

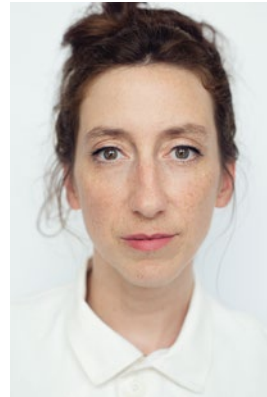
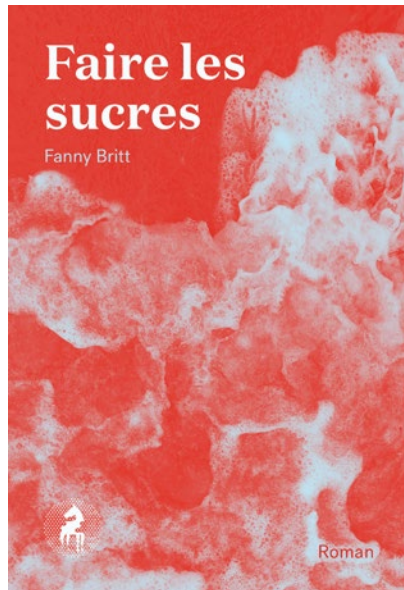


Le Cheval  
d'août

Press Kit

# Sugaring Season (Faire les sucres) by Fanny Britt

Over 12,000 copies sold  
Right held: World



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Novel

October 2020

272 pages

ISBN: 978-2-924491-47-8

## Synopsis

They say money can't buy happiness, but can't it afford us the opportunity to stop and think, to "focus on ourselves"? Yet the absurdity of this statement is hard to miss—as if "focusing on ourselves" isn't what we already do most of the time.

In this ensemble novel depicting the gradual dismantlement of a relationship, Fanny Britt ruthlessly dissects the idea of privilege. The reader meets Adam and Marion, whose dazzlingly successful lives become intertwined with that of Celia, who has achieved an understanding of the world that still eludes them.

At a blistering pace, *Sugaring Season* rubs shoulders with Montreal's wealthy foodies and entertainers, visits a salt water taffy factory on Martha's Vineyard, attends the rehearsals of an amateur choir, and pauses to hear the sound of maple sap rushing the tree trunks of a sugar bush near Oka. With a striking talent for orchestrating her characters' behaviours and revealing their innermost thoughts, the scathing yet tender Fanny Britt portrays the ways in which our lives are related to those of others—the ones we love as well as the ones we exploit.

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**The author** Fanny Britt is a writer, playwright, screenwriter, and translator from Montreal. She has written fourteen plays, including *Bienveillance*, for which she received the Governor General’s literary award for French-language drama in 2013, *Hurlevents* (2018), and *Lysis* (2020). Her two graphic novels, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault—*Jane, the Fox, and Me* (*Jane, le renard et moi*) and *Louis Undercover* (*Louis parmi les spectres*)—have been translated into nearly a dozen languages and have won several awards. Her two feminist essays, *Les tranchées* (2013) and *Les retranchées* (2019), were published by Atelier 10. *Hunting Houses* (*Les maisons*), her debut novel, was shortlisted for the France-Québec award and the Prix littéraire des collégiens, and longlisted for the Prix des libraires du Québec in 2016-2017.

**Praise** “Under the aroma of salted caramel or maple syrup cooking, the writer delivers a corrosive x-ray of North-American society, underlining—sometimes with some poetically infused mythical allusions—the painful discrepancies between Black and White America, the working class and the bourgeoisie, women and men’s places in the world [...] ★★★★★”

— Manon Dumais, *Le Devoir*

“This great work, certainly one of the best to come out of Quebec in a few years, offers a broad humanistic scope. Long live the thrill it stirs in us!”

— Claudia Larochelle, *Elle Québec*

“As lucid as it is flavourful.”

— Josée Boileau, *Le journal de Montréal*

“In capturing and sustaining that intense emotional pitch, the novel is spiritual kin to Ann-Marie MacDonald’s *Adult Onset* and Lionel Shriver’s *We Need to Talk About Kevin*. Comparisons to such prominent female novelists aren’t idle. At certain points, this reader felt he was getting as close as he may ever come to hearing how women talk when men aren’t around.”

— Ian McGillis, *Montreal Gazette*, for *Hunting Houses*



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## Les maisons

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### Fanny Britt

Novel

14 × 20.5 cm

232 pages

Over 20,000 copies sold in Quebec

Rights sold: Canada (House of Anansi Press – World English) and Audible Audiobooks (World French)



Tessa is a thirty-seven-year-old real estate agent living in Montreal. She adores her husband and three young sons, but she's deeply unhappy and questioning the set of choices that have led to her present life. After a surprising run-in with Francis, her ex-boyfriend and first love, Tessa arranges to see him. As the day of her meeting with Francis draws closer, she must decide if she's willing to disrupt her stable, loving family life for an uncertain future with him.

With startling clarity and emotional force, Fanny Britt gives us a complex portrait of a woman and a marriage from the inside out.

#### The author

Fanny Britt is a novelist, playwright and translator from Montreal. *Les maisons* was Finalist for the 2016 France-Québec prize, in addition to being named Finalist for the 2017 Prix littéraire des collégiens and Finalist for the 2016 Chambéry prize for new authors. Fanny is also the author of the graphic novel *Jane, the Fox and Me* (*Jane, der Fuchs & ichwhich*), which has been translated in nine languages. The book was selected by the *New York Times* as one of the ten best illustrated books of 2014.

#### Praise for Les maisons/ Hunting Houses

- “Fanny Britt’s *Hunting Houses* is as transparent and true a picture of startling, soul-seizing, everyday love as you’ll ever come across in fiction. Think Chekhov’s *Lady with Lapdog* or poor *Madame Bovary* or *Anna Karenina* – if those women were to fall in love in ’80s Montreal.”  
— Lisa Moore, award-winning author of *February* and *Caught*
- “In capturing and sustaining that intense emotional pitch, the novel is spiritual kin to Ann-Marie MacDonald’s *Adult Onset* and Lionel Shriver’s *We Need to Talk About Kevin*. Comparisons to such prominent female novelists aren’t idle. At certain points, this reader felt he was getting as close as he may ever come to hearing how women talk when men aren’t around.”  
— Ian McGillis, *Montreal Gazette*, July 2017

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# Chercher Sam

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## Sophie Bienvenu

Novel

14 × 20.5 cm

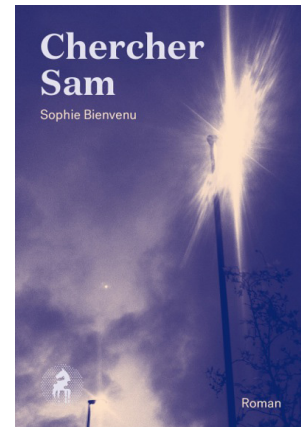
184 pages

Over 15,000 copies sold in Quebec

Rights sold: World English (Talon Books – Canada),

World German (Ullstein-Verlag – Germany) and

Audible Audiobooks (World French)



Mathieu lives on the streets. Sam, his dog, helps him keep his head above water. But something is killing him – something other than the cold or the indifference of people around him. Something that’s impairing his ability to breathe. When Sam disappears in the streets of Montreal, Mathieu goes looking for her and, unwillingly, opens the door to his inner demons.

*Chercher Sam* is about survivors. With broken and tender words, Sophie Bienvenu opens and reassembles memories like she would a delicate set of Russian dolls, uncovering, in its core, the smallest glimmer of hope.

### The author

Sophie Bienvenu is an author and screenwriter. Her books have achieved great success, earning her many distinctions, most notably the 2015 Chambéry prize recognizing outstanding first novels for *Et au pire, on se mariera*. She co-wrote this first novel’s film adaptation, brought to the big screen by Léa Pool in 2017. *Chercher Sam*, her second novel published by Cheval d’août, is currently being adapted to film and *Autour d’elle*, Finalist for the 2017 Prix des libraires du Québec and long-listed for the 2017 France-Québec prize, will be transformed into a play.

### Praise for Chercher Sam

- “Mathieu’s character has moved me to my core [...] one of the most beautiful characters I’ve encountered in Quebecois literature in a long time.”  
– Marie-Louise Arsenault, *ICI Radio-Canada Première/Plus on est de fous, plus on lit!*
- “Extremely poignant [...] and beautifully written.”  
– Rafaële Germain, *ICI Radio-Canada Première/Culture Club*
- “Her first novel, *Et au pire, on se mariera* (La Mèche), Finalist for the 2013 Prix littéraire des collégiens, was tough, harsh and violent. And truly moving. *Chercher Sam* is all of those things as well.” – Danielle Laurin, *Le Devoir*

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