Femme  
provisoire



ZOE



### ***La Femme provisoire***

Anne Brécart

Novel

Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2015

# Temporary Woman

## Anne Brécart

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In the eighties, a young woman who has just had an abortion walks through Berlin for lonely hours. She meets Javier, a young foreigner like her, and slowly gets to tame his baby.

Javier, the woman and the child discover a peculiar happiness: in a huge and decayed flat, at the heart of winter, they live an enchanted time. Many years later, the boy who has grown up meets his temporary mother again: memories come back.

### **About the author**

Anne Brécart was born in 1960 and is currently based in Geneva. She spent her childhood and teenage years in Zurich. She works as a literary translator from French to German and has published several other books: *Les Années de verre* ("Years of Glass", 1997), *Angle mort* ("Blind Spot", 2002), *Le Monde d'Archibald* ("Archibald's World", 2009), *La Lenteur de l'aube* ("The Slowness of Dawn", 2012).

### **• A magic book with Berlin as background**

"There is no shade of happiness. That implies completeness, laugh, bright and light life. However, with Javier, I discover a harsh happiness, made of withdrawal, incertitude and darkness. Such happiness is bitter but strong."

"This novel by Anne Brécart is a sweet reading for those who love silence, vast areas and soft rain that strokes lonely people." **Le Monde**

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# The Slowness Of The Dawn

## Anne Brécart

---

What kind of world does Hanna inhabit? She returns to the “city by the lake” where she grew up – and it is no easy return. Her terminally ill mother, who had summoned her back, is in no hurry to see her daughter. So Hanna takes a room in a small boarding house where she and her mother had lived thirty years before, and begins to explore the neighbourhood. There, she meets ghosts from her past: friends, lovers, playmates, people for whom she once risked everything. They have remained here, while she has long been living in New Jersey. Why are they all crossing her path? Are these meetings really taking place? In the end it is her dying mother, and Hervé, whom she has come to trust, who accompany her on her path to a new life.

### About the author

Anne Brécart is born in 1960 and is currently based in Geneva. She spent her childhood and teenage years in Zurich. She works as literary translator from French to German and has published three other books: *Les Années de verre* (“Years of Glass”, 1997), *Angle mort* (“Blind Spot”, 2002) and *Le Monde d’Archibald* (“Archibald’s World”, 2009).

“ Dreamlike, organic, erotic, this novel never stops surprising the reader. We do not know where it takes us, but we blindly follow it. “

### **L’Hebdo/Payot**

“This is an absolutely wonderful book. A style made of feelings. Anne Brécart has an extremely important place in the Swiss French literature. “

### **Radio Télévision Suisse**

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### ***La Lenteur de l'aube***

Anne Brécart

Novel

Paperback textbook

168 pages

First Printed: 2012

Rights sold:

- Russian (Text Publishers)

Alexandre  
Voisard

Notre-Dame  
des égarées



**ZOE**



***Notre-Dame des égarées***

Alexandre Voisard

Novel

Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2017

## Notre-Dame of the Mislead

### Alexandre Voisard

---

Colmar, beginning of the twentieth century. Hélène, born in Southern France, and Karel, a violinist coming from the East, give birth to a child named Stella. After a few happy years the child suddenly dies and Hélène disappears, in search for her daughter whom she believes to be still alive. Karel decides to follow the Rhône, Hélène's favourite river, in the hope he will find her there.

Both novelist and poet, Voisard writes a beautiful and unadorned novel that follows Karel, Walserian-like wanderer, on his road to the South. There he meets people like Father Viénot and his "holy brandy" or the Goldberg family, whose son David is a brilliant violinist.

#### **About the author**

Born in 1930 in Porrentruy, Alexandre Voisard is one of the most important Jurassian poets. His work expresses a deep relationship to nature and has been rewarded several times. Voisard is part of the European Academy of Poetry.

"That is what you become, Karel, you know or you don't know, you are this paper boat, set in the water out of bravado, thinking – but why? – that it would float towards Hélène, swept away by this same stream that gives answers to the rowers in violent whims. You go straight, driven by the stream, but you keep being tossed and the endless shores shut you in.

Aren't you, you and Hélène, shipwrecks that have been misled by your little star in the sky?"

- **Between poetry, conte and novel**
- **A historical novel about 1900's Europe**

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# A World Wide Web

## Aude Seigne

---

What if the World Wide Web was to disappear? This is the secret wish of a few people scattered around the world. In Switzerland Penelope works as a programmer during the day while being a hacker at night. Far away in China her boyfriend is installing submarine communication cables. In Portland, June is a chemist who manufactures natural cosmetics and lives a threesome relationship with Evan, community manager in an insurance company and Oliver, bookseller and bartender. Birgit, the Danish girl, manages a non-profit organization that increases people's awareness to Internet-caused energy waste. Lu Pan is a star YouTuber who lives as a virtual recluse in Singapore, where his father handles freighter traffic. They do not know each other but together they are going to plan a worldwide digital detox.

The author, herself part of the generation she depicts, plays on her characters' contradictions. Without ever condemning the WWW or its users, she makes the virtual world real by describing the huge datacentres and dataflow. Playing with the idea of a world without Internet, she makes it very obvious that this new world will be nothing like the old one.

### About the author

Born in 1985, Aude Seigne is a French-speaking Swiss novelist. Her first novel *Chroniques de l'occident nomade* won the 2011 Nicolas Bouvier Award in Saint-Malo (Festival Étonnants Voyageurs).

- **An astonishing post-Internet novel**
- **A lucid voice from the millennial generation**

"Aude Seigne makes the secured datacentres real, and maps the million kilometres of cables under our feet, deep in the oceans, where a large part of our lives in transit." **Livres Hebdo**

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Aude Seigne  
Une toile  
large comme  
le monde



### ***Une toile large comme le monde***

Aude Seigne

Novel

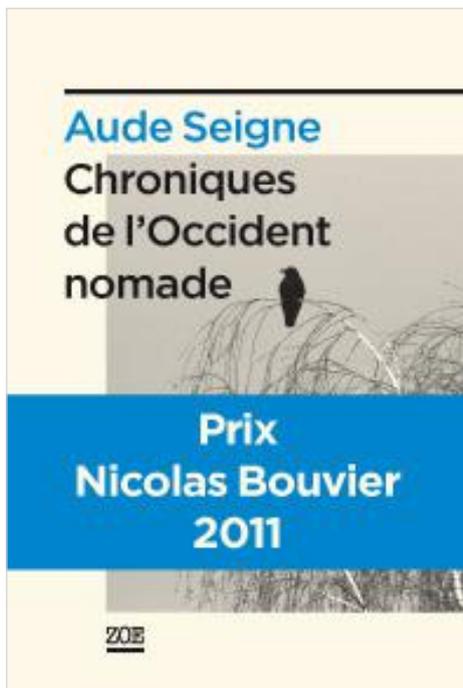
Paperback textbook

240 pages

First Printed: 2017

Rights sold:

- mass market paperback (J'ai lu)



### ***Chroniques de l'Occident nomade***

Aude Seigne

Novel

Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2013

Rights sold:

- Mass market paperback (Zoé)

# Chronicle Of The Nomadic Occident

## Aude Seigne

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Aude Seigne deciphers the world with an amazing accuracy and her experience as a traveler. What does “traveling” mean to her? Lightness and rapture. Because Beauty is sometimes scary: “something bursts inside me, a wall suddenly collapses, and the risk of the abyss appears, as well as the potential of the absolute love”. *Chroniques de l'Occident nomade* is a learning novel. Aude Seigne questions relentlessly the world she discovers around her, never hiding her doubts and her fears in this stronger presence that traveling gives her.

### **About the author**

Aude Seigne was born in 1985 in Geneva, where she still lives and works. She traveled in Greece, Australia, Croatia, Burkina Faso, Ukraine... Drawing from these experiences, she wrote *Chroniques de l'Occident nomade*, winning the prestigious Prix Nicolas Bouvier in 2011, the famous Geneva writer whose path she is successfully following.

- **Won the Prix Nicolas Bouvier 2011**
- **The new generation of traveling writers**

“Aude Seigne succeeded in assimilating books and inspiration of what she loves. She found a personal and modern tone to speak as the occidental traveler of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She mixes the coolness of youth with the wisdom of experience, with no idealization of the traveler status.”

### **Livres Hebdo**

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# Damascus Under Snow

## Aude Seigne

---

Here is a book about Damascus, but whose topic is not this magical city. This is a personal self-wintering, a burying. In 2008, Alice spent a whole winter in Damascus National Museum basements, cleaning, photographing and listing Sumerian tabellas. 6 years later she tells her story, when Syria is no more the country she had discovered. Alice leaves adolescence and realises that adulthood is not the happy, steady life she thought it would be.

### About the author

Aude Seigne was born in 1985 in Geneva, where she still lives and works. She traveled a lot, in Greece, Australia, Croatia, Burkina Faso, Ukraine... Drawing from these experiences, she wrote *Chroniques de l'Occident nomade*, winning in 2011 the prestigious Prix Étonnants voyageurs Nicolas Bouvier, the famous Genevan writer whose path she is successfully following.

"It's a new kind of trip, it's a book against the obligation to conclude."

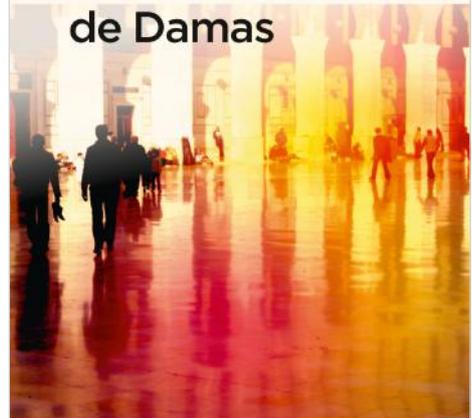
- **A original way to discover Damascus**
- **Won the Prix Nicolas Bouvier 2011**

"Among things told by Aude Seigne, we love her work on doubt and uncertain, when she is sweetly and painfully aware of the seriousness and inconsistency of her writing."

### **Livres Hebdo**

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## Aude Seigne Les Neiges de Damas



**ZOE**



### ***Les Neiges de Damas***

Aude Seigne

Novel

Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2015

**Noëlle Revaz**  
**L'Infini livre**



**ZOE**



### ***L'Infini livre***

Noëlle Revaz

Novel

Paperback textbook

318 pages

First Printed: 2014

Rights sold:

- German (Wallstein)

- Mass market pbpbck (Zoé)

# The Infinite Book

## Noëlle Revaz

---

Jenna and Joanna are two famous authors. Their lives are shared between family and TV shows. In their simplified world, books have become surfaces whose only interest is their cover. TV speakers, buyers, writers, no one would think of opening them. In this world, things have neither content nor body: Music is an object, children can be stickers, friends are no more than one word. This is an unconscious world.

This book is a satire and a reflexion on our way of life. Through her alternately disturbing and funny style, Noëlle Revaz creates a futuristic world that is definitively ours.

### **About the author**

Noëlle Revaz is a Swiss French writer born in 1968. She has written several novels and radio plots. Her two first novels, *Rapport aux bêtes* (2002) and *Efina* (2009), were published by Gallimard.

She actually teaches creative writing at the Literature Institute of Bienne and belongs to the Swiss writers association "Bern ist überall". She lives in Switzerland.

- **The literary heiress of Ray Bradbury**
- **Won the Swiss Literature Award 2015**

"Everything is at once familiar and strange. That could be our society in thirty years; or in ten years; unless this science fiction book is a satire of the present?"

### **Le Temps**

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# Confidences

## Max Lobe

---

Max Lobe has come back home. He travels to the Cameroonian forest to meet Ma Maliga, so that she may tell him everything she knows about the Independence Movement in Cameroon and its leader, Ruben Um Nyobè.

*Confidences* is the story of Ma Maliga, a lively and playful woman despite her old age. She tells her memories in a talkative, digressive and generous way, yet full of common sense. Never forgetting to drink as she talks, she shares with her interlocutor the palm wine that keeps her going. And thus it is with a mixture of slight drunkenness and great joy that the reader learns about the history of Cameroon's independence and its hidden war.

### About the author

Max Lobe was born in 1986 in Douala (Cameroon). He came to Switzerland in the 2000s, and studied communication and management. He now lives in Geneva.

- **Winner of Prix Ahmadou-Kourouma 2017**
- **Followed by Alain Mabanckou's letter to Max Lobe**

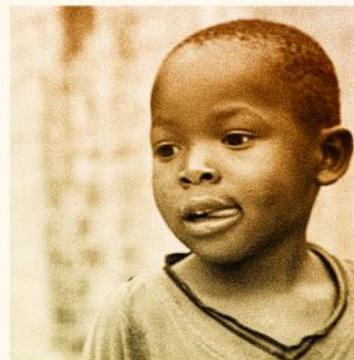
“And that was the more important thing: we wanted our freedom. We wanted these people, these white men, these Poulassi to go away and leave us here, in peace, in our country, in our forests. Do we have to be intellectual-long-pen to understand it, uh, son?”

“At first a “return to fatherland”, Max Lobe's third novel *Confidences* can then be read as a living history book told by a people's voices book.”

**Le Monde des Livres**

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## Max Lobe Confidences



**ZOE**



### ***Confidences***

Max Lobe  
Novel  
Paperback textbook  
288 pages  
First Printed: 2016  
Rights sold:  
- Cameroon (Proximité -  
French)

**Max Lobe**

**La Trinité bantoue**



**ZOE**



***La Trinité bantoue***

Max Lobe

Novel

Paperback textbook

208 pages

First Printed: 2014

Rights sold:

- Ukrainian (KIS Publishing)
- Italian (66th&2nd)
- Portugese (Brazil - Ayine)

# The Bantu Trinity

**Max Lobe**

---

Mwána lives in a country at the heart of Europe, with his white cousins he knows well. Some of them want the “black sheeps” to leave their territory. Hunt begins, minds are excited and Mwána looks for a job: nothing is done!

When he decides to spend his last coins to call his mother who lives in Bantuland, he cannot recognize her anymore. Ah Nzambé! He goes through stony moments, but knows how to get over it. Because Mwána is helped by his sharp and happy mind, Ruedi the Red, Ms Bauer the Passionaria, and his very catholic sister Kosambela.

## **About the author**

Max Lobe was born in 1986 in Douala (Cameroon). He came in Switzerland in the 2000's, and studied communication and management. He works in Geneva.

- **A sharp and creative style**
- **Discover the English translation of his text *The Avenging Whip in Words Without Borders*, Queer Issue VI**

“In *The Bantu Trinity*, Max Lobe creates a tongue that keeps the sadness away.”

**Le Temps**

For more information, visit [www.editionszoe.ch](http://www.editionszoe.ch)  
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# 39<sup>th</sup> Bern Street

## Max Lobe

---

At 16 years old, Dipita's mother came from Cameroon to Europe, where she straight away became a prostitute. She survived thanks to her naivety, her generosity and her beauty, despite "a truck of hate in her belly".

She tells her life to Dipita, who is very curious about it. He likes his uncle who constantly criticises political problems in his country, even if he has given Dipita's mother to so called "philanthropist-benefactors". Dipita likes his "mothers" too; they help him grow up as man and accept him for becoming "like that".

With a unique and inventive style, the narrator describes the life of illegal Africans as well as the sufferings of a black and homosexual young man.

### About the author

Max Lobe was born in 1986 in Douala (Cameroon). In the 2000's he came to live in Switzerland, where he studied communications and management. He works in Geneva.

- **Winner of the Prix du Roman des Romands 2013-2014**
- **Sensitive topics described with an amazing subtlety**
- **Discover the English translation of his text *The Avenging Whip* in *Words Without Borders*, Queer Issue VI**

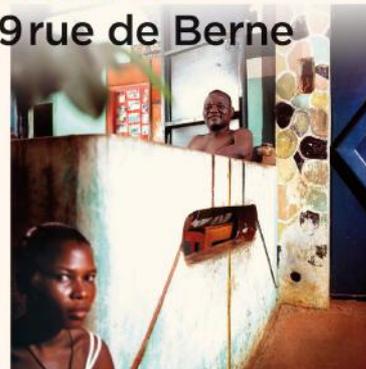
"Dipita uses a language full of imagery, mixed with Bantu words; his naive and harsh vision of the world, his colourful feelings and his willingness when faced with an overwhelming situation are elements that make a great and promising novel."

**Le Temps**

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**Max Lobe**

**39 rue de Berne**



ZOE



**39 rue de Berne**

Max Lobe

Novel

Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2013

Rights sold:

- Italian (66th&2nd)

- Mass market paperback

(Zoé)



## Translation of Swiss authors – Funding and Support

Pro Helvetia aims to make contemporary Swiss arts and culture accessible to audiences in different linguistic regions, both within Switzerland and abroad. In order to raise international awareness of Swiss arts and culture, we support the translation of Swiss literature and publications on topics related to Swiss arts and culture into languages from all over the world. A key condition for the granting of support in the field of translation is the involvement of renowned and professional publishers in the realisation of the project.

More informations on <https://prohelvetia.ch/en/translation-funding-and-support/>

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