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**BELFOND
PRESSES DE
LA CITÉ
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CLERCS
OMNIBUS**

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Literary Fiction

La Délégation norvégienne

Hugo Boris

276 pages – September 2007



Paranoia, fear and a modern twist on the classic whodunit

Seven hunters who do not know each other find themselves in a hunting lodge in the middle of a forest in an unknown country.

They are stranded there as if on a desert island for the woods that surround them are impenetrable.

Why are they all gathered there? How will they survive? The cold permeates the walls of the lodge, food is getting scarce and they cannot escape the forest that seems to be closing in on them.

Even more worryingly, one of the hunters, René Derain, is sure that they are not there by chance. Someone, somewhere, wants to trap them.

The hunters are the puppets of an unknown puppeteer who makes them act as he wishes, according to a storyline only he knows.

Hugo Boris was born in Paris. His first novel, *Le Baiser dans la nuque* (Belfond 2005), was awarded the *Prix Roblès*, which is granted by the jurors of the *Prix Goncourt*.

“Agatha Christie had imagined a narrator who was a murderer, Hugo Boris goes beyond that writer’s fantasy by turning his reader into a potential killer”
Lire, review featured in “La Découverte de *Lire*”

Le Crocodile rouillé

Dominique-Louise Pélegrin

240 pages – August 2007



A whimsical and poetic foray into childhood in the Fifties

“The rusty crocodile”, whose sentences “slam like jaws” is the benevolent father of Gabrielle, Emmanuel, Ariane, the twins Melchior and Balthazar, Jeanne, Ines and Denis. “Elastiss”, their mother, shepherds the flock.

Together the children create a private world in which adults are excluded and languages change according to the games played. In their fantasy, a patio becomes an ice floe and machines that swallow annoying baby brothers exist...

Dominique-Louise Pélegrin is a journalist for *Télérama*. She has published two books on gardening. *Le Crocodile rouillé* is her first novel.

Les Papillons n'ont pas de mémoire

Hubert Prolongeau

288 pages – November 2007



Paul Freda: "French doctor" and detective extraordinaire

1996: Because of the apparent inaction of the police, Paul Freda is sent to Colombia to investigate the death of a fellow aid worker.

However, he is taken hostage almost instantly by the guerrilla who might be linked to his friend's death. During his captivity, Paul befriends his kidnappers and becomes sympathetic to their plight. When the police attack the camp he is released but the intervention kills many of his captors.

Intrigued by the disproportionate violence used by the police and their sudden involvement, Paul decides to investigate a possible link between rebels and authority...

This title is the first in a series with Paul Freda as recurring hero

Hubert Prolongeau is a writer and journalist who works for *Le Nouvel Observateur* and *Elle* among other publications. He has also written several novels, the latest of which are *Comme un roman* (Belfond, 2005) and *La Mort de l'amie* (Stock, 2005).

Deux Juifs voyagent dans un train

Adam Biro

240 pages – February 2007



22 short stories in which the grotesque and the ironical coexist with cynicism and ferocious humor

Two Jews are travelling by train... thus begin a number of old Jewish jokes from Eastern Europe. Taking those jokes as a starting point, the author spins short stories around them, writing an autobiography of sorts. He writes: "These Jewish stories of which not a single one happened to me, and of which I did not invent a single one, do describe me, do characterize me, do explain me. They are always my own story. And yours."

Adam Biro was born in Budapest in 1941, which he left for Geneva in 1956. He has published several short stories collections, a novel and plays for the radio station France Culture. Adam Biro is also the founder of an art book publishing house.

World rights available except for English and Hungarian.

2008 Titles – Highlights of the literary fiction list

La Constellation des hasards

Valérie Baronad

March 2008

This brilliant debut novel is a literary coming of age on the footsteps on Paul Auster.

Galleys available from November 2007

Le Sel de la guerre

Jérôme Harlay

April 2008

A literary thriller set in the south of France during the Second World War. This novel centers around the workmen in the salt marshes, conflict between different police faction and the regime of Vichy.

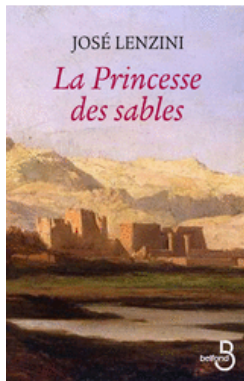
Manuscript available

Historical Fiction

La Princesse des sables

José Lenzini

360 pages – October 2007



The extraordinary life of a Nineteenth Century Frenchwoman in the land of Arabian Nights

When Aurélie Picard fell in love with Ahmed Tidjani, she did not realize to what extent her life would change: Ahmed was a descendant of the prophet Muhammad and the chief of an important brotherhood of the south of Algeria. Defying tradition and the mores of the times, Aurélie marries him.

Leaving everything behind, she follows Ahmed to Algeria and to the “Castle of Sands”, her husband’s palace in the desert.

At first, Aurélie struggles to impose her occidental vision and modernity on the court but she manages to get her way, even repudiating Ahmed’s other wives and establishing an authority such that it will last even until after his death.

José Lenzini was born in Algeria. A former journalist, he now teaches the craft in Marseille. He is a specialist of the French writer Albert Camus and has written several essays about him as well as other novels.

Women's Fiction

La Louve blanche

Theresa Révay

400 pages – March 2008



A page-turning saga in the vein of Gone with the Wind, from Paris to Berlin in the interwar years

Following her father's assassination and her mother's death, Xenia, a young woman from the Russian elite, finds herself alone to take care of her sister and baby brother.

Like many of her compatriots, the young woman flees the Bolsheviks and moves to Paris, where she faces the tragedies and destitution of exile.

Determined to support her family, Xenia finds work as model for a French fashion designer who makes the most of her extraordinary beauty.

When she meets the dashing German photographer Max von Passau, she knows her life will be changed forever and they engage in a passionate

relationship between Paris and Berlin. But Xenia is reluctant to give in fully to her love for Max as she values her independence and family too much to risk losing them.

The events of history also contribute to separate the lovers further. Horrified by the rise of Hitler, Max enters the Resistance movement, in part to shield a Jewish former lover. Xenia, who finds herself pregnant hides the fact from Max and marries a Parisian politician who will provide for her and for her family and protect them.

Will their love emerge unscathed from the darkness of a merciless era?

***La Louve blanche* has been chosen as the "Main Selection" of France Loisirs' fourth catalog 2007. The club has sold around 200.000 copies.**

German rights sold to Der Club Bertelsmann. Russian rights sold to Family Leisure Club.



Theresa Révay is a translator and a novelist.

She has published two previous romantic sagas with Belfond. ***Valentine ou le temps des adieux*** in 2002 (published in German by Fischer Verlag) and ***Livia Grandi ou le souffle du destin*** (also translated in German by Fischer Verlag and in Italian by Sonzogno).

Praise for ***Valentine ou le temps des adieux*** :

"An heir to Henri Troyat is born!"

Lire

"Theresa Révay is a master of the popular novel, with the added touch of soul that makes all the difference."

Le Nouvel Observateur

"The fascinating work of a novelist who does not lack flair."

Le Monde des livres

Two forthcoming novels by best-selling author Françoise Bourdin:

Un cadeau inespéré

220 pages – October 2007



A heart-warming Provençal Christmas tale

In a small village lost in the hills of Provence, Florent, a young boy sets out to find the Christmas tree his mother can't afford to buy. She has trouble making ends meet ever since his father walked out on them.

On the steep hill where he has found a suitable tree, Florent gets hurt by the axe he is carrying. Night is falling, Florent is hurt and alone. Luckily, a man, Grégoire, will rescue him. Will Grégoire also save Florent's mother from her loneliness?

Rights sold to *Der Club Bertelsmann* in Germany and *Sperling & Kupfer* in Italy. This title was also a "Main Selection" of the book club *France Loisirs*, in their first catalog of 2006, which sold over 100.000 copies.

Dans le silence de l'aube

300 pages – October 2008

A young woman face to face with destiny

At 28, Axelle Montgomery is heir to a family of horse breeders and trainers and is at the helm of the family stables. She has been groomed to the task by her grandfather much to the dismay of her younger brother Douglas whose resentment of his treatment will lead him to betray his family.

Axelle finds herself confronted with more problems, when, upon her grandfather's tragic death, the clients take their horses to other stables, not trusting such a young woman. Her personal life is also in crisis, she is torn between two men, a handsome jockey whom she knows she should not fall for and a man with whom she, at first view, has little in common...

This title is a "Main Selection" of the book club *France Loisirs* in their third catalog 2007. The guaranteed minimum is of 100.000 copies.

Manuscript available



With over 2.5 million copies of her books sold altogether, **Françoise Bourdin** is one of France's foremost writer of women's fiction.

Non-Fiction

Diedouchka

Paule Coudert

300 pages – October 2007



A compelling memoir about a family secret and filial love

When she finds a picture of a mysterious man with flashing brown eyes, the life of 9-year old Paule is changed forever. The man is her grandfather Saul, a Russian Jew. An opponent to the Czar, he fled Russia and moved to France, where he never ceased to long for his native land. Upon his return to Russia, he was sent to the Gulag where he died.

Paule never forgot the story of her grandfather and, as an adult, she decided to bridge the gaps in her family history. She followed his trace all over Russia and also in Israel, where she discovers cousins she did not know she had, who, like her grandfather, chose exile.

Paule Coudert is a radio journalist for the French radio station *Europe 1*.

Saga

La Forteresse verte (Thirtieth Anniversary edition, updated by the author)

Original Title: *Brazil*

Errol Lincoln Uys

600 pages – October 2007



From colony to kingdom, from empire to nation, La Forteresse Verte is filled with memorable people living through one of the great adventures in human history.

Through the lives of two powerful families, *La Forteresse verte* depicts five turbulent centuries in the history of a remarkable land.

The Cavalcantis are among the original settlers and establish the classic Brazilian plantation — vast, powerful, built with slave labor. The da Silvas represent the second element in both contemporary and historical Brazil: pathfinders and prospectors.

For generations, these adventurers have set their eyes on El Dorado, which they ultimately find — in a coffee fortune at São Paulo.

Errol Lincoln Uys started out as a reporter in his native South-Africa. He launched his book writing career with James A. Michener when they collaborated on his title about South-Africa.

World rights available except for English. English reading copies available.

The critics on the first edition of *La Forteresse verte*:

“A masterpiece! Brazil has the feel of an enchanted virgin forest, a totally new and original world for the reader-explorer to discover.”

L'Express

“A massive, richly detailed novel, informative and intriguing. Uys has a sense of pace and an eye for detail that rarely fail him.”

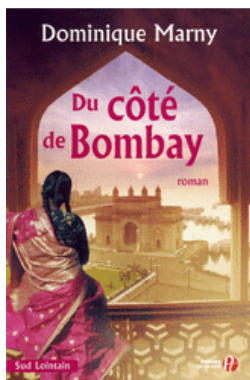
The Washington Post

Exotic Fiction

Du côté de Bombay

Dominique Marny

320 pages – September 2007



One woman's reawakening to love and life in an India torn between riches and squalor

Valentine has come to India to write an article for her newspaper. Far from the Parisian humdrum, the young single mother meets people she would never have known otherwise: Guillaume, an attractive aid worker; Céline, a hippy expatriate; Oxana, a Russian researcher in the pharmaceutical industry and Amita, a social worker.

India and these people will touch Valentine's life in a way she never could have envisaged.

Dominique Marny comes back to her beloved India in this new novel. *Du côté de Pondichéry* and *Cap Malabata* have been sold to *Blanvalet* in Germany.

La Cinquième courtisane

Jean-Michel Thibaux

500 pages – October 2007



A spellbinding incursion in the heart of the Forbidden City

1454, the knight Geoffroy de Blois is following Marco Polo's footsteps on the Silk Route.

In Samarcand, the plague forces his companions to retreat but Geoffroy forges on to China moved by a mysterious force. He does not yet know that, in a palace, in Beijing's Forbidden City, the fifth concubine is waiting for him, for his arrival has been announced by astrologists.

He does not know either that he will save the Emperor of Heaven from the Mongols...

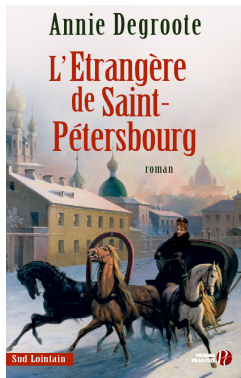
Jean-Michel Thibaux is great traveller and a prolific writer whose sense of the exotic is acute. His works have been translated into Spanish, Turkish, Lithuanian, and Slovenian.

He is the author of the best-selling title ***Le Secret de l'abbé Saunière*** (*Plon*, 2004) which has been sold in Germany to *Lübbe*, in Spain to *Roca*, in Portugal to *A Esfera dos Livros*, in Italy to *Sonzogno* and many other countries.

Historical Fiction

L'Etrangère de St Pétersbourg

Annie Degroote
400 pages – May 2007



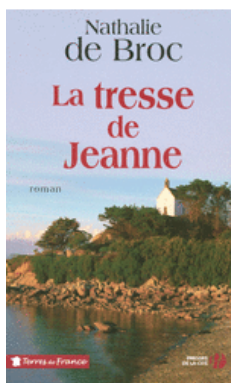
A foray at the heart of pre-revolutionary Russia on the steps of a headstrong heroine torn between love and reason

Blonde is a young French girl who has settled in St Petersburg with her merchant father. She revels in the city and Russian culture. In this land of contrast, between riches and poverty, Blonde experiences the tremors of first love. But she cannot live freely as she has entered into a sinister pact to keep her family together. Will she ever be able to get her old life back?

Annie Degroote has written several novels published by *Presses de la Cité*.

La Tresse de Jeanne

Nathalie de Broc
300 pages – June 2007



A tender coming of age story in early Twentieth Century Brittany and England

Jeanne's father is a Johnny, a Breton man who sells the local onions in England, where he spends half of the year selling his wares door to door. Each time he goes away, Jeanne mourns his absence for he is kind to her, which is not the case of her mother and older sister. One day, Jeanne's father does not come home. His ship has sunk. She does not believe he is dead, and decides to become a Johnny even though no women have been Johnnies before, in order to investigate his disappearance.

Nathalie de Broc is a freelance journalist and a writer. She lives in Quimper, Brittany and her two previous novels are both set in Brittany.

Constance et la ville d'hiver

Alain Dubos

300 pages – September 2007



Can filial bonds endure the test of time and absence?

1900. When Rémi Darrast comes back home after years abroad, his family is naturally happy to see him back. But this happiness is tainted by resentment: while Rémi was away, he left them to deal with his absence and to raise his motherless daughter, Constance.

Constance has grown up alone and has turned the interior sea of the town into her domain where loneliness reigns.

Will Constance and Rémi be able to reconnect and make up for lost time? Are filial love and parental love immutable?

Alain Dubos is a paediatrician and writer. He has written extensively, his titles have been domestic successes, both commercially and critically.

La Malpeur

Patrick Breuzé

360 pages – October 2007



Rekindling a love marred by secrets

In the Alps at the end of the Nineteenth Century. Bertin can not help but think that the order he received telling him to slaughter his cattle because of possible infection was issued to undermine him.

Jacquemine, his erstwhile lover, will convince him to run away to the highest mountain pastures. Together they climb up, despite the snow. There, once the cattle is safe, they will have all the time in the world to rekindle their old passion, even, if, at its heart, a secret lies heavy between them.

Patrick Breuzé is a journalist and a writer. He is a keen mountaineer and has written about the beauty and dangers of the mountains in his two previous novels: *Le Silence des glaces* and *La Grande Avalanche*.

Les Filles de Roz-Kelenn

Hervé Jaouen

300 pages – October 2007



A history of Brittany in the Twentieth Century through fiction

Franch Goasdoué, the owner of Roz-Kelenn estate has just died and today is his burial. As the village is getting ready for the mass, speculation is rife: will his daughters attend the ceremony? Will they finally forgive him?

The reasons for his daughters' anger and the answers to the questions asked by the villagers lie in the past, in the life of this man and how it made him what he was.

Hervé Jaouen is the author of more that 40 titles inspired by Brittany and Ireland.

Non-Fiction

Le Vrai visage du Che

Jorge Masetti and Canek Sanchez-Guevara
320 pages – October 2007



Eye-opening and thought provoking: An insightful biography of the Che by his grandson

October 9, 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of Che Guevara's death which will be commemorated by a series of films, books and exhibitions. How did this man evolve from political figure to such a worldwide legend and mythological icon?

This insider account shows the real face of the Che. Far from the cartoonish icon of the heroic revolutionary, his biographer uncover his homophobia, his steely resolve, his poorly informed political opinions, and his fascination for Stalin among some of his less savory traits.

As well as showing the man Che really was, the authors paint a startling portrait of Cuban society today.

Canek Sanchez-Guevara is Che Guevara's grandson. He was a journalist for the official newspaper *Granma* in Havana and is now a painter and a writer who lives in exile in France.

Jorge Masetti is the son of Jorge Ricardo Masetti one of Guevara's closest friends. He is an ex-agent of the Cuban secret services. Previously, he has published *License de Corsaire* (Stock, 1993).

Israël : Etat de Choc

Frédéric Pons
300 pages – November 2007



Summer 2006: 33 days of war in Lebanon and their consequences on Israel

When Hezbollah provoked Israel by kidnapping eight of its soldiers and killing two, the reply was extremely rapid. What was to be a blitzkrieg lasted 33 days and left Israel shell-shocked and with its immunity diminished: its cities were hit by rockets until the last days of this war.

In Israel, the war unearthed serious deficiencies in the system. What really happened during these 33 days? How will Israel deal with its consequences?

Frédéric Pons is a war reporter. He teaches at Saint-Cyr, France's most prestigious military school. He is also a writer and he has published several other essays on Lebanon, The Balkans, and Irak.



Le Pré aux Clercs

Le Cabinet fantastique

Fairy tales and folklore revisited

These tales revisit the original purpose of folk and fairy tales: stories that all age groups can share. Each title in this new series is themed around a central subject and offers a contemporary reading on fairy tales and folk tales.



La Belle au bois

176 pages – March 2007

Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, and Cinderella...these tales are part of our global heritage and are as old as storytelling itself.

In this book, the author stays true to tradition while shedding new light on these fairytales.



Le Roi des chats

176 pages – March 2007

Cats carry with them an aura of mystery and ambiguity wherever they go. The many different aspects of cats are explored in these twelve stories inspired by mythology and folklore.



Le Dernier chant du barde

192 pages – April 2007

The Celtic folk tale tradition was carried on by its numerous bards such as Senchan Torpeist, Amergin or Oisín. In this collection, the author (a linguist and a specialist of Irish mythology) has written new translations of these tales from the Gaelic full of warriors, spirits and magic.



Le Crépuscule des dieux et autres histoires

192 pages – April 2007

The life of the Nordic god of war and knowledge Odin from birth to death.

In these ten tales, the author tells of the discovery of runes, Odin's half wolf half human creatures, his journey to Hell and his last battle against the ice giants.



Un lavoir en Provence et autres histoires

176 pages – June 2007

Water has always been a rarity in the South of France which is often plagued by drought. These ten tales all take water as a starting point with the inimitable flair of Provençal story telling.

Écrivains voyageurs

To read is also to travel.

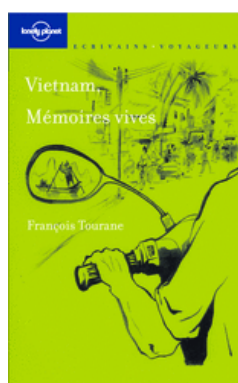
This new series, written by authors who are seasoned travellers, gives a new outlook on countries or cities. *Écrivains Voyageurs* are journeys of discovery via works that are at the same time personal and descriptive. Meetings with local people are often the basis of the stories told here.

These different titles are as much travel companions as reference books; they are rife with portraits and anecdotes from the other end of the world. They do not aim to be the definitive authority on a specific destination but rather to describe the essence of a place.

Vietnam, Mémoires vives

François Tourane

264 pages – May 2007



From Hanoi to the Mekong Delta, François Tourane has wandered in a Vietnam that is slowly rebuilding itself.

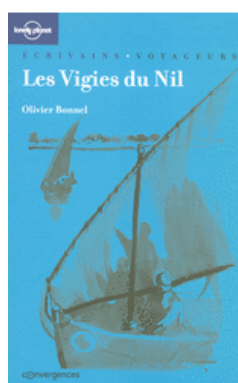
The starting point for this journey is the author's quest for his grandfather's ghost in the Bay of Halong. In the cities and in the country, François Tourane meets unforgettable characters: mandarins with flowing white beards, students, farmers, expatriates and tourists in love with the country. They describe their lives, their memories and their hopes for the future. Through their testimonies there emerges the portrait of a country in transition.

François Tourane is a writer and a foreign correspondent. He lives in Bangkok.

Les Vigies du Nil

Olivier Bonnel

240 pages – May 2007



More than simple cruise down the silt-laden waters of the Nile. In this travel account, Olivier Bonnel endeavors to understand why this river is still so mythical.

The author sets off from Khartoum in an epic that is as literary as it is lively. It is the story of the river, but also of the numerous people who make the Nile what it is today. They are guardian of temples, Nubian musicians, fishermen, pigeon breeders. Their lives are forever intertwined with the Nile. More than these life stories it is also the contemporary history of Egypt and Sudan that is told here between past and present.

Olivier Bonnel is a thirty year old journalist who divides his time between Cairo and Paris.

Forthcoming titles: *Morocco and the Atlas Desert, and Route 66.*