

## Fall List 2025













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LONGLISTED FOR THE "PRIX DU ROMAN COIFFARD"

## **BLAISE NDALA**

### THE EQUATION BEFORE NIGHTFALL



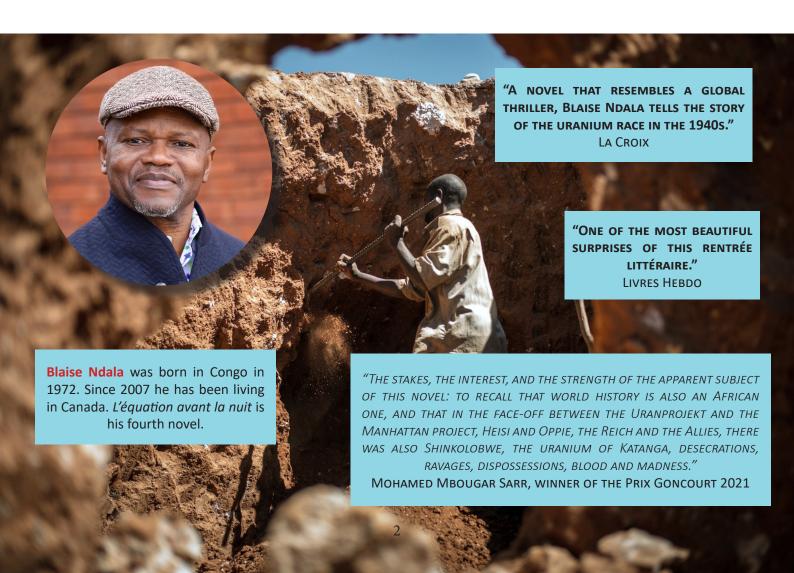
400 PAGES - AUGUST 2025

A little-known page of the history of the Second World War: the race between the Allies and Nazi Germany to develop the atomic bomb with uranium from the Belgian Congo.

Daniel Zinga, a Congolese writer living in Montreal, is invited to Washington to give a conference on his latest novel and to reunite with his Chilean friend and flirt, Professor Beatriz Reimann.

But Beatriz' life has just taken a bad turn. She has received an anonymous letter, with a photo of her father, Walter Reimann, standing next to Werner Heisenberg, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics, and Adolf Hitler. Who really was this Swiss businessman who had been living in Santiago where he made his fortune and died in 1989? Was he a traitor? Thus begins a prolonged investigation in Washington to Santiago, Montreal, Berlin, Brussels and Lubumbashi.

Daniel succeeds in linking two populations at the antipodes: the Congolese and the Indigeneous people of Canada, involved despite themselves in the development of the atomic bomb. During this investigation a crucial question arises: who was the real traitor?





LONGLISTED FOR THE
"PRIX DU PREMIER
ROMAN"

## MARIE SEMELIN CERTAINTIES

MARIE SEMELIN
Les certitudes

342 PAGES - AUGUST 2025

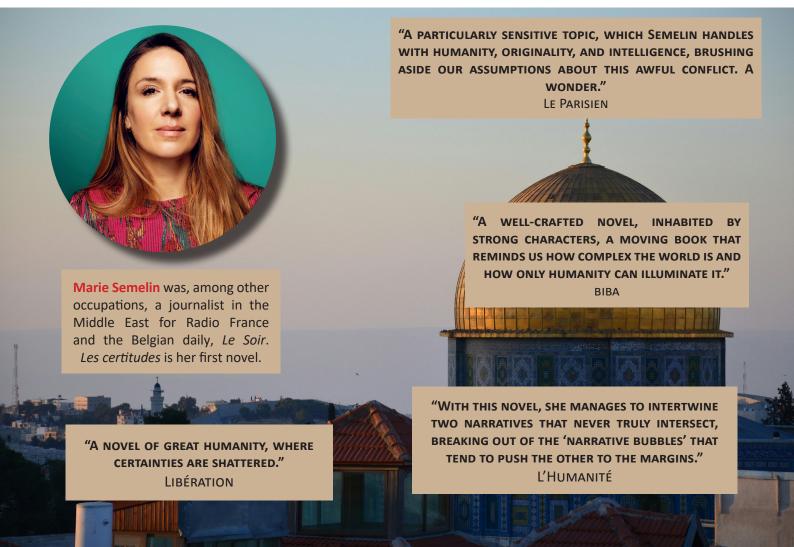
2024: A distraught young woman travels to Israel on the trail of the life of her roommate, aged 75, who has just passed away.

1955: A little girl grows up in Jerusalem on one side of no man's land. On the other side, a little boy searches for a photograph that was lost when his family was forced to flee.

Madame Simone has died and her friend, Anna, learns she inherited an apartment from her in Tel Aviv. For four years these two women, aged 75 and 26, shared an apartment, developing a unique relationship through poetry, conversation, and frozen dishes from the chain Picard. Simone never made the slightest mention about any link to Israel.

Anna decides to leave for Tel Aviv where she hopes to uncover a little bit more about the woman she lived with. Why has she never opened up about her life in Israel? Why did she leave Anna an apartment in Tel Aviv?

From 1955 to today, between Paris, Jerusalem and Ramallah, Marie Semelin offers us a breathtaking novel full of humanity where each protagonist confronts their contradictions until certainties begin to vacillate.



"Nourished by History and imagination, the novel skillfully combines both aspects."

LE SOIR



"The fascinating epic story of Ranavalona III, last queen of Madagascar, forced into exile by the colonial power."

L'ORIENT LE JOUR

## HELLA FEKI A KINGDOMLESS QUEEN

FINALIST FOR THE
"PRIX SIMONE VEIL" &
LONGLISTED FOR THE
"PRIX HONORE DE BALZAC"

A female figure forgotten by History, the last Queen of Madagascar, Ranavalona III. Exiled far from her kingdom, she will enjoy a renaissance in 1907 during a stay in Tunis. A captivating voice, an inspirational life.

When she arrives in Tunis in 1907 to attend a play performed in the ruins of Carthage, Queen Ranavalona III is afraid of only one thing: that her path crosses that of Marius Cazeneuve, her former lover from Tananarive. And the sandy lands of Tunisia, the fomenting political tension, all remind her of her youth in Madagascar, her brutally painful exile, and unhappy life.

Yet Ranavalona also discovers a country at the beating heart of Eastern culture and intellectual life of the 20th Century. Better yet, political salons are now being organised and hosted by women: Leila Beya Qmar, a Circassian odalisque, a gift from the Sultan of Constantinople to the Bey of Tunis, the Egyptian Princess Nazli, as well as the journalist and first winner of the Prix Femina, Myriam Harry... All united in their love of freedom, intellectual exchange, literature, but also politics. And, of course, women's rights.

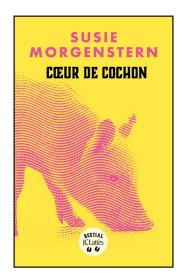
"A historical novel, wonderfully written."

ECRAN DE VEILLE



192 pages - August 2025

Hella Feki is a professor of literature and a teacher trainer. She is the author of a first novel, *Noces de jasmin* (Editions JC Lattès, 2020).



180 pages - August 2025

Born in the USA, **Susie**Morgenstern has lived in Nice since 1967. She has written over 150 children's books, translated all over the world.

RESTIAL

# SUSIE MORGENSTERN PIG HEART

"This text of gratitude and legacy, written with a lively pen, makes joy its courtesy."

Marked by the seal of familial and cultural prohibition, the pig was taboo in the life and books of Susie Morgenstern. When she was 80 years old, a surgical procedure forced her to confront the pig and, by extension, everything that was silenced, hidden, or banned.

Susie Morgenstern was born in a Jewish Ashkenazi family that emigrated to Newark, in the USA and was educated in the tradition and laws of Kashrut which designated the pig as the ultimate forbidden food. Throughout her life, the author fashioned herself around this heritage and passed it along to her children and grandchildren. She may have been obliged to negotiate with the taboo a few times but was always able to keep her distance.

However, when she turned 80 years old, it was time to reshuffle the cards. Faced with a serious health condition, she found herself forced to welcome the pig into her most valuable and precious organ, her heart. For the first time, she became deeply interested in this prohibited animal, searching for the origins of its taboo, delving into forbidden subjects, unearthing a lost manuscript written by her husband who died thirty years before, and ultimately deciding to write to the pig a letter of apology.

"An absolutely astonishing book."

FRANCE INFO

"An irresistible touch of madness."

NOUVEL OBS

"A light, moving narrative, surprisingly discrete behind its comical tone."

BS PSYCHOLOGIES

4

SOPHIE DE BAERE
Le secret des mères

roman

414 pages - February 2025

25K COPIES SOLD LITERATURE

### **SOPHIE DE BAERE**

#### THE MOTHERS' SECRET

WINNER OF THE "PRIX DES VOYAGEURS LECTEURS RELAY"

The long-awaited return of Sophie de Baere, whose previous novel, *Les Ailes collées*, sold 35,000 copies and was awarded the Prix Maison de la Presse 2022.

Three women, two different eras, one disappearance.

In 2004, after many years of absence, Colette Legendre returns to her native Morvan to care for her dying mother, Augustine. But this time she decides things will be different. Because this time Colette is determined to shed light on a long-held family secret: the disappearance of her older sister Marthe one July evening in 1969.

What happened to Marthe? Why has her family remained silent for so long? Colette retraces her family history and, one discovery leading to the next, she will find out far more than she had hoped for, shattering her long-held beliefs.

Alternating chapters from Colette in 2004 and sister Marthe in the 1950s and 1960S, this is the story of a secret, but more importantly, of a love and bond that cannot be broken.

**FILMS RIGHTS SOLD** 

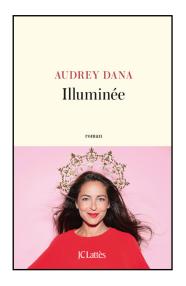
**RIGHTS SOLD IN SERBIA** 





342 PAGES - OCTOBER 2025

Pauline Harmange is an author and militant feminist. She is the author of an essay, Moi les hommes, je les déteste, which was an international bestseller. De l'autre côté de la mère is her second novel.



240 PAGES - OCTOBER 2025

Audrey Dana is an actress and filmmaker. In 2014 she directed Sous les jupes des filles, followed by Si j'étais un homme and Hommes au bord de la crise de nerfs. She is the author of a first novel, Fa(m)ille (Equateurs, 2019).

### LITERATURE

# PAULINE HARMANGE MOTHER LAND

When Nine's father passes away, she discovers postcards addressed to her and written by her mother who abandoned her as a child. About to become a mother herself, she decides to set out to find her mother, to understand her story.

Nine was only a few years old when her mother, Fiona, abandoned her, never to look back. She was brought up by Dan, a loving father from Brittany and a man of few words. As she grew, absence and questions were a part of her life. Years later, when Nine was thirty and about to have her own child, her father dies. Under his bed Nine discovers postcards addressed to her by her mother that her father never gave to her. With her wife, Pia, a few months pregnant, they decide to set off on a journey to search for Fiona, to try to understand this Scottish woman who had a thirst for freedom and independence and who had suddenly deserted a life that she had apparently chosen.

From Brest to Scotland, through London and the Cévennes in France, this poignant novel mixes the voices of Nine, Pia and Fiona. It is an exploration of legacy, filiation, the ambivalence of the maternal experience and the social expectations that weigh heavily on women, all while investigating the different ways to form a family and become a parent.

## AUDREY DANA ENLIGHTENED

A cross between *The Alchemist* and *Bridget Jones' Diary*, an irresistible novel full humour and emotion. Welcome to the feel-good diary of a delusional woman.

Mother of four children from three different fathers, utterly devoted to her job, Alice is desperately searching for the man of her life. One evening, just when she thinks she's finally found him, she chokes on a peanut and ruins everything. For a few minutes, Alice finds herself in the land of the dead, then she wakes up in the morgue with a mission handed to her from above: find love.

Alice picks up her life again, determined to complete her mission. But everything has changed. The meaning of her life, the reasons for her failures, everything seems clear. Better yet, she is now capable of feeling the emotions of others, reading their thoughts, and talking to trees. People are beginning to find her very strange. How can she find a man under these circumstances?

Illuminée is the story of a woman gently learning to reconcile with herself, and at last make peace with the best and worst of her human condition... Then she comes to the understanding that the most beautiful of love stories just might be the one she is living with herself. Divine!



# MARION CARRE THE MOVING WALKWAY PARADOX



234 PAGES - SEPTEMBER 2025

By accelerating our thought process and our creativity, AI sends us all, unfortunately, in the same direction at the same speed... This is the paradox of the moving walkway we are on.

Cultural industry sees generative AI as a promise of efficiency and profitability. For example, a sci-fi movie can reduce production time by 25 weeks using AI. But does faster production really mean better production? Like a screewriter once told Marion Carré "If AI gives you ten ideas, those are the ten ideas you should not use because those are the ones everyone can get".

In other words, AI produces the opposite of what it promises: it doesn't make us creative, it makes us predictive. It locks us in a continuous, repetitive movement. Even worse, like a moving walkway, AI continuously loops back to its starting point, creating the illusion that we are exploring new ideas when those ideas arise out of the same mechanism. How can we conserve our critical thought and reinject originality into the system? These are the stakes of the moving walkway paradox: we can still control its speed and its direction, but it's up to us to trace its trajectory.



AI expert revolutionises cultural experiences and warns against homogenizing and intellectual laziness.

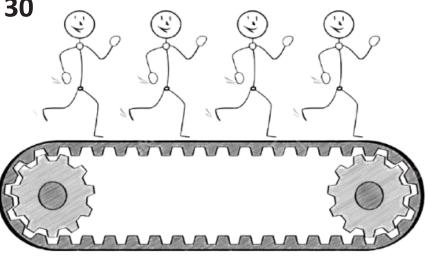


LIBÉRATION

KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF ARTS AND LETTERS
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
AUTHOR
CO-FOUNDER & BUSINESSWOMAN
TEACHER AT SCIENCES PO

### FORBES 30 UNDER 30

Marion Carré is the cofounder and president of Ask Mona, a start-up that uses artificial intelligence to improve the performance of cultural institutions. She published *Qui a voulu* effacer Alice Rocque? (Fayard, 2024).





342 pages - October 2025

**Bertrand Perier** is a lawyer with the Conseil d'Etat and the Cour de cassation. He teaches public speaking at Siences Po and HEC and collaborated in the movie *A voix haute*.



## BERTRAND PERIER

## THE 25 SPEECHES

Through the roughly twenty-five times in our lives we must face speaking in public, renowned lawyer and eloquent speaker, Bertrand Périer, proves that speech is a profoundly human art that AI can never replace.

During our lives, we are regularly called upon to find the right words and tone in front of an audience or when questioned publicly about a subject. And yet, public speaking is sometimes more feared than death itself. Whether for a wedding, a funeral, an exposé or an interview in the media, artificial intelligence appears to have become our best friend, and ChatGPT, a magical tool. However, ever since AI has invited itself to our meetings, classrooms, and assemblies, we have never been so bored. Artificial intelligence is a mirage for the public speaker: it lacks that magic ingredient, gesture, look, or spark of humour that epitomises our personality.

With his inventiveness and expertise, this master of eloquence presents 25 situations as varied as they are common and shows us how to take back control over our discourse. After reading this jubilant, liberating book, we will all be capable of finding that spark that makes our speech both powerful and unique. In one word, our own.

JC Lattès MEMENTO



112 PAGES - OTBOBER 2025

Denis Charbit is a Franco-Israeli historian and researcher. He is a professor of political science at The Open University of Israel and one of the most knowledgeable scholars on Israeli society.

## **DENIS CHARBIT**

## YITZHAK RABIN, ASSASSINATED PEACE?

What today is left of Yitzhak Rabin's legacy, the only Israeli leader to have wanted peace. How have his death and political actions been commemorated these past thirty years? And by whom?

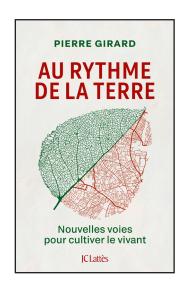
The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin on November 4th 1995 is a day burned onto the pages of the young history of Israel. Of all the potential enemies that surround the country, the murderer came from the within: Yigal Amir, a young student, a Jewish extremist, opposed to the peace process initiated by Rabin with the Palestinian leaders. The signing of the historic treaty in 1993 at the White House and the unprecedented handshake between Arafat and Rabin enraged the Israeli far right, of which Benyamin Netanyaou was a member.

Denis Charbit explains in this book how this dramatic event created profound internal divisions in Israeli society that are still present today. He first describes the man Rabin, his uniqueness, the first prime minister to be born in Israel, who had a brilliant military career, notably during the Six-Day War where he proved himself intractable regarding Palestinians, his international political career, and his willingness to choose a path towards peace, more by pragmatism then humanitarianism. The author then recounts the passionate evolution of the Israeli prime minister, his assassination, and his legend that reflects the political and social changes of the country these past thirty years.



216 pages - October 2025

Rokia Traoré is a singer, guitarist, composer, author of albums that received multiple awards, notably a Victoire de la Musique 2009. She was on the jury of the Cannes Film Festival in 2015. She created the Passerelle Foundation in Bamako.



378 PAGES - OCTOBER 2025

Pierre Girard is a scientific journalist. He produces and presents news stories on agriculture and agro-ecology for Arte and for his YouTube channel. In 2023 he was awarded the Prix Reporters d'Espoir and the Prix de l'information scientifique of the Académie d'Agricuture.

#### NON-FICTION

### **ROKIA TRAORE**

#### I WAS BORN FREE

A powerful testimony denouncing a justice system with a double standard, which exposes the fate of millions of mothers who are denied their rights.

Until 2019 Rokia Traoré shared her talent and voice with the world. She recorded albums, gave unforgettable concerts, revisited Billie Holiday's repertoire, worked with Toni Morrison and Peter Sellers, and promoted Mandingo history and traditions. Her home base is in Bamako where she moved in 2010 with her two children. A court order granted her exclusive custody of her daughter. But suddenly, in 2019, this court order that had been accepted for years is now illegitimate. The justice department in Belgium passes judgement without her knowledge and presence and convicts her of parental abduction. She is arrested for the first time in Paris in 2020 and incarcerated for two weeks. Her ordeal begins again in 2024 but this time her incarceration lasts for months before she is finally freed.

After the fear, anger and disbelief, after numerous petitions demanding her freedom, after months without her children, reduced to silence, Rokia Traoré delivers a passionate, moving, testimony. She describes what was a private affair, a disagreement over custrody of her daughter, that turned into a public and political affair. She is fighting for her children and for all mothers whose rights are ignored and who are treated as criminals.

# PIERRE GIRARD TO THE RHYTHM OF THE EARTH

From one harvest to the next, scientific journalist Pierre Girard presents the production methods of tomorrow.

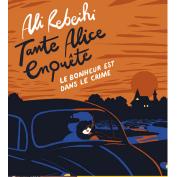
Tomatoes in winter, lemons in summer, milk and meat transported thousands of kilometres: our markets and stores are filled with consumer absurdities. Therefore, choosing what is on our plate is an act that has one of the biggest impacts on the environment. Three times a day we can contribute to the effort of preserving our planet, its biodiversity, and its climate. The problem is we no longer understand anything about agriculture. Our total disconnection with the land, the pressures of mass distribution, and political decisions often far from the reality of farmers, have created an explosion of anger amongst agriculturalists. Discouragement threatens, suicides are real.

And yet, for many of us, a farm is less than 10 kilometres away. A great number of farmers have been acting for a transition to a more sustainable agriculture. Pierre Girard has travelled to meet them on their terrain. From sowing to our plate, the journalist takes a sensitive and scientific look at their innovative and often remarkable production methods. Agroecology, seed selection, permaculture, agroforestry, grass feeding, soil conservation: these pioneers are proving that we already have all we need in nature. Learning to imitate the living will allow us, in the city and the country, to make the choices necessary for tomorrow.



"Funny, light and delicious"

Le Figaro Littéraire



LE PREMIER

**ROMAN** 

D'ALI REBEIHI

272 PAGES - JUNE 2023

Ali Rebeihi is a journalist, producer and radio and television host.





270 PAGES - MARCH 2025

"A cosy mystery just like its main character: witty and cheeky."

Voici

### **ALI REBEIHI**

### HAPPINESS IS IN CRIME

Come aboard with Aunt Alice on the banks of the Seine and dive into this exquisite investigation!

Alice Bonneville is a retired professor of criminal law enjoying life in her gorgeous stone mansion that she shares with her nephew Arthur. Between her book club, her volunteer work, walks in the Fontainebleau Forest, conversations with her cleaning lady, Inès, and visits with her best friend, Haroun, she barely has time to devote to her passion: baking.

But, her peaceful existence is disrupted when her neighbour Paul Faye, successful author of The Five Celtic Truths, is found savagely murdered. Who could have possibly hated the "Pope of personal development" so much?

Between two orange shortcakes, Aunt Alice decides to stick her nose in the investigation and bring along her nephew Arthur, as well as Haroun and her book club friends. Things get complicated when they find that the king of goodwill had a few secrets to hide...

"A cosy crime full of mischief."

### A CHAIN OF MURDERS

**ELLE** 

The second tome in the successful series "Tante Alice enquête". The first volume Le bonheur est dans le crime received great praise in the media and sold 15 000 copies.

Valmont-sur-Loing has adorned its gorgeous autumn colours. Alice Bonneville, retired criminal law professor, decides to launch a pumpkin pie contest for Halloween. Her eternal rival and best friend, Haroun, who runs the local tea house, is taking the contest very seriously and tries not to let himself be overcome with stress.

While the festival is in full swing and the villagers are praising each other's culinary talents, some terrible news is about to make them lose their appetite: the famous television personality and producer, Martin Bale, has been murdered in his home nearby.

With the sounds of police sirens, questions arise: Who could have dared harm the man behind the successful television show "Shouldn't Have Said It"?

The truth is that no one, least of all Aunt Alice, is surprised by the news. Martin Bale was well known for his tyrannical behaviour. But when the victim has more enemies than friends, finding the guilty party is nearly impossible.

However, nothing will stop Aunt Alice who has her own ideas on how to move the investigation forward...



## **JACQUES RAVENNE**

THE RESSUSCITATED

"Two books with titles which echo each other. Mirror novels, bound by a common thread: the serpent. And the island of Mallorca."

Le Figaro Littéraire



304 PAGES - MAY 2025

Jacques Ravenne is a writer, specialist of the French Revolution and author of historical novels along with many best-sellers written together with Éric Giacometti, like the Marcas and The Black Sun series.



April 1309, Paris. While the cries of the Templar Knights reverberate from the Chatelet prison where they are held, their confiscated relics circulate beneath the cloak, and men, once thought dead, come alive.

In order to understand the secret behind these "resurrections", Guillaume de Nogaret, the powerful and cruel advisor to King Philippe le Bel, quickly recruits an unlikely investigative duo: an ex- crusader turned assassin, and a nun who has broken her vows.

Their search will lead them to uncover a conspiracy to topple the monarchy and a sanctuary adorned with enigmatic frescoes...

"Two thrilling novels, to read separately or together, savouring this amusing treasure hunt."

**Nouvel Obs** 





THE AWAKENED



The hidden secret of the Sixtine Chapel. The secret of the Sun's Eye. This secret is yours.

Mexico. The archaeological site of Teotihuacan. A cardinal throws himself from the top of the Temple of the Serpent. He had drunk Ayahuasca, a holy Peruvian drug.

Paris. Alice lives a normal life. One evening, she receives a strange call, which resembles a whistle. She loses sleep over it but feels changed... Her life will be forever transformed.

Rome. Back from Amazonia, an ethnologist is invited by a foundation of the Vatican to uncover the mystery of Michelangelo's frescoes. The countdown has begun for the Church.

Coded messages, Ayahuasca, the sacred feminine and masculine, forgotten symbols... A novel in which immemorial traditions resonate with science.



304 PAGES - MAY 2025

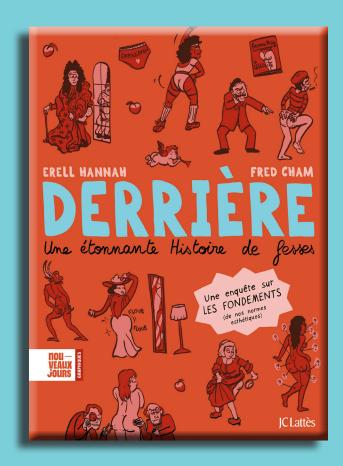
**Éric Giacometti** was a journalist. He is a writer and screenwriter for the albums *Largo Winch* and *Mediator*, *un crime chimiquement pur.* 

#### GRAPHIC ESSAY



### **ERELL HANNAH & FRED CHAM**

## DERRIÈRE A SURPRISING HISTORY OF BOTTOMS



192 PAGES - OCTOBER 2025

**Erell Hannah** is an author of political texts, scientific vulgarisations, and graphic novels. With degrees in sociology and psychology, passionate about the social sciences.

**Fred Cham** is a graphist and video editor. He is also known to share his quirky humour about everyday life in Parisian comedy clubs.

Together, they have published humoristic politicoscientific comic strips on their blog "Ils abusent grave", a compilation of which was published in 2023 (Hachette, Les Insolentes).

## A humoristic and intelligent graphic essay that discusses the evolution of the aesthetic norms of the buttocks throughout history.

What do you think of your buttocks? Did Marie-Antoinette see hers the same way as Beyoncé? Closely linked to technological progress, our relationship with this part of our anatomy, difficult to observe ourselves, has evolved profoundly over the centuries, and our posteriors, often scrutinized, hidden or enhanced, have not always been the center of attention.

In this graphic essay, as funny as it is rigorous, the authors plunge us into the history of the perception of our posteriors, questioning the construction of our aesthetic norms through changes in society, from crinoline dresses to the popularity of the mirrored armoire, all the way to social media. Were we obsessed with buttocks when mirrors didn't exist? Do we view the beauty of men's and women's buttocks differently? Why are men obsessed with women's buttocks? Is cellulite an illness? Why don't men have any?

Based on numerous studies in biology, philosophy, history, sociology and pop culture references, this jubilant, liberating and incisive graphic essay questions the social construct of what we consider the norm and what we see as pathological, our beauty standards according to gender, and how the Western world views the bodies of different ethnicities.

Through the reassessment of the spontaneity or innate character of our tastes, it challenges numerous ideas we thought to be true.

