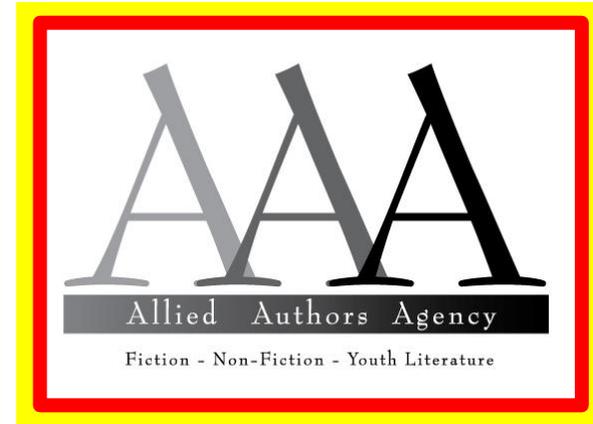




*Belgium's sole literary agency – since 1.1.2004
Our passion for YOUR books just keeps us going!*

London 2020

Fiction catalogue



London 2020
Fiction catalogue

A.A.A. – The Allied Authors AgencyInfo@alliedauthorsagency.be - ++32/495525262

H. Meeüsstraat 56 – 2110 Wijnegem - Belgium

Our co-agents on specific markets

Anthea Literary, TV & Film Agency	Bulgaria
Big Apple agency, Inc.	China and neighbouring countries (English language titles + Thériault)
I Have Talent Ltd.	Czech Republic
Nurcihan Kesim Literary Agency	Turkey
Rightol Media	China (French language titles – Thériault)
Simona Kessler Int'l copyright agency Ltd	Rumania
Uni Agency Inc.	Japan
Eric Yang Agency	South Korea

London 2020 – Familiar faces enter a new decade

Happy to be here.

Once again.

Meet you.

Once again.

Or for the very first time ever.

Ain't it funny how time slips away...

It seems like yesterday.

Standing at Antwerp Airport for A.A.A.'s first London Book Fair.

It was Spring 2005.

Fifteen years ago. Today, we travel by train. For climate & economics.

What hasn't changed, ever, is our love.

For top quality fiction titles.

With originality, a twist, something extraordinary.

And whether it is the first time or the fifteenth.

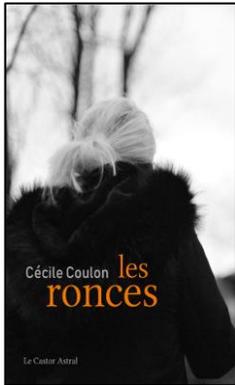
We still love to talk to you about them.

So, as long as we have great books,  will stay alive.

Happy to be seeing you, and to awaken your enthusiasm.

Hoping we'll be making a great book release together soon !

Marc Hendrickx – Tess Westerlinck, for A.A.A.



The Blackberries

Cécile Coulon

French origin
22,500 Words – 240 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2018, France, Castor Astral

Swiftly navigating between caresses and cracks, **The Blackberries** takes readers by the hand this side of Raymond Carver. Coulon's poetic landscape evokes our shortcomings just as well as the light that radiates in each of us.

Excerpt

*demain matin
les ronces vont griffer les renards
dans les bois
le ciel ce grand poumon sauvage
a jeté ses filets
sur les hommes tout en bas
seul le bruit de la terre
arrive depuis la fenêtre ouverte*

“There is something American and its great authors in the boisterous pencil of this young woman.”
Les Inrockuptibles

Author Cécile Coulon made her mark as one of ‘the’ most promising voices in French contemporary literature with an impressive string of poetry collections.

She won the ‘Prix Mauvais genre’ in ‘12, 22 years old. Further titles winning the ‘Prix du meilleur roman des lecteurs’ in 2014 & the ‘Prix des librairies’ in 2017. Her latest – **The Blackberries** – won the famous ‘Prix Apollinaire’ in 2018, which is considered to be the most important French literary prize for poetic language, lovingly dubbed ‘The Goncourt of Poetry’. As an extra, it also won the ‘Prix SGDL’.

In **The Blackberries** Cécile Coulon covers a wide range of topics, using a highly original, poetic language uniquely hers. Offering a refreshing take on ordinary, everyday things – from jogging, over the buffet of a railway station, to ripped clothing. Coulon succeeds in perfectly bringing across the feelings that go with something like a late summer’s day out, picking blackberries with your parents while the new season of literary book releases and the start of school looms.

TRANSLATION GRANTS

Many of our titles offer the possibility to apply for a translation grant. Here’s what to do if you...

Want to publish a French language book hailing from French language Canada?

Apply for translation grants up to 20,000\$CAN with the Conseil des arts: <http://conseildesarts.ca/financement/subventions/rayonner-a-l-international/traduction>

Want to publish a French language book hailing from France?

French texts published and distributed in France (regardless of the author’s nationality, also Moroccan author Francis Dannemark’s work for instance) can be attributed a grant. **A.A.A.** will arrange for the initial rights owning publisher to draw up a contract to that end with the buying publisher (French ruling requests the government to pay the French publisher, who then pays the grant to the buying publisher) French grants take on 40% or 60% of the total cost of the translation.

&

Want to publish a book in France hailing from any other language?

Here, conditions are almost identical. Again, it is the French publisher who has to fill out the application. Important: the translator needs to get at least € 21 per page (1,500 characters). All details: http://centrenationaldulivre.fr/fr/editeur/aide_a_la_traduction

Want to publish a Flemish language book hailing from Flanders?

Unfortunately, the Flemish Fund is far more arbitrary and politically incorrect compared to the French, Canadian or Scottish organisations. But do try...

<http://www.fondsvoordeletteren.be>

Want to publish an English language book hailing from Scotland (featured in our backlist)?

Translation grants of 50% or more of the total translation costs can be applied for, directly with Publishing Scotland.

<http://www.publishingscotland.org/about-publishing/translation-support-and-funding>

UK publishers should pay special attention to the opportunity to get U.K. grants to translate foreign authors and publish their work in the U.K.

Often overlooked: English PEN’s Writers in Translation programme champions the best literature from around the world. Launched in 2012, supported by the Arts Council England, it helps UK publishers meet the costs of translating new work into English, whilst ensuring translators are acknowledged and paid properly for their work.

PEN Translates will fund up to 75% of translation costs for selected projects. Submission periods April-May and October-November. Main criteria: literary quality, strength/innovation of the project, contribution to literary diversity in the U.K.

All details: <http://www.englishpen.org>

Your contact: Theodora Danek,
Programme Manager
theodora@englishpen.org

BACKLIST YOUTH BOOKS **HIGHLIGHTS**

34

Guy Didelez

A stalwart of Flemish youth literature ever since his debut way back in the 1980's, this author build a reputation that can easily be dubbed impeccable.

Few, if any, can match his 'feel' for what youngsters from 8 to 16 love to read. His **Rasputin** for instance became so well-loved, that it was the first ever youth book to win an adult literary prize as 'best suspense thriller of the year', remaining in print for over 25 years !

Flemish Belgian origin.
Flemish language manuscripts.
Manuscript available in 4 languages.

Marc Hendrickx

In duo with experienced theatre author **Dirk Dobbeleers**, A.A.A.'s founder wrote a highly successful string of books for the so called 'difficult age group', proving effectively that those 12+ youngsters needn't be turned away from reading. Two titles already translated into French, one adapted to a full-length movie.

Main title of the duo is the internationally flavoured **Weapon Country**.

Depicting life and realities in Colombia, this great cross-over age story enjoys the full support of living Colombian legend Ingrid Betancourt, who wrote a foreword.

Flemish Belgian origin.
Flemish language manuscripts.
Manuscript also available in French.



Why Birds Die

Victor Pouchet

One day, in Normandy, France, a flock of birds falls out of the sky. All are dead. One could say it was 'raining birds', but apparently, nobody is really bothered. Even local newspapers barely mention the fact. Only a young Parisian, who is trying to avoid working on his thesis, finds himself fascinated by this strange phenomenon which took place in the little village he grew up in.

He searches, investigates and does find several 'leads', but none that have a real fundament. Embarking on an old-style cruise down the Seine that will reach his birthplace, the trip will see him fall in love, meet friendly and less friendly people, dream up a family ancestor, all the while trying to get both his notes on the case and his life as a whole in order.

And what if, in the end, the whole story of the birds that fall out of the sky, dead, is nothing but an excuse? Allowing him a return, to try and restore the relationship with his father?

3

French origin
38,500 Words – 192 Pages
French language manuscript
Manuscript available in many languages

Rights sold

2017, France, Finitude
2018, China, Haitian
2018, Japan, rights optioned
2019, France, Livre de Poche (pocket)
2019, Germany, Berlin Verlag
2019, Czech Republic, Paseka
2019, Thailand, Legend Books
2020, Poland, Czarna Owca

Offering a clever, alternative, road-trip of sorts, **Why Birds Die** is the kind of book that gets under the skin of its readers. Big time !

"It's the simplicity which remains the beauty of this text, out of which one steps both moved and intrigued."

Le Monde

"Classy, light, funny, clever,... The rise of a fine author."

Le Figaro



*Sato San,
the Corset Master*
Roland Brival

French origin
55,600 Words – 264 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2017, France, Mercure
2019, Peru, Estruendomudo

Roland Brival masterly let's Sato San tell the story of his life. Sensuality oozes of the pages. This ace writer does not need flat out active sex scenes to stir...

Rave reviews have been following "Sato San, The Corset Master" everywhere. From small publications to reputed Le Figaro. Many praising the exquisite refinement with which Roland Brival describes Sato San's handling of fabrics & females alike.

Why does a nine year old young boy choose a profession that is impossible? How extraordinary is his motivation, wanting to become something that is simply unthinkable in traditional Japan halfway through the 20th century? And give up E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G to do so, including his manhood...

Master Sato balances the arguments in favour of his choice, and those against it. But no matter how many times he does, the outcome is always the same... thus was his fate, and he is happy to have chosen it. The 'it' being the confection of corsets. The most beautiful ones in the world. Which other profession would ever have allowed him to get so close to females? To enter the universe of all of them? Allow him to establish such intimate relationships with them? Without a doubt it is a privilege which every man will envy him for.

Cross Your Heart

Pilar Pujadas

Deborah, Marie-France, Muriel, Eve, Beatrice: five women of different backgrounds and age, are all linked to the same apartment. Each has a good reason, more or less legitimate, honest, to be there... One by one they come across the same bright red bra.

Spanish origin
French language manuscript

Rafi's Flute

André Vanasse

Pawel, a young Jew in Krakow, leaves home, not wanting to become a butcher like his dad. The date is April 18, 1626. Nearly a century later, in 1717, his son, talented flute player and catholic farmer François Vanas, dies. The novel unveils the fascinating life of both ancestors of the writer, painting a vivid picture of XVII century's life in Hamburg, Amsterdam, French Rouen and the small village of Trois-Rivieres, Canada
French Canadian origin
French language manuscript

Quick and Painless

Markéta Dočekalová

An uncommon take on the Faust theme, rife with suspense. People get offered the chance to get what they want without effort: learning a foreign language, loss of weight... a signature and it happens! But nothing in life is really free. Everyone pays a price someday.
Czech language manuscript
English language manuscript available

**BACKLIST NON-FICTION 33
HIGHLIGHTS**

*Running
Against the Wind*

Darya Safai – Karel Michiels

Shows readers a different Iran. An Iran populated by loads of young people, thousands of females included, wanting to live their lives like truly free people. She tackles big sports organisations (IOC, FIFA,...) as none bans Iran from competing, despite the country's refusal to abide by international rules on human rights and equality.
Flemish Belgian origin
Flemish language manuscript
English language introduction available

*Muhammad Ali
Still the Greatest*

Marc Hendrickx

A stellar biography, which succeeds in covering Ali's 'three lives': athlete, political figure, Parkinson's patient.
Flemish Belgian origin
Flemish language manuscript
U.S. English manuscript available

The Art of Being Alone

Francesc Torralba

Written in defence of solitude, this book shows solitude as the beautiful feeling that it can be, a necessity, catering to people's development.
Catalan Spanish origin.
Catalan language manuscript.
Manuscript available in 4 languages

BACKLIST FICTION
HIGHLIGHTS

Martha

Francis Dannemark

On a river in the summer's flickering sunlight we encounter Martha, who failed to disappear completely following a car accident. Her memory of what happened is highly unclear, to the point that it has her son wonder if she is still sane. But she still has eyes that can see, and a heart !

A story of meetings and renaissance.

A story of love.

A beautiful allegory.

French Belgian origin

French language manuscript

When it Rains

Francis Dannemark

Through a blistering summer, this novel evokes the discomposure of a writer. At his publisher's place, a woman gets intrigued by his new manuscript, which he has just finished and left for his publisher to read before publishing it.

The lady falls for it. Completely. She offers the writer to buy his work instead of his publisher. But... not in the regular sense – in order to publish it as a book.

She wants to buy it for herself, the way one buys a painting, a statue or another unique art object. To that end, she offers the writer a considerable amount of money. Offer in hand, it is up to him to decide if he is willing to sell his novel – understand: his life, his life in art and thus his spirit – in this way or not...

French Belgian origin

French language manuscript

English language manuscript available

Thirteen

32

Sebastian Beaumont

Stephen Bardot is a taxi driver working the night shift in Brighton. He works such long shifts that he is often driving while exhausted, and it is then that he starts to experience major alterations to his perception of reality...

English origin

English language manuscript available

Manuscript available in many languages

The Juggler

Sebastian Beaumont

Mark does what you aren't supposed to do... He leaves his home, job, friends, wife, seven month old baby,... Taking along but two things: a flyer advertising a nightclub, an address written on the back, and a bag such as photographers use for their lenses. His bag does not hold equipment, but contains £ 40,000 instead. That said, 'starting over' is not all that easy... Mark's journey will take him through layers of reality and towards refuge of an unexpected kind.

English origin

English language manuscript

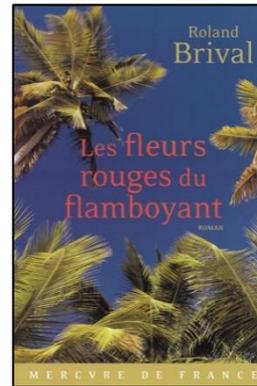
The Anatomist

Clio Gray

Philbert was born with a disfiguring inflammation of the skull. Abandoned by his parents, he finds refuge and companionship with the eccentrics of a travelling band of 'freak show' artists and entertainers, journeying across an increasingly threatening landscape.

Scottish origin

English language manuscript



*Red Flowers
of Flamboyance*

Roland Brival

Having lived in exile for twenty years, writer Simon Darnell finally returns to his hometown.

But why does he undertake the trip?

Does he return to Martinique to settle? Or is it an umpteenth step before fleeing to yet other latitude?

The answer reveals itself bit by bit, turning up from behind the shadows of Simon's past, uncovering the truth of the drama which had him seek refuge in Paris, far away from his island home, so many years ago.

Awaking in Martinique between the dead who stand in front of him as if alive, watched by him through the eyes he had as a child, Simon sees their tender madness. Wild, burlesque behaviour. And memories burning in all of them... The memory of Evanyse, whom Simon loved and who he now encounters once again for an ultimate, tearing episode of their tormented love affair.

French origin

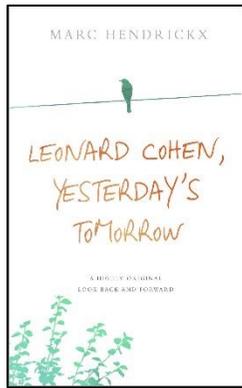
59,100 Words – 278 Pages

French language manuscript

Rights sold

2018, France, Mercure

Roland Brival hails from Martinique himself. He uses his roots very effectively to offer readers a touching look on the uniqueness of childhood as well as into the complex magic of insular ghosts.



Yesterday's Tomorrow

Marc Hendrickx

Leonard Cohen is a legendary poet, singer/songwriter and overall artist. Without any competition in coupling literature to popular music, with the possible exception of Bob Dylan.

But Cohen has always and by far been the most erudite of the two, spreading knowledge, wisdom, spiritual insights and more, without ever forgetting to add in a fun 'twist' or 'double entendre'...

*There is a crack in everything
That's where the light gets in*

As an internationally published author in his own right, Marc Hendrickx' successes include major biographies, theatre plays performed in packed houses, and a Belgian movie adaptation of one of his titles.

6

Flemish Belgian origin
35,000 Words - 148 Pages
Flemish language manuscript
Manuscript available in many languages

Rights sold

2004, Flanders, Vanhalewyck
2005, Netherlands, United Media
2008, Spain, Milenio
2008, Portugal, Guerra y Paz
2008, Australia, Brandl & Schlesinger
2019, U.K., Bookline & Thinker

Yesterday's Tomorrow offers the literary encounter of two writers, two souls...

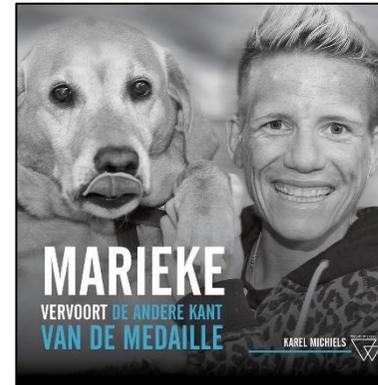
First published in 2004, Hendrickx' work faces Cohen's visions on subjects such as the ever searching human being, evaluating encounters with happiness, understanding, background, faith, life's goal, love, ageing and death.

Offering his insights alongside Cohen's, 30 years younger Hendrickx gives the texts of long gone 'Yesterday's' a new "Tomorrow" indeed.

An international hit 2004 through 2008, **Yesterday's Tomorrow** 2.0 returns now. Updated to include a look on the massive success which befell Cohen upon his return to recording and touring, as well as 'closing the book' on his life.

HIGHLIGHTED NON-FICTION

31



The Other Side of the Medal

Marieke Vervoort - Karel Michiels

Marieke Vervoort, Flemish Paralympic gold-medal wheelchair-racer, is a most captivating character. So much so, that her appearances on and off the track have had her appear in articles and on TV in countless countries.

Late 2019, Pola Rapaport, Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, winner of numerous grants and awards, writer, director and editor of award winning films, will finish her '**Marieke: Death and the Racer**'.

An 80 minute long documentary, which follows the athlete and the human being Marieke Vervoort, while she challenges the way the world sees assisted suicide.

Marieke's physical challenges increase year by year. Her time is running out. Having her euthanasia papers signed (legal in Belgium) liberates Marieke mentally, as it allows her to fully control her destiny, her final days.

Having the permission to die, allows her will to live to be stronger than ever !

Flemish Belgian origin
55,000 Words - 254 Pages
Flemish language manuscript
English language introduction available

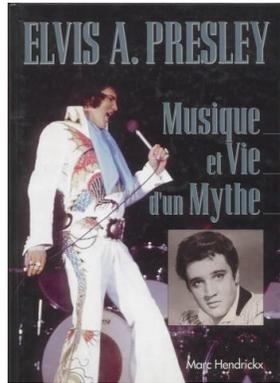
Rights sold

2017, Flanders, Willems Uitgevers

Marieke Vervoort realized more dreams than most could ever dream off. She won Olympic Gold, set world records, won the prestigious 'Iron Man' in Hawaii next to Belgian, EU and world titles.

At the same time, she is as morally relevant as Muhammad Ali was in his day and time - discussing one of 'the' moral topics of our time!

Read/see more about book & film on:
www.mariekethefilm.com



Elvis A. Presley
Music, Man, Myth
Marc Hendrickx

Dutch language Belgian origin
350,000 Words OR smaller options
English language manuscript available
French language manuscript available
Dutch language manuscript available

Rights sold

1994–1998, Flanders/Netherlands
1998–2000, France, Editions Atlas
2003, Germany, Hannibal Verlag
2007, Netherlands, House/Knowledge
2007, Flanders, Vanhalewijn



Elvis – Up Close
Marc Hendrickx

90,000 Words – 248 Pages
Dutch language manuscript
Amazing photography & documents

Rights sold

2017 Flanders, Willems Uitgevers

Two 'sales forces' as solid as a rock, the first one offering 'THE' biography (definitely in capitals – this has it ALL).

That, while **Elvis – Up Close** focuses on the human being behind it all, dashing out incredible stories (& accompanying photography to proof 'm) a plenty.



The Water and the Wine
Tamar Hodes

English origin
81,500 Words – 248 Pages
English language manuscript

Rights sold

2018, U.K., Hookline
2020, Italy, Scritturapura

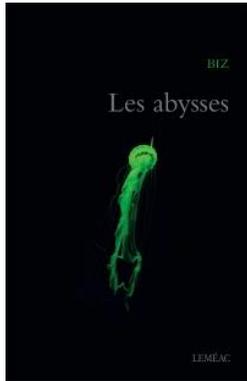
The 1960s. A group of young writers and artists gathers on the small Greek island of Hydra.

Promising Leonard Cohen is at the start of his career, writing on a novel, poems as well as falling in love with a woman he encounters on the island... Marianne, muse to her former husband, Axel. Australian authors George Johnston and Charmian Clift live there too. They write, drink and fight virtually all the time. All told, it is a hedonistic time of love, sex and new ideas.

As the island hums with excitement, Jack and Frieda Silver join the community, hoping to mend their broken marriage. Then, Greece is overtaken by a military junta and the artistic idyll of life at Hydra is threatened to its core.

In this fictionalized account, the author explores the destructive side of creativity and the price we pay for our dreams.

Using both her own past (the author lived in Hydra as a child at the time of the events and thus knew all the characters) as well as her artistry as a writer today, Tamar Hodes paints a most vivid portrait of the times and the people involved.



The Abysses

Biz

French Canadian origin
27,500 Words – 144 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2019, Canada, Leméac

One can be in the middle of a forest and still feel the earth split open at his feet, unveiling the depths of an abyss. Or walk on firm ground, but feel as if one is drowning...

Catherine, she is drowning. Her father, the one parent she loves more than anything in the world, her best friend, her 'father-mother', her confident,... has been incarcerated under maximum security in the Port-Cartier prison. Michel Métivier, dubbed 'The slaughter of Comeau Bay', is not to be released until ten years have passed. While waiting, facing the blind walls of his cell, Michel draws fluorescent creatures from the depths of sea. Phosphorising ghosts that help him pass his days, after having passed a lifetime stuffing up animals.

Catherine, meanwhile, is free. Yet she lives in a different kind of prison. Caught up in a secret, she cuts herself off from everything: her boyfriend, her studies, her pleasures and herself. In-between her encounters with the psychiatrist,

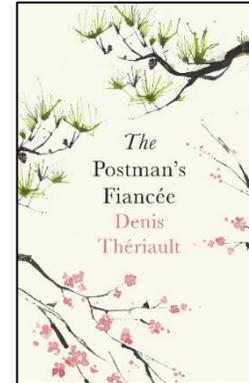
visits to her father and her doomed to fail tries to demonstrate normal daily behaviour, Catherine loses ground, sinks deeper and deeper, and wonders ever more what good it does to fight to survive.

The Abysses is constructed as a triptych. The first part offers a tense, mysterious present time story. Next is a look into the past, detailing a story gone totally wrong, without unraveling the core of the drama which shook Michel and Catherine to the bone. The closing part is brief and utterly compelling, detailing how it all capsized.

A psychological novel? Yes.

A dark novel? Yes. Though with plenty nuances.

More top-of-the-league writing by Biz. An author we at A.A.A. love dearly !



The Postman's Fiancée

Denis Thériault

French Canadian origin
35,000 Words – 144 Pages
French language manuscript
Manuscript available in many languages

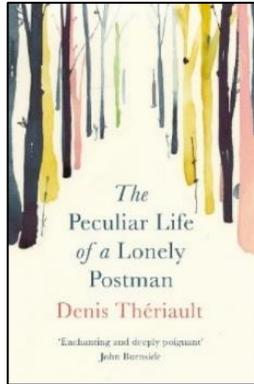
Rights sold

2016, Canada, French, XYZ editeur
2016, Netherlands, Meulenhoff
2017, France, Anne Carrière
2017, U.K./U.S. Oneworld
2018, Germany, DTV
2018, Czech Republic, Plus (Albatros)

Ever since **The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman** became a hit, charmed readers from the author's native Canada through countries as diverse as China and Turkey begged for a follow up title. Mr. Thériault always replied that he would only write such a book once the time was right and he had the best possible ideas to build upon.

Finally, that time came... Following Tania Schumpf and – of course – Bilodo, **The Postman's Fiancée** is not an average sequel, rather throwing a whole new light on a number of events that happened in part 1 and offering an inspiring set of new experiences.

Following the smash hit **The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman**, this 'follow up title' will greatly appeal to all publishers who signed on or will sign on the first one, as we've never yet met a publisher who says 'no' to a DOUBLE bestseller !



*The Peculiar Life
of a Lonely Postman*
Denis Thériault

The first commercial hit for its author, **The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman** became a worldwide seller, loved by critics. The New York Times describing it as “A brief, funny fable. Charminglly written”.

Lonely postman Bilodo shares his Montréal apartment with his goldfish, Bill. As a result of his indiscretion (opening personal correspondence), Bilodo becomes aware of the exchange in haiku poems between a rather eccentric intellectual, Gaston Grandpre, and a Guadeloupean beauty, Ségolène. Ségolène’s letters always consisting of a single haiku.

While Bilodo immerses himself in the study of this classic Japanese verse form, a tragic incident occurs which upsets his routine and spurs him on to devise a complex subterfuge that will eventually cause his life to spiral completely out of control.

French Canadian origin
37,000 Words – 144 Pages
French language manuscript
Manuscript available in many languages

Rights sold

2005, Canada, French, XYZ editeur
2008, Canada, English, Dundurn
2009, Germany, DTV Verlag
2011, Taiwan, Business Weekly Pub.
2013, Turkey, Altin Kitaplar
2014, U.K./U.S. Hesperus Press
2015, China, Shanghai Joint Pub. Co.
2015, Portugal, Clube do Autor
2015, France, Anne Carrière
2016, Spain, Urano
2016, Greece, Haramada
2016, Brasil, Casa da palavra
2016, Italy, Frassinelli
2016, Poland, Swiat Ksiazki
2016, Netherlands, Meulenhoff
2017, Russia, Ripol
2017, Czech Republic, Plus (Albatros)
2019, China, Beijing White Horse
2019, Turkey, Ketebe
2019, Bulgaria, List
2019, Rumania, Curtea Veche

Rights that are free again

French Canadian rights
German rights
Taiwanese rights

Movie adaptation rights

Sold to White Lotus Picture Company. Initially slated to start production soon, the BAFTA-winning director approached by WLPC to adapt the tale fell completely for another title by the same author: **The Boy Who Belonged to the Sea**, which thus got WLPC’s preference – see there.



Cadillac
Biz

Derek Laumet receives the news of his grandfather’s passing and pregnancy of his blonde girlfriend at the same time. As ex-hockey pro turned Cadillac dealer, he is just crazy about Canada’s # 1 national sport and those who practice it. He’s also crazy about his domain and about Daisy, his pretty loved one.

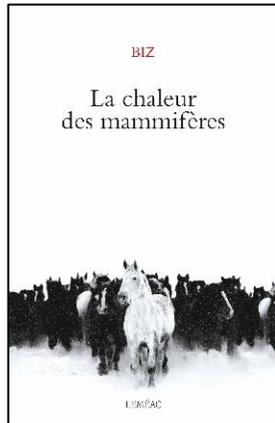
The memory of his grandfather and the promise of the baby on the way propel him onto the route which his forefather once took: Antoine Laumet, known as ‘The Cadillac Baron’, was one of the founding fathers of ‘motor city’ Detroit, where Derek played with his team, the Red Wings.

French Canadian origin
24,000 Words – 100 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2018, Canada, French, Leméac

Biz uses the arena he draws to mix the history of people and the history of a car in a grand ode to our survival skills and our greatness in his most ‘optimistic’ novel yet.



French Canadian origin
38,000 Words – 240 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2017, Canada, French, Leméac

The Heat of the Mammals

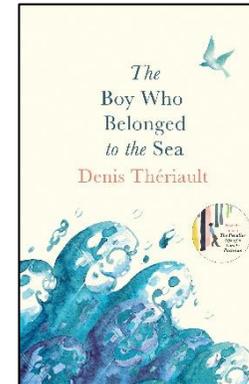
Biz

René McKay, fifty-five, professor of literature at the university and recently divorced, has precious little contact with his twenty year old child. Wrung out, disillusioned, he has placed himself on the outskirts of the world over time.

A trip to Sweden for a conference, facing a handful of blasé colleagues, delivers the final blow. Nothing is worth anything to him anymore. René McKay sees his life as a collection of lost years.

Returning back home completely disillusioned, a student's strike is in full swing. The creative energy bubbling up due to this event gives him unexpected new hope for the future.

It's brilliant – it's Biz



The Boy Who Belonged to the Sea

Denis Thériault

The north shore of St. Lawrence Gulf, Canada is the place where **The Boy Who Belonged to the Sea** unfolds, telling a realistic-but-fabulous story. It focuses on the extraordinary friendship between two boys who at first glance appear to have nothing in common, except their tragic loneliness.

Together, the boys construct new reasons for living, which set them off on a wild, adventurous search.

The author's lyrical imagination pulls the reader into the heart of a plot where helplessness, love, desperation and hope collide.

French Canadian origin
60,000 Words – 256 Pages
French language manuscript
Manuscript available in many languages

Rights sold

2001, Canada, French, XYZ editeur
2003, Canada, English, Dundurn
2010, Germany, DTV Verlag
2017, Greece, Haramada
2018, U.K./U.S. Oneworld
2018, Italy, Sperling & Kupfer
2018, Netherlands, Meulenhoff
2019, Turkey, Ketebe
2019, Slovakia, Albatros Media

German rights are FREE again !

The début novel of Denis Thériault, which got published to great acclaim, right away winning three major literary prizes in the French part of Canada:

Prix Odysée

Prix Anne-Hébert

Prix France-Québec/Jean Hamelin

Movie adaptation rights

Having outbid the competition to win the movie adaptation rights to Thériault's **The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman**, White Lotus Picture Company intended to start filming that adaptation first. But when the BAFTA-winning director read through Thériault's work he absolutely wanted to give preference to this tale...

Hence, the WLPC offer to adapt this book is currently under review with us and the author. WLPC wanting to start right away with the scriptwriting process, in order to produce in 2020/2021.



Man of Characters

Marcel Procureur

Leo, a young and good-looking bachelor does not make his mother's dream come true of him becoming a writer. Starting out his adult life with a first employment as postman, he does become a man of characters after all though...

And he meets quite a few characters too. Young, attractive, free *and* on the route through town daily, he has more than one fling going on. One of them being with Juliette. A young widow with a child, and the daughter of Leo's superior. The latter seizes this opportunity to try and get his daughter to marry again. Feeling the psychological pressure, Leo rebuffs, which lands him a position in the office instead of freely out on the road, delivering mail.

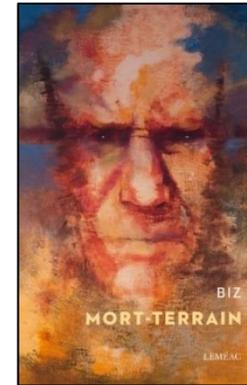
Will the postman give in to the blackmail of his superior/possible father-in-law ?

French Belgian origin
28,200 Words – 178 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2017, Belgium, Acrodacrolivres

A.A.A. goes classic with this timeless tale set in a small village, in a time not too long ago, but long enough to not include internet, mobile phones and the like. A sprinkle of nostalgia and melancholia.



Mort-Terrain (Dead Ground)

Biz

The new doctor arrives in Mort-Terrain, a small and isolated town high up north of Québec. Julien Daigneault is also assigned to treat the native Indian tribe, living in the nearby reservation camp. Both communities in the small town do anything but mingle.

The arrival of a big mining company interested in what might be found underneath Mort-Terrain divides them even further, soon costing lives.

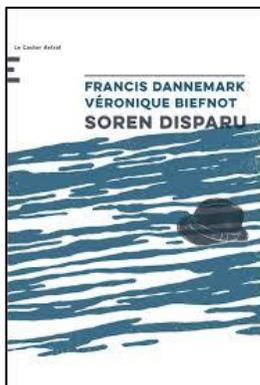
Painting rich, colourful portraits of the locals and approaching those differing from the mainstream with an open mind, the author tells a realistic tale which offers readers thriller elements, passion, love, as well as hope, in a most engaging writing style that while offering a novel, has all the earmarks of a page-turner.

French Canadian origin
57,000 Words – 240 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2015, Canada, French, Leméac

Winner Prix France – Québec 2016



Soren Disappeared

**Francis Dannemark
Veronique Biefnot**

French Belgian origin
52,950 Words – 242 Pages
French language manuscript

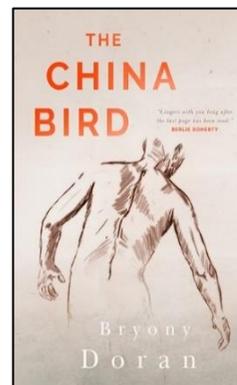
Rights sold

2019, France, Castor Astral

An introspective adventure which unveils a special, quite unique lead character.

Our highly successful Belgian writing duo strikes again, offering a novel that is extremely original in its construction, containing a fine number of testimonies from people who knew or were in contact with the lead character, Soren, **Soren Disappeared** can easily be called the alpha and the omega of their work.

The wide range of opinions on Soren allows readers to get to know him thoroughly, His more obscured character traits included. It takes them through what resembles both the approach of a journalist and that of a police officer, both wanting to know what happened. Soren has disappeared one night, on a bridge near the city of Bordeaux, France, but that is not the most important thing. The further one gets in the book, the less Soren's whereabouts are at its center. Far more at stake is where Soren came from, and how he became the person which those close to him describe.



The China Bird

Bryony Doran

English origin
89,600 Words – 262 Pages
English language manuscript

Rights sold

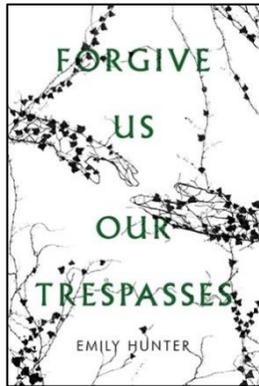
2018, U.K., Hookline

A young female art student sees beauty in Edward's twisted spine, and begs him to pose for her as a model. Flattered though in doubt of her sincerity, Edward finally gives in. Gradually he agrees to shed his clothing at sittings. Slowly but surely he emerges from years of apathy.

A quietly mesmerizing tale of secrecy, love and eventual understanding, exploring our perceptions of beauty and abnormality.

Chosen as Hookline's 'Novel of the Year' by U.K. book groups back in 2008, this title has all the earmarks of a true 'classic'...

Excellent writing
A timeless subject
Playing in an undefined time
Recognisable to all
Full of heartfelt feelings
A second run of excellent sales, 10 years on from its initial publication.



Forgive Us Our Trespasses

Emily Hunter

English origin
46,300 Words – 154 Pages
English language manuscript

Rights sold

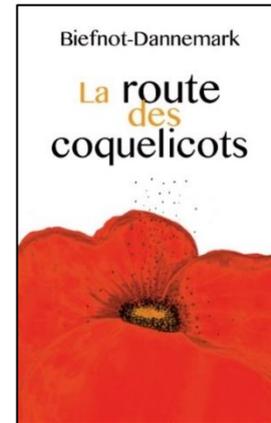
2015, U.K., Blue Mark Books

A surprising discovery, in which author Emily Hunter portrays characters which mingle love and religion – which is never a good idea, but happens a lot nonetheless.

One affair
Two couples
One God
One believer
One unbeliever
Two adulterers
One cuckold
One scorned
Many sins

Can 'an affair' make a wonderful book, full of worthwhile insights into the human psyche? Hell yes, it sure can !

Author Emily Hunter convinces, depicting Hannah, Alex, Edward and Kitty as very real, believable characters. Readers can easily relate to all four of them, to their feelings and decisions, throughout the evolution of 'the affair' which provokes all of these.



The Route of the Poppies

**Francis Dannemark
Veronique Biefnot**

French Belgian origin
85,000 Words – 312 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2015, France, Castor Astral
2020, Italy, Scritturapura

A great story of some octogenarians, living in a retirement home, who go on a last road trip, due to and accompanied by a young girl from Ukraine who works in their retirement home, illegally.

They travel to four different European countries and enjoy a most likeable trip, which brings these totally different and not all that easy going characters a whole lot closer to one another.

Named 'Book of the Heart' and also 'Book of the Month' by an avalanche of French book shops upon its first release, this title made a surprise return in the sales top ten when relaunched in electronic format, thus neatly illustrating its appeal across age groups.



French Belgian origin
50,000 Words – 272 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2016, France, Castor Astral

A Mess of Blues

**Francis Dannemark
Veronique Biefnot**

Nina visits Hazebruck, a French town near the Belgian border, to assist in the presentation of her father's will. Having been a reputed jazz piano player, Ted has raised Nina all alone. Now he has chosen to die alone, far from Bordeaux, where his daughter lives.

The will liberates a troublesome set of memories in Nina. A starting point which will have her go a long way, to where lies and secrets from her life reside.

Revelations and surprises turn her past and present upside down. Will they alter her future too?



Enriched with beautiful **rich blue** drawings by author Veronique Biefnot



A Gallery of Worlds

Yova Stankova

Valentina recently broke up with her husband, a well-to-do Russian. She goes to live in his gallery in Sofia's centre. There, Valentina looks for a roommate to share expenses. That same night still, as if out of thin air, Polina materializes. Pretty and artistic, Polina's presence makes Valentina question herself.

Readers are left in doubt whether there really are two females, or if Polina is a metamorphosis of Valentina. The latter first battles isolation, then her undue closeness to Polina. Trying to come to terms with the situation, Valentina spends time with her family and her ex, feeling superfluous in both places.

A planned exhibition of Polina's work fails, and a girl called Nikolina takes over Valentina's apartment above the gallery. In her, Valentina sees yet more parts of her life... unwanted, past, lost. Wanting to become responsible for all three of them, Valentina has the property registered in her name. Returning to it, she finds her mother visiting, and finds herself alone. All alone.

Bulgarian origin
76,300 Words – 278 Pages
Bulgarian language manuscript
English language manuscript available

Rights sold

2017, Bulgaria, Black Flamingo

Promising newcomer Yova Stankova tackles the alienated feeling which one encounters when the world build together with a loved one falls apart. She does so highly convincingly, portraying in Valentina a multi-faceted character that effectively reflects that of many a modern day young woman.



Shanghai Passenger

Lucy Brydon

English origin
55,000 Words – 256 Pages
English language manuscript

Rights sold

2015, U.K., Blue Mark Books

Having lived the fast life in Shanghai as the daughter of an expat, contributing to magazines after graduating as well as living a bizarre and heady routine as pretty barfly, author Lucy Brydon paints a picture of the city and its inhabitants that sure comes across as believable and extremely vivid.

A fine coming-of-age story, cleverly linked to the ancient story of Zhuangzi's *Dream of the Butterfly* and laced with satirical bite.

We follow Ruby, who is writing her first novel and does so in a location as far away from her ex-boyfriend as possible.

At the same time, **Shanghai Passenger** explores the fast-paced development China undergoes in our day and time, without a doubt a pivotal moment in Chinese history.



11

Jessica Lefèvre

French Belgian origin

31,000 Words – 178 Pages
French language manuscript

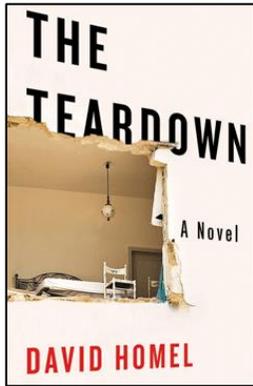
Rights sold

2017, Belgium, Acrodacrolivres

Eleven chapters. Eleven stories. Which all can be read apart from each other. Yet all are linked to one another, forming an entity. Characters who do not know each other personally see their life paths cross as each plays his or her part when a car hits a woman crossing the street...

A banal accident, will alter the existence of all involved forever.

'Literary book of the internet 2018' winner, **11** is young and highly promising Jessica Lefèvre's debut novel, after her earlier successes in Belgium as # 1 young short story author.



The Teardown

David Homel

American origin
67,000 Words – 274 Pages
English language manuscript
French language manuscript available

Rights sold

2019, U.S., Cormorant
2019, Canada, French, Leméac

**2019 Quebec Writers Federation
Award winner**

2x Governor General Award winner

Author David Homel, two times winner of the Governor General Award, flies high with his eight novel... exquisitely written and brutally honest it showcases him at the very peak of his writing powers.

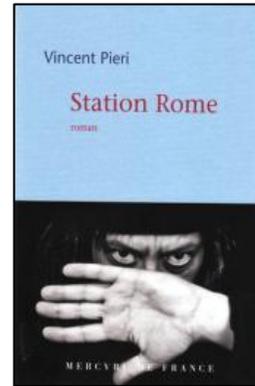
All of Phil Brenner's achievements in life have somehow fallen into a slump.

As a freelance journalist, the pinnacles of his career recede in the rearview. While he struggles to stay relevant in a culture prizing identity over experience, Brenner feels unfairly cast aside by the younger generations, designated the very "white male of privilege" he spent much of his youth rallying against.

As a husband, he's estranged from his wife, whose job supports the suburban lifestyle she imposed on him which he never wanted.

As a father, his two daughters repel any attempt he made to connect, so he is just about to give up trying.

A chance to cover the refugee crisis in Eastern Europe sees Phil Brenner seize that opportunity to reinvent himself into the person he could be... If only he can bring himself to tear down the tired notions of the person he has become.



Station Rome

Vincent Pieri

French origin
48,000 Words – 240 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2013, France, Mercure

Paris subway, station Rome. A tramp writes his journal, taking notes every day and night. About the endless stream of by-passers, the humiliations he endures, his little daily victories battling the cold, the hunger and all the other tramps...

One of the passing faces links him to his past: that of a young female musician, whom he spies upon daily. Gradually, his life story unfolds. As a gifted pianist, he ruined his chances. While accompanying Ariane, a great but mentally unstable young violin player, he got to know the secret that weighed on her: an illness on stage left her completely emotionless, literally. While stirring deep emotions within her listening audiences with her playing, Ariane herself does not feel anything at all.

A tragic, mysterious and irrevocable occasion separated him from her, which is what he now tries to forget. While asleep, drinking or walking the streets, music of those lost days continuously filling his head.

A novel crying out truth, avoiding clichés. It is at one time both impressive and bizarre how the author succeeds in placing readers right there in the subway with his principal character, having you experience all of the sensations there are to endure: cold, hunger, anger and – most chilling – extreme loneliness, gnawing at your soul...



The Internal Voice

Vincent Pieri

French origin
34,000 Words – 156 Pages
French language manuscript

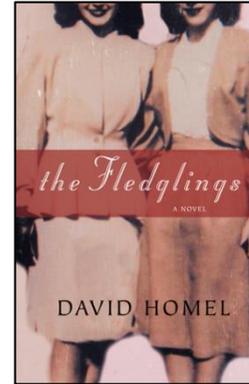
Rights sold
2016, France, Mercure

Music being a recurring theme in Pieri's work, **The Internal Voice** further establishes him as a unique author.

A writer to be reckoned with, scoring high both with the public and literary critics alike.

Ever since an incident at 13 years of age, during his formation to become a cello violin player, Jean has been haunted by an internal voice. Though gone at times, the voice always returns to him. Being successful playing with big orchestras, this strange, sublime voice fills Jean with joy thanks to its perfection. At the same time, its uncontrollable presence obsesses him, evoking violent crises. Jean's friend, snare instrument maker Nathaniel, comes to his rescue, sending Jean off to meet with a reputed gypsy, Manuel d'Algirdas.

Travelling alone, trying to locate this 'healer' which everybody seems to have heard of but who is impossible to locate, Jean discovers a most particular section of society, with strict codes and rituals, which is not to be penetrated by outsiders.



The Fledglings

David Homel

American origin
94,000 Words – 384 Pages
English language manuscript
French language manuscript available

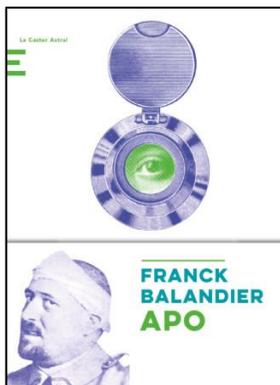
Rights sold
2014, U.S., Cormorant
2015, Canada, French, Leméac

Joey Kruger is a businessman who finds himself in emotional turmoil. He decides to write his mother's extraordinary story.

The child of a Jew who fled Russia and ran an illegal bar during the prohibition era in Chicago, Bluma and her cousin Bella form a fictitious singing duo in their spare time, as well as a pact: the man who one day marries one of them will automatically marry the other as well.

Not illogically, their respective destinies decide completely otherwise. That said, Bluma's revelations do help her son Joey to piece together her life's tale, throwing a whole new light on the woman which he has known for every day of his life: his mother.

Writer, journalist, filmmaker and translator David Homel won the **J.I. Segal Award of the Jewish Public Library** and the **Hugh MacLennan Prize for Best Fiction** from the Québec Writers Federation.



Apo

Franck Balandier

French origin
68,300 Words – 178 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2018, France, Castor Astral

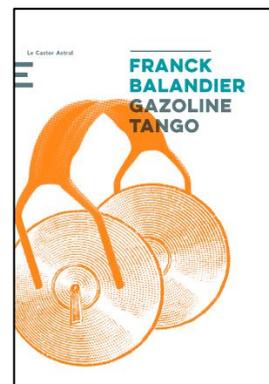
The importance of the human body in society plays a major role in this novel... Apo finds himself imprisoned, threatened and sick, his body giving up. But the desire to write is there in him, still. If only his powers would allow him !

It is 1913, and Paris is going mad... Someone has stolen the Mona Lisa ! Soon, Picasso, a mystery guy called Géry and respected poet Apollinaire become the prime suspects of the police.

The first two have fled the city, leading to the incarceration of the third. In his cell, the poet feels incapable to create, write. This is not the Paris décor he is used to, with its fine Café de Flore, the 'boudoirs' he regularly visits, and so much more.

The intrigue, based upon the true facts of the time, revolving around three dates that tie everything nicely together, has links that carry on through until today, with the reopening of Paris' (in)famous Santé Prison where Apollinaire was held.

Full of 'brilliant but failing' characters. From the Louvre's gatekeeper, workers and guards tending those in prison, to some mistresses along the way, Franck Balandier cleverly deconstructs Apo's 'official and institutionalized' image, returning him to being a real life person, effectively bringing more than one legend to life in this exciting new title.



Gazoline Tango

Franck Balandier

French origin
68,300 Words – 278 Pages
French language manuscript

Rights sold

2017, France, Castor Astral

Since birth, Benjamin suffers from a very specific problem: he cannot stand noise. That, while his mother happens to be the drummer of a punk-rock band...

Being limited to grow up while wearing a sound eliminating headphone, Benjamin bit by bit reinvents the world around him. Luckily, he is well supported by Father Germain, the priest of a defunct church; by his grandmother Lucienne; by Isidore, a man who loves to tell tales; by Yolanda, always ready to support a lost cause; by Tarzan, the swim teacher; and – most of all and most important – by Noémie, a pretty girl who is both deaf and mute.

'Both tender and tasty, full of surprises, unforgettable characters and more, all brought to the readers by Balandier in virtuoso prose.'

Livres Hebdo