

# & esperluète éditions

Beyond the simple beauty of the character &, the creation of our publishing house is an expression of our desire to bring together writers and artists.

Each publication in each collection – from literature to illustrated books – contains a balance of text and images. **Our catalogue has been growing slowly but steadily since 1994.**

Esperluète's publishing project, which strives for a **high literary and aesthetic quality**, has been nourished by original texts and images by contemporary artists. Most importantly, our publications are constantly evolving, making our work an everyday challenge.

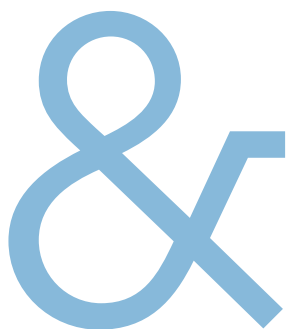
*"These are not texts which you can read distractedly, skipping a few chapters here and there or rushing to read the ending of the story. One must take the time to infuse oneself with both the text and images so one can sense the power of their very proximity, unveil their light or violent poetry until the book itself starts playing some soft, mysterious tune. **Esperluète's publication break away from the conventional publishing world and, in doing so, they open a new door onto contemporary literature.**"*

*Régis Delcourt, bookseller in Namur, Belgium*

**Esperluète editions**

**contact : Anne Leloup & Charlotte Guisset**

**[esperluete.editions@skynet.be](mailto:esperluete.editions@skynet.be)**



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# Jean Marc Turine



cover photograph : Gaël Turine

14 x 20 cm  
224 pages  
2017 for the 1<sup>st</sup> edition  
2 reprints in 2018  
**18€**

## keywords

Rom, wars, exiles, exclusions  
life stories

**The Five Continents of Francophonie Award in 2018**

**Radio Fiction by France Culture**

## Theo from the rivers

### the story

Old Theodora can no longer walk or see. But she remembers and she tells us about her life, her encounters, her loves, her hopes, but also her wanderings, her dramas and her disillusion.

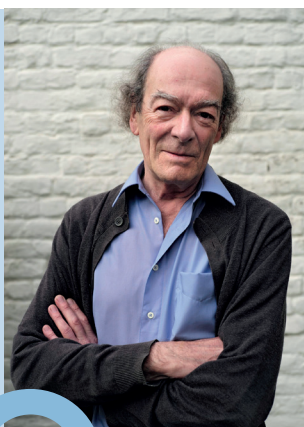
Theodora is a child of the river. Born Rom, she has traveled, guided by the wind. Crossing time, she has lived many lives. Born at the dawn of the 20th century, she has lived through it all. **A time of war, communism and repeated oppression, the history of the Rom reveals itself over the course of the novel and merges with the story of the century.**

### about the book

Through fair and committed writing that gives strength to this story, Jean Marc Turine denounces forced exile, bullying, injustice... The voices of the story intertwine to take us into a strong and complete story, which does not leave the reader indifferent and pushes him to reconsider the questions of exile and exclusion in the light of contemporary history.

**The strength of Jean Marc Turine's writing, since his first texts, lies in his desire to give voice to the voiceless, the oppressed, the victims and to stand up, relentlessly, against war and exclusion.**

rights  
already sold in  
Romania, Bulgaria,  
China,  
Vietnam



### Jean Marc Turine

Jean Marc Turine lives and works in Brussels. Since 1983, he has been making films, notably with Marguerite Duras and Jean Mascolo (*Les enfants*, 1984). He also has ten years of radio, documentary and fiction production at France Culture.

At Esperluète editions, he has published several titles:

- *Reverend Fathers* (2022)
- *Live – if you knew how I had* (2020)
- *Theo from the rivers* (2017)
- *Liên from Mê Linh* (2014)
- *Foudrol* (2005)



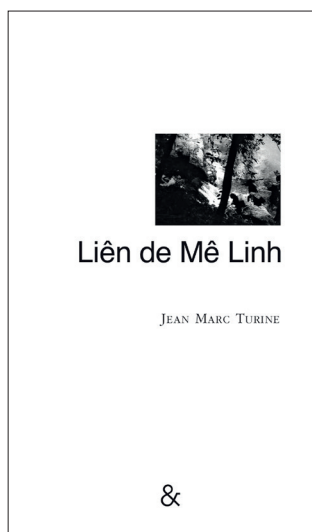
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# Jean Marc Turine

rights  
already sold in  
Vietnam



11 x 19 cm  
160 pages  
2014  
**18€**

## keywords

war, Vietnam, dioxin, injustice  
portrait, disability

## Liên from Mê Linh

### the story

A man talks to a little girl in Mê Linh, a town in northern Vietnam. He met her at her house. Her name is Liên and time is nothing to her. She lives a ruined existence. Her father contaminated by Agent Orange during the American war transmitted her the disease.

### about the book

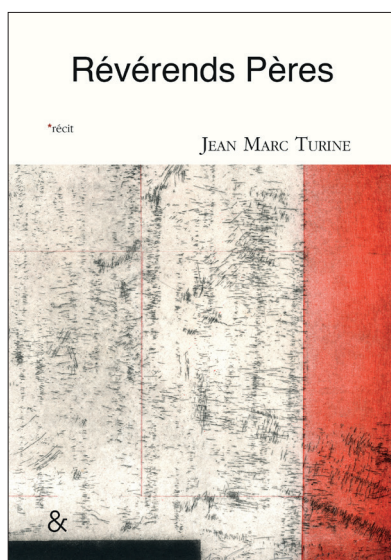
Jean Marc Turine met these families who were victims of dioxin. He sends them a long plea supported by factual data. **He pours out his anger and his revolt but also his incomprehension, his love and his impotence. A testimony, like a shouted chant, which awakens our consciences.**

The form of the book is singular since it combines the documentary form with the poetry of the story.

Radio fiction by France Culture

Documentary film *Liên from Mê Linh*  
or *Wars and war crimes*

## story



14 x 20 cm  
128 pages  
2022  
**16€**

## keywords

sexual abuse, injustice, testimony  
resilience, literary work

## Reverend Fathers

### the story

A text like a cry. A cry of rage. Of anger. Of injustice. The cry of a bruised child, who finally dares to express himself more than sixty years after the events. Painfully, Jean Marc Turine traces the thread of his memory and recounts what he so wanted to forget: the repeated sexual assaults, when he was a young boy, by members of the clergy. The text unfolds the facts and navigates between the factual, raw narrative and intense emotion.

### about the book

Jean Marc Turine succeeds in keeping this precarious balance, between the distance necessary for writing and the repugnance of the memories evoked; disgust, anger; emotions rise.

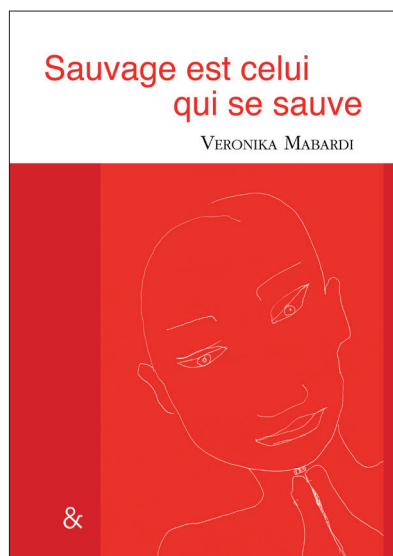
**There are subjects that we sometimes try to forget that they exist, memories that we would prefer to hide. But what happened existed, and freeing up speech is life-saving, essential. When the testimony is coupled with the quality writing of Jean Marc Turine, the reader lets himself be caught up in this cry from the heart, a real slap that stirs and revolts.**

This is not a documentary or biography, it's a literary work from a testimony.

Radio Fiction by France Culture



# Veronika Mabardi



14 x 20 cm  
192 pages  
2022  
18 €

## keywords

adoption, family, childhood  
South Korea, Belgium,  
identity, being in the world

**Novel Award 2022 from the  
Royal Academy of French  
Language and Literature of  
Belgium.**

## Wild is the one who saves himself

### the story

As a starting point for the text, there is a tipping point, set in 1997, when Shin Do Mabardi, Veronika's brother, adopted from Korea, died suddenly in a car accident. Veronika Mabardi unravels childhood memories, in the whirlwind of the 70s; it draws up the cartography of this improbable encounter, within a mixed family.

### press

"Going back in time, Veronika Mabardi describes the arrival of Shin Do, an adopted little boy of Korean origin, within a family itself mixed, politically engaged, both united and wounded. **With a pen full of modesty and clarity, she chronicles their life together and apart, tells of the malaise but also of love, the path to art that both have taken, and pays a sober and poetic tribute to an enigmatic deceased.**" [Minh Tran Huy, Madame Figaro \(France\)](#)

"**It is the book of a shock.** Veronika Mabardi tries to write her brother, Shin Do, an adopted Korean boy. She gropes, makes her way through writing. We grope with her. We are shaken with her. (...) This approach full of poetry, tenderness, love moves us deeply without ever falling into sentimentality."

[Jean-Claude Vantroyen, Le Soir \(Belgium\)](#)

"The Belgian author retraces the adoption of her brother, who came from South Korea, the incessant questions asked outside the (large) family, the boy's discomfort, the unbreakable bonds... **This text with dry poetry, illustrated with works of Shin Do, takes stock of what has been said and what has been silenced, to be able to find a peaceful silence: that of the complicity that brother and sister shared.**" [Raphaëlle Leyris, Le Monde des livres \(France\)](#)



### Veronika Mabardi

Veronika Mabardi was born in Leuven to a half-Egyptian father and a Flemish mother. She now lives in Brussels. Comedienne, she gradually moved towards writing, directing and radio creation. She collaborates with various artists and collectives on projects in dialogue with the plastic arts, photography, dance, performance and music. She regularly hosts and co-hosts writing workshops.

At Esperluète editions, she has published several titles: *Wild is the one who saves himself* (2022), *The Deers* (2014), *She-wolf skin* (2019), *To never lose again* (2012).



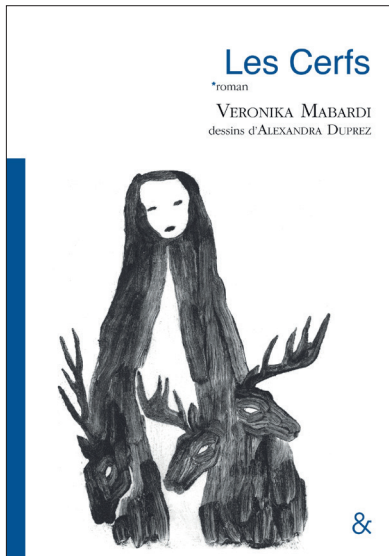
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# Veronika Mabardi

rights  
already sold in  
Poland



with paintings by Alexandra Duprez  
14 x 20 cm  
144 pages  
2014 for the 1<sup>st</sup> edition  
2018 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition  
**18€**

## keywords

childhood, mourning, nature  
talk-silence, animals

## The Deers

### the story

It happened shortly after the death of the mother. Blanche stopped talking and said no more. As a last resort, the father entrusted her to Annie, who lives in a small house, far from the city. Over there, between the meadow and the forest, between Annie and her man, Blanche will gradually find her way back to words.

### about the book

Veronika Mabardi explores in her first novel the themes that she particularly likes: the word that heals, childhood and nature, the filiations that build us...

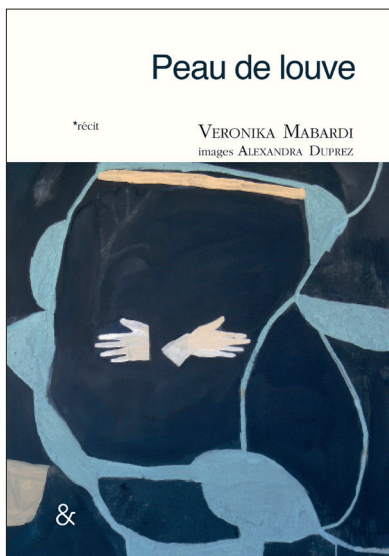
### press

" It is a story of healing and initiation, full of shadow and light; a story where emotion burns within, surfaces on each page without spilling out, where silence is full, fruitful, inhabited; **it is a dense story, imbued with finesse, delicacy and, above all, accuracy.**" Blog the literary cause

**Radio Fiction by RTBF Radio (belgian national radio)**

**Triennal Award from the City of Tournai in 2016**

# tale



with paintings by Alexandra Duprez  
14 x 20 cm  
48 pages  
2019  
**14€**

## keywords

tale, childhood, talk-silence  
nature, animals, find your place

## She-wolf skin

### the story

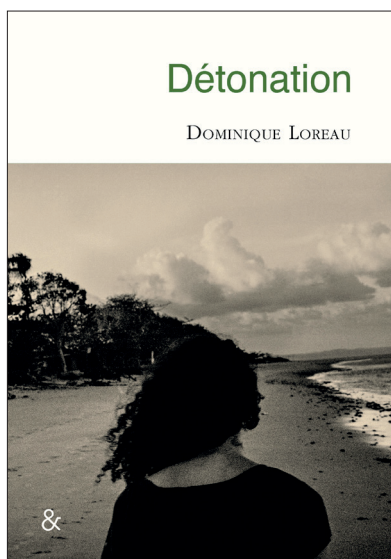
*She-wolf skin* is a tale, inspired by the ancestral tradition of oral tales that come to us from the deep forests of Canada, from the selva of Latin America, or more simply from the Belgian Ardennes. ***She-wolf skin* shares with all these stories an idea as old as the world: sink into the forest, a test awaits you, which will transform you...**

*She-wolf skin*, is the story of Muriel, a young woman who's skin is full of light. This is the story of a repair. How can we rebuild ourselves when we have lost our self-image, when the world around is nothing but misunderstandings and power struggles, when our values turn against us? What to do, when you can't move forward and you refuse to let yourself die? Where can you find pleasure and trust in the bond?

### about the book

Veronika Mabardi continues to explore the themes she loves: the loss of words and the word that heals, the return to nature as a passage after childhood, the importance of trusting one's instincts.

# Dominique Loreau



14 x 20 cm  
64 pages  
2023  
18€

## keywords

Brazil, travel, family, photography  
accident, suspense, drama  
find his place

## Detonation

### the story

The story begins in a rather ordinary way: a young girl is about to live for a few months in Brazil during her final year of college. Her parents accompany her to discover the country. What could be the story of a journey punctuated by encounters, music and the discovery of a people will quickly take another turn...

**The trip turns tragic when the trio finds themselves face to face with two armed bandits.** Time accelerates and yet seems to freeze, in a paradoxical double movement specific to decisive moments. What is being played out in these seconds is impalpable. Everyone's thoughts unfold: contradictions, fears, desires, survival instinct are summoned.

### press

"I had a great time and you have to read this *Detonation* by Dominique Loreau, because it's not at all a little adventure in Brazil, it's a book that goes much further."

**Josyane Savigneau, radio RCJ**

"Immerse yourself in *Detonation*, a thrilling journey to the heart of Brazil, where a change of scenery collides with social injustice. Between idealism and brutal reality, the author weaves a thrilling suspense that will keep you in suspense until the last page."

**Christiane Sistac, Mare Nostrum, juin 2023**



### Dominique Loreau

Dominique Loreau divides her time between cinema and writing. She is also a teacher in scriptwriting at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. She has directed several feature films, including recently *In the Look of a Beast*, but also several documentaries and three short fiction films.

At Esperluète editions, she has published several titles: *Bath water* (2004), *Far from Bissau* (2010), *Scrambled steps* (2013), *The shadow in the mirror* (2015), *Do not tell* (2017), *Some steps aside* (2020) avec des gravures de Charley Case.



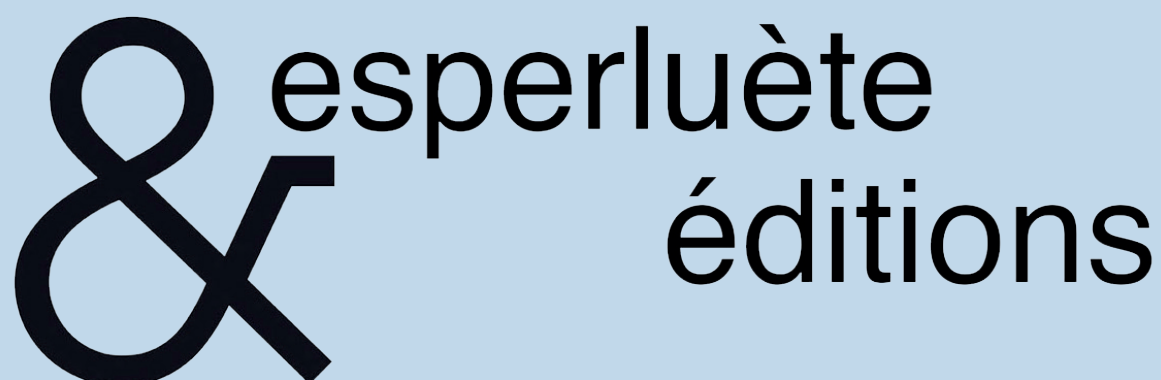
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