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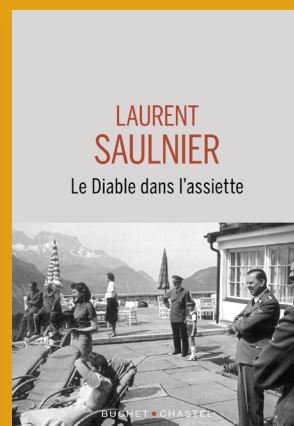
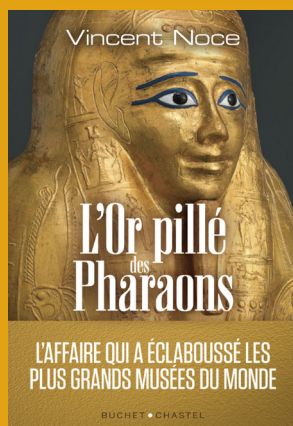
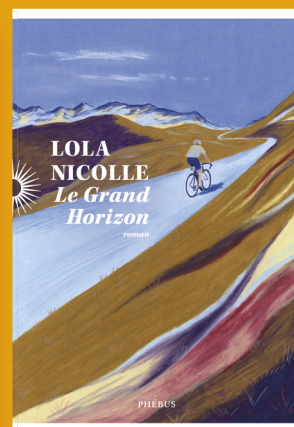


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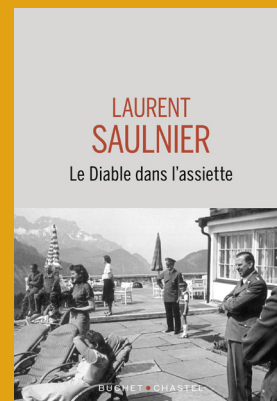
d'écrivains

(From Cocteau to Simenon)

FRENCH FICTION

LE DIABLE DANS L'ASSIETTE (The Devil in the Plate)

Laurent Saulnier



Now the oldest living German, Heinrich Uffen (a fictional character) was Hitler's cook from 1943 to 1945. At the age of 108, as he gets shunted back and forth between hospitals and assisted-living residences, his memories trouble him. The inner monologue that unfolds throughout this novel depicts Uffen's complicated relationship – both sincere and lenient – with his own past; the strangeness of his relationship to contemporary Germany, and his more or less tenuous ties to reality.

Over the course of the spell-binding monologue, Uffen proffers myriad contradictions and ambiguities: although he only came to serve Hitler – whom he refers to as a monster or the devil – after an incredible series of circumstances, he also admits to having appreciated getting to know him. He believes that he is no guiltier than a low-ranking Nazi Party cadre, for instance. And he eventually admits that he saved Hitler's life on July 20, 1944, and is, therefore, somewhat responsible for the war's continuation, but then goes on to regret that Churchill chose the USSR's side rather than the Reich's...

The subject of this novel with profound harmonics is the question of Evil and guilt. Its roots can be found in the author's sustained interest in 20th-century history, totalitarian regimes and World War II. *Le Diable dans l'assiette* required six years of work for Laurent Saulnier.

The story of a centenarian German who is tormented by guilt and who, at the end of his long life, tries in vain to shake it off.

About the author: A photographer and artist in his free time, with *Le Diable dans l'assiette*, Laurent Saulnier is publishing his second novel. Born in Cherbourg, he now lives near Paris.

Translation rights: Italy

Publication date: August 21st, 2025

Number of pages: 368

Retail price: 21 €

Available material: PDF / finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel

L'ENFANT DU VENT DES FÉROÉ (The Child of the Faroe Winds) Aurélien Gautherie



Faroe Islands, 1902: From birth, little Anna seems sickly, as though to prove her mother, Olga's point. Olga had worried about the baby's health throughout her pregnancy, while the doctor just pooh-poohed her wild imagination. The father, Jonas, a modest fisherman, adores his first-born child blindly, while Olga is assailed by more ambivalent feelings. So she appreciates the help that her young sister-in-law kindly gives to her household.

Faroe Islands, 1953: Jonas, who can't imagine living without Anna, senses that he hasn't got long to live, but he wants to hold out for another few hours in order to die on the same day as the daughter he adores.

To recount this family tragedy, everyday objects and the small town where it takes place, speak. And when both people and objects fall silent, the winds talk, in the wake of the free verse that raises Anna to the rank of a tragic heroine.

Faroe Islands, 1902: A family tragedy under a modest fisherman's roof illustrates the extent to which humans are the playthings of the winds that lash at the archipelago.

A gripping tale of loss and love set in the Faroe Islands.

About the author: Born in Alsace in 1983, Aurélien Gautherie – with a degree in sciences of Antiquity, philosophy and ethnology – teaches classics. An inveterate traveler who is curious about everything, he has crisscrossed some forty countries, most of them fairly far north. *L'enfant du vent des Féroé* is his first novel.

Publication date: January 2nd, 2026

Number of pages: 192

Retail price: 20,50 €

Available material: Uncorrected bound proofs / PDF

Worldwide translation rights: Notabilia (Noir sur Blanc)

LES CRÉDITS

(Our Credit Cards Debts)

Damien Peynaud



Forced to sleep at his parents' place one New Year's Eve when a storm is raging, the narrator comes across a family photo that he is not familiar with. The image grabs him, even though stopped looking at them a long time ago. It immerses him in his own history, in the period when time stopped for his family and him.

Les Crédits is neither autobiographical fiction, nor a first-person account or narrative. Its scope extends far beyond the author's own personal case: it is arguably closer to investigative reporting.

Based on an exploration of his private life and memories, this novel examines our tribulations in the material world, our pursuit of happiness and the fragility of our images in the shadow of industry and finance.

Through the portrait of a young father caught in the spiral of massive debt, Damien Peynaud revisits his childhood and depicts the damage consumer society wreaks on his own middle-class family.

About the author: Damien Peynaud grew up in southwestern France. He was a projectionist for many years, and then a movie-theatre manager. With a degree in creative writing from Paris VIII university, *Les Crédits* is his debut novel.

LOGLISTED FOR THE WEPLER- LA POSTE PRIZE
LOGLISTED FOR STANISLAS PRIZE 2025

Publication date: August 21st, 2025

Number of pages: 192

Retail price: 19,90 €

Available material: PDF / finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Notabilia (Noir sur Blanc)

REVENIR A MARIMBAULT (Coming Back to Marimbault) Stéphanie Chaillou



“His brother had called him early one morning. Jean-Noël had recognized his voice immediately. With his cell phone stuck to his cheek, he had felt his pulse start to race. They hadn’t spoken in nearly thirty years. On the skin of his arms, the hairs were standing on end.

Their father was in bad shape. He had to come.

With those words, Jean-Noël got the unpleasant feeling that unwelcome things had entered his home. Bodies, scents, landscapes whose presence he didn’t want. But they were there anyway. They were back. Imposing themselves on him. He thanked his brother politely, then hung up. Without a word about his intentions. Two days later, he was on his way.”

When he was barely 18, a tragic event forced Jean-Noël to leave his home and family. Thirty years later, he goes back to where he grew up. Over six days of a summer heat wave, he will have to face a past that he has long kept at a distance, as the forest encircles him with its disturbing presence.

About the author: An author of both poetry and fiction, this is Stéphanie Chaillou’s fourth novel published by Notabilia.

Publication date: August 21st, 2025

Number of pages: 272

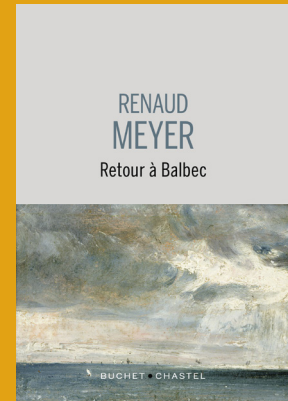
Retail price: 21 €

Available material: PDF / finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Notabilia (Noir sur Blanc)

RETOUR À BALBEC (Balbec Revisited)

Renaud Meyer



World-renowned virtuoso, Samuel Pakhchelian, has set himself a new challenge: playing Debussy's complete piano works in a single, 12-hour-long musical marathon. But on the morning of his recital at New York's Carnegie Hall, he gives up on the idea and disappears from the music scene.

Ten years later, Pakhchelian accepts an invitation from a festival located near Balbec, where he used to spend every summer with his beloved grandmother who raised him and with whom he had an intense bond.

So he returns to the beach of his childhood, where, on the terrace of a venerable hotel, he meets an old lady who looks strangely like his grandmother. As for the elderly woman, she thinks she recognizes in the pianist little Samuel, the gray-eyed boy who used to go to summer camp there. And so a singular relationship is woven between the woman, a writer, and the musician.

By locating his novel in Balbec, the beach resort Marcel Proust invented for his *In Search of Lost Time*, the author leads both us and his characters into a parallel dimension, a suspended space-time where realities subtly interlock like Russian dolls.

Retour à Balbec celebrates the power of books, but first and foremost, it sings the praises of the power of the imagination slumbering inside each of us.

About the author: Renaud Meyer was a journalist before deciding to devote himself to writing and the theatre. He has written several dozen radio plays and published three novels, including *Les Deux Morts de Hannah K* (*Hannah K's Two Deaths*), which was adapted for the stage.

Publication date: August 21st, 2025

Number of pages: 160

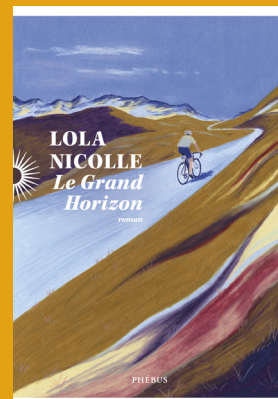
Retail price: 19 €

Available material: PDF / finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel)

LE GRAND HORIZON (The Vast Horizon)

Lola Nicolle



Is it his daredevil tendencies that urge Vincent to join an ultra-distance cycling race when he had no experience in extreme sports? The need for a solo challenge? Curiosity about traveling without a break? One August morning, the father of young children and carpenter by trade, mounts a Genesis Equilibrium, a lighter-than-air black bicycle that meets all the conditions necessary for devouring the 2,500 miles that separates him from the finish line in just two weeks. Because crossing Europe from West to East without support or assistance of any kind is the point of the Transcontinental Race, the insanely challenging race that some hundred thrill-seekers sign up for every year.

Vincent is no more grandiose than any of them, and while his life may sometimes be passing him by, it feels more palpable to him during this attempt to do something extraordinary in the middle of a heat wave, something that leads him past stray dogs, vestiges of Communism and landscapes from a precarious world. As he passes through checkpoints, dangers and near-hallucinatory dreams, what he thought would be a physical trial, a personal legend in action, turns into a reflection on the body, time, alterity, our desires and what we do with them.

The Transcontinental Race (TCR) is an ultra-distance bike race whose goal is to cross Europe in two weeks in the middle of summer. It is the starting point for Lola Nicolle's latest novel. Poetical and political, the text avoids the conventions of adventure tales to explore the notion of surpassing oneself.

About the author: Born in 1992, Lola Nicolle is a publisher (Les Avrils). She is also the author of a book of poetry, *Nous oiseaux de passage* (*We Passing Birds*, 2017) and of a first novel, *Après la fête* (*After the Party*, 2019). *Le Grand Horizon* is her second novel.

LOONGLISTED FOR THE DEUX MAGOTS PRIZE
LOONGLISTED FOR THE JULES RIMET PRIZE

Publication date: August 21st, 2025

Number of pages: 208

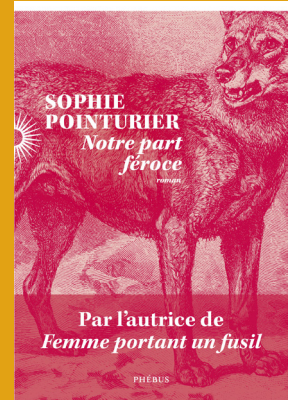
Retail price: 20,50 €

Available material: PDF / finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Phébus

NOTRE PART FÉROCE (Our Fierce Side)

Sophie Pointurier



This story starts with wolves and ends with wolves.

Although for some, childhood is a lost paradise, for Anne, it's an arid land. Fleeing, breaking the chain, living her life is all she wishes for. Having grown up and become a mother, she gets caught up by her past, and an obsession: understanding the woman who raised her alone.

Anne is a journalist. Her latest article, written in reaction to the trial of a hunter who gets tried for having killed a she-wolf, kicks up a media frenzy. Taken off sensitive topics, she leaves Brittany for the south of France to investigate a paranormal phenomenon that occurred forty years earlier. A soft-news story to keep her busy until the media circus moves on. Convinced that she's getting something of a summer vacation, she brings her mother, her daughter and an old friend along for the ride. But as soon as they arrive, strangeness becomes a part of their daily life: unexplained events, coincidences, déjà vu and more. Have Anne's critics decided to show her no mercy? Or is it something else, something older and wilder, that is awakening around her? What start out as an ordinary investigation turns into a disturbing summer that will see the ghosts of her childhood reappear.

A female odyssey, contemporary fable, gripping journey to the heart of a melancholy family and novel about the mythologies and beliefs that inhabit us, *Notre part féroce* asks a question: how far can we go to repair childhood traumas?

About the author: Sophie Pointurier is a professor and researcher; she teaches sign language at Sorbonne-Nouvelle University. Her second novel, *Femme portant un fusil* (*Woman Carrying a Rifle*) was a bookstore and reader favorite. This is her third novel.

SHORTLISTED LISTED FOR JEAN GIONO PRIZE

Publication date: August 21st, 2025

Number of pages: 208

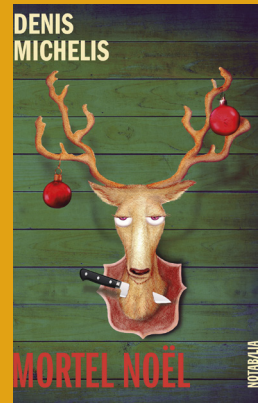
Retail price: 19,90 €

Available material: PDF / finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Phébus

MORTEL NOËL (Deadly Christmas)

Denis Michelis



What could be more terrifying than Christmas with your family?

A sample chalet in the middle of nowhere with a father-in-law who answers to the name Klaus don't seem like good omens, you have to admit. Throw in a mysterious disappearance, an inquisitive grandmother with the gift of ubiquity, and a mother in love, and you've got all the ingredients for a macabre dish to serve up for a perfectly wacky and irresistibly cozy Christmas.

A chalet isolated in the middle of the forest, a dysfunctional blended family, a cumbersome ex-wife, and a (very) disturbed teenaged boy with a caustic tongue... And a very deadly Christmas to you!

What better playground could there be for Denis Michelis, whose pen has been put to serve a hilariously macabre cozy-Christmas-crime story.

About the author: Denis Michelis is a journalist, novelist and translator who lives in Paris. After *Le bon fils* (*The Good Son*) and *La chance que tu as* (*How Lucky You Are*), he published *État d'ivresse* (*Under the influence*), which was well-received both critics and booksellers alike. *The Good Son* was shortlisted for the Médicis Prize and his novel, *Encore une journée divine* (*Another Divine Day*) was adapted for stage in France and will be shown in European countries in 2026.

Publication date: October 2nd, 2025

Number of pages: 144

Retail price: 15 €

Available material: PDF / finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Notabilia (Noir sur Blanc)

NON FICTION

MISTINGUETT

Bruno Fuligni



We usually think of her as a revue headliner and a star of the Moulin Rouge. We didn't know about her career as a spy during World War I. For the love of Maurice Chevalier, who had been taken prisoner by the Germans, Mistinguett worked for the 2nd Bureau, France's military-intelligence agency!

One of her missions was to seduce influential men: the kings of Spain and Italy, and most importantly, the Prince of Hohenlohe, a Prussian diplomat. Through pillow talk, she found out that the German army was preparing a major surprise attack on the evening of July 14 in order to take Paris. Thanks to Mistinguett, that attack never took place – and Germany lost 40,000 men.

Bruno Fuligni dove into previously unpublished documents – police files, passports and more – in order to portray a little known side of “The Miss with the Lovely Legs.” The glittering, rhinestone-and-sequin-covered Parisian star was a veritable secret agent, who, unlike Mata Hari, never got caught !

The double life of Mistinguett, sex symbol and secret agent, is finally revealed.

About the author: Bruno Fuligni, author, historian and associate professor at Sciences Po, has written 35 books about political history and intelligence.

Publication date: August 28th, 2025

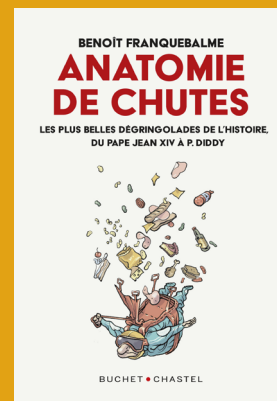
Number of pages: 192

Retail price: 19,90 €

Available material: PDF / Finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel

ANATOMIE DE CHUTES (ANATOMY OF FALLS: From Pope John XIV to Puff Daddy, the most stumbling tumbles in History) Benoît Franquebalme



History is full of tales of conquerors and of those who are better known for crushing defeat. This book focuses on those often-less-than-magnificent losers.

Historical timelines tend to give all the limelight to winners. Benoît Franquebalme, who prefers more slippery slopes, chose to explore the fates of women and men who experienced abrupt reversals of fortune, going from fame to shame in less than no time.

In nearly two dozen portraits, he describes the rise and fall of figures who incarnate the expression the bigger they come, the harder they fall. There are the high-speed falls (Pope John XIV reigned for just eight months!), the falls the concerned parties were in denial about (Richard Nixon stayed confident until the bitter end), the falls that resulted from self-sabotage (after having founded Pink Floyd, Syd Barrett applied himself conscientiously to self-destruction) and more. A person's fall can be resounding or, like a tree's in the woods where no one can hear it; it can represent a stroke of truly bad luck or a chance to hit bottom and bounce back up. In the defeat department, posterity has left us a broad selection, from Gary Coleman to Marco Pantani via Bernard Madoff.

With a lively, funny, entertaining, and reader-friendly style, Benoît Franquebalme puts History in everybody's hands.

About the author: Benoît Franquebalme is a journalist. *Anatomie de Chutes* is his third book demystifying history, after *Ivresses* (*Drunkards*): those times when alcohol changed the face of the earth and *Sales types*: the creeps who changed the course of history.

Publication date: September 4th, 2025

Number of pages: 208

Retail price: 20,50 €

Available material: PDF / Finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel

LES CLÉS DU ROYAUME (The Keys to the Kingdom)

Fabrice Colin



“**A** Songs used to be like keys. You didn’t know what they would open, but once you’d walked through the door, a world revealed itself: somewhere else.

We’re talking about a time when the internet didn’t exist. A time when you used to stumble across a song, an album or a band pretty much on your own. Indie rock: those words meant everything. You would daydream about it, try to picture it, fantasize about it... for days, weeks and months on end. You knew so little, but that next-to-nothing spurred your imagination to soar.

My youth was shaped by those finds and moments of illumination. I had a box of tapes, a few friends, and plenty of time to spare. Melodies, emotions and memories are woven too tightly together to tease them apart.

This book is a chronological description of fifteen years of life and musical finds – from 1986 to 2001. It depicts a time when songs weren’t an end, but a means.”

In the 20th century, music was a kingdom that you discovered by fumbling along without a map or a guide. You walked haphazardly, depending on random encounters and gems, until you found your clan. In *Les clés du royaume*, Fabrice Colin talks about music before the internet, about a youthful quest that has lasted a lifetime: for indie rock.

About the author: Fabrice Colin was born near Paris in 1972. An eclectic author, he has written numerous novels in different genres, ranging from fantasy and sci-fi to police procedurals via YA and general literature. A devoted lover of both music and books, he grew up with indie rock in the 20th century, at the dawn of CDs and before the internet.

Publication date: October 2^d, 2025

Number of pages: 224

Retail price: 19 €

Available material: PDF / Finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel

NE FAITES PLUS D'ÉTUDES ! (Stop going to school !)

Laurent Alexandre
Olivier Babeau



School was the great hope of the meritocracy. It is turning into its trap.

In a world where AI solves clinical problems, codes better than an engineer, and writes dissertations faster than a final-exam taker, our educational system seems hopelessly outmoded.

For Laurent Alexandre and Olivier Babeau, school as we know it has become counter-productive. Not because it's useless, but because the sluggish, hierarchical and rigid educational institution is teaching for a world that no longer exists.

They condemn the illusion of degrees, universities' sluggishness, and the growing disconnection between academic instruction and the skills required in the digital economy. They show how the self-taught, the curious, the quick and the intuitive... those who think and learn "outside the box," will have a head start in a world where adaptability has become a key-word.

As AI is becoming increasingly important in almost every field, in what direction and towards what fields should we be guiding our children?

About the authors: A surgeon and a graduate of France's prestigious ENA with a degree from HEC, **Laurent Alexandre** is the co-founder of Doctissimo, a leading French medical-information website, and the author of several best-selling books about the societal consequences of the spectacular scientific discoveries that are going to profoundly change our lives.

Olivier Babeau is the founder and president of the Sapiens Institute, a think tank devoted to considerations on human beings' place in the technological world. His 3 books were published by Buchet/Chastel.

Publication date: October 16th, 2025

Number of pages: 304

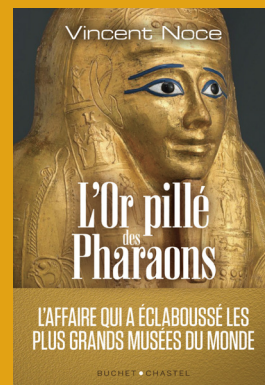
Retail price: 22 €

Available material: PDF / Finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel

L'OR PILLÉ DES PHARAONS (The Plundered Gold of the Pharaohs)

Vincent Noce



May 2022: When Jean-Luc Martinez, former president of the Louvre Museum, is charged with “complicity in organized fraud,” it feels like a cultural earthquake. Two months later, the former scientific director of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Jean-François Charnier’s, is taken in for questioning. For the first time in history, the curators are accused of having approved the purchase of major Pharaonic-period pieces for over €40 million – an extraordinarily rare stele bearing the name of Tutankhamen, and a colossal head attributed to Cleopatra.

The case started with a golden sarcophagus purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of New York that went on to be identified as one that was stolen in Egypt in 2011. That reveals an antiquity-trafficking system of unprecedented scope: at the center of the web, the Simonian family, antiquity traders based in Hamburg, are suspected of having spent decades offloading archaeological treasures that were dissimulated in German museums, with the complicity of Parisian experts and international relays.

From Paris to New York, and London to Dubai, after a 3-year-long investigation, Vincent Noce exposes a tentacular system where colossal fortunes meet forged documents and complicit silence. Through exclusive accounts and judicial archives, this tale trains a light on the dark side of the art market and its key players: a planet-wide pillaging of cultural artifacts that should force museums to reconsider the limits of their quest for prestigious pieces.

A well-documented investigation that reads like a gripping crime novel set behind the scenes at the world’s most-renowned museums.

About the author: Vincent Noce was in charge of the art section for the French daily *Libération* for many years. He now works for the English monthly *The Art Newspaper*. He is also the author of *Descente aux enchères (Auction House Hell)*, which exposed the seamy practices of the renowned Parisian auction house Hôtel Drouot, and *L’Affaire Ruffini* published by Buchet/Chastel.

Publication date: January 8th, 2026

Number of pages: 304

Retail price: 22,50 €

Available material: Uncorrected bound proofs / PDF

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel

J'AVAIS UN RÊVE INDIEN (I had a dream in India)

Prisoner in Gorakhpur's jail)

Valentin Hénault



In 2023, Valentin Hénault was living in India in order to make a documentary about Dalit women. From the untouchable caste, they are frequently beaten, raped and murdered. Anyone who criticizes those barbaric practices gets punished severely. Indeed: having caught the authorities' attention, Valentin Hénault was arrested and thrown in jail. Without interrogation, a lawyer or a chance to call his family.

Locked in the ward for the criminally insane, he encountered noises, smells and images that haunt him to this day. "Shame on me if I ever forget," he said to himself. He forced himself to remember it all in order to write a book about it... if he ever got out. A perspective that receded over time, because, following the Soviet playbook, the authorities accused him of inciting a *coup d'état*. Yet he continued to secretly record the unbelievable fates of his innocent co-inmates. Reading them is heart-breaking, as empathy and anger slug it out: what kind of country can treat human beings this way? And one that Westerners associate with spirituality, no less! Like a film shot with a handheld camera, the narrative intertwines the personal and the political, horror and brotherhood.

A young Frenchman's hellish experience in an Indian prison. Written cinematographically, the text offers a striking portrait gallery and reveals India's dark side. A sheer Indian *Midnight Express* !

About the author: Born in Paris in 1994, Valentin Hénault entered Sciences-Po (one of Paris' most prestigious universities) at the age of 15. Graduated with a Master of Finance at 20, he quit his job at a bank just after 3 weeks. This began a series of initiatory experiences : as a waiter in Naples, a farmhand in one of the most rural parts of France, the manager of a cultural center in Moldavia and above all, a documentary filmmaker.

Publication date: January 15th, 2026

Number of pages: 224

Retail price: 22,50 €

Available material: Uncorrected bound proofs / PDF

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Buchet/Chastel

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

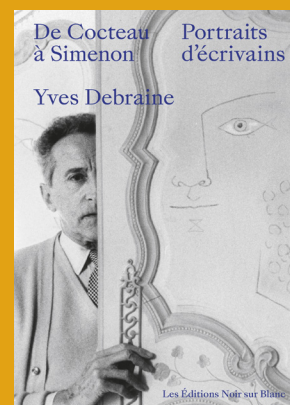
DE COCTEAU A SIMENON

Portraits d'écrivains

(From Cocteau to Simenon

Writers' portraits)

Yves Debraine



The Franco-Swiss photographer Yves Debraine contributed to the most prestigious national and international periodicals. Reflecting his taste for literature, his archives contain a great many portraits of writers from around the world. Debraine was the personal photographer of both Charlie Chaplin and Georges Simenon. That latter relationship allowed him to document the one and only encounter between Simenon, the creator of Inspector Maigret, and Ian Fleming, who created James Bond ! Jean Giono so admired the photographer's skill that he devoted several pages to him in his *Notes sur l'affaire Dominici* (*Notes on the Dominici Case*).

Jean Cocteau, Vladimir Nabokov, Albert Cohen, John Le Carré, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Ella Maillart and Jacques Chessex all enjoyed posing for Yves Debraine, who, in Simenon's words, "operated painlessly." The black-and-white pictures reproduced in the book were taken from 1950 to 1990.

About the authors: Born in France, **Yves Debraine** (1925-2011) moved to Switzerland in 1948, and soon established himself as a talented photo-journalist. He contributed to the Swiss and international press, including the *Time-Life* group in the U.S.A., for decades. He founded several photography agencies and periodicals. He was the official photographer of both Charlie Chaplin and the well-known French detective-novel author Georges Simenon as well as the Piccard family of scholarly adventurers.

Journalist and curator **Luc Debraine** manages his father's vast photographic archive. France and Ukraine. His work is in public and private collections in France and abroad.

Publication date: October 2^d, 2025

Number of pages: 208

Retail price: 29 €

Available material: PDF / Finished copy

Worldwide translation rights: Éditions Noir sur Blanc

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