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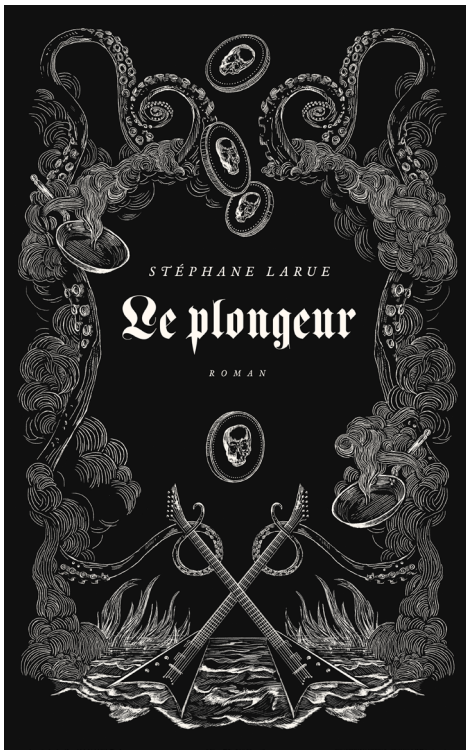
Le Quartanier Éditeur
C.P. 47550, CSP Plateau Mont-Royal
Montréal (Québec) H2H 2S8

Tél. 514 692-5276
felix.philantrope@lequartanier.com

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fiction, poetry, essays



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STÉPHANE LARUE

LE PLONGEUR

A novel — The Dishwasher

POLYGRAPHE SERIES, 2016, 576 PAGES

- Prix des libraires du Québec, 2017, WINNER
- Prix Senghor du premier roman francophone, 2017, WINNER
- Amazon First Novel award, 2020 (English translation), WINNER
- Prix littéraires du Gouverneur Général, 2017, SHORT-LISTED

Montréal, early winter 2002. The narrator hasn't even turned twenty yet. He likes Clive Barker and Lovecraft, metal, comic books and the sci-fi novels from the 60s and 70s that his father lends him. A graphic design student, he has been drawing since as far back as he can remember and wants to be a cartoonist and illustrator like his idols Moebius and Tibor Csernus. But for months he has been avoiding his friends, lying and getting into debt, stuck in a spiral that could swallow him whole. He is a gambler. Every dollar—his and the ones he borrows from his girlfriend Marie-Lou and his cousin Malik—goes into video lotteries. Come winter, he is tapped out and homeless.

He takes a job as a dishwasher at La Trattoria restaurant and gets caught in a rush on his first night. He gets a welcome and fast track training from Bébert the cook—an untiring ogre with the gab of a rapper, still young at 25 but who's worked everywhere, spent by alcohol and speed. For a month and a half, they'll work night shifts and doubles, and Bébert will become the dishwasher's mentor in spite of himself, a flamboyant Virgil of the night.

Here is the hectic day-to-day of a restaurant before the holidays and its shifting gallery of characters—owner, chef, sous-chefs, cooks, maître d's, waitresses, bussers and, of course, patrons. While some seem larger than life, they render the restaurant business with rare accuracy. In their boisterous company, totally overwhelmed, the dishwasher will try to stem his obsession with video poker machines and cross the circles of a chaotic season paced by rushes, power struggles and bad decisions.

A novel of the night that shimmers with illusory gambling gold, *Le plongeur* portrays a world in which everyone depends on each other, for better and for worse. A noir coming-of-age novel, a poem about addiction and an arresting kitchen diary from behind the pass, *Le plongeur* is a magnificent start, laced with documentary hyperrealism, the heir to Dostoevsky's *Gambler*, Nelson Algren's *Man with the Golden Arm* and Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London*.

Born in 1983 in Longueuil, **Stéphane Larue** earned a master's in comparative literature from Université de Montréal. He has worked in the restaurant industry for the past fifteen years.



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GENEVIÈVE PETTERSEN

LA DÉESSE DES MOUCHES À FEU

A novel — The Firefly Goddess

POLYGRAPHE SERIES, 2014, 208 PAGES

- Grand Prix littéraire Archambault, 2015, WINNER
- Prix Senghor du premier roman, 2015, SHORT-LISTED

A northern *Catcher in the Rye* for the Kurt Cobain generation.



La déesse des mouches à feu is 14-year-old Catherine and adolescence gone to hell. It's the dreadful year of every first. It's 1996 in Chicoutimi-Nord—punk rock, Kurt Cobain's ghost and Mia Wallace's hair. Bratty girls who can't get enough of Christiane F. and boys as cute as the ones in black and white films. Hanging out at the bus station and skaters taking on metalheads behind the shopping centre. Winter in the woods in the middle of nowhere, blims on hot knives, green PCP and fooling around on sleeping bags. It's also parents at the end of their wits and warring lovers. A jeep that crashes into a 100-year-old oak, flood waters that wipe out half a city and lost birds hunted with screams.

Geneviève Pettersen was born in 1982. She spent her childhood in Québec, Jonquière, Chicoutimi, Saint-Honoré and Falardeau before moving to Montréal just before the attacks of September 11, 2001. She studied the sociology of religion and literature at UQAM and worked in publishing and advertising. She is a columnist known as Madame Chose for *La Presse+* and contributes to several magazines. *La déesse des mouches à feu* is her first novel.

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Stéphanie Clermont
Le jeu de la musique

Nouvelles - Le Quartanier Éditeur
Collection Polygraphe



STÉFANIE CLERMONT

LE JEU DE LA MUSIQUE

Stories — The Music Game

POLYGRAPHE SERIES, 2017, 344 PAGES

A boy commits suicide in an empty lot in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve where he often spent the day laying out in the sun and the night making fires. One August morning, he got up and hung himself from a tree. He is survived by friends. They carry on his memory and keep living, struggling and loving, confronting their new and old loves. They recount the mistakes, the friends they've lost, the fears, the handful of victories and the blasts of revolt.

There are isolated childhoods, violent men, depression and years of humiliation and dissatisfaction spent working too much for too little. There are arguments and breakups between friends, between women. But there is life that surges from the most unexpected places, love all over again, beauty and hope. And there is play—in stories and music and in all the moments in which we are finally reunited.

From childhood in francophone Ontario to punk squats in California by way of Montréal in the 2010s as encountered by a group of militants, outsiders, feminists, students and aspiring unemployed writers, *Le jeu de la musique* is a call—an ode to those who sense all the violence of this world, sometimes to the point of wanting to die.

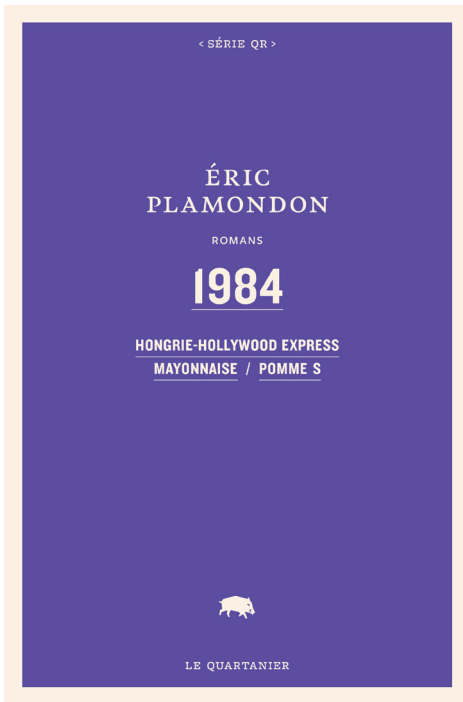
Stéphanie Clermont was born in Ottawa in 1988. She lives in Montréal. *Le jeu de la musique* is her first book.



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ÉRIC PLAMONDON

1984

A novel

QR SERIES, 2016, 616 PAGES

The computer is the most powerful machine that humanity has ever known. Its story is that of Turing, Babbage, Byron, Einstein, Pascal and Orwell. It's also that of automatons, looms, the typewriter and the light bulb. For Gabriel Rivages, it's first and foremost the story of Steve Jobs, adopted child, former hippy, Atari employee, father to Lisa, creator of Macintosh and storyteller. Prometheus is punished. Children are born. Al-Khwarizmi invents algebra. There are I Ching readings. Masterpieces are painted. A war is fought. Bugs Bunny imitates Tarzan in Hawaii. It's Super Bowl Sunday: 1984 won't be like 1984. Brautigan pens *All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace*, and a father admires his son.

Pomme S concludes the 1984 trilogy—Gabriel Rivages' American expedition that got underway in *Hongrie-Hollywood Express* (2011) with the star of the first talking Tarzan film, Olympic athlete Johnny Weissmuller. In the second volume, *Mayonnaise* (2012), Rivages crosses paths with the last of the beatniks, cult writer Richard Brautigan.

Éric Plamondon was born in Québec in 1969 and currently lives in Bordeaux. He has written three novels published by Le Quartanier that make up the 1984 trilogy on three American icons. The first book, *Hongrie-Hollywood Express* (2011), is the story of Johnny Weissmuller, Olympic athlete and the first Tarzan in speaking films. In *Mayonnaise* (2012), the series narrator Gabriel Rivages crosses paths with the last of the beatniks, cult writer Richard Brautigan. The last installment is *Pomme S* (2013), on Steve Jobs and the history of computers. *Hongrie-Hollywood Express* was shortlisted for the Prix des libraires du Québec 2012, and *Mayonnaise* was among the finalists for the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal 2012, the Prix des libraires du Québec 2013 and the Prix littéraires des collégiens 2013.



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