



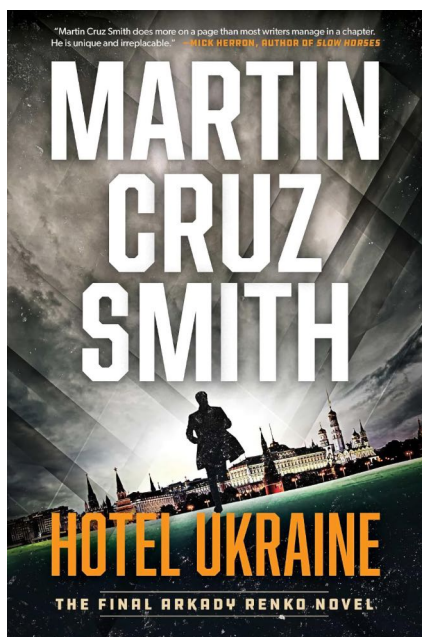
# From the Library - De la bibliothèque

## The Bookshelf Chronicles

## Chroniques des étagères

October - Octobre 2025

### Featured Book of the Month



*While the invasion of Ukraine by Russia still continues this is a book that perhaps everyone should read. We know what the news tells us and we have seen the images on our television screens, but this is different.*

*Certainly it is fiction but that is hard to believe, the story is so masterfully told that it brings to life what it must have like to live in Ukraine during the first days of the invasion. It brings into sharp focus the depravity of Putin, the FSB and the shystem that allows such dreadful things to happen.*

*Fiction yes, but very readable, told by a master storyteller who knows his subject. I cannot recommend it highly enough. A MUST read if ever there was one.*

**Richard G**

### Hotel Ukraine by Martin Cruz Smith

The 11th and final installment in the Arkady Renko series that began with Gorky Park in 1981.

The Russian homicide detective has lived under communism, witnessed its fall, and now lives during Vladimir Putin's reign. As Russia launches its "special military operation" against Ukraine, Renko must investigate the brutal murder of the deputy minister of defense in Moscow's Hotel Ukraine. Apparently, two people bashed his head in using two different types of weapons. Adding to the challenge, Renko suffers from Parkinson's disease, making it increasingly difficult to function. He knows it will only get worse, though he insists he's not an invalid. His adopted son says, "Even with Parkinson's you're the best they've got." Meanwhile, he's in love with Tatiana Petrovna, a Moscow-based correspondent for the New York Times who hates injustice and is "constitutionally incapable of seeing a bear without poking it." She wants to report on Bucha, a Ukrainian city that suffered horrific destruction at the hands of the Russians. Renko's investigation takes him there as well. Is the killing tied in with the invasion? Renko and Petrovna take extraordinary risks for the sake of finding the truth. The unseen presence above it all is Putin, and anyone who threatens him might as well drink tea mixed with heartbreak grass, a deadly poison said to have been used on some of his enemies. Renko and Tatiana both face that threat as they peer into the abyss of death. Aside from the action scenes, Renko offers interesting observations. He is "Russian to his core," although love of country does not extend to love of its leaders. He thinks the only book that explains his beloved country is Alice in Wonderland. And he opines on the "fundamental truth" about love, that it means wanting what's best for the other over yourself. Given their tribulations and given that this book finishes the series, the ending could be tragic or hopeful. Either way, Arkady Renko's career is complete. Author Martin Cruz Smith has had Parkinson's for decades and says this is his last book.

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*Few English language storytellers grasped this region as acutely as Martin Cruz Smith. He wrote mysteries with incredibly clarity and gave many readers the gift of experiencing remote locales they'll never visit. Smith suffers from Parkinson's himself and after forty-five years of entertaining and teaching us through his novels, this is likely where the brilliant author and classic character exit the literary stage. This part of the world is as relevant in 2025 as it was in 1980 and even being the last book in a long-running series, Hotel Ukraine serves as a suitable entry point for new readers. They may not jump, pace, cry and cheer with the passion of long-time fans, but this is a magnificent work of mystery writing for us all.*

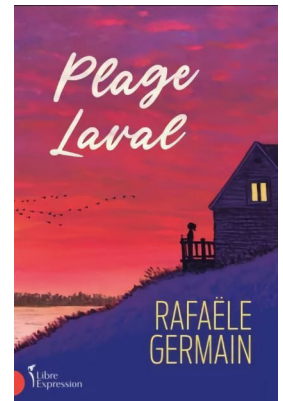
Ryan Davison, Open Letters Review

## Plage Laval - Rafaele Germain

ROM G372

Lorsque le père de sa fille la quitte après 25 ans de vie commune, Laurence décide de s'installer dans un vieux chalet sur le bord de l'eau. Elle veut retrouver une saine solitude or c'est un superbe voyage qui commence pour elle, à travers les rencontres du voisinage tissé serré. Et de sa fille qui vient la rejoindre, avec sa bande d'amies. C'est un roman de reconstruction, bien écrit avec une dose d'humour, réaliste et surtout très humain. J'ai adoré ce livre plein d'émotions, d'entraide et de bienveillance.

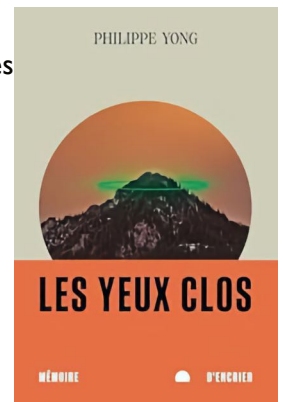
Revu par Sylvie Fournier



## Les yeux clos - Philippe Yong

ROMY55

Journaliste parisien, Alex Delcourt abandonne son confort bourgeois. Au fil des routes et des paysages, il voit sa vision du monde ébranlée par les lépreux de l'âge technologique, les gens qui ont suivi les indications d'un GPS jusqu'à la mort, les malades électrosensibles et les enfants frappés du syndrome de résignation. Les yeux clos donne à lire une introspection sur fond de tragédie d'une Amérique hantée par ses excès.. Né en France, Philippe Yong vit et enseigne la littérature à Montréal. Les yeux clos est son deuxième roman..

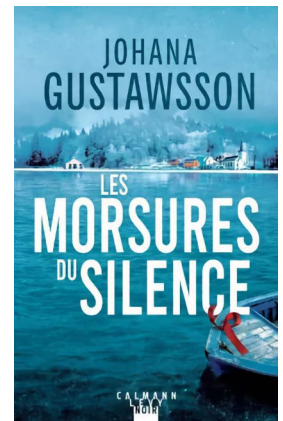


## Les morsures du silence - Johana Gustawsson

ROM G982

Vêtu d'une aube blanche et coiffé de bougies, un adolescent est retrouvé le crâne fracassé sur l'île de Lidingö, qui fait face à Stockholm. Or vingt-trois ans plus tôt, une jeune fille a été découverte assassinée elle aussi, au même endroit, dans le même costume traditionnellement destiné à fêter la Sainte-Lucie. À l'époque, le petit ami de la victime avait été condamné pour ce meurtre qu'il a toujours nié. Était-il innocent ? Le véritable coupable aurait-il frappé à nouveau ? Mais pourquoi maintenant ? Le commissaire Aleksander Storm, avec l'aide inattendue de la policière française Maïa Rehn récemment installée en Suède, va obstinément tenter de démêler les fils de cette énigme. Et mettre au jour un secret enfoui depuis si longtemps qu'il a fait bien des ravages.

Un thriller glaçant et impitoyable où le lecteur devient lui-même l'enquêteur, obsédé par l'envie de résoudre les mystères de cette affaires.

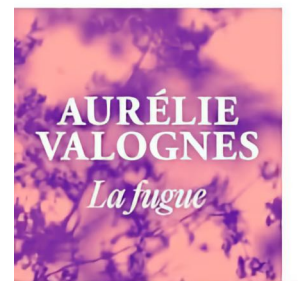


## La fugue - Aurélie Valognes

ROMVI98

On a tous un jour eu envie de partir, de claquer la porte, de tout quitter. Inès, mariée, deux enfants, arrivée à la moitié de sa vie, se sent arrivée nulle part. Elle porte, gère, s'oublie. Et on l'oublie. Emprisonnée dans une existence qui ne lui correspond plus, un jour, elle part.

Dans la solitude d'une nature sauvage, elle trouve un lieu à elle : une maison, où le temps semble s'être arrêté, et qu'elle décide de retaper. En pansant les cicatrices de la maison, Inès va commencer à soigner les siennes. Parce que partir, c'est parfois la seule manière de se revenir. Un hymne à la vie qui peut toujours recommencer, à la sororité qui permet d'avancer. Le nouveau roman d'une écrivaine qui ne cesse de se réinventer pour mieux nous raconter.



10 ans  
de romans  
5 millions  
de lecteurs

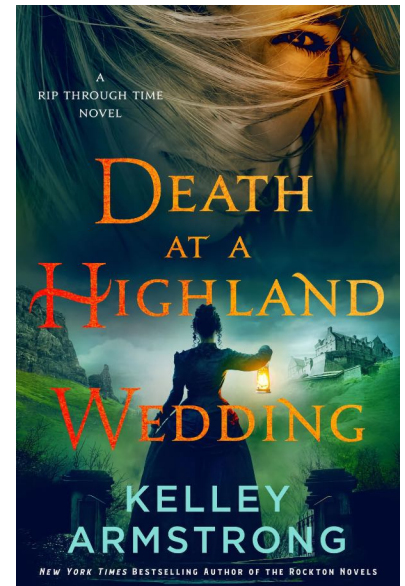




## Death at a highland wedding by Kelley Armstrong A736

After slipping 150 years into the past, modern-day homicide detective Mallory Atkinson has embraced her new life in Victorian Scotland as housemaid Catriona Mitchel. Although it isn't what she expected, she's developed real, meaningful relationships with the people around her and has come to love her role as assistant to undertaker Dr. Duncan Gray and Detective Hugh McCreadie.

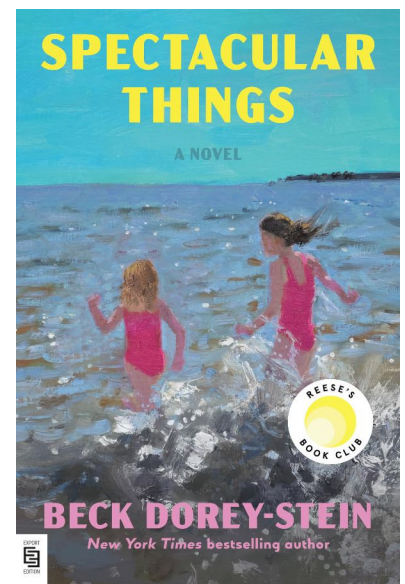
Mallory, Gray, and McCreadie are on their way to the Scottish Highlands for McCreadie's younger sister's wedding. The McCreadies and the groom's family, the Cranstons, have a complicated history which has made the weekend quite uncomfortable. But the Cranston estate is beautiful so Gray and Mallory decide to escape the stifling company and set off to explore the castle and surrounding wilderness. They discover that the groom, Archie Cranston, a slightly pompous and prickly man, has set up deadly traps in the woods for the endangered Scottish wildcats, and they soon come across a cat who's been caught and severely injured. Oddly, Mallory notices the cat's injuries don't match up with the intricacies of the trap. These strange irregularities, combined with the secretive and erratic behavior of the groom, put Mallory and Duncan on edge. And then when one of the guests is murdered, they must work fast to uncover the murderer before another life is lost.



## Spectacular things by Beck Dorey-Stein D695

Mia and Cricket have always been close. The gifted daughters of a young single mother, the "Lowe girls" are well-known in the small Maine town they call home. Each sister has a role to fill: The responsible and academically minded Mia assumes the position of caregiver far too young, while Cricket, a bouncing ball of energy and talent, seems born for soccer stardom. But the cost of achieving athletic greatness comes at a steep price. As Mia and Cricket grow up, they must grapple with the legacy of their mother's secret past while navigating their own precarious future. Can Mia allow herself to fall in love at the risk of repeating a terrible history? Will Cricket's relentless chase of a lifelong goal drive her sister away? When does loyalty become self-sabotage?

A sharply observed and tender portrait of sisters, love, and ambition, *Spectacular Things* is a sweeping story about the impossible choices we're forced to make in pursuit of our dreams.

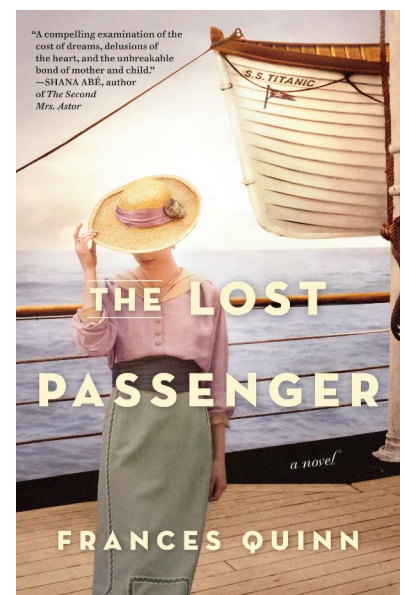


## The lost passenger by Frances Quinn Q7

Marrying above your social class can come with unexpected consequences, as Elinor Coombes discovers when she is swept into a fairy-tale marriage with the son of English aristocrats. But she realizes too late that it was the appeal of her father's hard-earned wealth rather than her own pretty face that attracted her new husband and his family. Ground down by rigid social rules that include her being allowed to see her nanny-raised infant son for only moments each day, Elinor faces a lonely future. But a present from her father—tickets for the maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic, a luxurious new ocean liner—offers a welcome escape from the cold, controlling atmosphere of her husband's ancestral home, and some precious time with her little son, Teddy.

After the ship goes down, Elinor grasps at the chance to take Teddy and start a new life in America. They can disappear completely if they are listed among the dead. After stealing another woman's identity, a now penniless Elinor must put that terrible night behind her and learn to survive in a brash new world that couldn't be more different from her own. And when a face from the past appears, she must risk everything to keep her secret—and her son.

An absorbing historical drama set between the hidebound traditions of the English aristocracy and the opportunities of a bustling young city, *The Lost Passenger* is a gripping and dramatic story about grabbing your chances with both hands, and being brave enough to find out who you really are.

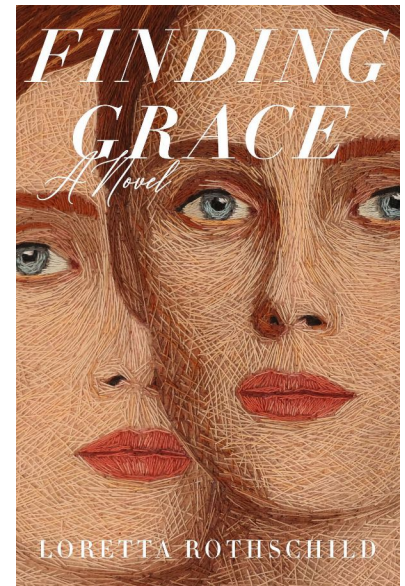


## Finding Grace by Loretta Rothschild R847

Honor seems to have everything: she adores her bright and beautiful daughter, Chloe, and her charming, handsome husband, Tom, even if he works one hundred hours a week. Yet Honor's longing for another baby threatens to eclipse all of it—until a shocking event changes their lives forever.

Years later, Tom makes a decision that ripples through their families' lives in ways he could never have foreseen. As the consequences of that fateful choice unfold, two women's paths become irrevocably intertwined. But when old love clashes with new, who will be left standing? And what happens when your secrets come back to haunt you?

Blending a page-turning moral dilemma with satisfying emotional poignancy, *Finding Grace* is a sweeping love story that explores the price of a new beginning, how the ghosts of our past shape our future, and whether redemption can be found in the wreckage of what we've lost.



## Retour à Pasaia - Aroa Moreno Duran ROM M843

Un récit à trois voix bouleversant sur fond de fresque historique au Pays basque des années 1930 à nos jours.

Aroa Morèno Durán explore avec finesse la transmission des blessures familiales et l'opacité du patrimoine dans un récit féminin des plus poignants

« Une voix très personnelle, lumineuse et lucide. » *El País* « Un grand roman, qui nous montre comment nous serons pour toujours les enfants des turbulences de l'Histoire » *El Correo Gallego* Lorsqu'elle apprend que sa grand-mère est mourante, Adirane quitte Madrid pour retourner dans la maison de son enfance à Pasaia, village de pêcheurs sur la côte basque espagnole. Espère-t-elle élucider le mystère d'une tragédie qui hante sa famille depuis la guerre civile ? Ou renouer avec sa propre mère, qui vit toujours là ? Tandis...

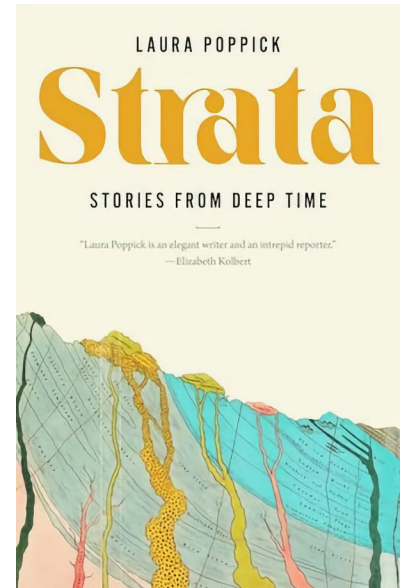






## Strata - Laura Poppick

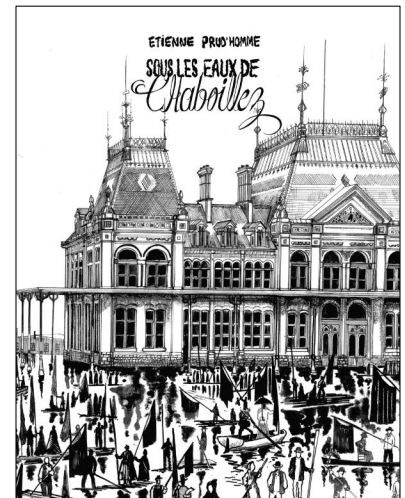
This book about Earth's endless stacks of rock and sediment begins with a quote from famed environmentalist Rachel Carson. "The sediments are a sort of epic poem of the earth. When we are wise enough, perhaps we can read in them all of past history." Author Poppick, a science journalist, methodically, yet gracefully, brings the reader through much of that now-understood past. As she writes, "Beyond an accrual of knowledge, I have found that my own understanding of strata has given me a deeper and still deepening love of Earth in all its layered complexity." Since Carson's death, in 1964, Poppick notes, we have found that oxygen appeared only halfway through Earth's existence, when cyanobacteria, the "greatest environmental engineers in the planet's history," began using solar energy to "turn sunshine into sugar" by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen. The following eruptions of oxygen, when aided by the rise of "solar panels" of protective manganese, let cyanobacteria rewrite "the chemical composition of the Earth from the seafloor to stratosphere," ultimately generating literal oceans of multicellular life. Turgid but relentless glacier invasions then dislodged and stirred that life to "explode and diversify." And the mud that oozed out of rewarming oceans finally expelled life onto land. Understanding how the Earth reacts to change wasn't always considered central. Now, in the era of climate change, it is viewed as vital. For the ancient past has taught us that ecosystems can adapt to change at a slow rate. "But," Poppick concludes, quoting a farsighted geologist, "the minute you start ramping the rates up, that's when we start seeing extinctions."



A lyrical book that will appeal to science and literature buffs alike.

## Sous les eaux de Chaboillez - Étienne Prud'homme BD ROM P471

Ce roman graphique poétique retrace l'histoire fascinante d'un coin méconnu de Montréal : le carré Chaboillez, plaque tournante d'un quartier aujourd'hui mieux connu sous le nom de Griffintown. Espace public avorté et maltraité, ce lieu porte en lui les échos de deux siècles de transformations incessantes. À la croisée de trois faubourgs, d'anciens marais et de rivières ensevelies, il fût tour à tour refuge, carrefour industriel et terrain de jeu pour des promoteurs audacieux et avarés, comme l'odieux personnage historique du livre, Séraphin Rodier. De l'arrivée du chemin de fer à l'ivresse des tavernes meurtrières de la Dow, des boulevards démesurés aux autoroutes souterraines, des inondations répétées aux incendies dévastateurs, cet impressionnant travail pictural inspiré, du réalisme poétique de l'illustrateur Gustave Doré et de Tardi, explore les traces et les absences d'un quartier qui n'a cessé de se réinventer.



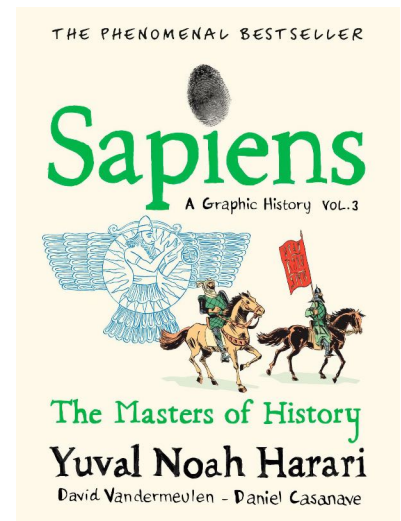
Fruit d'un impressionnant travail d'illustration onirique inspiré de documents archivistiques d'époque et de gravures parfois partielles, *Sous les eaux de Chaboillez* d'Étienne Prud'homme superpose faits historiques et fiction en reconstituant le passé caché d'un Montréal urbain, rêvé et désenchanté.

## **Sapiens (The masters of history) by Yuval Noah Harari GR 909 H254**

The third volume of Sapiens: A Graphic History: the epic, beautifully illustrated graphic history of humankind, based on Yuval Noah Harari's internationally bestselling phenomenon.

Homo sapiens rules the world because it is the only animal that can believe in things that exist purely in its own imagination, such as gods, states, money, and human rights. Starting from this provocative idea, Sapiens goes on to retell the history of our species from a completely fresh perspective. It explains that money is the most pluralistic system of mutual trust ever devised; that capitalism is the most successful religion ever invented; that the treatment of animals in modern agriculture is probably the worst crime in history; and that even though we are far more powerful than our ancient ancestors, we aren't much happier.

By combining profound insights with a remarkably vivid language, Sapiens acquired cult status among diverse audiences, captivating teenagers as well as university professors, animal rights activists alongside government ministers.



## **The art spy by Michelle Young 940.53 Y74**

A riveting and stylish saga set in Paris during World War II, The Art Spy uncovers how an unlikely heroine infiltrated the Nazi leadership to save the world's most treasured masterpieces.

On August 25, 1944, Rose Valland, a woman of quiet daring, found herself in a desperate position. From the windows of her beloved Jeu de Paume museum, where she had worked and ultimately spied, she could see the battle to liberate Paris thundering around her. The Jeu de Paume, co-opted by Nazi leadership, was now the Germans' final line of defense. Would the museum curator be killed before she could tell the truth—a story that would mean nothing less than saving humanity's cultural inheritance?

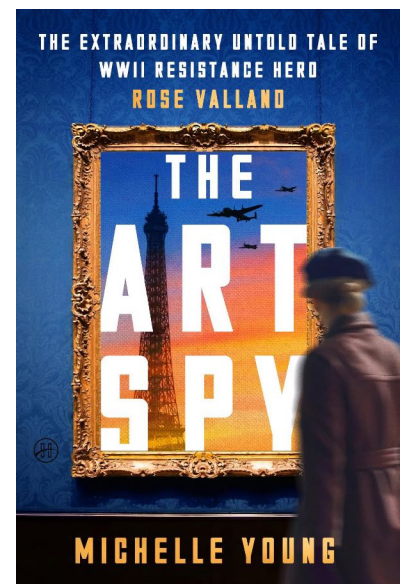
Based on troves of previously undiscovered documents, The Art Spy chronicles the brave actions of the key Resistance spy in the heart of the Nazi's art looting headquarters in the French capital. A veritable female Monuments Man, Valland has, until now, been written out of the annals, despite bearing witness to history's largest art theft. While Hitler was amassing stolen art for his future Führermuseum, Valland, his undercover adversary, secretly worked to stop him.

At every stage of World War II, Valland was front and center. She came face to face with Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, passed crucial information to the Resistance network, put herself deliberately in harm's way to protect the museum and her staff, and faced death during the last hours of Liberation Day.

At the same time, a young Free French soldier, Alexandre Rosenberg, was fighting his way to Paris with the Allied forces battling to liberate France. Alexandre's father was the exclusive art dealer for Picasso, Matisse, George Braque, and Fernand Léger. The Nazis had taken everything from their family—their art collection, their nationality, their gallery, and their home in Paris.

Vivid and atmospheric, The Art Spy moves from the glittering days of pre-War Paris, home to geniuses of modern culture, including Picasso, Josephine Baker, Coco Chanel, Le Corbusier, and Frida Kahlo, through the tension-riddled cities and resorts of Europe on the eve of war, to the harrowing years of the Nazi occupation of France when brave people such as Valland and Rosenberg risked everything to fight monstrous evil.

In the spirit of Hidden Figures, with the sweeping narrative of The Rape of Europa and the depth of The Resistance Quartet, The Art Spy is an extraordinary tale of a female hero whose courage and tenacity in a time of violence and terror is an inspiration for us all.



## The illegals by Shaun Walker 327.12 W184

More than a century ago, the new Bolshevik government began sending Soviet citizens abroad as deep-cover spies, training them to pose as foreign aristocrats, merchants, and students. Over time, this grew into the most ambitious espionage program in history. Many intelligence agencies use undercover operatives, but the KGB was the only one to go to such lengths, spending years training its spies in language and etiquette, and sending them abroad on missions that could last for decades. These spies were known as "illegals." During the Second World War, illegals were dispatched behind enemy lines to assassinate high-ranking Nazis. Later, in the Cold War, they were sent to assimilate and lie low as sleepers in the West. The greatest among them performed remarkable feats, while many others failed in their missions or cracked under the strain of living a double life.

Drawing on hundreds of hours of interviews, as well as archival research in more than a dozen countries, Shaun Walker brings this history to life in a page-turning tour de force that takes us into the heart of the KGB's most secretive program. A riveting spy drama peopled with richly drawn characters, *The Illegals* also uncovers a hidden thread in the story of Russia itself. As Putin extols Soviet achievements and the KGB's espionage prowess, and Moscow continues to infiltrate illegals across the globe, this timely narrative shines new light on the long arc of the Soviet experiment, its messy aftermath, and its influence on our world at large.

## The living mountain by Nan Shepherd 828.92 S325

This masterpiece of nature writing by Nan Shepherd describes her journeys into "the high and holy places" of the Cairngorm Mountains of Scotland. There she encounters a world of spectacular cliffs, deep silences, and lakes so clear that they cannot be imagined. As she walks through clouds, endures blizzards, and watches the great spirals of eagles in flight, Shepherd comes to know something about the hidden life of this remarkable landscape—and also herself.

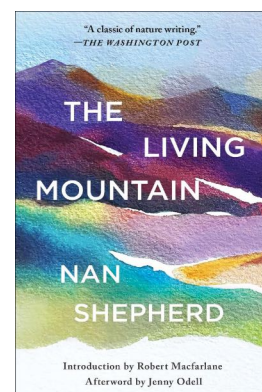
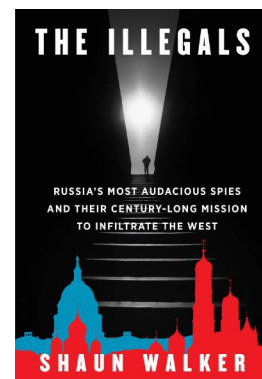
*The Living Mountain* is the result of one woman's lifetime spent in search of the essential nature of the wild world around her. Composed during World War II, Shepherd's manuscript lay untouched for almost four decades, nearly lost to time, before it was finally published. In the decades since, audiences and critics of all generations have embraced it as a classic, an enduring testament to the magnificence of mountains and our communion with the environment.

## L'heure des prédateurs - Giuliano Da Empoli 320.D123 FR

"Aujourd'hui, l'heure des prédateurs a sonné et partout les choses évoluent d'une telle façon que tout ce qui doit être réglé le sera par le feu et par l'épée. Ce petit livre est le récit de cette conquête, écrit du point de vue d'un scribe aztèque et à sa manière, par images, plutôt que par concepts, dans le but de saisir le souffle d'un monde, au moment où il sombre dans l'abîme, et l'emprise glacée d'un autre, qui prend sa place." Giuliano da Empoli nous livre le compte-rendu aussi haletant que glaçant de ses pérégrinations au pays de la puissance, de New York à Riyad, de l'ONU au Ritz-Carlton de MBS. Il nous guide de l'autre côté du miroir, là où le pouvoir s'acquiert par des actions irréfléchies et tapageuses, où des autocrates décomplexés sont à l'affût du maximum de chaos, où les seigneurs de la tech semblent déjà habiter un autre monde, où l'IA s'avère incontrôlable... Aucun doute, l'heure des prédateurs a sonné. L'auteur du *Mage du Kremlin* les regarde en face, avec la lucidité d'un Machiavel et la hauteur de vue du moraliste.

## Il n'est jamais trop tard pour bien se nourrir - Louise Lambert-Lagacé 613.2.L222 FR

Louise Lambert-Lagacé et Josée Thibodeau, toutes deux nutritionnistes, proposent dans ce livre des solutions adaptées aux besoins nutritionnels des aînés, principalement au sujet des protéines, qui font hélas souvent défaut dans leur alimentation. Ultra pratique, l'ouvrage regorge de trucs concrets pour développer un « réflexe protéines », de l'épicerie jusqu'à l'assiette. On y retrouve aussi différents menus, du petit déjeuner au repas du soir, et 25 recettes qui se préparent en un tournemain. Quel que soit l'âge, il n'est jamais trop tard pour mieux se nourrir, et ainsi conserver son autonomie et profiter de la vie, le plus longtemps possible!





## Miya Wears Orange

Miya loves her school and she especially loves storytime. One day, her teacher shares a story about a little girl who was taken away to a residential school. The little girl wasn't allowed to go home. Her hair was cut and she wasn't allowed to keep her favourite doll. She was taken away from her family because she was Indigenous, just like Miya! Miya worries the same thing will happen to her. Her mom tells her that Indigenous girls and boys aren't forced to leave their families anymore. Miya is relieved, but she is still sad. What can she do about these feelings?



## The Warmest Blanket in the World

Frida loves spending time with her great-grandmother, Ama, and listening to her inspiring stories of activism. Ama believes in helping people, especially children and families. But Ama has one big problem. She is always cold. Her fingers feel like ice cubes, and sometimes, she feels like she lives inside a refrigerator. Frida has to do something to help, just like Ama taught her. With the help of a kind person named Tanis, and a special kind of wool called qiviut, Frida finds the perfect way to keep Ama warm!

## Skandar (3 titles) - Steadman

A young boy dreams of being a unicorn rider in this magical middle grade series full of danger, friendship, and magical beasts.

## Under the Same Stars - Libba Bray

It was said that if you write to the Bridegroom's Oak, the love of your life will answer back. Now, the tree is giving up its secrets at last.

In 1940s Germany, Sophie is excited to discover a message waiting for her in the Bridegroom's Oak from a mysterious suitor. Meanwhile, her best friend, Hanna, is sending messages too—but not to find love. As World War II unfolds in their small town of Kleinwald, the oak may hold the key to resistance against the Nazis.

In 1980s West Germany, American teen transplant Jenny feels suffocated by her strict parents and is struggling to fit in. Until she finds herself falling for Lena, a punk-rock girl hell-bent on tearing down the wall separating West Germany from East Germany, and meeting Frau Hermann, a kind old lady with secrets of her own.

In Spring 2020, New York City, best friends Miles and Chloe are slogging through the last few months of senior year when an unexpected package from Chloe's grandmother leads them to investigate a cold case about two unidentified teenagers who went missing under the Bridegroom's Oak eighty years ago.

