

Editions Zoé Foreign Rights Catalogue

Spring 2022



ZOE

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, Anne-Sophie Subilia or Aude Seigne.

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

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.

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

Caroline Coutau

Chief Editor



Our address

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

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Highlights 2021-2022

Aude Seigne
Sébastien Ménéstrier
Colombe Boncenne
Terre-des-Fins
Blaise Hofmann
Anne Brécart
Michel Layaz
Catherine Safonoff

**Our books for years 2021-2022,
available for translation**



Aude Seigne
L'Amérique
entre nous



ZOE



L'Amérique entre nous

Novel / 240 pages

First Printed: January 2022

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

English excerpt available

America Between Us

Aude Seigne

“What is surprising about Aude Seigne’s writing is the way she faithfully follows the movement of thoughts through associations of ideas, interweaving dreams, memories and images of the present.” Livres Hebdo

How does one live two parallel loves, without being torn apart or hurting the other one? For the narrator, the answer lies in polyamory. As she crosses the United States from East to West with her partner Emeric, discovering the immensity of the landscape, the cities, the sky, a wild and sometimes dangerous nature, she thinks of Henry, her colleague, with whom she longs to be in a relationship. But to do so, she knows, she must first talk to Emeric...

“America Between Us” is a novel about free love, redefining the couple, but also about abortion, and bodies and their sensuality. American roads guide the narrator’s thoughts and echo them: like with love, they are “lined with clichés, fascinating nonetheless”. And, like with love, reality is never too far from dream, fantasy or fiction.

Aude Seigne’s sincere and audacious writing, with a playlist that matches the tone of each part, infuses the whole text.

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).

- A tale of love and travel, which addresses topics at the heart of contemporary debates on love and sexuality
- A quest for oneself in the possibilities and difficulties of polyamorous relationships
- In the tradition of great feminist authors: Anaïs Nin, Camille Laurens, Liv Strömquist

Sébastien
Ménéstrier
Le chant de Shilo



Le chant de Shilo

Novel / 96 pages

First Printed: February 2022

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

The Song of Shilo

Sébastien Ménéstrier

“I was relieved, our boats already far away. I was alone, free, I didn’t have a king anymore.”

“The Song of Shilo” is carried by the voice of a young girl who becomes a boy to accompany Ulysses to Troy, because she thinks that the adventure is there. But it is not. The adventure means staying on the island where she stopped, having no king. It means following Shilo, her whole island, consenting to its laws. To her harsh land, to her joy, to the power of the stones. It means adoring, striking, burning. Going to the end.

About the author

Born in 1979, Sébastien Ménéstrier is a pianist and a teacher. His debut novel “Pendant les combats” (Gallimard, 2013) was a finalist for the Goncourt debut novel prize. His second novel, “La Suivante”, was published in 2017. Written in the fervor of those who struggle to escape blind powers, “The Song of Shilo” is a contemporary reading of an Homeric episode.

“Sébastien Ménéstrier’s words seduce us, like the song of Shilo, like the wind of this bewitching island.” Le Temps

- **A plea, pacifist and feminist in a brief and powerfully poetic narrative.**
- **A harsh, concise and tense writing**

Colombe
Boncenne
Des sirènes



ZOE



Des sirènes

Novel / 208 pages
First Printed: March 2022

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

Mermaids Colombe Boncenne

“One night, I asked her if she was afraid, without telling her that I was terrorized.”

When the narrator learns that her mother is ill, she naturally welcomes her into her home. In the midst of the ordeal, an ordinary life is established. But this time of intimacy is also a time of revelation: a family secret is unearthed, and we discover that the same violence has swept through several generations of women. Between anger and sadness, the narrator struggles with the feelings that assail her.

The myth of the mermaids and its interpretations is the motif on which this novel is woven: it is about islands, sailors, threats, spells and female destinies. It is a book of mourning and love, whose melody resounds, despite the storm's noise, like a delicate and soothing whisper.

About the author

Colombe Boncenne lives in Paris. She is a literary advisor for Maison de la poésie and Les Correspondances de Manosque. In her first two books, “Comme neige” (Buchen Chastel, 2016, winner of Prix Féneon and Festival du premier roman in Chambéry), and “Vue mer” (Zoé, 2020), melancholy was translated into an irony that was sometimes light, sometimes fierce. With “La Mesure des larmes” (La passe du vent, 2020), the author has moved into more personal territory, a path she continues to explore in “Des sirènes”.

- **A beautiful relationship between a daughter and her mother**
- **Powerful female characters**
- **A book of mourning and love, whose melody resounds, despite the storm's noise, like a delicate and soothing whisper**

Terre-des-Fins

ZOE

Bruno Pellegrino
Aude Seigne
Daniel Vuataz



Terre-des-Fins

Novel / 144 pages

First Printed: May 2022

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

Land-of-the-Ends

“In the summer, the night does not tire of existing, the sun sets late and dawn comes immediately – a dawn that lasts for hours. The light is like the milk we cut with a lot of water during the bad months.”

Land-of-the-ends is a mining town on the decline, a terminus at the end of the world accessible only by train. Liv, a young graffiti artist, sometimes delinquent, sees Sora coming to the city. Sora is from the main town, she’s ambitious, and she comes to Land-of-the-ends to get the work of a local artist. Liv serves as a guide to the young city girl, whose wish is to meet this artist she worships so much.

About the authors

Swiss authors Daniel Vuataz, Aude Seigne et Bruno Pellegrino write together since the literary series “Stand-by”. They created a writing that combines speed, observation and love for storytelling.

- **A vivid language**
- **A novel for adults and teenagers as well**

Blaise Hofmann
Deux petites
maîtresses zen



ZOE



Deux petites maîtresses zen

Narrative / 224 pages

First Printed: October 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

Two Little Zen Masters

Blaise Hofmann

“I am travelling with two little amnesiac sponges who are reborn at every street corner, inventing useless activities, cutting grass, caressing trunks, collecting pebbles, talking out loud to an imaginary cousin.”

Japan, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India: in September 2019, Blaise Hofmann has travelled to Asia for seven months, for the first time with his family. This means new constraints, a constantly anticipated schedule, precautions, routines, frustrations; it's above all the wonder of seeing the world a few centimetres above the ground, travelling slowly with the eyes of two little girls (2 and 3 years old) who are at home wherever they are.

It's also the opportunity to find a standardized continent, populated by hypermodern tourists, like him. This is the story of an anti-hero who praises boredom and diversions. Here is an introspective text, as critical as it is dazzling, even when a virus imposes itself as the main character of what is perhaps the last travelogue before Covid-19 pandemic.

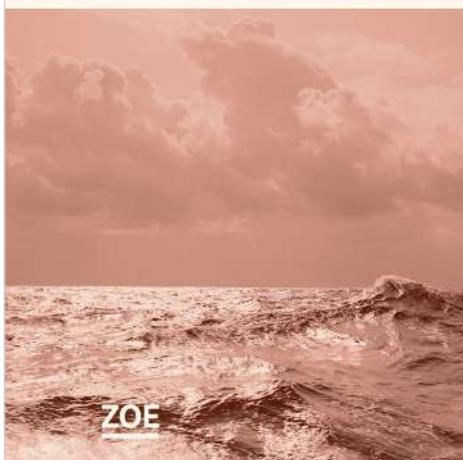
“What is most striking in this work is the elegance of the writing, its fluidity that lets the reader navigate with delight along the paragraphs.” La Librairie francophone, France Inter

About the author

Born in 1978, Blaise Hofmann is the author of a dozen novels, travelogues and children's books; he notably published “Estive” (Zoé, 2007): this logbook of a shepherd won the 2008 Nicolas Bouvier Prize at Étonnants Voyageurs festival in Saint-Malo.

- **Seven months of backpacking in Asia with two little girls**
- **The last travelogue before COVID-19**

Anne Brécart
**La Patience
du serpent**



La Patience du serpent

Novel / 192 pages

First Printed: September 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

Patience of the Snake

Anne Brécart

“For the past few weeks, Christelle has had the impression of having two lives, the one with Greg, the children, the group, and this other existence that is played out in the white house.”

Christelle and Greg have chosen to live a nomadic life. They are in their thirties and travel the world in a minibus with their two little boys. Surfing enthusiasts, they settle wherever the best spots are, living from odd jobs and fleeting friendships. The wind takes them to San Tiburcio on the Mexican coast, where Greg feels alive while surfing on the crest of the waves. But they have to get used to the relentless sun, the roar of the ocean and the tropical rain. One day, Ana Maria, a young woman from the village, bursts into their lives. She draws Christelle into a dizzying relationship that will turn the family upside down.

In a sensual and lush language, Anne Brécart describes the poisonous and inexorable daily life of these travellers longing for another life.

About the author

Anne Brécart currently lives in Geneva. She spends a few months a year in Mexico where part of her family lives. Her books include “Le Monde d’Archibald” (Zoé, 2009) and “Cœurs silencieux” (Zoé, 2017).

- **A sensorial language**
- **“Intriguing and bewitching” Tribune de Genève**
- **Chosing the nomadic lifestyle as a family**

Michel Layaz
Les Vies
de Chevrolet



Les Vies de Chevrolet

Novel / 128 pages

First Printed: September 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

Rights sold

German (Die Brotsuppe)

The Lives of Chevrolet

Michel Layaz

“A great story, both intimate and carried by the wind of history and innovation.”
Le Figaro

“Che-vro-let! Che-vro-let!” In the early 20th century, America marveled at the prowess of Louis Chevrolet. Born in Switzerland in 1878, the young man grew up in Burgundy, where he became a bicycle mechanic, before joining the flourishing automobile workshops near Paris. In 1900, he left France for the USA. Very soon, at the wheel of the cars of the moment, Fiat or Buick, he would make a name for himself as one of the best racing drivers. In the meantime, he drew, designed, and built engines. And there is more: along with Billy Durant, the founder of General Motors, Louis created the Chevrolet brand, which Billy Durant bought from him for a song, and gets the exclusivity on the name Chevrolet. Millions of Chevrolets were sold without Louis getting a penny. But that mattered little to him: his main concern was elsewhere. Michel Layaz tells the story of the romantic life of this flamboyant character who combines loyalty and anger, kindness and a love of speed. In the age of electric cars, here is a story of the beginnings of the automobile, with its failures, dangers, and conquests.

About the author

Michel Layaz ranks among the leading contemporary French-speaking Swiss authors. His books include “Les Larmes de ma mère” and “La Joyeuse Complainte de l’idiot”, which have been translated into German, Italian, Bulgarian, English and Russian. His latest novels are “Louis Soutter, probablement” (2016), and “Sans Silke” (2019).

“Louis may well be the king of the loyal guys, righteous among the righteous, but as soon as he gets into his Buick and holds the steering wheel, he becomes another man, excessive and uncontrollable. The dams melt. All he cares about is winning. And the audience loves it.”

Catherine
Safonoff
Reconnaisances



Reconnaisances

Novel / 144 pages
First Printed: August 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé
English excerpt available

Acknowledgements Catherine Safonoff

“Catherine Safonoff’s style is sharp and precise. Her truth disarms me every time. She is not ashamed of who she is and she lays herself bare. I find the same lucidity in Annie Ernaux.” Fabienne Jacob

In twenty-five brief tableaux, an author goes through her life, using her own books as a reference point. She rewrites her experiences, changes and renews them, brings light touches to the dark hours. She plays. A thoughtful, tense writing style that questions parental or passionate ties, which are sometimes painful.

“Reconnaisances” is an acknowledgement of a debt, to favourable places and people, to luck with its many faces, an infinite debt to the living.

About the author

Catherine Safonoff was born in 1939 in Geneva, where she still lives. 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 the main literary awards in Switzerland, such as the Swiss National Award in 2012 and the Prix Ramuz in 2015 for her whole work.

- **A sense of humour reminiscent of Virginia Woolf**
- **Catherine Safonoff knows how to make life readable in its most minute details.**



Douna Loup
Les Printemps sauvages

ZOE



Les Printemps sauvages

Douna Loup
Novel
Paperback textbook
160 pages
First Printed: April 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions
Zoé

Wild Springs **Douna Loup**

“We would follow to the end of the world this teenager who has become a woman; Douna Loup’s carnal, rhythmic and undulating language flows like a river.” Le Temps

After a solitary childhood on the banks of a pond in the company of birds, the narrator, barely a teenager, sets off hand in hand with her mother to find her unknown brother. Together they spend four years wandering the roads, sleeping in the fields and forests, working on farms and in factories. When the girl discovers love, it is time for her and her mother to move away from each other, a separation that is as liberating as it is painful.

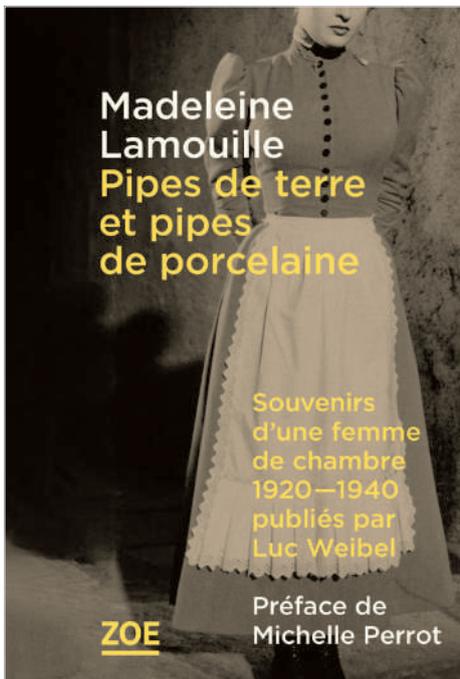
“Les Printemps sauvages” is a powerful story about nature and the discovery of sex. Smells, materials, colours, all the senses are on the alert to capture the beauty of the world, and its fragility. There is an urgent need to invent new relationships with the living.

About the author

Born in Geneva, Douna Loup grew up in the Drôme, worked in Madagascar and now lives in Nantes. She published “L’Embrasure” (2010, Schiller Discovery Prize, Michel-Dentan Prize and Senghor Prize for First Novel), “Les lignes de ta paume” in 2012 and “L’Oragé” in 2015. Her writing is characterised by a heady and sensual rhythm. It translates the feeling of freedom to which her characters aspire.

- **A fascinating story about nature and the discovery of sex**
- **A universal tale of powerful lyricism**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Pipes de terre et pipes de porcelaine. Souvenirs d'une femme de chambre 1920-1940

Memoirs / 144 pages
First Printed: 1978
4th edition: March 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

Clay Pipes and Porcelain Pipes

Madeleine Lamouille

Memories of a maid, 1920-1940

“In short, I was fed much less than at B’s. It didn’t bother me that much. What annoyed me was that our masters didn’t say hello to us and didn’t give us the newspapers.”

This biographical account sheds light on the working conditions of servants in the 1930s, while reporting on aristocratic and bourgeois life from the point of view of domestic staff. The description of the “porcelain pipes”, i.e., the dominant class, and the “clay pipes”, i.e., the enslaved class, provides a panorama of society at that time, and has been the foundation of Madeleine Lamouille’s entire existence.

About the author

Born in Cheyres, near Fribourg, Madeleine Lamouille (1907-1993) served in the 1920s and 1930s as a chambermaid for bourgeois families in French-speaking Switzerland. Forty years later, she told her memories to the writer and historian Luc Weibel, the granddaughter of a family for whom she had worked. From these conversations originated “Pipes de terre et pipes de porcelaine”, originally published in 1978.

- **“A beautiful story, still relevant today”
Michelle Perrot**
- **More than 20.000 copies sold in French**
- **A personal account of the lives of servants and the upper class in the first half of the 20th century**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com



Rose-Marie
Pagnard
Gloria Vynil

ZOE



Gloria Vynil

Novel / 208 pages

First Printed: February 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions
Zoé

English excerpt available

Gloria Vynil

Rose-Marie Pagnard

Gloria Vynil has her whole life ahead of her. The young, talented and imaginative photographer and daydreamer has lived with her aunt Ghenya ever since the death of both her parents. Her mind is teeming with ideas and her head is spinning with projects. Yet, Gloria is missing something, has a tiny gap in her memory: the recollection of a traumatic event that nonetheless haunts the novel's every page. As short a time as this episode may have lasted, this moment of oblivion is enough to plunge her into a turbulent world full of uncertainty and wild fantasies. Her anxiety is all the more pronounced since everyone knows something of which Gloria is unaware: her aunt – her guardian angel – does, her five brothers do, and even the reader knows it, as they watch the drama unfold from the very first passage of the novel. Beyond depicting a family drama, Pagnard offers a captivating reflection on memory and the role of art in the face of forgetting.

Taking the hand Gloria Vynil extends to the reader, means to embark with her on a journey through her life, into a surreal world filled with unforgettable characters – from the psychic who lacks the gift of clairvoyance to the music-loving taxi driver – and inanimate objects which need but a glimpse of the eye to come to life. (“Text by Valentin Kolly”)

About the author

Rose-Marie Pagnard juggles the tragic and the funny with great intelligence to tell us about our need for love. Her books include “La Période Fernandez” (1988, Actes Sud, Prix Dentan), “Dans la forêt la mort s’amuse” (1999, Actes Sud, Prix Schiller), “J’aime ce qui vacille” (2013, Zoé, Swiss Literature Award).

“Amnesia, even if it only relates to a very short period of time and even if it is only as steadfast as a bit of jelly trembling in the palm of one’s hand, amnesia can trigger a bout of anxiety, no matter where, no matter when.”

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Bruno Pellegrino
Dans la ville provisoire



Dans la ville provisoire

Novel / 128 pages
First Printed: January 2021

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions
Zoé

Rights sold

German (die Brotsuppe)
Portuguese (Brazil - Ayiné)

In the Temporary City **Bruno Pellegrino**

In the heart of winter, a young man settles in a town surrounded by water, and takes stock of the work of a famous translator. A supermarket ticket illuminated with notes becomes precious like a manuscript. Likewise, a pile of clothes on the bed is as important a clue as piles of books and notebooks.

In a setting that is blurred by the omnipresence of water, the young man tries to perceive the translator's voice, to imagine her body, to the point where he actually borrows her gestures and thoughts.

Lightening is inexorable as the experience becomes vertiginous. This novel, bathed in a soft and murky light, bewitches the reader with a permanent tension and a sense of secret.

About the author

Bruno Pellegrino (b. 1988) lives between Lausanne and Berlin. In 2015, his first book, "Comme Atlas" (reprinted in Zoé poche, 2018), was published, followed in 2018 by "Là-bas, août est un mois d'automne" (Zoé), which won numerous prizes in the same year, including the Prix des Libraires Payot and the Prix François Mauriac de l'Académie française. Bruno Pellegrino is also a member of the AJAR collective, author of "Vivre près des tilleuls" (Flammarion, 2016, J'ai Lu, 2018). With Aude Seigne and Daniel Vuataz, he has co-written the two seasons of "Stand-by", a literary series published by Zoé in 2018 and 2019.

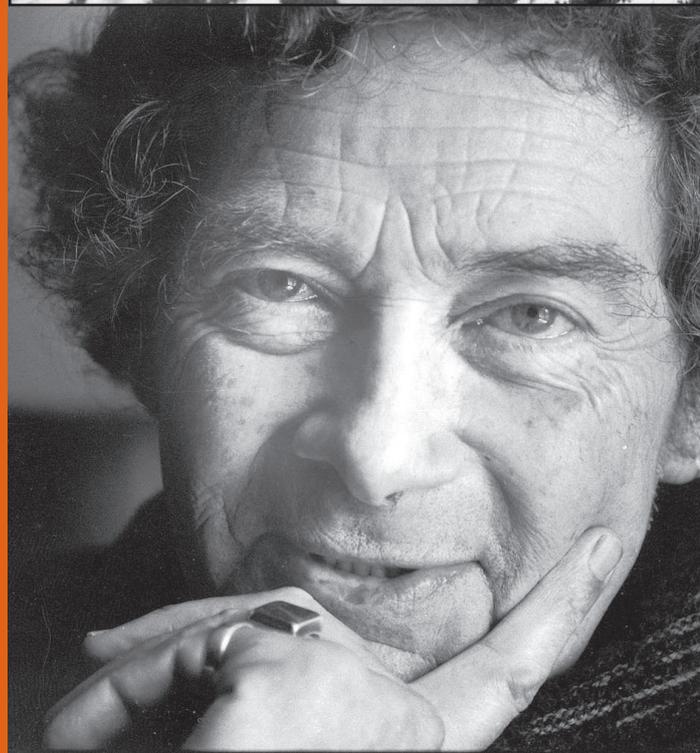
- **A young man's dizzying research on the life of a famous translator**
- **"infinitely delicate" Livres Hebdo**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Zoé Classics

Nicolas Bouvier
Agota Kristof
Ella Maillart

Our most famous authors,
already translated in many
languages and countries



Nicolas Bouvier
Le dehors
et le dedans

ZOE



Le Dehors et le Dedans

Poetry / 112 pages
First Printed: 1998

Rights sold

- Greek (Stigmè)
- German (Lenos Verlag)
- Italian (Edizioni ETS)
- Polish (OW SPP / Forma)
- Spanish (Peru / Jaime Campodonico)

Inside and Outside **Nicolas Bouvier**

“At the heart of Bouvier’s work.” Le Monde

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.

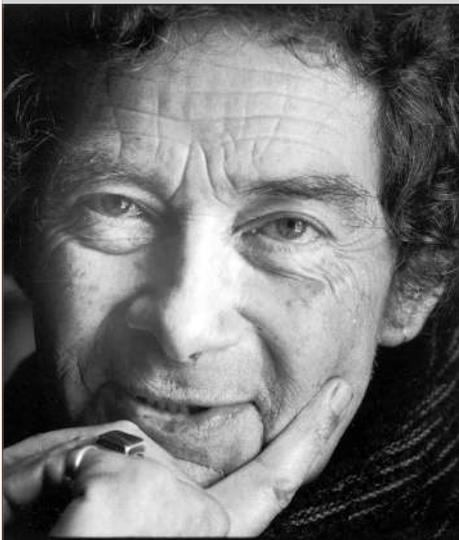
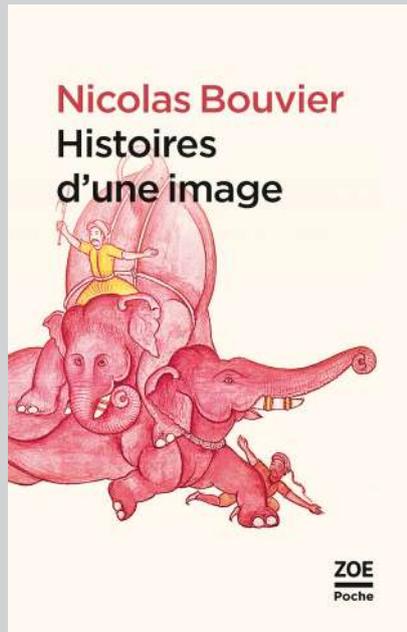
• **One of the most important traveling writers of the 20th century**

• **More than 20.000 copies sold in French**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Stories of a picture

Nicolas Bouvier



Histoires d'une image

illustrated book
Paperback textbook
112 pages
First Printed: 2001

Rights sold

- Mass market paperback (Zoé)
- German (Lenos Verlag)

“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*

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**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Nicolas Bouvier
Thierry Vernet
Correspondance
des routes croisées



Correspondance des routes croisées

Letters / 1670 pages
First Printed : 2010

Rights sold

- French mass market paperback (Zoé)
- French audio book (Zoé)

Crossroads Correspondence Nicolas Bouvier & Thierry Vernet

“This is a story of a strong and eternal friendship. Just imagine the return of Orestes and Pylades in the 20th century.” Le Figaro

“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 17th, 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.

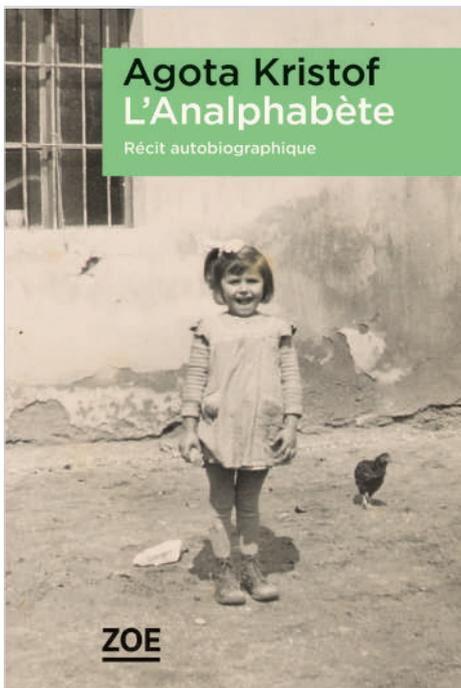
About the authors

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**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



L'Analphabète

autobiographical recital / 60 p.
First Printed: 2004

Rights sold

- Arabic (Al Kamel)
- Basque (Alberdania)
- Catalanian (Ara Libres)
- Chinese (Horizon)
- Danish (Gutkind Forlag)
- English (UK - CB Editions)
- Greek (Agra)
- German (Piper)
- Hebrew (Nine Live Press)
- Italian (Casagrande)
- Japanese (Hakusui)
- Korean (Hankyoreh)
- Lituianian (Zara)
- Mongolian (Zokhist Dorno)
- Polish (Noir sur Blanc)
- Portuguese (Braz. - Editora Nos)
- Serbian (Futura publikacije)
- Spanish (World - Alpha Decay)
- Slovenian (Modrijan)
- Swedish (Wahlström & Wids-trand)

The Illiterate Agota Kristof

“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

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.

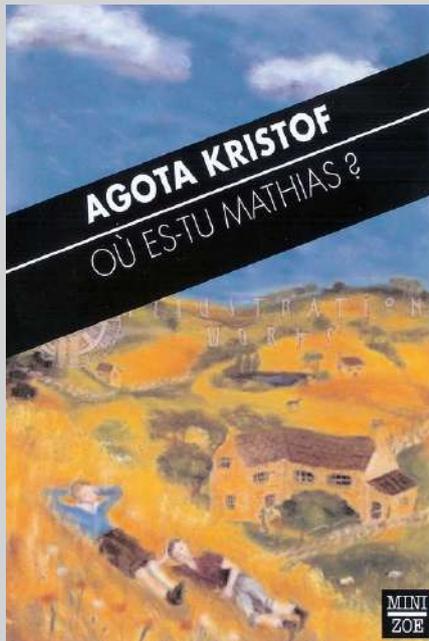
“I know I will never write French as native French writers do, but I will write as I am able to, as best as I can.

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 30.000 copies sold in French**

• **A classic, studied in schools**



Où es-tu Mathias?

Short texts, Paperback text-book / 48 pages
First Printed: 2005

Rights sold

- Arabic (Al Kamel Verlag)
- Chinese (Horizon)
- Georgian (Nectar)
- Greek (Agra)
- Italian (Casagrande)
- Japanese (Hayakawa)
- Korean (Spring Day's Book)
- Spanish (Alpha Decay)

Where Are You, Mathias? **Agota Kristof**

“Où es-tu Mathias?” and “Line, le temps” 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.

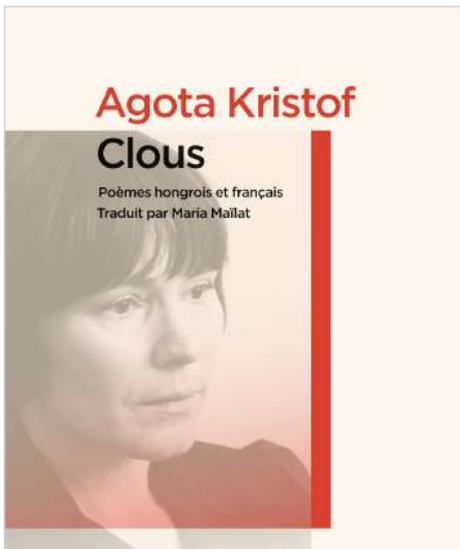
About the author

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**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com



Clous

Poetry
Paperback textbook
208 pages
First Printed: 2016

Rights sold

- Italian (Casagrande)
- Korean (Spring Day's Book)

Nails

Agota Kristof

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

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**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

The Land of The Sherpas

Ella Maillart



Au pays des Sherpas

Illustrated book
Paperback textbook
Size : 170 x 200 mm
144 pages
64 photograph
ISBN : 978-2-88927-389-8
First Printed: 2017

Rights sold

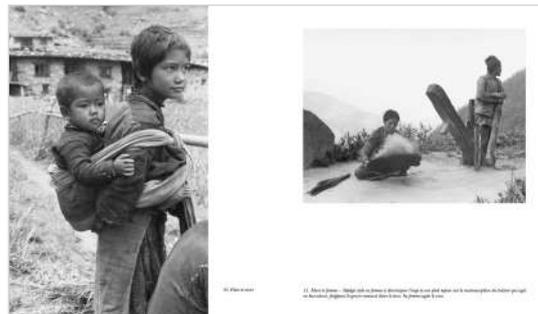
- Spanish (Tushita Edicions)
- German (Nagel & Kimche)

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.



For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com

Back list

Arthur Brügger
Roland Buti
Elisa Shua Dusapin
Joëlle Kuntz
Madeleine Lamouille
Michel Layaz
Max Lobe
Douna Loup
Jérôme Meizoz
Sonia Molinari
Bruno Pellegrino
Noëlle Revaz
Catherine Safonoff
Aude Seigne
Stand-by
Anne-Sophie Subilia
Gabriella Zalapì

Some of the best authors from
our backlist



Arthur Brügger
**L'Œil
de l'espadon**



ZOE



L'Œil de l'espadon

Novel / 160 pages
First Printed: 2015

Rights sold

- French mass market paperback (Pocket)
- German (Piper Verlag)
- Italian (Longanesi)
- Russian (Albus Corvus)

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 Bibliomédis 2016**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com



Le Milieu de l'horizon

Novel / 192 pages
First Printed: 2013

Rights sold

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

Roland Buti

The Middle of the Horizon

«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*

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.

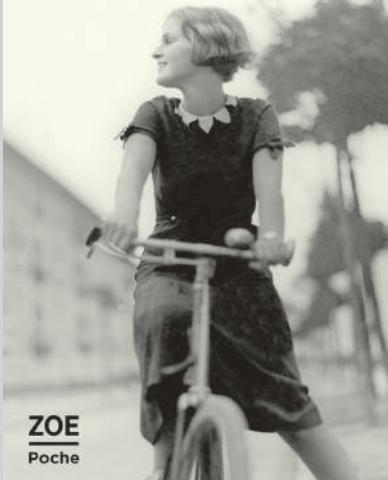
About the author

Roland Buti (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” in 1990, then “Un Nuage sur l’œil” 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 Medicis and awarded the Swiss Literature Award.

• “This is a trick of a book. It hides its turmoil behind everyday details, often beautifully observed” John Self, “The Guardian”

• Prize-winning novel, translated into 7 languages and adapted to the cinema

Roland Buti
Grand National



Grand National

Novel / 160 pages

First Printed: August 2019

Rights sold

- Danish (Arvids)
 - French mass market ppbk (Zoé)
 - French large print (À vue d'œil)
 - German (Zsolnay - Hanser)
 - Italian (Solferino - RCS)
 - Serbian (Cigoja Stampa)
- English excerpt available

Roland Buti

Grand National

“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.”

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” in 1990, then “Un Nuage sur l'œil” 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 Medicis 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 7 languages + film

Elisa Shua
Dusapin
Hiver à Sokcho



NATIONAL BOOK AWARD
2021

ZOE



Hiver à Sokcho

Novel / 144 pages
First Printed: 2016

Rights sold

- Arabic (Hachette Antoine)
- Bulgarian (Altera)
- Cinema (option Off Shore prod)
- Croatian (Hena Com)
- Danish (Arvids)
- English (World - Daunt Books)
- French mass market pprbck (Folio Gallimard)
- German (Aufbau Verlag)
- Georgian (Academic Press)
- Greek (World Books)
- Hebrew (Les Presses)
- Hungarian (Magvető)
- Italian (Ibis Edizioni)
- Japanese (Hayakawa)
- Korean (Book Recipe)
- Polish (Kwiaty Orientu)
- Portuguese (Brazil - Ayine)
- Romanian (Eikon)
- Russian (Textpublishers)
- Spanish (Alianza Editorial)
- Swedish (Ersatz)
- Turkish (Can Publishing)

Winter in Sokcho

Elisa Shua Dusapin

“A humble and poetic first novel.” Le Monde

“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.

• **Rights sold in more than 20 languages**

• **“Oiled with a brooding tension that never dissipates or resolves, *Winter in Sokcho* is a noirish cold sweat of a book.”— *Guardian***

• **Won the National Book Award for Translated Literature 2021**

The Pachinko Parlour

Elisa Shua Dusapin

Elisa Shua
Dusapin
Les Billes
du Pachinko



ZOE



Les Billes du Pachinko

Novel / 144 pages

First Printed: August 2018

Rights sold

- Armenian (Guitank)
- English (World - Daunt Books)
- French mass market pprbck (Folio / Gallimard)
- Georgian (Academic Press)
- Hungarian (Magvető)
- Italian (Ibis Edizioni)
- Korean (Book Recipe)
- Portuguese (Brazil - Ayine)
- Turkish (Can Publishing)

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.

- **Recipient of the National Book Award for Translated Literature 2021 for her debut novel, "Hiver à Sokcho"**

- **A talent for evoking mixed cultural identities**

- **Intergenerational transmission and filiation among women**



Elisa Shua
Dusapin
**Vladivostok
Circus**

ZOE



Vladivostok Circus

Novel

Paperback textbook

176 pages

First Printed: August 2020

Rights sold

- French mass market pprbck (Folio / Gallimard)
- English (option Daunt Books)
- Georgian (Academic Press)
- Italian (Ibis Edizioni)
- Korean (BookRecipe)
- Portuguese (Brazil – Ayine)
- Spanish (Alianza)

Vladivostok Circus **Elisa Shua Dusapin**

It is the early autumn inter-season, and the Vladivostok Circus marquee is deserted. Five acrobats train and learn to tame as they rehearse one of the most dangerous circus acts: the Russian bars. These artists are all celebrities in their respective field: the oldest, the Russian Anton, has long been training his young partner Nino, the heir to a family circus in Germany. Anna, the Ukrainian acrobat, a former trampoline champion, has recently joined them. As for Léon, the technician from Quebec, he sees to the staging of the performance, among other things.

The narrator, a 22-year-old Frenchwoman, is hired as a costume designer for the show scheduled a few weeks after at a major festival in Ulan-Oude, Siberia. She is inexperienced and a complete stranger to the world of the circus. She tries to find her space in this promiscuity and collective routine full of individual stories.

The novel tells the story of a stepwise taming, in spite of communication difficulties and each character's painful past. It is a huis clos with alternate moments of tension, extreme concentration, and idle free time.

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 literature at the Swiss Literature Institute in Bienne, and pursues her literary studies in between trips to East Asia.

• **Recipient of the National Book Award for Translated Literature 2021 for her debut novel, "Hiver à Sokcho"**

• **Elisa's novels are translated into more than 20 languages**

Joëlle Kuntz

L'histoire suisse en un clin d'œil



EDITIONS ZOE LE TEMPS EDITIONS



L'Histoire suisse en un clin d'œil

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.

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



For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpacher@pierreastier.com



Les Larmes de ma mère

Novel
Paperback textbook
160 pages
First Printed: 2003

Rights sold

- Bulgarian (Colibri)
- English (World - Seagull books)
- French mass market paperback (Zoé Poche)
- Russian (ANO Redaktsiya
Jurnala "Inostrannaya Literatura")

My Mother's Tears

Michel Layaz

"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

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.

With subtle, bemused humor and an unerring eye for human frailty, Michel Layaz writes about the hidden tensions within families, the awkwardness of adolescence, and the drama of intimacy between friends and lovers.

About the author

Michel Layaz ranks among the leading contemporary French-speaking Swiss authors. His books include "Les Larmes de ma mère" and "La Joyeuse Complainte de l'idiot", which have been translated into German, Italian, Bulgarian, English and Russian. His latest novels are "Louis Soutter, probablement" (2016), and "Sans Silke" (2019).

"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."

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Michel Layaz Sans Silke

ZOE



Sans Silke

Michel Layaz
Novel
Paperback textbook
160 pages
First Printed: January 2019

Without Silke Michel Layaz

“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?”

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 leading contemporary French-speaking Swiss authors. His books include “Les Larmes de ma mère” and “La Joyeuse Complainte de l’idiot”, which have been translated into German, Italian, Bulgarian, English and Russian. His latest novels are “Louis Soutter, probablement” (2016), and “Sans Silke” (2019).

- **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 or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

MICHEL LAYAZ

LA JOYEUSE COMPLAINTE
DE L'IDIOT



ZOE



La Joyeuse Complainte de l'Idiot

Novel
Paperback textbook
160 pages
First Printed: 2004

Rights sold

- German (Verlag die Brot-suppe)
- Bulgarian (ed. SONM)
- Italian (ed. Clichy)
- Massmarket paperback (Seuil)
- Russian (Albus Corvus)

An Idiot Happy Complain Michel Layaz

“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

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 ranks among the leading contemporary French-speaking Swiss authors. His books include “Les Larmes de ma mère” and “La Joyeuse Complainte de l’idiot”, which have been translated into German, Italian, Bulgarian, English and Russian. His latest novels are “Louis Soutter, probablement” (2016), and “Sans Silke” (2019).

“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.”

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com



39 rue de Berne

Novel
Paperback textbook
192 pages
First Printed: 2013

Rights sold

- English (USA - Indiana University Press)
- French mass market paperback (Zoé Poche)
- Italian (66th&2nd)

39th 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

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" (2015), and "Confidences" (2016 - winner of the Ahmadou Kourouma award), he tackles the urgent issues of immigration in his own, natural way.

- **"A generous and promising story" Le Temps**

- **Winner of the Prix du Roman des Romands 2013-2014**

- **Sensitive topics described with an amazing subtlety**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Max Lobe

La Trinité bantoue



ZOE



La Trinité bantoue

Novel

Paperback textbook

208 pages

First Printed: 2014

Rights sold

- English (World - HopeRoad)
- German (Austernbank)
- Italian (66th&2nd)
- Portugese (Brazil - Ayine)
- Ukrainian (KIS Publishing)

The Bantu Trinity

Max Lobe

“In ‘The Bantu Trinity’, Max Lobe creates a tongue that keeps the sadness away.” Le Temps

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!

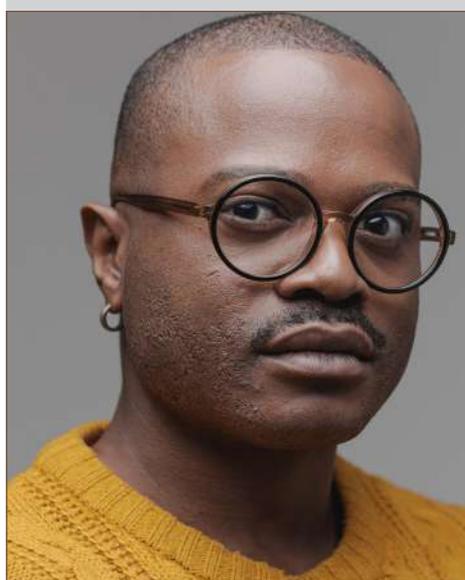
When he decides to spend his last coins to call his mother who lives in Bantuland, he cannot recognize her anymore. Ah Nzambé! He goes through stony moments, but knows how to get over it. Because Mwána is helped by his sharp and happy mind, Rue-di the Red, Ms Bauer the Passionaria, and his very catholic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

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” (2015), and “Confidences” (2016 - winner of the Ahmadou Kourouma award), he tackles the urgent issues of immigration in his own, natural way.

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Confidences

Novel

Paperback textbook

288 pages

First Printed: 2016

Rights sold

- Cameroon (Proximité - French)
- French mass market paperback (Zoé)
- German (Akono Verlag)

Confidences

Max Lobe

“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

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

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” (2015), and “Confidences” (2016 – winner of the Ahmadou Kourouma award), he tackles the urgent issues of immigration in his own, natural way.

- **Winner of Prix Ahmadou-Kourouma 2017**
- **With a letter by Alain Mabanckou to Max Lobe**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Max Lobe

Loin de Douala



ZOE



Loin de Douala

Novel

Paperback textbook

176 pages

First Printed: March 2018

English excerpts available

Rights sold

- English - World (Hope Road)

- French mass market paperback (Zoé Poche)

Far Away From Douala

Max Lobe

“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.’”

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.

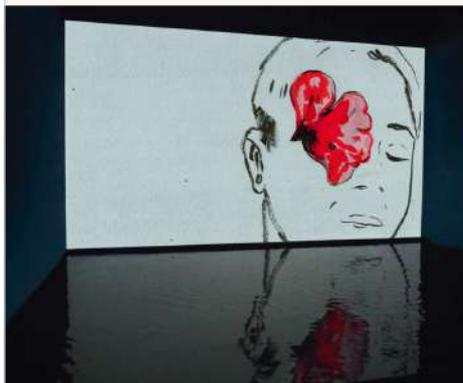
About the author

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” (2015), and “Confidences” (2016 – winner of the Ahmadou Kourouma award), he tackles the urgent issues of immigration in his own, natural way.

- **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 or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Jérôme Meizoz
Faire le garçon



ZOE



Faire le garçon

Novel
Paperback textbook
160 pages
First Printed: 2017

Rights sold

- German (Elster Verlag)

Acting as a Boy Jérôme Meizoz

“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

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.

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Ne pas laisser le temps à la nuit

Novel (thriller)
Paperback textbook
304 pages
First Printed: March 2020

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions
Zoé

Rights sold

- French mass market paperback
(Zoé)

Don't Give Time to the Night **Sonia Molinari**

Maiko wakes up in a Brussels clinic with a mysterious scar on her lower back and a haunting memory: that of a happy adolescence in Hong Kong, shattered on the day her father, a genius microbiologist, was reported missing. The young woman, who has to deal with her inexplicable past, throws herself headlong into her father's footsteps. In Hong Kong, which she has long departed, she visits an old acquaintance, who seems terrified: Where has she been? There are people looking for her everywhere, and they are not well-meaning. But she doesn't care. She needs eight different identities, and something strong enough to knock someone out: GHB, Rohypnol or ketamine - whatever, a cocktail capable of inducing amnesia for several days.

Thus begins a long and dangerous hunt. Maiko travels the world in search of those who knew her father, under the identity of stewardesses, and followed by worrying pursuers. She seems fragile but recovers from bad injuries, she is betrayed by those who claim to help her. But she keeps on searching, driven by an incomprehensible force. Maiko reminds us of our world: globalised, complex, and sometimes dangerous.

About the author

Sonia Molinari lives in Switzerland, where she teaches flamenco. Before that, she has worked as a stewardess and learned to speak five languages. "Ne pas laisser le temps à la nuit" is her Debut novel. She claims to be a spectator of her characters and their lives. She observes them and writes with a storyteller's powerful intuition.

- **A psychological scientific thriller set all around the world**
- **A lovable, complex and brave female main character**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com



Là-bas, août est un mois d'automne

Novel

Paperback textbook

224 pages

ISBN : 978-2-88927-507-8

First Printed: January 2018

Rights sold

- French mass market pbk (Zoé)
- German (Verlag die Brot-suppe)
- 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.

The book won several literary prizes: prix des libraires Payot, prix Alice Rivaz, prix Écritures & spiritualités, prix François Mauriac.

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 (Académie française)**

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com

Noëlle Revaz
L'Infini livre



ZOE



L'Infini livre

Novel
Paperback textbook
318 pages
First Printed: 2014

Rights sold:

- German (Wallstein)
- French mass market pbck
(Zoé Poche)

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

About My Mother

Catherine Safonoff



Autour de ma mère

Catherine Safonoff
Novel
Paperback textbook
272 pages
First Printed: 2006

Rights sold:

- Romanian (editura Fides)
- Bulgarian (Panorama Plus)
- French mass market paperback (Zoé Poche)

“This novel is a double bereavement: of the lover and of the mother. When you finish reading, you are relieved and calm.” 24 Heures

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.”

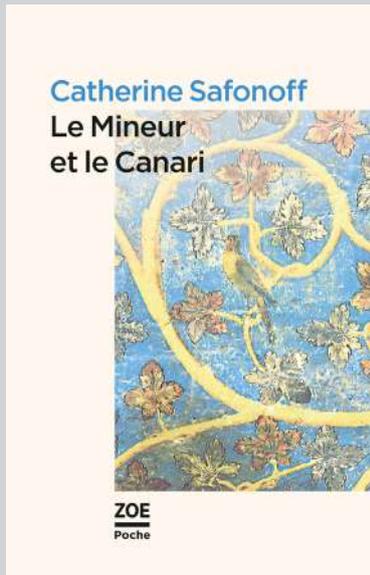
• **A fine and sensitive novel**

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

The Miner and the Canary

Catherine Safonoff



Le Mineur et le canari

Novel

Paperback textbook

192 pages

First Printed: 2012

Rights sold

- German (Rotpunkt Verlag)
- Bulgarian (Panorama Plus)
- French mass market paperback (Zoé Poche)
- Romanian (Editura Fides)

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.

“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 or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Catherine
Safonoff
La distance
de fuite



ZOE



La distance de fuite

Novel
Paperback textbook
336 pages
First Printed: 2017

Rights sold

- Romanian (Editura Fides)

The Flight Zone

Catherine Safonoff

“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.”

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.

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Chroniques de l'Occident nomade

Novel
Paperback textbook
192 pages
First Printed: 2013

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé

Rights sold

Mass market ppbk (Zoé Poche)

Chronicle Of The Nomadic Occident **Aude Seigne**

“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 21st century. She mixes the coolness of youth with the wisdom of experience, with no idealization of the traveler status.” Livres Hebdo

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 Genevan writer whose path she is successfully following.

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Les Neiges de Damas

Novel
Paperback textbook
192 pages
First Printed: 2015

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions
Zoé

Rights sold

Mass market ppbk (Zoé
Poche)

Damascus Under Snow Aude Seigne

“It’s a new kind of trip, it’s a book against the obligation to conclude.”

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 tabellars. 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.

“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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com

Aude Seigne
Une toile
large comme
le monde



**Une toile large comme
le monde**

Novel / 240 pages
First Printed: 2017

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions
Zoé
English excerpt available

Rights sold

- Mass market paperback (J'ai
lu)

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.

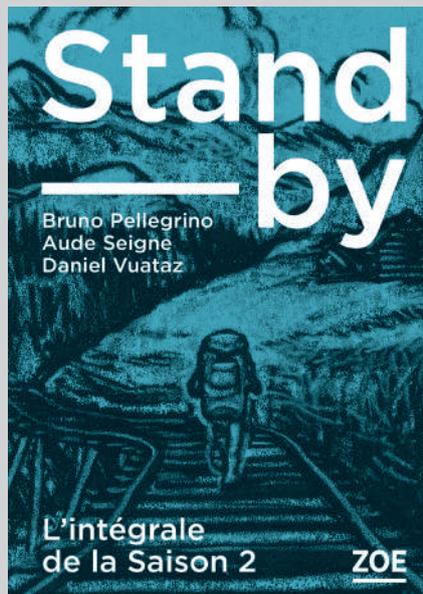
The author, herself part of the generation she depicts, plays on her characters' contradictions. Without ever condemning the WWW or its users, she makes the virtual world real by describing the huge datacentres and dataflow. Playing with the idea of a world without Internet, she makes it very obvious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

About the author

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.

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

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Stand-by
Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, Daniel Vuataz
Drawings by Frédéric Pajak

Serialized illustrated novel
(2 seasons)
Paperback textbook

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions Zoé
English excerpt available

Stand-by **Bruno Pellegrino, Aude Seigne, Daniel Vuataz**

“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” 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.

- **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
or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com

Anne-Sophie
Subilia

Neiges
intérieures



ZOE



Neiges intérieures

Novel
Paperback textbook
160 pages
First Printed: January 2020

Rights

WORLD FRENCH: Éditions
Zoé
English excerpt available

Rights sold

- German (A·B Fischer)
- Mass market ppbk (Zoé
Poche)

Inner Snow

Anne-Sophie Subilia

“Artemis” consists of sixteen metres of aluminium, carved for seas of ice. Four landscape architects embark on this sailboat to study the territory of the Arctic Circle. In the heart of extreme nature, subject to a promiscuity that turns this voyage into a closed-door experience, they must face the constraints of the group – with the captain, and this peculiar desert as toxic as it is bewitching.

During the stopovers, the narrator runs on the sparkling tundra. On board, she writes her logbook, describing her daily life (the navigation, the cold, making bread, cooking fish, personal hygiene...), and what is above all a disturbing human and intimate experience.

This fictional logbook tells of a complex humanity’s relationships with others – and with nature.

About the author

Anne-Sophie Subilia studied French literature and history at the University of Geneva. She wrote her master’s thesis on *L’Obscurité* by poet Philippe Jacquot – a work that was awarded the Hentsch Prize for Literature. In 2010, while living in Montreal for a degree in arts management, she joined “La Traversée - Atelier québécois de géopoétique.”

- **A fictional travel story that explores the intimate components of the journey**
- **“An attempt to extricate oneself, to think beyond the collective shambles. A success.” *Le Monde***
- **“Simple but profound.” *Livres Hebdo***

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch
or contact lpecher@pierrestier.com



Gabriella
Zalapi

Antonia

Journal 1965 – 1966

ZOE



Antonia

Novel

Paperback textbook

112 pages with photographs

First Printed: January 2019

Rights sold:

- Mass market Paperback (Livre de poche)
- German (Rotpunkt Verlag)

Antonia

Gabriella Zalapi

Antonia is a young woman who lives in 1960's Sicily, in a wealthy environment. Her husband Franco 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 Zalapi 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.**

For more information, visit www.editionszoe.ch or contact lpecher@pierreastier.com

swiss arts council
prohelvetia

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/>

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

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