

bayard
éditions

HIGHLIGHTS
ADULT BOOKS

2024

Today, Bayard Editions is reaching out to new readers with an editorial line born of the desire to combine a passion for informing and telling the real story with a passion for telling stories.

These new lines draw on Bayard's dual identity as a press and publishing group, and will tell the world in a different way, between journalism and literature, non fiction and comics.

Our authors speak to us, in a very literary form, of the link with the living, of countries near and far, of feminism, of news... These collections welcome stories nourished by contemporary and societal concerns, but also by more timeless and universal intimate preoccupations.

Bayard Graphic'

With Bayard Graphic', we want to welcome graphic novels by authors rooted in reality, who shed light on the world with accuracy, humor, poetry or sensitivity. They can portray a personality, investigate a scandal or a social phenomenon, explore a cultural field or look back on a moment in a personal life... These stories in a variety of forms help us to better understand others and ourselves.

Bayard récits - Bayard Stories

At the crossroads of journalism and literature, non fiction and fiction, Bayard Récits is a collection of literary texts that tell the story of reality. True stories told like novels, nourished by fieldwork, investigation and archives, but also by intimate experience. Our authors take a singular look at the world, questioning its inner workings in texts where storytelling and the talent of the pen also play a major role. Relationships with living beings, economic and social links, stories from all over the world, intimate and societal stories... the topics are multiple and open.

Bayard Littérature intérieure - Bayard Inner Literature

In every being, there are those ultimate preoccupations that inhabit, nourish and haunt us. The intimate questions that existence persists in asking us. Moments of pain, those of joy, what we share with other living beings, with the earth that welcomes us, the «big» or not-so-big questions (illness, love, death...), everything that, deep down, upsets us. By inviting writers to take up one of these questions and write about it, the Littérature intérieure collection aims to give voice to these strong, singular motifs, which are an essential part of ourselves, the one that founds and connects every human being.

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130 X 210 MM
240 PP
€19
PUB DATE: APRIL 2023
EAN: 9782227500877

ALREADY PUBLISHED:

Caravansérail (Le Seuil), 2007.

- Tropiques Award (2007)
- François Mauriac de l'Académie Française Award (2007)

Nos si brèves années de gloire (Éditions du Seuil), 2012.

Villa des femmes (Le Seuil), 2015.

- + 8,000 copies sold
- Jean Giono Award (2015)

Beyrouth 2020 : Journal d'un effondrement (Actes Sud), 2020.

- + 10,000 copies sold
- Femina Special Jury Award (2020)

Dernière Oasis (Actes Sud), 2021.

- + 4,700 copies sold

Thousand Origins

CHARIF MAJDALANI

NOMINATED
FOR THE
NARRATIVE NON-
FICTION BOOK
2023

“The ragpicker stops his vehicle between two parked cars then cautiously approaches the small circle of talkers. He is used to this pavement discussion, which he attends every time he crosses the road. He too must surely be convinced that he is a hostage to the incomprehensible plans of the great of our time.”

Beirut through the sensitive eyes of a great writer. Charif Majdalani meets the inhabitants of the Lebanese capital and paints a kaleidoscopic portrait of a country that is both a crossroads and at the end of its tether.

On his return from a far-flung trip, Charif Majdalani tells his passion for peoples, their diversity and their infinite journeys. Arriving in Beirut, he takes us to meet some twenty people from various strata of migration, all of whom live in this emblematic city of cultural mixtures.

They confide in him their life stories and family histories, made up of various religious affiliations, tragic exile, thwarted love affairs... These fictional yet very real life stories reveal the richness, humour and complexity of the multiple identities that make up our common humanity.

- A choral book on multiculturalism in the heart of the emblematic city of Beirut
- Charif Majdalani tackles the theme of identities with finesse, showing the complexity but also the richness of cultural mixing and multiple identities.
- A great author of novels, whose writing stands out for its evocative power and poetry.

« A book that reminds us, with such intelligence and subtlety, of our multiple roots and identities, our common humanity in short... »

Orient Le Jour, May 15th 2023



French-speaking Lebanese novelist **Charif Majdalani** was born in Beirut in 1960, studied in France and then returned to Lebanon. He is the author of a dozen novels published by Seuil and Actes Sud. He has won several literary awards. Professor at Saint-Joseph University in Beirut, where he headed the French Literature Department from 1999 to 2008, Charif Majdalani is a member of the editorial board of *Orient Littéraire*, a columnist for the daily *La Croix* and president of the *Maison Internationale des Écrivains* in Beirut.

Interview

Why did you decide to write a book about cultural blending?

As I was writing it, I realized that this book was an almost direct echo of the first book I published, with a Lebanese publisher, exactly twenty years ago, long before my first novel appeared. It's a book that's no longer available. It was a playful sociological essay in which, in the form of a primer preceded by a more theoretical text, I tried to describe the different types of mixtures, and their various manifestations in all spheres of life, in language, cooking, onomastics, daily behavior etc. *Thousand Origins* is like an illustration of this, but based on life stories.

As for why I'm interested in these questions of mixtures, it stems from my phobia for fixed identities, cultural confinement in the «same» and its repetition. I love what mixes, what changes, what is exchanged and diversifies, and I also have a passion for peoples and their diversity, for minorities, for the infinite variations in the texture of the world and for all the ways in which humans inhabit the planet.

This book is made up of monologues, stories told in the first person singular. What does this form allow a literary text to do?

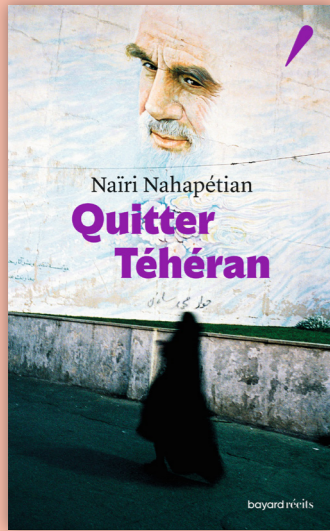
The first-person singular is extremely restrictive in literature, contrary to what you might think. Because it forces the narrator to focus strongly, thereby preventing a multiplicity of viewpoints and points of view. Of course, today's writers can vary the «I» at will. This is to some extent what happens in this book, in which there are as many «I»s as there are stories (some twenty), and therefore multiple points of view. Which is the ultimate goal.

You're a novelist. What has it changed for you to write «true stories»?

Every novel is written from true stories that inspire fiction, or guide it, or give it substance. So it doesn't change when you're writing life stories like the ones in this book, especially as I've rewritten and reappropriated them to make the whole thing a literary text.

How does the economic and political crisis in Lebanon affect «Thousand Origins»?

The lives told are those of individuals or families spanning several generations, all of whom, despite their diverse origins, live in Beirut. When the story they tell takes us up to the present day, which is often the case, crisis and explosion inevitably appear. So we can see all the ways in which the inhabitants, in all their diversity, have lived through the crisis and the moment of explosion.



130 X 210 MM
184 PP
€18
PUB DATE: APRIL 2023
EAN: 9782227500914

ALREADY PUBLISHED:
Qui a tué l'Ayatollah Khomeini ?
(Liana Lévi), 2020.
• 7,000 copies sold

Dernier refrain à Ispahan (Liana Lévi), 2015.
• 5,000 copies sold

Leave Tehran

NAÏRI NAHAPÉTIAN

“I know you won't be coming back.’ It was with these words that my father said goodbye to us at the airport when we left Tehran in August 1980 (...). Forty years later, I've managed to understand why my father was stuck in Iran while we were in Paris.”

The exile of a 9-year-old girl who flees Iran's Islamic revolution, alone with her mother. The exile lasts, and her father has never been able to join them. But why not?

Naïri Nahapétian, a well-known author of crime novels, embarks years later, after a deep depression, on a family investigation to understand what deprived her of her father. An autobiography that reads like a detective story. A story in the form of an investigation, in which she recalls her childhood in Iran, her adolescence in France and her return to Teheran in 1994, as well as her reports from this country, where she discovered the courage of young people, women and intellectuals who defy the regime.

Through her life story, we discover Iran and what the Islamic revolution meant, particularly for the Armenian minority from which Naïri comes. We also understand how a family history can be marked by the political history of a country, right up to the recent demonstrations against the current regime in Iran. And how the different cultures and languages in which a child is cognitively and emotionally immersed make up his or her identity - multiple, sometimes alternative or eclipsed, but rich in this diversity.

- A family investigation between Paris and Iran, from 1979 to the present day
- A fluid style that makes contemporary Iranian history easily accessible
- A sensitive and personal text
- A story that sheds light on the current protests in Iran

They talked about it: RFI, Causette, Marie France, L'Express, Marianne



Naïri Nahapétian was born into an Armenian family in Tehran, a city she left after the Islamic revolution in 1980. Journalist for Alternatives économiques, she is the author of several novels for adults and youth.

Interview

You've already published a number of novels, particularly detective stories. Why did you feel the need to write a true story?

My previously published novels already contained autobiographical elements (particularly the latest, *L'amour selon Marina M. and Jadis Romina Wagner*). And for some time now, I've been accumulating texts featuring childhood memories, particularly from psychoanalytical work. In addition, my thrillers paint a realistic portrait of Iranian society, neither demonizing nor angelizing.

Finally, in *Quitter Téhéran I* I conduct a kind of family investigation. In all these ways, this book is a continuation of my previous work.

The «real» in your book is both very personal and historical. How did you weave the «small» and the «big» stories together?

The common thread running through the book is my investigation into why my father was stuck in Iran in the 1980s, while my mother and I were able to leave the country. In this respect, the question itself weaves together the «small» and the «big» stories. To answer this question, in the first part of the book, I first set out to describe life in Iran before and during the revolution through the eyes of a child. Then, in the second part, devoted to my return to Iran in the 1990s and 2000s, I also take a naive look at Iranian society, as I went from surprise to surprise during my travels, amazed by the courage of young people, women, intellectuals... But in both parts, I had the tools to analyze reality with hindsight, and I tried to share that with my readers.



130 X 210 MM
256 PP
€19
PUB DATE: OCT 2023
EAN: 9782227501096

ALREADY PUBLISHED:
Une année à Clichy, avec Bahar Makooi (Stock), 2015.

A Woman Of Her Time

JOSÉPHINE LEBARD

“I figure you must have smuggled things to us. Maybe even in spite of yourself. It remains to be seen what.”

She dreamed of going to art school, and became the mother of six children.

With tenderness and self-mockery, Joséphine Lebard tells the story of her late grandmother, her renunciations, her pains and her escapes. She analyzes with finesse the transmission that takes place between generations, and revisits the figure of housewives during the 1950ies/60ies.

Millions of lives that have been ignored by feminists and sociologists alike. Between sensitive personal recollections and a documentary approach, the author shows how these women played a role, almost in spite of themselves, in the collective destiny of women in the twentieth century and right up to the present day.

- A rich, well-documented text on the history of housewives during the 1950ies/60ies, a «subject» little dealt with by sociologists and a blind spot for feminists.
- As a young feminist, Joséphine Lebard questions the place of women in the home. What have they passed on to their daughters? What did they transmit?
- A story about grief and family memory.

Joséphine Lebard is a journalist. She works with various French media (*Arte, Le Monde, Causette, Enlarge your Paris*), covering topics such as working-class neighborhoods, education and culture. She is also a published author (Éditions Stock, La Découverte).



130 X 210 MM
144 PP
€17
PUB DATE: SEPT 2023
EAN: 9782227501102

ALREADY PUBLISHED:
Venir Après (Les éditions du Faubourg), 2021.
• 1,500 copies sold

L'Année du Phénix. La première année de la retraite (Les Liens qui Libèrent), 2013.
• 10,000 copies sold

La Danse du couple, avec Serge Hefez (Hachette Littératures), 2002.
• + 58,000 copies sold

A Foreign Mother

DANIÈLE LAUFER

“I’d like arms around my shoulders, kisses, a laugh, just to fall asleep.”

A tale in two voices, those of the author and her mother, about transmission and traumatic memory.

Can you still love when you’ve survived the horror? Can you love your sweethearts and children well? Speech or silence? What does the body say unintentionally, and what do others understand? How do you find your place in the lives of those who have survived horror?

This autobiographical text is a belated and unexpected encounter between a mother who survived the Bergen Belsen concentration camp and her daughter, who struggles to grow up and to obtain her mother’s tenderness. It’s also a universal tale that probes the way of being in the world after a trauma and its impact on the mother-daughter relationship.

- Danièle Laufer recounts her childhood, bathed in Casablanca sunshine and suffocated by her mother’s silence.
- Underlying the story, the author questions the way in which the memory of trauma is transmitted from generation to generation. The Holocaust in particular.
- This book recounts the unique moment when a mother and her daughter finally met.
- A powerful double testimony, transcended by a literary pen.

Danièle Laufer is a writer and journalist. She has published books for young people and a number of highly acclaimed works on society, health and psychology, including *Le Tako Tsubo: Un chagrin de travail* (Les Liens qui Libèrent, 2017), *L'Année du Phénix. La première année de la retraite* (LLL, 2013) and *La Danse du couple*, with Serge Hefez (Hachette Littératures, 2002). She is interested in the family, filiation and identity. In 1996, Bayard Éditions published *La Vie empêchée*, which recounts her mother’s childhood in Germany and her deportation.



130 X 210 MM
272 PP
€20
PUB DATE: MARCH 2024
EAN: 9782227501874

ALREADY PUBLISHED:

After The April Rain

ISABELLE DARRAS

Thirty years after the Tutsi genocide, the author travels to Rwanda with one question in mind: how do you live when you've survived the worst - extreme violence, the loss of your own people and the attempted eradication of one's culture?

At the time of the events, the author was in refugee camps in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, working as a young French journalist. Almost 3 decades later, Isabelle Darras embarks on a veritable quest for meaning through her encounters with Chantal, who welcomes and guides her; Agatha and her accomplices, who have set up a women's discussion group; Delphine and Agnès, who live alone; and all those who have chosen to speak out or remain silent. And all those who have put their families back together. A deeply moving story that shows how, even after horror, light is possible.

- A humanist text, embodied by extraordinary characters whose scars move us
- A reminder of the history of Rwanda
- A deeply moving and universal story

Isabelle Darras is a journalist who in 1994 contributed to Radio Gatashya, a humanitarian radio station for Rwandan refugees in Goma. She went on to collaborate with various press titles (Libération, L'Humanité, Elle, Femme actuelle). Today, she is the author of French learning manuals for the Klett Verla publishing house, as well as books for children that combine intimate stories with major historical events.



130 X 210 MM
224 PP
€19
PUB DATE: JAN 2024
EAN: 9782227501249

ALREADY PUBLISHED:

Les services compétents (POL), 2020.

- 20,000 copies sold

Z comme zombie (POL), 2022.

- 12,000 copies sold

The KGB Interview

IEGOR GRAN

FIRST
PRINTRUN
ALREADY
SOLD!

The translation of the manual of a KGB school interwoven with the fascinating, funny and erudite texts of Iégor Gran, who tells, explains and contextualizes how a KGB school functioned and talks about what this manual inspires in him: laughter, disgust, fascination.

Iégor Gran's father was a Russian political dissident, arrested in 1965 by the KGB. His son, years later, decides to write this private story within the History.

While researching his novel, Iégor Gran came across an unexpected document : Recruiting Agents, or how, in 1969, young KGB recruits were taught the subtle art of recruiting foreign intelligence agents.

Iégor Gran's voice, interwoven with the original text, provides the necessary background. At the same time, he recalls the personal adventure of immersing himself in this translation, his laughter, disgust, and unpleasant fascination.

We move from the ultra-concrete to the far-reaching social and political project.

This manual is a time machine, a safe-conduct to a dungeon inaccessible to mere mortals. And a tool, too, for understanding today's Russia.

- An exceptional document revealed and translated by Iégor Gran
- A tool for understanding Russia in the past and nowadays
- A way to rediscover the world of espionage

Son of the Russian writer Andrei Siniavski, a Soviet dissident, **Iégor Gran** arrived in France at the age of ten, Yégor Siniavski grew up there. He studied engineering at the Ecole centrale Paris (class of 1987). In parallel to his work as an engineer, he began a career as a writer and chose as his pseudonym the surname of his wife, Gran.

In 2003, he won the Grand Prize for Black Humour. From 2011, he worked at *Charlie Hebdo*. He is a bestselling author, acclaimed by readers and booksellers. He published all his work at POL or Les Échappés and now at Bayard.



130 X 210 MM
224 PP
€20
PUB DATE: APRIL 2024
EAN: 9782227500938

ALREADY PUBLISHED:
La Chine sur le divan (Plon), 2008.

La Corée du Nord en 100 questions (Tallandier), 2016.

China love : comment s'aiment les Chinois (Tallandier), 2016.

Le monde selon Kim Jong-Un, (Robert Laffont), 2018.

- Written also by Juliette Morillot

Requiem For Hong Kong

DORIAN MALOVIC

Through 40 years of journalism in Asia, from investigations to often staggering encounters, a fascinating description of the fate of Hong Kong, whose democratic hopes have been irretrievably stifled by China.

«I fell madly in love with Hong Kong forty years ago. In all those years, I've witnessed its history: its status as a British colony when I arrived, its handover to China in 1997, the opening up and economic rise of China, and then the Chinese iron fist that slowly but surely tightened on this autonomous region. The Umbrella Movement in 2014, followed by the demonstrations of 2019, made me aware of a tipping point. And the Covid definitely made my anger explode against China, which threatens our humanist and democratic values.»

- A rare witness to the profound changes in Hong Kong and China over the last 40 years, Dorian Malovic takes the reader to the most unexpected places : garment factories in Hong Kong, trains to a China closed to foreigners, occupied Tibet...
- Dorian Malovic's talented rendering of atmospheres brings his political message to life. His text also reads like an incredible travelogue through Asia and the ages.

Dorian Malovic is a French journalist and writer, head of the «Asia» section of the daily newspaper La Croix, and a specialist on China and on North Korea. He has lived and traveled in China for thirty years.



130 X 210 MM
224 PP
€19
PUB DATE: JAN 2024
EAN: 9782227501539

ALREADY PUBLISHED:

A Better Life

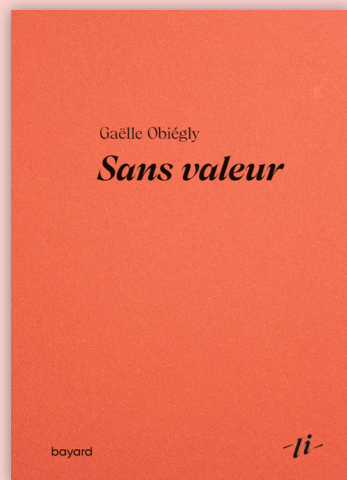
CORALIE GARANDEAU

An immersion with young volunteers involved in an ecological association that fights against waste pollution on beaches and in the sea in the south of France.

Journalist Coralie Garandeau, in her fifties, embarks on a month-long journey with a group of young people committed to the environment, who are working with the Wings of the Ocean association to clean up the coastline. With her, we share the life of the collective, with the qualities and shortcomings of each and every one. With as much seriousness as humor, she questions the relationship with the group, the ability to align one's ecological convictions with one's lifestyle, and the degree of radicalism required to protect the planet.

- A sociological look at a group of young people all driven by a desire to do something for the planet.
- A reflection on commitment.

Coralie Garandeau was a French correspondent for television, press and radio. She was editorial director of AMERICA magazine and works as a freelance journalist for Zadig magazine. Convinced of the power of telling one's story and passing it on to those close to her, she founded the biographical self-publishing company Ravive.



125 X 175 MM
140 PP
€14
PUB DATE: JAN 2024
EAN: 9782227501546

ALREADY PUBLISHED:
Totalement inconnu (Bourgeois),
2022

Worthless

GAËLLE OBIÉGLY

A pile of discarded objects, once precious to someone but now useless. A reflection on the value of familiar objects and our lives. To have, to keep, to be, to evolve...

Gaëlle Obiégly's story is by turns funny, poignant, zany and profound, about her discovery in the street of a box containing objects discarded by their owner. At the time, Obiégly herself was in the middle of a removal and sorting operation, in the midst of questioning and hesitation about what to keep, what to throw away, what to give away.

With her, we question the value of objects, but also that of memories and archives. To have or to part with, to remember or to forget, to hoard or to divest in order to moult and change with life and age.

A reflection that resonates with our consumer society. How to conceive the relationship with objects, with possession, in order to be, to be better.

- A reflection that resonates with our consumer society.
- Simple, masterful, intense writing
- A recognized author in France.

Born in 1971 on the plains of Beauce, **Gaëlle Obiégly** studied art history and Russian. She lives and works in Paris. She has published a dozen novels.



115 X 175 MM
140 PP
€14
PUB DATE: JAN 2024
EAN: 9782227501492

ALREADY PUBLISHED:
Désobéir avec amour (Labor et
Fides), 2018.

Animals Whispering To Us

VIRGINIA MARKUS

The story of a vocation /conversion : taking in animals destined for the slaughterhouse and offering them a dignified end to their lives. A story of listening, respect and love between a woman and animals of all fur and feathers.

«To die, to be born, to live again. Embracing the cycle of the seasons, sailing with the elements. Moving from domination to coexistence. Challenging human beliefs, reconnecting with what's essential: individuals, and a species alongside other species with whom we share one big house. These few teachings are the fruit of years spent working alongside those whom we mostly consider as companion animals. It's in their presence that I learn daily about how our world works and our rightful place in it.»

- A gripping, intimate, empathetic journey with animals
- Think differently about the world and other living beings.
- A profound questioning of man's domination over animals.
- A highly topical subject, linked to ecology and our coexistence on the planet.

Virginia Markus is an author and animal activist. Since 2019, she has dedicated herself to the sanctuary of the Co&xister association, which takes in farm animals originally destined for the slaughterhouse and helps farmers with their conversion when they wish to leave the farm.



115 X 175 MM
70 PP
€11,90
PUB DATE: OCT 2023
EAN: 9782227501560

ALREADY PUBLISHED:
Prunelle de mes yeux (Gallimard Jeunesse), 2011.

Détails d'Évangile (Passiflores), 2012.

L'Autre Dieu (Labor & Fides), 2014.

- Écritures & Spiritualités Award (2015)
- Spiritualités d'aujourd'hui Award (2015)

L'Intranquilité (Bayard), 2016.

- + 25 000 copies sold
- Panorama-La Procure Spiritual Book Award (2017)

Wanted Louise (Gallimard), 2020.

Les Grandissants (Labor & Fides), 2021.

- + 12 000 copies sold

The Tightrope Life

MARION MÜLLER-COLARD

“I taught philosophy when you were born. We joked, your mother and I, about the lessons I would have to give you. I thought I was raising you. You became my master.”

“Where danger grows, what saves also grows”, wrote Hölderlin. This is the balance evoked in this letter addressed to the child who will soon be baptized even though his mother is critically ill. The author, witness of the tightrope life in which this young mother tames the vertigo of death for an unheard of « more life », gathers in this letter everything she learns from this crossing on the wire. But it is also by putting oneself in tune with the life of the child, at the height of the threat, that the sense suddenly appears to him bursting with simplicity and strength. A moving text about love, hope and the fragile but unfathomable power of life.

- What literature, faith and, above all, mutual love can do in the face of illness and loss.
- A letter full of tenderness addressed to the child of a seriously ill mother, which allows each and every one of us to confront the primordial question of the meaning that existence can have, even in the most painful moments.



Marion Müller-Colard is a writer and theologian. She was a hospital chaplain before devoting herself entirely to writing. She also teaches philosophy.

Interview

In what context was born this intimate text about a friend's illness and the birth of her daughter?

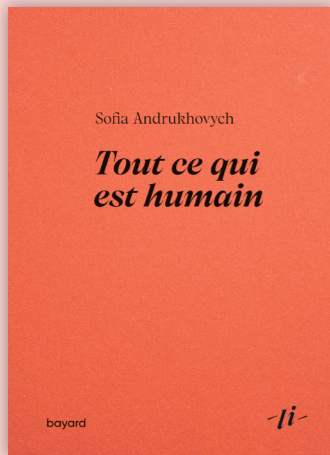
It is a text that was not originally written to become a book, but as a letter to a very small child whose relationship to the world and to life taught me fundamental lessons. I wanted to keep a record, for her and for myself, of what I learned from her, which seemed to me to unfold the thread of tightrope-walking life, that “intimate intertwining of life and danger”, a thread on which to put our feet above emptiness and fear.

Why is faith an essential part of this story for you?

The birth of this child was the confirmation of life at the heart of the greatest threat, a beautiful definition of faith. A new light also on this originality of Christianity : God incarnates as a child. Other scenarios were possible, this one suddenly seemed clear to me, obvious.

What remains, for you and for readers, of such a tragic and founding experience?

The power of the “maybe”, in the literal sense of the word that a small child perfectly embodies: everything that may be, and is constantly renewed, available to our lives and our creativity. This is the solid thread of tightrope life.



All That Is Human

SOFIA ANDRUKHOVYCH

In the end, it seems that the very things that destroy established lives and consciousness reveal the essence of the human being - defenseless and weak, yet so thirsty for life and the presence of others at one's side. How can we restore a semblance of order and in a reality shattered by war?

Here, Ukrainian author Sofia Andrukhovych attempts to name and express that which has no name, that which lies beyond human perception, that which is frightening to talk about, that which slips away.

For the author, it's a question of finding links between fragments of reality torn apart by war and violence, and a desire to sketch out and observe the phenomena and reactions of human consciousness to traumatic events, dramatic and irreversible changes and losses.

In this deeply moving diary of the first year of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we are confronted with a multitude encounters and characters, human stories and human experiences, incomprehensible combinations of drama and tragedy, comical and ridiculous manifestations of empathy and tenderness. In these a priori inhuman circumstances, all that is human manifests itself more deeply and fully.

- The timely and timeless subject of war, dealt with in an original way, far from the front, but as close as possible to the intimacy of the inhabitants and everyday events.
- Texts that reveal the mad power of literature and show a humanity that resists violence and barbarism.
- A recognized author in Ukraine, already translated into French.

115 X 175 MM
 110 PP
 €13,90
 PUB DATE: OCT 2023
 EAN: 9782227501683

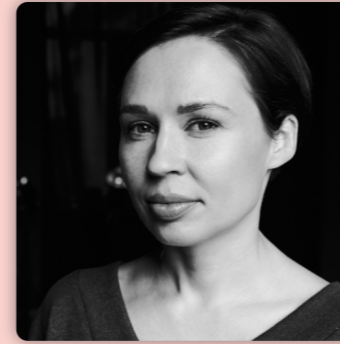
ALREADY PUBLISHED:

Felix Austria (Noir sur Blanc), 2014.

- BBC Ukrainian Book Of The Year (2014)

2015: Conrad Award (for all her work)

2021: Women in Arts Award (2021)



Sofia Andrukhovych is a Ukrainian writer, essayist and translator. She is the daughter of Yuri Andrukhovych, a renowned Ukrainian writer. After completing her studies, she works for the periodical *Tchetver*. She published collections of prose from 2002 and published her novel *Felix Austria*, in 2014, which is noticed. She translated *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* in particular into Ukrainian.

Interview

Since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, you have chosen to write no more fiction but short texts that relate the daily life upset by the war. Why?

Actually, I didn't make that choice. When I finally had the opportunity to write, it was obvious that I could only create texts at the intersection of essay, documentary and non-fiction. This experience is common to many Ukrainian authors.

The violently shattered reality turned out to be so striking that most of the usual constructs, rituals and logical connections collapsed and dozens of staggering events and stories occurred around us that there was no need to invent.

All that was possible was to describe them and to reproduce them and to reflect on them in order to name this unbearable experience, to record it, to transform it for a later movement.

You share tragic and painful moments, but also sometimes comical or incongruous. What is the meaning of these different registers?

Tragic and funny moments often combine in the same situations and stories. Life is thus made : it is not exclusively without joy and full of suffering. When horrible events occur, it is very difficult to see anything other than the depth of the pain. The shock and efforts of society to survive and protect themselves from the threat lead to a black and white perception. In my opinion, artists can be those who, even in this situation on the verge of life and death, remind us of the complexity of the world, the contradictions, laughter and tenderness.

What could you remember more astonishing and perhaps fundamental, after almost a year and a half of war, of this new life?

In the immensity of cruelty, death and daily loss, it is difficult to discern delicate things, which seem so unimportant. But in fact, it is these things that give us hope that this terrible war will not destroy humanity. Despite exhaustion and hardship, danger and fear, people continue to protect each other and their humanity every day: with attention, physical or material help, little nice things, jokes, smiles.



160 X 202 MM
128 PP
€12.50
PUB DATE: SEP 2023
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ALREADY PUBLISHED:

Azouz Begag :
Novels for children, Novels and
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1986.

L'arbre ou la maison (Julliard),
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- Albert Bichot Award
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Azouz Begag is a French politician, author, diplomat, and researcher at the CNRS. He taught at the École Centrale de Lyon. He has published several books with Seuil and Fayard, among others.

Mamadou Sow is a young Guinean who arrived in France three years ago.

« A heartbreaking story. A rare testimony of an isolated minor migrant »

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« A poignant testimony and of an extraordinary life force »

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Keep Curious!

In 2001, I launched a lecture program for children aged 10 and over. The idea was to cross-reference children's questions on all subjects with answers from adults such as philosophers, artists and scientists.... Today, these lectures have numbered well over a hundred, and 70 of them have been published by Bayard in the Les petites conférences collection that Frédéric Boyer suggested I create in 2004, directly in the wake of the experiment begun in Montreuil in 2001 with the great Hellenist Jean-Pierre Vernant. Philosophers, astronomers, physicists, botanists, gardeners, musicians, historians, anthropologists, choreographers and even magicians generously lent themselves to the game. Although the topics are open-ended and of interest to all ages, Les Petites Conférences are primarily aimed at children, requiring special attention on the part of the speakers to ensure a strong, effective movement of friendship across the generations. This exchange is made manifest by the question-and-answer session that follows the lecture itself in each volume.

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Collection Director



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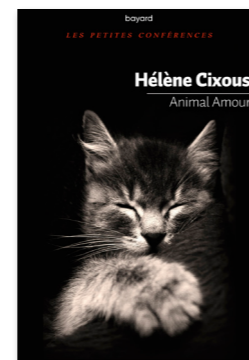


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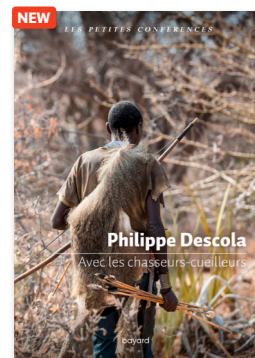


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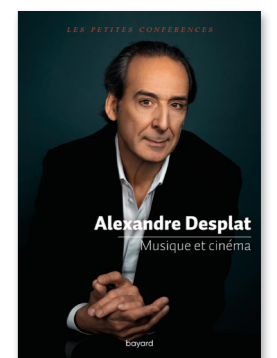


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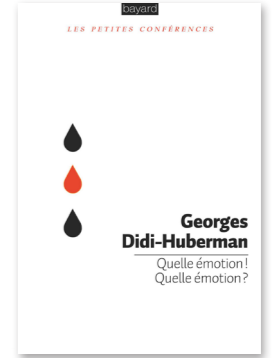
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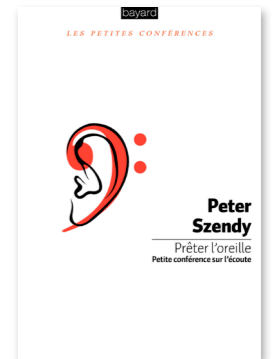
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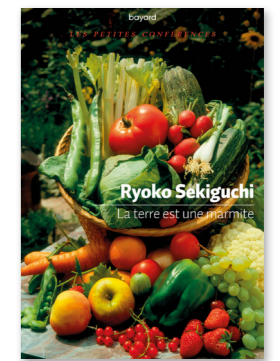


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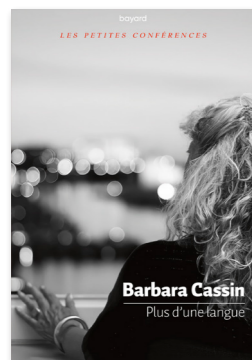
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Les petites conférences - Little Lectures, Backlist

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