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FRENCH FICTION
A man in Tel Aviv receives a letter from Germany that is addressed to his late mother, several years after her death. It was sent by a lawyer in Wiesbaden, who is pleased to have tracked down the daughter of her client, Vera Kaplan, who recently took her own life.

He has sent the last will and testament of a woman haunted by her demons and worn out by life. He also encloses a terrifying document: an account of this young Jewish woman’s life in Berlin during the war. First to save her parents, then simply to stay alive, she committed the unthinkable: denouncing her fellow Jews – hundreds of them.

In this novel inspired by the life of Stella Goldschlag, Laurent Sagalovitsch stares unblinkingly at the fate of an outcast in order to paint the portrait of a victim who turned into a monster, a woman whose desire to live outweighed her conscience.

A terrifying fate served by a fast-paced tale and characters that seem to step off the page.

The diary of a victim who turned into a predator: the portrait of an uncommon Jewish woman, whose code name was “blond poison”.

A powerfully disturbing book that refuses to pronounce moral judgment.

A novel based on the life of Stella Goldschlag, who collaborated with the Gestapo in an attempt to save her parents and herself.

A journey deep into the hell that was 1940s Berlin, through a story that remained taboo for many years.

**The author:** Laurent Sagalovitsch was born near Paris in 1967 but has lived in Vancouver since 2009. He was a book reviewer for the French daily *Libération*, and the weekly newsmagazines *Les Inrocks* and *L’événement du jeudi*. All of his previous books have been published by Actes Sud, from *Dade City* (1996) to the last volume of his trilogy, *Un juif en cavale*.

**Worldwide translation rights:** Buchet Chastel (“Qui vive” series)

**Publication date:** August 25th, 2016

**Number of pages:** 144

**Available material:** Finished copy

**Retail price:** 13 €
Albertin is not a good son, so his father, who has been exhausted by his job since his wife left, decides to move to the country to try to get his son back on track. But nothing seems to be working out in this huis-clos in which the teenage son refuses to be a good student and the father refuses to play his parental role. The unexpected arrival of Hans, an old friend, will wreak complete havoc on their lives.

Beneath his veneer of good manners and his excellent cooking, Hans has just one desire: to take the teenager’s education in hand, and make him into a good son.

He’s ready to do whatever it takes to achieve his goal, and the stratagems his imagination dreams up know no bounds...

Psycho-thriller, tragi-comedy, modern-day retelling of the Oedipus story, droll and acidic criticism of our obsession with our children’s school results… all that and more is in Le bon fils…

Told from the teen’s point of view, this disturbing and highly cynical tale leads us down the sinuous path of parent-teen relationships, where school is seen as a lifebuoy, although it actually chews many children up.

The author: Denis Michélis is a journalist, novelist and translator who lives in Paris. Le bon fils is his second novel, after La chance que tu as (How Lucky You Are, Stock, 2014), which was well-received by critics and booksellers alike.

Worldwide translation rights: Noir sur Blanc (“Notabilia” series)
Publication date: August 25th, 2016
Number of pages: 224
Available material: Finished copy
Retail price: 16 €
Christian and Carole live in a dilapidated old shed on a plateau in the middle of nowhere. Once a month, the young back-to-nature couple leaves their remote, rustic home behind to drive to the nearest mall to go shopping. One day, one little thing leads to another, and suddenly everything goes wrong. Between their place and the mall, via a Chinese restaurant and a visit to grandma, plus one final, nocturnal expedition to a vending machine, Carole et Christian weather the Sturm und Drang of an ordinary odyssey, with neither grandeur nor victory in sight.

If you look at it the right way, in the course of a day like that, a thousand things happen that say a lot about our lives: little nothings which – though they last but a moment – still manage to betray our deepest cracks. What haunts us is always there. Unlike her previous novels, which were largely imaginary, in this third book, Myriam Chirousse writes in a state of lucidity and connection with reality. Le Sanglier is a tightly written, precise novel brimming with sharp, minimalist tension; lunar purity in the adjectives, and clarity that draws us near to the burning fire of catastrophe. The doors of hell are just below our mall-centered lives…

In a few words: Twenty-four hours in the life of a couple.

The author: Myriam Chirousse lives in a village in the lower Alps. She is a Spanish-to-French translator, most notably of Rosa Montero’s novels. Her debut novel, Miel & Vin has been published by Alfaguara in Spain (Vino y Miel).
August 1, 1914: after a long journey, Henri, a young artist, arrives on the Isle of B. He has come to see Youna, the woman he loves, but who left him. The tale is set in early 20th century Brittany, and it takes place over the span of twenty-four hours. Like a voyeur, the reader follows Henri’s trials and tribulations on the island over the course of this fateful day, when he will step inside a landscape as magically poetical as a Chinese painting. He will encounter many people before the final, tragic pages.

De terre et de mer, Sophie Van der Linden’s third novel, confirms her talent. As in La Fabrique du monde (World Factory), she explores the ties that love weaves and frays with a keen eye.

The author: Sophie Van der Linden lives near Paris. A specialist in children’s literature, her books have become references in this field. Her first two novels, (La Fabrique du monde (World Factory), and L’Incertitude de l’aube (The Uncertainty of Dawn) were published by Buchet Chastel.

Translation rights sold to Germany (Mareverlag)
The fact that Marie, the heroine of this real-life novel, was called Juliette from the time she was a baby has little impact on the rest of the tale. Yet it is typical of the odd mores of the archaic region where she was born: the Gévaudan at the turn of the 20th century, one of the most remote spots in the European galaxy. But that wouldn’t keep this woman, who became a shepherd at age eight, from inviting herself a decade later to the Popular Front’s party. Then, over the course of her marriages, to idyllic America and post-war rural Germany. A singular existence, both picaresque and pathetic, composed of dizzying highs and – more often – wretched lows. The tale of how Juliette’s thirst for life opened all doors, except the one that is a saving grace, the one that leads to oneself.

It takes a good dose of humor to tell the story of an exciting but ultimately unsuccessful life… especially when it is your own mother’s. Tucked inside the circumvolutions of his style, Gil Jouanard has hidden a smile that looks a lot like wisdom.

A saga that spans the twentieth century, dedicated to “all the women and men who never knew who they were or how to find out.”

The author: Discovered in his youth by René Char, Gil Jouanard has published some sixty-odd titles published by different houses. After Un nomade casanier (A Homebody Nomad), Les Roses blanches is his second novel.
In true friendship, like in true love affairs, the effect continues even after the object is gone. After he left Switzerland, Sebastian’s every movement was still affected by Clara. He hadn’t managed to win her heart. Once he started studying law at the Sorbonne, he dedicated his Parisian victories to her.

Twenty-five years later, Herman devotes his writing to the memory of the one-and-only, the magnificent Sebastian. Because as long as the memory of his old pal shines in his personal galaxy, the narrator of this novel will feel alive.

Barely an hour from the International Tribunal in The Hague, he delves into his friend’s letters and diaries in order to try to reconstitute the high point of his youth. When pub crawls and friendships born of music alternated with less cheerful concerns. In the 1990s, when the War in the Balkans was in the headlines, the orphan Sebastian met his uncle for the first time… and the latter tried to give him a dangerous object from his father.

All these pages are really about just one thing: Sebastian’s disappearance.

David Boratav presents the chronicle of a disappearance. In limpid, solar prose, he paints the portrait of youth in search of meaning and adventure.

**About the author:** The son of a Turkish father and a French mother, David Boratav was born in Paris in 1971. He is the author of a critically acclaimed debut novel, *Murmures à Beyoğlu*, published by Gallimard, which was translated into Greek (Polis) and Turkish (Can Yayinlari).

Translation rights sold to Turkey (Can Yayinlari)
A young head of state who inherited his position gets a visit from his beloved brother, who had disappeared ten years before, after having murdered a police officer. The burst of joy upon their reunion soon yields to bitterness and indignation: the man who returned has changed. From now on, he is the Enemy, the troublemaker who rouses opposition to the régime and works towards its downfall. Because of him, the country will be drawn into an unprecedented crisis. Celui-là est mon frère reads like a myth. In an imaginary city where monuments from the past integrate with contemporary life, time doesn’t flow. Until the final, fatal blow, we hear only the reigning brother’s voice – a poignant one that unspools the tale of a mortal affection.

In an imaginary country (but so like our own), a story of fraternal love and hatred.

The author: Marie Barthelet, 27, lives in the Loire region. She is a heritage professional, in charge of the Charité-sur-Loire Museum. Celui-là est mon frère is her debut novel.
Cerise, in her late 40s, lives with her kids, copes with her mother, has hypochondriac tendencies, thinks about changing jobs and when things are really bad, opens a bottle of white wine to help herself think.

One morning, during her mother’s usual aggressive phone call, Cerise loses the thread of what her mother is saying and stops listening. Still, when Marie suddenly asks, “I was right, wasn’t I?” Cerise, caught off guard, agrees. That very night, she gets a phone call from the police station, her mother is being held in custody, but they won’t tell her why… What in god’s name could she have done now? Over the course of the weeks it takes her to find out, Cerise has to weather a few other storms as well: her ex-husband comes back with a strange offer, her company brings in a new “young” management team.

Mother is way up… north, has been way up… in cloud-cuckoo land for years, and is way up… on top of the family tree. It’s an ideal position for dropping bombshells…

In a few words: Question: “Could there be any place you’d rather be than with your family?” Answer: “Anywhere!”

The author: Caroline Sers divides her time between Paris and southwest France. She is the author, most notably, of *Tombent les avions* (Dropping Planes) and *Les Petits Sacrifices* (Small Sacrifices), *Sans les meubles* (Without the Furniture). Her favorite subject: families – their secrets, their comedies and their dramas.
An artist can be a prisoner of appearances... especially of women’s appearances. And so the painter Sergi Vélazquez falls for a flaming redhead he meets in an elevator. He’s crazy about her body; she’s just plain crazy: hysterical and neurotic. At least that’s what Julia, the artist’s psychiatrist sister, thinks. But is that anything to worry about?

Roxanne is a photographer. A few years ago, half of her face was burned in a car accident. Now, she takes comfort in nature, with no one around. Until she takes pictures of her new body in order to reclaim it... and the prints, shown in a Parisian gallery, attract Sergi.

In a few words: With these two tales of love at first sight... twice, Olivier Bordaçarre renews the novelistic theme of doubles. And offers us, at the same time, a generous family saga and a surprisingly suspenseful story.

The author: Olivier Bordaçarre is a novelist, a playwright and an actor. He is the author of four novels: Géométrie variable, Régime sec (“Teetotaler”), La France tranquille and Dernier désir (“Last Wish”, 2015 Mauves en Noir Prize).
NON FICTION
Interviews series
Born in Venice in 1939, for nearly 50 years, Gaetano Pesce has occupied a unique position in the world of architecture and the art of design. Reconciling mass production with one-of-a-kind pieces, he erased the border between design and contemporary art, reinventing the shape of many buildings and everyday items, while at the same time re-configuring production methods and the use of synthetic materials. He first achieved international renown thanks to the UP armchair, which he designed when he was 29. Ever since, he has divided his time between Milan, Paris and New York, ceaselessly inventing new shapes, uses and materials, for everything from bedside lamps to 15-story buildings.

Based on a year of interviews with Philippe Garnier, this book is presented in the form of an A to Z. With a 100 or so entries, from Adoption to Zebra, via Bauhaus and Silicone, Gaetano Pesce shares his thoughts, describing his career, emotions and memories. He has always had a knack for discussing his own work with panache, intelligence, insolence and humor. This book is the expression of a one-of-a-kind voice.

In a few words: Gaetano Pesce is one of the biggest names in 20th – and even 21st – century architecture and design. In a lively A to Z format, this book of interviews offers him a chance to express unexpected, thought-provoking ideas that will appeal to everyone.

About the authors: Born near Venice in 1939, Gaetano Pesce is one of the biggest names in 20th-century architecture and design. He has created hundreds of objects as well as building totally atypical office buildings, house and apartments. Major shows, at the Pompidou Center in Paris, in 1996, and the Maxxi, in Rome, in 2014, have honored his exceptional career. Gaetano Pesce now lives in New York.

Philippe Garnier, a writer, has worked with different publishing houses. He composed this book from a year’s worth of interviews with Gaetano Pesce.

Worldwide translation rights: Buchet Chastel
Publication date: November 14th, 2016
Number of pages: 240
Available material: Uncorrected bound proofs
Retail price: 13 €
Franco-Cameroonian artist living in Paris, Barthélémy Toguo has composed a political and multi-cultural body of work. An excellent watercolor painter, he is equally at ease with drawing, video, sculpture, performance art and installations for expressing his ideas about exile, borders and identities, the North-South imbalance, and his view of the world, which he wishes were a better one. The whole of his work, which is directly informed by worldwide current events, offers spectator/visitors a provocative gaze over the most violent and unfair realities. In 2005, he gave inner-city youth a forum; he happened to be on Tahrir Square in Cairo in 2011, for the “Arab Spring.”

His motto, which he borrowed from Albert Camus: “Artists forge themselves in the endless back-and-forthing between themselves and others, half way between the beauty they cannot do without and the community they cannot tear themselves away from.”

In 2008 he opened Bandjoun Station, an artists’ residence in northern Cameroon. It is an open-minded place, devoted to exploring what is needed for sub-Saharan Africa to reclaim its contribution to international contemporary art.

Represented by Galerie Lelong, Barthélémy Toguo’s work has been shown around the world.

In 2015, he was invited to the Venice International Biennale, where he presented “Urban Requiem,” an installation piece.

This book is based on Thierry Clermont’s interviews with the artist, carried out in the artist’s Parisian studio over a span of several years, from 2012 to 2015.

About the authors: Barthélémy Toguo was born in Cameroon in 1967. He now lives and works in Paris, New York and Bandjoun, Cameroon.

Thierry Clermont is a writer and a critic for Le Figaro littéraire.
Music series
As a child, Agnès Letestu wanted to be a doctor. But when she saw ballet costumes on TV, she became attracted to dancing… or perhaps just to the costumes at first. Her virtuosity is extraordinary, but dancing was never about technique for her. Above all, she wanted to learn about herself, to explore the remote recesses of her own personality by incarnating a wide range of characters, from the most passionate and figurative ones, like Camille (La Dame aux Camélias) and Giselle, to the abstractions of white ballets and contemporary creations.

In this book, written with Gérard Mannoni, the great prima ballerina offers readers wide-ranging commentary on dancing: the years of training as well as teaching, the connection between mind and body, the great roles, the body as both friend and foe, relationships with choreographers, etc. Rarely has a great dancer opened herself up like this, with both candor and intelligence.

In a few words: One of the great prima ballerinas counts her years of training and her career, while also offering profound reflections about dance in general.

About the authors: Agnès Letestu is a French prima ballerina from the Paris Opera, born in 1971. She made her farewell to the ballet with a final performance of La Dame aux Camélias in 2013, and has continued her career as a leading-role coach at the Paris Opera, and as a costume designer. For over 40 years, Gérard Mannoni has written many books about ballets and dancers, including, at Buchet Chastel, Les Grandes Etoiles du xx e siècle (The Great 20th-Century Dancers in 2014) et Les Grands Chorégraphes du xx e siècle (The Great 20th-Century Choreographers in 2015).
As she is about to turn 70, the most francophile of English sopranos decided to share her life story with Olivier Bellamy. The woman whom Carlos Kleiber called “the best in the world” – and affectionately, “Meine Marschmallow” as a reference to the role of the Maréchale in Der Rosenkavalier – recounts her childhood, her training, her memorable encounters and her greatest roles: wonderful in Mozart and Strauss, touched by grace as an interpreter of French songs, she reveals herself fully, with her signature blend of whimsy and self-deprecation.

The book also includes a section of previously unpublished photos.

In a few words: The English soprano Felicity Lott, the internationally renowned interpreter of Strauss and of French melodies, tells her life story for the first time, to Olivier Bellamy.

About the authors: Born in Marseilles in 1961, Olivier Bellamy presents the daily program “Passion classique” on Radio Classique. His biography of Martha Argerich, published by Buchet Chastel, has been translated into many languages. He has written a novel about Prokofiev, Dans la gueule du loup (In the Wolf’s Den) and Un hiver avec Schubert (A Winter with Schubert). He currently lives in Paris. Martha Argerich, l’enfant et les sortilèges has been translated into 7 languages so far.
This, the first biography of sisters Katia and Marielle Labèque’s renowned piano duo, was written by music journalist and critic Renaud Machart. And he does indeed have a great deal to say about this singular-yet-dual path: the Labèques have performed with the most famous orchestras in the world and they are also part of the Baroque-music community, where they play on antique pianos; Katia has a band and performs duos with the singer Sting or her boyfriend, David Chalmin (from the Red Velvet group), while Marielle sticks to duos with her older sister and her marriage to orchestra conductor Semyon Bychkov. They could settle for ranking money in with Poulenc and Mozart concertos, but from early on, they have commissioned new works. They are torn between avant-garde concertos and the beloved classics that are so dear to their audience. But their deepest desire is to discover new things, to constantly renew themselves. With photography from their private collection, Renaud Machart’s book allows us to enter into the private lives of this unpredictable duo.

The author: Renaud Machart is a journalist at Le Monde and a producer at radio station France Musique. He has written several works about classical music, including books about Francis Poulenc, John Adams, Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein.
Environment series
People in the Western world eat a lot of meat: almost 100 kg per person (or even more in the USA, Australia and Luxembourg) in 2011 – compared to the world average of just 42 kg. Long believed to be essential for health and strength, meat-eating is now accused of a multitude of ills: at a time when meat production appears to be one of the leading causes of climate change, should we continue to eat meat? What nutrients might we lack if we do, and how can those problems be avoided?

Meat-eating has negative effects on our health: it can lead to cardio-vascular problems, obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure, as well as contributing to the prevalence of some cancers (particularly of the colon).

And yet, meat also provides nutrients, especially proteins, that are indispensable to our body’s health. While Dr. Lecerf recommends strongly increasing our vegetable protein intake, he also warns us about the risk of certain deficiencies, and explains how to balance our menus.

Finally, the book weighs in on what is currently a controversial issue, advocating putting both pleasure and common sense back into our eating habits.

In a few words: A book that explores our eating habits without dogmatism: as the author puts it, “Let’s not let food become a new form of totalitarianism, moral principle or religion. In nutrition terms, the real truth is called diversity and moderation.” So should we eat less meat? Yes, both for our own sake and for the planet’s. But eliminate meat entirely? It’s up to each of us to decide for themselves.”

The author: Dr. Jean-Michel Lecerf, a specialist in endocrinology and metabolic diseases (diabetes, cholesterol and obesity), has been focusing on nutrition for 30 years. He currently runs the nutrition department of the Pasteur Institute of Lille. He has written a great number of scientific publications as well as several books for the general public.
ILLUSTRATED BOOKS
From the time he first laid hands on a reed pen from Camargue, in Arles in 1888 — just two years before he died — Vincent van Gogh revolutionized the art of drawing. At the same time, as he introduced strokes into his painting that were transposed directly from those new lines. We know that both drawing and painting were veritable ordeals for him, from his first awkward sketches all the way to his most flamboyant works. Ten years of dogged effort that turned a mediocre talent into an incontestable genius.

In his fifth Uncertain Manifesto, the author proposes a thorough recounting of Vincent’s solitary wonderings, from his native Holland to Auvers-sur-Oise, via London, the Borinage, Paris, Arles and Saint Rémy. Existential an artistic wandering, this written and drawn biography focuses on little-known or misinterpreted episodes of the artist’s life, including his childhood. Van Gogh’s legend is explored, particularly his supposed suicide, which can be re-examined in the light of the belated testimony of a probable killer.

In a few words: Frédéric Pajak’s pen and ink – with which he both writes and draws – present a lush, fascinating Van Gogh: a painter inspired by in-depth knowledge of theological, artistic and literary culture, thoughtful towards others, generous and receptive to the dazzling graphic and pictorial trends of his time, from Japanese engravings to Seurat’s pointillism. Although it portrays a tragic fate, the book doesn’t overlook Vincent’s moments of great happiness, his freedom, his clear-sightedness or his courage. A being filled with paradoxes and subtlety, with a rare humanity, is revealed over the course of the book, with its nearly 200 enlightening and sometimes contradictory drawings.

The author: Frédéric Pajak was born in 1955 near Paris. He has had over a dozen works published, many of which he both wrote and drew: Le chagrin d’amour (Heartache), Humour – une biographie de James Joyce, Nietzsche et son père (Nietzsche and his Father), Nervosité générale (General Nervousness), J’entends des voix (I Hear Voices) and Autoportrait (Self-Portrait), by Gallimard. In 2014, he received the Medicis Essay Prize and the 2015 Swiss Literature Prize for Volume 3 of the Manifeste Incertain.
This book presents 22 thoroughly apocryphal letters from the authors who constitute a first library for so many young Americans: Herman Melville, Emilio Salgari, Hans Christian Andersen, Louisa May Alcott, J. M. Barrie, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, Carlo Collodi, Lewis Carroll, Jean Webster, Johanna Spyri, Jonathan Swift, the Brothers Grimm, Jules Verne, Mark Twain, Charlotte Brontë, Rudyard Kipling, Jack London, Daniel Defoe, Mary Shelley, Edgar Allan Poe and J. D. Salinger.

“These letters are irreverently inventive – without denying themselves the occasional hidden quotation, or trying to erase the ties to the biographical, historic and social circumstances surrounding them.” María Negroni offers us an intimate vision of a slice of these great writers’ lives. Inspired by a thoughtful pen and based on a meticulously woven framework, each letter is a fascinating journey to a unique destiny, beyond time and space; yet to different degrees, all of the writer paid the often excessive price of literary activity that sprung from their very soul. Maria Negroni writes with panache, and has found a tone and rhythm for each one. She gets the authors to express themselves in ways that can be totally extravagant, desperate or moving.

The book is illustrated by Jean-François Martin and has been designed by Paprika.

**In a few words:** A wonderfully creative book nourished by a powerful imagination and brimming with 22 unforgettable fates.

**The author:** María Negroni lives in Argentina. She is a writer, a poet, an essayist and a translator. With a doctorate in Latin American literature from Columbia University, she teaches and runs a creative-writing masters-degree program at Tres de Febrero National University.

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**Worldwide translation rights:** Noir sur Blanc (“Notabilia” series)

**Publication date:** October 13th, 2016

**Number of pages:** 120

**Available material:** Finished copy

**Retail price:** 22 €
Do we notice the transformations in the landscapes around us? Do we see children grow up? It goes so slowly that it takes leaving and returning after a certain time for changes to really strike us.

This book helps us become more aware of the evolution – which can be overwhelming – of the familiar places around us, in order to understand what has taken place in the past century and to foresee tomorrow’s landscapes. With great restraint, the author describes how cars, traffic signs and lights, white lines and traffic circles have invaded our space; he shows how our obsession with security leads to putting up walls in villages in the South of France and taking down hedges in Normandy. He leads us to the tip of Brittany, where a hotel was erased from the horizon without anyone noticing; to the suburbs of Paris, where the landscape changes so quickly that it becomes disorienting; to Pilat Regional National Park, where the trees that are colonizing the abandoned prairies and reducing the sense of vast open space are causing great concern.

The book includes some one hundred photos, including ones from the private collections of well-known photographers, such as Raymond Depardon, Sophie Ristelhueber, John Davies, etc. Others belong to the National and Regional Photographic Observatory of the Landscape. Often presented in series, these images enable us to see at a glance how specific landscapes have evolved over time.

**The author:** François Letourneux, agronomist and forest ranger, helped launch the National Photographic Observatory of the Landscape. He was the long-time head of France’s Coastal Protection Agency and is currently the vice-president of the French branch of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
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