

## 14 Jean Echenoz

The Queen's Caprice  
Fatale  
The Crossing  
The Paris  
Deadline  
I'm Gone  
Vierzehn. 14  
Defective Inspectors:  
Crime-fiction Pastiche in Late Twentieth-century  
French Literature  
Languages and the First World War:  
Representation and Memory  
Empires, Soldiers, and  
Citizens  
Running  
We Three  
Chopin's  
Move  
Dublinesque  
The Ten Thousand Things  
Big  
Blondes  
Viviane  
1914  
Fear  
French XX Bibliography  
65'14  
Lightning  
Double Jeopardy  
I'm Off  
Plan of  
Occupancy  
Short Stories in French  
Ravel  
Three By  
Echenoz  
Special Envoy  
Free Day  
I'm  
Gone  
14  
1914  
Lightning  
Ravel  
Neighborhoods Under  
Siege  
Cherokee  
Running  
Death and the  
Penguin  
Narrative Unreliability in the Twentieth-  
Century First-Person Novel  
Ostend

### The Queen's Caprice

From bestselling historical novelist Max Byrd comes a new novel set against the dramatic backdrop of Paris in the Jazz Age--a fascinating suspense tale interwoven with rich historical detail. Paris, 1926. Newspaper reporter Toby Keats, a veteran of the Great War and the only American in Paris who doesn't know Hemingway, has lived a quiet life--until one day he comes into possession of a rare eighteenth-century automate, a very strange and somewhat scandalous mechanical duck. Highly sought after by an enigmatic American banker, European criminals, and the charming young American Elsie Short, the duck is rumored to hold the key to opening a new frontier in

weapons technology for the German army, now beginning to threaten Europe once more. Haunted with his nightmarish past in the War, Toby pursues the truth behind the duck. From the boites of the Left Bank to the dark prehistoric caverns of southern France, *The Paris Deadline* is a story of love, suspense, and mystery in a world stumbling toward catastrophe.

### **Fatale**

Jean-Claude Kastner is assigned to find Gloire Stella, a popular singer who disappeared four years earlier

### **The Crossing**

This is an all new version of the popular PARALLEL TEXT series, containing eight pieces of contemporary fiction in the original French and in English translation. Including stories by Bolanger, Cotnoir, Le Clezio and Germain, this volume gives a fascinating insight into French culture and literature as well as providing an invaluable educational tool.

### **The Paris Deadline**

With several terms from the First World War still present in modern speech, *Languages and the First World War* presents over 30 essays by international academics investigating the linguistic aspects of the 1914-18 conflict. The first of the two volumes covers language change and documentation during the period of the war, while the second examines the

representation and the memory of the war. *Communicating in a Transnational War* examines languages at the front, including the subject of interpretation, translation and parallels between languages; communication with the home front; propaganda and language manipulation; and recording language during the war. *Representation and Memory* examines historiographical issues; the nature of representing the war in letters and diaries; the documentation of language change; the language of representing the war in reportage and literature; and the language of remembering the war. Covered in the process are slang, censorship, soldiers' phrasebooks, code-switching, borrowing terms, the problems facing multilingual armies, and gendered language.

### **I'm Gone**

Following his brilliant portrait of Maurice Ravel, Jean Echenoz turns to the life of one of the greatest runners of the twentieth century, and once again demonstrates his astonishing abilities as a prose stylist. Set against the backdrop of the Soviet liberation and post-World War II communist rule of Czechoslovakia, *Running*—a bestseller in France—follows the famed career of Czech runner Emil Zátopek: a factory worker who, despite an initial contempt for athletics as a young man, is forced to participate in a footrace and soon develops a curious passion for the physical limits he discovers as a long-distance runner. Zátopek, who tenaciously invents his own brutal training regimen, goes on to become a

national hero, winning an unparalleled three gold medals at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and breaking countless world records along the way. But just as his fame brings him upon the world stage, he must face the realities of an increasingly controlling regime. Written in Echenoz's signature style—elegant yet playful—Running is both a beautifully imagined and executed portrait of a man and his art, and a powerful depiction of a country's propagandizing grasp on his fate.

### **Vierzehn. 14**

A single volume that gathers together three of the most remarkable novels from Jean Echenoz, the “most distinctive French voice of his generation” (The Washington Post), Three by Echenoz demonstrates the award-winning author's extraordinary versatility and elegant yet playful style at its finest. “A parodic thriller sparkling with wit” (L'Humanité), Big Blondes probes our universal obsession with fame as a television documentary producer tries to track down a renowned singer who has mysteriously disappeared. A darkly comedic, noir-style tour de force, it finally answers the age-old question: do blondes have more fun? “Fluid, never forced...like a garment that fits beautifully even inside-out” (Elle), Piano brings Dante's Inferno to contemporary Paris, following Max Delmarc, a concert pianist suffering from paralyzing stage fright and alcoholism, as he meets his untimely death and descends through purgatory—part luxury hotel, part minimum-security prison—into a modern vision of hell. Running is “a

small wonder of writing and humanity” (L’Express)—a portrait of the legendary Czech athlete Emil Zátopek, who became a national hero, winning three gold medals at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics even as he was compelled to face the unyielding realities of life under an authoritarian regime.

## **Defective Inspectors: Crime-fiction Pastiche in Late Twentieth-century French Literature**

Crime fiction is a popular target for literary pastiche in France. From the *nouveau roman* and the Oulipo group to the current *avant-garde*, writers have seized on the genre to exploit it for their own ends, toying with its traditional plots and characters, and exploring its preoccupations with perception, reason and truth. In the first full-length study of the phenomenon, Simon Kemp's investigation centres on four major writers of the twentieth century, Alain Robbe-Grillet (b. 1922), Michel Butor (b. 1926), Georges Perec (1936-82) and Jean Echenoz (b. 1947). Out of their varied encounters with the genre, from deconstruction of the classic detective story to homage to the *roman noir*, Kemp elucidates the complex relationship between the pasticheur and his target, which demands an entirely new assessment of pastiche as a literary form.

## **Languages and the First World War: Representation and Memory**

Quando, il 1° agosto 1914, le campane suonano a

martello annunciando la mobilitazione, nemmeno il mite, smarrito Anthime riesce a sottrarsi all'esultanza generale, alle discussioni febbrili, alle risate senza fine sovrastate da inni e fanfare. E poi - lo dice anche Charles con la consueta sicumera - è questione di quindici giorni al più, sarà una guerra lampo. Un ultimo, antinomico sguardo d'addio alla deliziosa Blanche - la giovane che ama ma che Charles ha ovviamente conquistato per primo - e, insieme a lui e agli inseparabili Padioleau, Bossis e Arcenel, eccolo partire da Nantes alla volta dell'ignoto. Ignoto che rimarrà tale per tutti i cinquecento giorni che passerà al fronte, perché per Anthime la guerra non può che essere un evento tenebroso e indecifrabile: anche quando si lancia curvo e goffo contro il nemico, preceduto dalla lama della baionetta che fora l'aria gelida, anche quando apprende della morte di Charles, abbattuto insieme al Farman F 37 sul quale compiva un volo di ricognizione, anche quando vede Bossis inchiodato a un puntello di galleria, anche quando si vomita addosso di paura e di disgusto - anche quando una scheggia di granata, simile a una levigata ascia neolitica, punta su di lui come per regolare una questione personale. D'ora innanzi, la sua vita minuscola sarà diversa - inaspettatamente, sorprendentemente diversa. Con una leggerezza e una concisione che già il titolo evoca come un temerario programma, Echenoz ci mostra la tragedia che ha diviso nettamente in due il secolo scorso ad altezza d'uomo, senza mai varcare l'orizzonte visivo di Anthime, lasciandosi guidare dal suo sguardo candido e attonito, e facendo così di lui l'emblema della sola qualità che consenta di attraversare indenni l'inaudita violenza della Storia: la sorridente, caparbia volontà di

adattarsi.

## **Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens**

Louis Meyer is an overworked aerospace engineer looking forward to a week-long vacation on the Mediterranean. DeMilo is an astronaut and self-proclaimed ladies' man whose behavior borders on the obsessive and voyeuristic. When a series of coincidences and disasters—including a devastating earthquake in Marseilles—brings them together on a spacecraft with an aloof woman they are both strongly attracted to, the two men's flaws and shortcomings emerge as they engage in an underhanded competition to win her over. Brimming with Jean Echenoz's inimitable humor, *We Three* is both a satirical take on the adventure novel and subtle experiment with narrative point of view.

## **Running**

A masterful tale set in post-Soviet Kiev that's both darkly-funny and ominous In the widely hailed prequel to *Penguin Lost*, aspiring writer Viktor Zolotaryov leads a down-and-out life in poverty-and-violence-wracked Kiev—he's out of work and his only friend is a penguin, Misha, that he rescued when the local zoo started getting rid of animals. Even more nerve-wracking: a local mobster has taken a shine to Misha and wants to keep borrowing him for events. But Viktor thinks he's finally caught a break when he lands a well-paying job at the Kiev newspaper writing "living obituaries" of local dignitaries—articles to be

filed for use when the time comes. The only thing is, it seems the time always comes as soon as Viktor writes the article. Slowly understanding that his own life may be in jeopardy, Viktor also realizes that the only thing that might be keeping him alive is his penguin.

### **We Three**

The standard Ravel biography by the world's foremost authority — brilliantly detailed and documented, filled with quotations from letters, interviews with the composer's friends, an illuminating analysis of each of his works, a study of his musical esthetics and language, a complete catalog of his works, and a discography. "Highly recommended" — Choice. Includes 48 illustrations.

### **Chopin's Move**

Jean Echenoz, considered by many to be the most distinguished and versatile living French novelist, turns his attention to the deathtrap of World War I in 1914. In it, five Frenchmen go off to war, two of them leaving behind a young woman who longs for their return. But the main character in this brilliant novel is the Great War itself. Echenoz, whose work has been compared to that of writers as diverse as Joseph Conrad and Laurence Sterne, leads us gently from a balmy summer day deep into the relentless—and, one hundred years later, still unthinkable—carnage of trench warfare. With the delicacy of a miniaturist and with an irony that is both witty and clear-eyed, Echenoz offers us an intimate epic: in the panorama



of a clear blue sky, a bi-plane spirals suddenly into the ground; a piece of shrapnel shears the top off a man's head as if it were a soft-boiled egg; we dawdle dreamily in a spring-scented clearing with a lonely shell-shocked soldier strolling innocently toward a firing squad ready to shoot him for desertion.

Ultimately, the grace notes of humanity in 1914 rise above the terrors of war in this beautifully crafted tale that Echenoz tells with discretion, precision, and love.

### **Dublinesque**

### **The Ten Thousand Things**

"I'm off I'm off," says Felix Ferrer to his wife. "I'm leaving you." hus Ferrer, a creature of appetite, impulse and habit, a man of our times, embarks on a journey to the extremes. After making for the frozen North Pole in pursuit of a rare cargo of Inui artifacts, he is now back in his atelier in a Paris packed with ex-girlfriends, anxious artists and suspicious creditors, and beginning to feel very hot indeed One Year ictoria wakes up one morning to find her boyfriend lying dead beside her. ot wanting to be caught with corpse, she packs her bags, raids her bank account and makes off, randomly, for the Southwest. And, when she has lost her belongings, her money, her looks and almost her self - one year later - the coast is clear for her to come back to Paris. But nothing prepares her for the shock of what greets her return."

### **Big Blondes**

Enter the world of Brooklyn, the underworld of New York City through the boundless, in-depth mind of Calvin "Klein" Bacote. Making himself believe he had nothing to live for, he turned his life into a crime scene, finding something he was willing to die for. The Game. Klein was addicted to drugs, but not by way of usage. His high was obtained via hustling. He was a major figure, flooding the city with mass quantities, addicting more than half the city with 90% quality pure cocaine. He was reported to have grossed over \$25 million dollars annually. Klein, a mythological figure to most, a villain to some and an icon to others. From the child growing up in the late 60's and 70's to the larger than life character throughout the 80's and 90's, no stone is left unturned. He traverses every end of the spectrum, from the barely teenaged stick-up kid to the man who helped build Konvict Records while serving as a protege to the international star Akon. Raised in the hellish dwellings of Brooklyn's unforgiving Red-Hook Housing Projects, a neighborhood where legendary mobsters and gangsters have made their bones. One would think was he born to be this way? Klein will show you things your mind is yet to fathom. The already proclaimed best seller "Neighborhoods Under Siege" walks through Brooklyn in places you just couldn't go, during an era where life's value was less than that of a bag of rice. This book wears many hats. Live through the conviction of a mother, gun of an enforcer and soul of a hustler. Your conscience will tell you to stop reading, but your curiosity won't be denied. In "Neighborhoods Under Siege" Klein treks across his life and the lives of many other

Brooklynites with such graphic detail, you'll relive these events as if you actually lived them. Ask this generation's #1 hip-hop artist who depicts Klein's life through his music. The influences in Klein's life made him an influence in the lives of others. Take part in the journey of one of the last men standing from an unsung, but never the less influential era and see how to escape when the "Neighborhoods Under Siege"

### **Viviane**

Drawn from the life of Nikola Tesla, one of the greatest inventors of his time, *Lightning* is a captivating tale of one man's curious fascination with the marvels of science. Hailed by the *Washington Post* as "the most distinctive voice of his generation," Echenoz traces the notable career of Gregor, a precocious young engineer from Eastern Europe, who travels across the Atlantic at the age of twenty-eight to work alongside Thomas Edison, with whom he later holds a long-lasting rivalry. After his discovery of alternating current, Gregor quickly begins to astound the world with his other brilliant inventions, including everything from radio, radar, and wireless communication to cellular technology, remote control, and the electron microscope. Echenoz gradually reveals the eccentric inner world of a solitary man who holds a rare gift for imagining devices well before they come into existence. Gregor is a recluse—an odd and enigmatic intellect who avoids women and instead prefers spending hours a day courting pigeons in Central Park. Winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, Echenoz once again demonstrates his

astounding abilities as a prose stylist as he vividly captures the life of an isolated genius. A beautifully crafted portrait of a man who prefers the company of lightning in the Colorado desert to that of other human beings, *Lightning* is a dazzling new work from one of the world's leading contemporary authors.

### **1914**

Seven short stories by the Prix Goncourt winner—"the most distinctive voice of his generation . . . master magician of the contemporary French novel" (*The Washington Post*). France's preeminent fiction writer, Jean Echenoz is celebrated for his ability to craft stories with such precision that readers are caught off guard by the intense emotion and imagination just beneath the placid surface of his writing. As Gary Indiana put it in his essay "Conjuror of St. Germain", "Echenoz risks everything in his fiction, gambling on the prodigious blandishments of his voice to lure his readers into a maze of improbabilities and preposterous happenings." *The Queen's Caprice*—seven stories available in English for the first time—reveals Echenoz at the height of his talents, taking readers on a journey across radically different landscapes. The title story explores a tiny corner of the French countryside; "Nelson" offers a brilliant miniaturist portrait of the hero of the Battle of Trafalgar; "In Babylon" sketches the ancient city of Mesopotamia, based on trace descriptions from Herodotus; and other stories visit the forests of England, the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris, Tampa Bay, and the interior of a submarine. Amid the thrill

and allure of this voyage of words, “again and again we pause to savor the richness of Echenoz’s startling, crystalline observations” (Lydia Davis). “[A] terrific sense of humor tinged with existential mischief.”  
—L’Express

### **Fear**

"Double Jeopardy recounts the twin stories spanning two generations of two pairs of male buddies. . . . Transglobal gunrunning, insurrection in a Malaysian rubber plantation, storm-tossed stowaways, mutiny at high sea, armed bank robberies, cannibalism under the streets of Paris and, of course, the infinite complications of unrequited love?all drive the reader from page to page. Yet it is Echenoz's voice, the most distinctive French voice of his generation, that holds us under its spell with its legerdemain of witty turns of phrase, inspired metaphors, fresh pop culture allusions, and the wackiest cast of characters this side of a David Lynch movie."?Washington Post Book World.

### **French XX Bibliography 65**

With his trademark comically wry phrasing and a sure eye for quirky detail, Echenoz has produced his oddest and most enjoyable novel to date. Chopin's Move interweaves the fates of Chopin, entomologist and recalcitrant secret agent; Oswald, a young foreign-affairs employee who vanishes en route to his new home; Suzy, who gets enmeshed in a tangle of deceit and counterdeceit; the mysterious Colonel

Seck, whose motivations are never quite what they seem; and a typically Echenozian supporting cast of neurotic bodyguards, disquieting functionaries, and crafty double agents. As the plot thickens, the characters become embroiled in layer upon layer of deception and double-dealing, leading them further into a world in which nothing can be taken at face value and in which "reality" hinges on apparently harmless coincidence.

### '14

A New York Review Books Original Whether you call her a coldhearted grifter or the soul of modern capitalism, there's no question that Aimée is a killer and a more than professional one. Now she's set her eyes on a backwater burg—where, while posing as an innocent (albeit drop-dead gorgeous) newcomer to town, she means to sniff out old grudges and engineer new opportunities, deftly playing different people and different interests against each other the better, as always, to make a killing. But then something snaps: the master manipulator falls prey to a pure and wayward passion. Aimée has become the avenging angel of her own nihilism, exacting the destruction of a whole society of destroyers. An unholy original, Jean-Patrick Manchette transformed the modern detective novel into a weapon of gleeful satire and anarchic fun. In *Fatale* he mixes equal measures of farce, mayhem, and madness to prepare a rare literary cocktail that packs a devastating punch.

## **Lightning**

Following his brilliant portrait of Maurice Ravel, Jean Echenoz turns to the life of one of the greatest runners of the twentieth century, and once again demonstrates his astonishing abilities as a prose stylist. Set against the backdrop of the Soviet liberation and post-World War II communist rule of Czechoslovakia, *Running*— a bestseller in France—follows the famed career of Czech runner Emil Zátopek: a factory worker who, despite an initial contempt for athletics as a young man, is forced to participate in a footrace and soon develops a curious passion for the physical limits he discovers as a long-distance runner. Zátopek, who tenaciously invents his own brutal training regimen, goes on to become a national hero, winning an unparalleled three gold medals at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and breaking countless world records along the way. But just as his fame brings him upon the world stage, he must face the realities of an increasingly controlling regime. Written in Echenoz's signature style—elegant yet playful—*Running* is both a beautifully imagined and executed portrait of a man and his art, and a powerful depiction of a country's propagandizing grasp on his fate.

## **Double Jeopardy**

Five Frenchmen go off to war, two of them leaving behind a certain young woman who longs for their return. But the main character in 1914 is the Great War itself. Jean Echenoz, the multi-award-winning

French literary magician whose work has been compared to Joseph Conrad and Lawrence Sterne, has brought that deathtrap back to life, leading us gently from a balmy summer day deep into the insatiable—and still unthinkable—carnage of trench warfare. With the delicacy of a miniaturist and with irony both witty and clear-eyed, the author offers us an intimate epic with the atmosphere of a classic movie: in the panorama of a clear blue sky, a biplane spirals suddenly into the ground; a tardy piece of shrapnel shears the top off a man's head as if it were a soft-boiled egg; we dawdle dreamily in a spring-scented clearing with a lonely shell-shocked soldier strolling innocently to a firing squad ready to shoot him for desertion. But ultimately, the grace notes of humanity in 1914 rise above the terrors of war in this beautifully crafted tale that Echenoz tells with discretion, precision, and love.

### **I'm Off**

“Special Envoy is an exceedingly French spy thriller.” —New York Times Book Review A dazzling satirical spy novel, part *La Femme Nikita*, part *Pink Panther* and part *Le Carré*—from one of the world's preeminent authors Jean Echenoz's sly and playful novels have won critical and popular acclaim in France, where he has won the Prix Goncourt, as well as in the United States, where he has been profiled by the *New Yorker* and called the “most distinctive voice of his generation” by the *Washington Post*. With his wonderfully droll and intriguing new work, *Special Envoy*, Echenoz turns his hand to the espionage



novel. When published in France, it stormed the bestseller lists. *Special Envoy* begins with an old general in France's intelligence agency asking his trusted lieutenant Paul Objat for ideas about a person he wants for a particular job: someone to aid the destabilization of Kim Jong-un's regime in North Korea. Objat has someone in mind: Constance, an attractive, restless, bored woman in a failing marriage to a washed-up pop musician. Soon after, she is abducted by Objat's cronies and spirited away into the lower depths of France's intelligence bureaucracy where she is trained for her mission. What follows is a bizarre tale of kidnappings, murders and mutilations, bad pop songs and great sex, populated by a cast of oddballs and losers. Set in Paris, rural central France, and Pyongyang, *Special Envoy* is joyously strange and unpredictable, full of twists and ironic digressions—and, in the words of *L'Express*, "a pure gem, a delight."

### **Plan of Occupancy**

In this novel, Enrique Vila-Matas traces a journey connecting the worlds of Joyce and Beckett, and all they symbolize. One night, a renowned and now retired literary publisher has a vivid dream that takes place in Dublin, a city he's never visited. The central scene of the dream is a funeral in the era of Ulysses. The publisher would give anything to know if an unidentified character in his dream is the great author he always wanted to meet, or the ghostly angel who abandoned him during childhood. As the days go by, he will come to understand that his vision of the end

of an era was prophetic. Enrique Vila-Matas traces a journey that connects the worlds of Joyce and Beckett, revealing the difficulties faced by literary authors, publishers, and good readers in a society where literature is losing influence. A robust work, *Dublinesque* is a masterwork of irony, humor, and erudition by one of Spain's most celebrated living authors.

### **Short Stories in French**

Winner of France's prestigious Prix Goncourt and a runaway bestseller, Jean Echenoz's *I'm Gone* is the ideal introduction to the sly wit, unique voice, and colorful imagination of "the master magician of the contemporary French novel" (*The Washington Post*). Nothing less than a heist caper, an Arctic adventure story, a biting satire of the art world, and a meditation on love and lust and middle age all rolled into one fast-paced, unpredictable, and deliriously entertaining novel, *I'm Gone* tells the story of an urbane art and antiques dealer who abandons his wife and career to pursue a memorably pathetic international crime spree. "Crisp and erudite" (*The Wall Street Journal*), "seductive and delicately ironic" (*The Economist*), and with an unexpected sting in its tail, *I'm Gone*—translated by Mark Polizzotti—is a dazzling, postmodern subversion of narrative conventions and an amused look at the absurdities of modern life. With a wink and a nod and a keen eye for the droll detail, Echenoz invites the reader "to enjoy *I'm Gone* in the same devil-may-care spirit in which it is offered" (*The Boston Sunday Globe*).

## **Ravel**

This volume deals with the occurrence and development of unreliable first-person narration in twentieth century Western literature. The different articles in this collection approach this topic both from the angle of literary theory and through a detailed reading of literary texts. By addressing questions concerning the functions, characteristics and types of unreliability, this collection contributes to the current theoretical debate about unreliable narration. At the same time, the collection highlights the different uses to which unreliability has been put in different contexts, poetical traditions and literary movements. It does so by tracing the unreliable first-person narrator in a variety of texts from Dutch, German, American, British, French, Italian, Polish, Danish and Argentinean literature. In this way, this volume significantly extends the traditional 'canon' of narrative unreliability. This collection combines essays from some of the foremost theoreticians of unreliability (James Phelan, Ansgar Nünning) with essays from experts in different national traditions. The result is a collection that approaches the 'case' of narrative unreliability from a new and more varied perspective.

## **Three By Echenoz**

## **Special Envoy**

'ONE OF THE FIRST POLITICAL CLASSICS OF THE 21st

CENTURY'- Observer 'EXTRAORDINARILY POWERFUL, POIGNANT AND AFFECTING. I WAS GREATLY MOVED'  
Michael Palin FOREWORD BY CHRISTINA LAMB  
Journalist Samar Yazbek was forced into exile by Assad's regime. When the uprising in Syria turned to bloodshed, she was determined to take action and secretly returned several times. *The Crossing* is her rare, powerful and courageous testament to what she found inside the borders of her homeland. From the first peaceful protests for democracy to the arrival of ISIS, she bears witness to those struggling to survive, to the humanity that can flower amidst annihilation, and why so many are now desperate to flee.

## **Free Day**

An NYRB Classics Original Winner of the Scott Moncrieff Prize for Translation 1915: Jean Dartemont heads off to the Great War, an eager conscript. The only thing he fears is missing the action. Soon, however, the vaunted “war to end all wars” seems like a war that will never end: whether mired in the trenches or going over the top, Jean finds himself caught in the midst of an unimaginable, unceasing slaughter. After he is wounded, he returns from the front to discover a world where no one knows or wants to know any of this. Both the public and the authorities go on talking about heroes—and sending more men to their graves. But Jean refuses to keep silent. He will speak the forbidden word. He will tell them about fear. John Berger has called *Fear* “a book of the utmost urgency and relevance.” A literary masterpiece, it is also an essential and unforgettable

reckoning with the terrible war that gave birth to a century of war.

## **I'm Gone**

In the turbulent final years of the Yuan Dynasty, Wang Meng is a low-level bureaucrat, employed by the government of Mongol conquerors established by the Kublai Khan. Though he wonders about his own complicity with this regime—the Mongols, after all, are invaders—he prefers not to dwell on his official duties, choosing instead to live the life of the mind. Wang is an extraordinarily gifted artist. His paintings are at once delicate and confident; in them, one can see the wind blowing through the trees, the water rushing through rocky valleys, the infinite expanse of China's natural beauty. But this is not a time for sitting still, and as *The Ten Thousand Things* unfolds, we follow Wang as he travels through an empire in turmoil. In his wanderings, he encounters, among many memorable characters, other master painters of the period, including the austere eccentric Ni Zan, a fierce female warrior known as the White Tigress who will recruit him as a military strategist, and an ugly young Buddhist monk who rises from beggary to extraordinary heights. *The Ten Thousand Things* is rich with exquisite observations, and John Spurling endows every description—every detail—with the precision and depth that the real-life Wang Meng brought to his painting. But it is also a novel of fated meetings, grand battles, and riveting drama, and in its seamless fusion of the epic and the intimate, it achieves a truly singular beauty. A novel that

deserves to be compared to the classic Chinese novels that inspired it, *The Ten Thousand Things* is nothing short of a literary event.

### **14**

A humorous and savvy Diva-like novel that mixes new-wave cinema, traditional roman noir, vintage Buster Keaton and the rhythms of Charlie Parker to tell its story of an innocent young man's dreamy pursuit of a mysterious woman.

### **1914**

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Echenoz invites the reader “to enjoy I’m Gone in the same devil-may-care spirit in which it is offered” (The Boston Sunday Globe).

### **Lightning**

It’s the summer of 1936, and the writer Stefan Zweig is in crisis. His German publisher no longer wants him, his marriage is collapsing, and his house in Austria—searched by the police two years earlier—no longer feels like home. He’s been dreaming of Ostend, the Belgian beach town that is a paradise of promenades, parasols, and old friends. So he journeys there with his lover, Lotte Altmann, and reunites with fellow writer and semi-estranged close friend Joseph Roth, who is himself about to fall in love. For a moment, they create a fragile haven. But as Europe begins to crumble around them, the writers find themselves trapped on vacation, in exile, watching the world burn. In Ostend, Volker Weidermann lyrically recounts “the summer before the dark,” when a coterie of artists, intellectuals, drunks, revolutionaries, and madmen found themselves in limbo while Europe teetered on the edge of fascism and total war. Ostend is the true story of two of the twentieth century’s great writers, written with a novelist’s eye for pacing, chronology, and language—a dazzling work of historical nonfiction. (Translated from the German by Carol Brown Janeway) From the Hardcover edition.

### **Ravel**

A haunting and powerful portrait of a young French girl, and her desire to escape the world in which she is born, without losing her identity. In the marshy, misty countryside of southwestern France, fourteen-year-old Galla rides her battered bicycle from the private Catholic high school she attends on scholarship to the rocky, barren farm where her family lives. It's a journey she makes every two weeks, forty miles round trip, traveling between opposite poles of ambition and guilt, school and home. Galla's loving, overwhelmed, incompetent mother doesn't want her to go to school; she wants her to stay at home, where Galla can look after her neglected little sisters, defuse her father's brutal rages, and help with the chores. What does this dutiful daughter owe her family, and what does she owe herself? In Inès Cagnati's haunting, emotionally and visually powerful novel *Free Day*, which won France's Prix Roger Nimier in 1973, Galla makes an extra journey on a frigid winter Saturday to surprise her mother. As she anticipates their reunion, stopping often to pry caked, gelid mud off her bicycle wheels, she mentally retraces the crooked path of her family's past and the more recent map of her school life as a poor but proud student. Galla's rich, dense interior monologue blends with the landscape around her, building a powerful portrait of a girl who yearns to liberate herself from the circumstances that confine her, without losing their ties to her heart.

## **Neighborhoods Under Siege**



## **Cherokee**

Winner of the inaugural French Voices Award: “[A] masterfully conceived debut, a relentless tale, intricately and irresistibly told” (La Quinzaine Littéraire). Only once in a great while does a new novel come along that takes a literary scene by storm, demonstrating real innovation in the craft of storytelling. Julia Deck provides this force in *Viviane*—the first debut novel in a generation to be released by the most prestigious literary publisher in Paris, Les Éditions de Minuit. This breakthrough novel—nominated for the Prix Femina, the Prix du Livre Inter, and the Prix du Premier Roman and already a bestseller in France—is sure to become a contemporary classic. *Viviane* is both an engrossing murder mystery and a gripping exploration of madness, a narrative that tests the shifting boundaries of language and the self. For inspiration, Deck read the work of Samuel Beckett, because, as she says, “he positions himself within chaos and gives it coherence.” How can we say that we are who we say we are? What determines our actions, and are we really responsible for them? For *Viviane* Élisabeth Fauville, these are not abstract questions to be left for philosophers; they will decide whether she will get away with murder. Translated by one of the most celebrated literary translators working in French and written in irresistible, lucid prose, *Viviane* takes us to the knife’s edge of sanity. This gem of a novel does what only great literature can do: turn us inside out. “Written with a delirious and intimate urgency . . . A remarkable and troubling portrait of murder and

madness.” —Lily Tuck, National Book Award-winning author

## Running

Drawn from the life of Nikola Tesla, one of the greatest inventors of his time, *Lightning* is a captivating tale of one man’s curious fascination with the marvels of science. Hailed by the *Washington Post* as “the most distinctive voice of his generation,” Echenoz traces the notable career of Gregor, a precocious young engineer from Eastern Europe, who travels across the Atlantic at the age of twenty-eight to work alongside Thomas Edison, with whom he later holds a long-lasting rivalry. After his discovery of alternating current, Gregor quickly begins to astound the world with his other brilliant inventions, including everything from radio, radar, and wireless communication to cellular technology, remote control, and the electron microscope. Echenoz gradually reveals the eccentric inner world of a solitary man who holds a rare gift for imagining devices well before they come into existence. Gregor is a recluse—an odd and enigmatic intellect who avoids women and instead prefers spending hours a day courting pigeons in Central Park. Winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, Echenoz once again demonstrates his astonishing abilities as a prose stylist as he vividly captures the life of an isolated genius. A beautifully crafted portrait of a man who prefers the company of lightning in the Colorado desert to that of other human beings, *Lightning* is a dazzling new work from one of the world’s leading contemporary authors.

## **Death and the Penguin**

Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens 2/e offers a vivid range of eyewitness perspectives - from female munitions workers to Indian troops in France - which explore the social, cultural, and military dimensions of World War I. This second edition includes added material to reflect the very latest historical thinking. Combines documents and themes that have proven successful in the first edition with new sources and topics that are currently at the forefront of historical debate and research Now features 59 new documents which illustrate the imperial dimensions of the conflict and broaden the coverage of 'war culture' and developments in Eastern Europe Documents have been included which pay particular attention to the experiences and perspectives of ordinary people, whose voices are often underrepresented in broad accounts The bibliography has been expanded and completely updated, complemented by a new series of maps and illustrations

## **Narrative Unreliability in the Twentieth-Century First-Person Novel**

### **Ostend**

“A tiny miracle of a biographical novel” inspired by the life of the brilliant French composer (Booklist). Shortlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award This beguiling and original evocation of the last ten years in the life of a musical genius opens in 1927

as Maurice Ravel—dandy, eccentric, curmudgeon—crosses the Atlantic aboard the luxury liner the SS France to begin his triumphant grand tour of the United States. With flashes of sly, quirky humor, this novel captures the folly of the era as well as its genius, and the personal and professional life of the sartorially and socially splendid ravel over the course of a decade. From a winner of the prestigious Prix Goncourt, Ravel is a touching literary portrait of a dignified and lonely man going reluctantly into the night. “A beautifully musical little novel.” —The New York Times Book Review “The most distinctive voice of his generation.” —The Washington Post

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