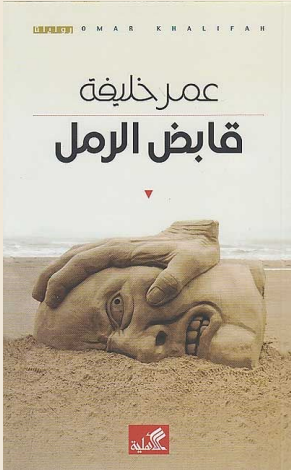


Foreign Rights Catalogue

Highlights for the Frankfurt Book Fair 2022

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Sand-catcher

Omar Khalifah

DEBUT-NOVELIST

A dark-humored fable on Palestinian identity, exile and collective memory.

The events of the novel turn upon the travails of four Palestinian journalists employed at a Jordanian newspaper and tasked with producing a report for the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the cataclysm that upended Palestine in 1948. They are initially confident in the outcome of their assignment to interview an elderly Palestinian who is the last surviving member of his family to have witnessed the catastrophe known as the *Nakba*. Very soon, however, they are rudely confronted by his seemingly perverse refusal to speak to them - or to anyone - about his background. After the journalists' feet are held to the fire by their editor-in-chief, they grow increasingly desperate to wrest the old man's story from him.

Omar Khalifah's first novel is a breath of fresh air in the Arabic literary landscape. With a well-conducted plot and a sarcastic tone, fairly uncommon in Arabic literature, the writer reflects on the Palestinian identity, in all its nuanced diversity, exile and collective memory, topics that are also at the heart of his academic research.

About the author

Of Palestinian background, Omar Khalifah grew up in Jordan. He holds a PhD from Columbia University and currently teaches Arabic literature and culture at Georgetown University's Qatar campus. His previous publications include *Nasser in the Egyptian Imaginary* (Edinburgh University Press, 2017) and a short story collection, *Ka'annani Ana (As if I Were Myself)*, published in 2010. *Sand-catcher* is his first novel.

« Omar Khalifah surprises his readers with tightly-wrought prose, succinct and dense. » Katia Tawil, *The Independent*

- **Publisher:** Dar al-Ahliya (Jordan)
- **Material available:** full text in Arabic and in English - 206 pages

Titles from the backlist:

- *As if I were me*, a collection of short stories

MONTE-

CHARGE

CULTUREL

Fantastique histoire d'amour

Sophie Divry

Happy love stories are rare in literature, but Sophie Divry rises to the challenge by portraying two lonely souls who are yet to meet.

The action takes place in 2016 in Lyon. Bastien Fontaine is a labour inspector who has not recovered from a recent breakup, vaguely inclined to alcohol and slightly misanthropic. Maïa di Natale is a science journalist, motherless, determined and melancholic. Both are confronted with professional difficulties: Fontaine is very disturbed by a work accident that caused the death of a worker, the circumstances of which remain mysterious. As for Maïa, she must face the increasing demands of profitability of the science magazine she works for. For these two lonely souls, their social life is of little comfort.

In an alternation of chapters that adopt in turn the points of view of Bastien and Maïa, Sophie Divry reinvents the love story by recounting the destiny of two solitudes on the verge of bonding. With her characteristic sociological eye, she also portrays contemporary France, the post-terrorist attack atmosphere, the work culture, the relationship between men and women... As for the resolutely fantastic tinge of this sixth novel, it fits in well with the literary enterprise of the author, who likes to play with genres.

About the author

Sophie Divry worked as a journalist for several years before devoting herself entirely to writing novels. Her first book, *La Cote 400* (2010), was published by Les Allusifs. It was followed by the publication of five other novels, like *La Condition Pavillonnaire* (Notabilia, 2015), special mention of the Prix Wepler, an essay and a collection of testimonies. Her work has been translated into several languages and unanimously acclaimed by critics.

« Sophie Divry's novels, so spectacularly different from each other, bring an invigorating air to the literary scene. » Raphaëlle Leyris, Le Monde

« Because she is innovative, ambitious and generous, Sophie Divry's work is to be discovered unconditionally. » Estelle Lenartowicz, L'Express

- **Publisher:** Christian Bourgois (France)
- **Material available:** Full text in French

Titles from the backlist:

- *Cinq mains coupées*, the testimonies of five protestors mutilated during the Yellow Vest movement.
- *Trois fois la fin du monde*, a Robinson Crusoe of modern times forced to survive in a post-nuclear catastrophe world.
- *Curiosity*, the humorous and metaphysical monologue of a NASA exploring Mars.



Le bouclier de Marie

Marie Rebour

DEBUT-NOVELIST

An unprecedented autopsy of traumatic amnesia and the long way towards healing.

Marie Rebour's first book narrates a long-hidden and repressed story. Between 5 and 8 years old, the narrator was victim of sexual assault from her cousin, 10 years her senior. To move past this childhood trauma, despite the wound, her body and mind will establish survival mechanisms that she designates as her shield.

When the memories come back, the brain rejects them. As for the body, it develops a formidable defense: rejecting any physical contact. Affected by amnesia, the narrator ignores the reason for her aversion while the reader, aware of her past experiences, keeps on discovering her story.

Le bouclier de Marie advances chronologically and follows the narrator from early childhood to adulthood, through adolescence, years in university, her first job... Devoid of pathos or embellishments, it depicts the effects of trauma in every aspect of her life. Revisiting the past, the book is also turned to the future as it tells a story of a slow reconstruction. The final chapter, inspired by nature writing, focuses on Marie's stay in a sled dog farm in Lapponia, an experience close to nature that has been instrumental to her reconstruction.

About the author

Marie Rebour was born in 1982 in the suburbs of Lyon. She grew up in the countryside, in the South of France. A hydrogeologist by training, she practiced her profession for several years in Limoges and now lives on a farm in Haute-Savoie. Her first book, *Le bouclier de Marie* will be published by Editions Philippe Rey in January 2023.

« Marie Rebour unfolds many untold experiences related to traumatic amnesia, a phenomenon rarely brought to light: she tells, without analysis. A real contribution to the #MeToo debate and a dive into the abyss [...]. » Sophie Divry

- **Publisher:** Philippe Rey (France)
- **Material available:** Full text in French and short excerpt in English; 140 pages



Je suis Jésus

Giosuè Calaciura

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A first-person narrative, full of twists and turns, that reveals the internal turmoil of the infamous young prophet.

Jesus, the narrator, recounts his life. He lives in Nazareth with his mother, who had him at a very young age, and his father, Joseph, a taciturn carpenter. When Joseph abandons his family without a trace, Jesus decides to go after him and embarks on an epic journey.

He is surrounded by brutal Roman rule, the religious authority of priests, the misery of those without even an olive to eat, the arrogance of the rich and powerful...It is a restless time, and only a boy searching for himself, tormented by desire and anxiety about the future, is capable of sensing the pulsing undercurrent of an approaching revolution he will become the leader of.

With this novel structured like a TV series, punctuated by twists and turns, innervated by a constant tension, Giosuè Calaciura reinvents one of the greatest story ever told.

About the author

Giosuè Calaciura, born in Palermo in 1960, is a prolific writer. He has published 13 books since his debut novel *Malacarne* (Sellerio, 1998). With a background in journalism, he draws inspiration from the reality of his homeland, Sicily. In 2017, his novel *Borgo Vecchio* was awarded the prestigious Volponi Prize. His work is translated in French, German and Spanish.

« A skilful and often surprising biofiction in which the Italian writer transforms the formative years of the "Carpenter's son" into a psychic adventure full of twists and turns. » Florence Bouchy, Le Monde

« But how does he do it? How does he manage to captivate us, to capture us? [...] Giosuè Calaciura's powerful story freely "invents" a tormented Jesus, burdened by a destiny he ignores. »

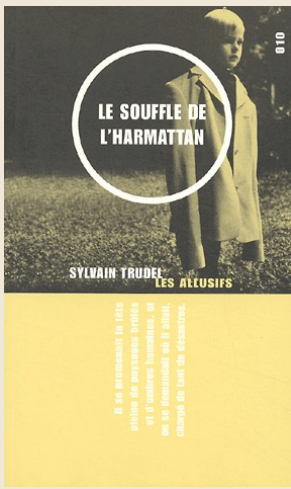
Emmanuelle Giuliani, La Croix

« Calaciura imagines what no gospel mentions and restores, in a limpid and luminous language, a vulnerable Jesus, man among men. » Véronique Cassarin-Grand, L'Obs

- **Publishers:** Sellerio (Italy); Editorial Periférica (Spain); Converso (Germany); Notabilia (France)
- **Awards:** Premio stresa della narrativa; Premio Racalmare Leonardo Sciascia; Premio Alvaro-Bigiaretti
- **Material available:** Full text in Italian and in French; 352 pages

Titles from the backlist:

- *Malacarne*, a mafia story like no other mafia story.
- *Borgo Vecchio*, a melodramatic fable and heartfelt portrait of Southern Italy.
- *Sgobbo*, a deep dive into the daily life of an African prostitute in Sicily.
- *Pantelleria*, an intimate and magical discovery of the Italian island at the crossroad of cultures.



Le souffle de l'harmattan

Sylvain Trudel

ENGLISH RIGHTS ACQUIRED IN 2022

RANKED IN THE TOP-10
BEST QUEBECER BOOK OF THE DECADE

Between childhood illusions and the end of innocence, two friends from different cultural backgrounds dream of exile and new beginnings.

Le souffle de l'harmattan is the story of a chosen brotherhood, not imposed by blood - a new brotherhood shaped by haped by shared dreams and wounds.

Habéké Axoum, a young African survivor of "a war of men added to the drought of God", finds himself in Canada after having seen his family die, but the well-being of his new material life cannot make him forget the past or silence his aspiration to find ltyopya, his mythical homeland.

In his mad quest, Habéké meets Hugues Francoeur, an orphan raised in a foster family and the narrator Together, they will try by all means to escape from the vulgarity, stupidity, violence and latent racism that surround them. A moving and disturbing story that constantly balances between lucidity and hallucinatory thoughts.

About the author

Sylvain Trudel was born in Montréal in 1963. He is the author of multiple children's books, collections of short stories and novels, among them *Du mercure sous la langue* (Les Allusifs, 2001) and *Le Souffle de l'Harmattan* (Les Allusifs, 2002) . Awarded many times for his pieces, he received the Prix des libraires du Québec for *Du mercure sous la langue*.

« Put this book on your rereading or reading list, along with *L'éducation sentimentale de Flaubert*. » Pierre Yergeau, writer

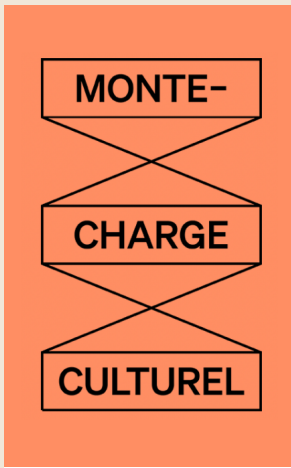
« A fresh little novel, teeming with life, of uncommon strength, to be situated somewhere between *Émile Ajar* and *Réjean Ducharme*. » Gilles Marcotte, L'actualité

« What a beautiful story! And what a fervor... This first novel is a beautiful bouquet of emotions, sometimes serious and sometimes cheerful, composed with constant care.»
Réginald Martel, La Presse

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- **Publishers:** Les Allusifs (Québec); 10/18 (France); Archipelago (USA)
 - **Award:** Prix Canada-Suisse; Prix Molson de l'Académie des Lettres du Québec
 - **Material available:** Full text in french; 168 pages

Titles from the backlist:

- *Du mercure sous la langue*, the monologue of a dying 17-year-old who spins out hallucinatory thoughts, nihilist poetry and metaphysical reflections



Comment ne pas devenir un écrivain voyageur

Adrien Blouët

The "Lost in Translation" experience of a French writer stuck in Japan for several months

In this collection of stories, the writer recounts his adventures during a trip to Japan where nothing seems to go as planned. Everything in the collection « is true, barely invented »; but it would be misguided to ignore Adrien Blouët's masterful play with the limits between fiction and reality.

Isolated in some instances either by his status as a foreigner or by the challenging COVID-19 pandemic, the author describes an uncertain world where one cannot know whether the boats can leave the ports; a country both familiar and foreign, where Japanese legends evoke *Pokémon*. *Comment ne pas devenir écrivain voyageur* dwells on « the impermanence of the things that bring to the Japanese lifestyle its particularity », an impermanence emphasized by an eloquent and striking account of the events of 2020. The author's anecdotes on his life in Japan, as well as the elements from the country's culture, give us a unique perspective on the country without its tourists.

About the author

Adrien Blouët, born in 1992, studied in Paris' Beaux Arts before attending Offshore school in Shanghai. His first novel, *L'Absence de ciel* was published by Notabilia and selected for The Prix du Premier Roman and the Prix Envoyé par la poste 2019. His second novel, *Les immeubles de fer* came out in France in October 2021 and was published by Notabilia.

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- **Publisher:** Notabilia (France)
 - **Material available:** Full text in French; 120 pages



Svetislav Basara, the trouble-maker of Serbian literature

Svetislav Basara is a writer, editor and former diplomat. Hailed as one of Serbia's most influential living writers, his scathing critiques of authoritarianism have twice won him Serbia's prestigious NIN Award. He is the author of around thirty novels, short story collections, and essays translated in 10 languages. His writing has been praised for its caustic humor, its intellectual irreverence, and its impressive depiction of the absurd.

About Mongolian travel guide :

« A brilliant book by an author who shows himself capable of making fun of everything. »

Enrique Vila-Matas

« [Basara] goes on a mission, lays mines, shakes certainties, sabotages reality through the absurd. »

Xavier Lapeyroux, Le Monde

« Basara is to literature what Kusturica is to cinema: a madman, a genius, a libertarian, an entertainer, a brazen, a sentimental. »

Martine Laval, Télérama

Selected titles from the backlist:

Mongolian travel guide

The narrator receives a letter in which a friend who has just committed suicide offers him to go to Mongolia in his place, in order to write a guide to the country. He embarks, along with the reader, in a metaphysical journey full of humor and fantasy where fiction and reality constantly collide.

Publishers: Dalkey Archive (USA), Dereta (Serbia), De Geus (Netherlands), Kunstmann (Germany), Les Allusifs (Québec), Minuscula (Spain), 10/18 (France), Quodlibet (Italy)

Rise and Fall of Parkinson's disease

Told as an eclectic collection of appropriated testimonies, treatises, missives, and police files, this novel follows the progression of the contagion's patient zero, a Soviet citizen (sometimes) named Demyan Lavrentyevich Parkinson, as he ascends from hellish health to the sacred illness.

Publishers: Dereta (Serbie), Dalkey Archive (USA),

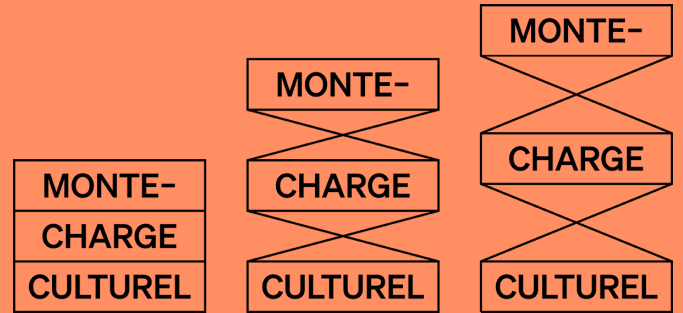
Awards: NIN Award for best novel of the year

The Angel of the Attack

Archduke Francois-Ferdinand of Austria, assassinated in Sarajevo in 1914 by Gabriel Principe, a young Serbian anarchist, posthumously dictates his memoirs to his secretary. With his usual caustic humour, the author dismantles the stereotypes of accepted historical interpretations and offers his own vision of the events and causes that led Europe to the First World War.

Publishers: Laguna (Serbia), Automática Editorial (Spain), Helikon (Bulgaria),

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