

La Symphonie Du Hasard Livre 1

'Accomplished...a strangely mesmerising effect...absolutely excellent' New Statesman New York, 1980s Alice Burns - a young book editor - is deep into a manuscript about the morass of family life. The observations within resonate, perhaps, because she has just watched her own family implode. As she reads she wonders- When did the sadness start? And could it be that unhappiness is a choice? Thus begins a great American epic which follows Alice as she navigates high school, first love and sexism at an elite college, a spell in 1970s Ireland, and a tragedy that sends her stateside as the US embraces a cowboy actor named Reagan. But it is also the tale of her endlessly complex parents and brothers - how their destinies are written by the lies they tell themselves and others. The Great Wide Open is an immensely ambitious and compulsive saga; a novel which will speak volumes to anyone who has marvelled at that pain that can only be caused by family itself.

Before Isabelle I knew nothing of sex. Before Isabelle I knew nothing of freedom. Before Isabelle I knew nothing of life. Paris in the early Seventies. Sam, an American student, meets a woman in a bookshop. Isabelle is enigmatic, beautiful, older and, unlike Sam, experienced in love's many contradictions. Sam is instantly smitten but wary of the wedding ring on her finger. What begins as a regular arrangement in Isabelle's tiny Parisian apartment transforms into a true affair of the heart, and one which lasts for decades to come. Isabelle in the Afternoon is a novel that questions what we seek, what we find, what we settle for and shows how love, when not lived day in, day out, can become the passion of a lifetime.

Recounts Hardin's first encounters with Tessa and their ensuing love affair that became a vortex pulling in everyone around them.

From the #1 internationally bestselling author of Five Days and The Blue Hour comes an unforgettable novel about a woman who seemingly has it all, until the man she trusted the most threatens to take it all away. About an hour after I met Tony Hobbs, he saved my life. Thirty-seven-year-old American journalist Sally Goodchild quite literally married her hero. Both foreign correspondents, both on assignment in Cairo, they quickly fell in love and settled into domestic life in London. From the outset, Sally's relationship with both Tony and his hometown was an uneasy one—as she found both to be far more unfamiliar than imagined. But her adjustment problems are soon overshadowed by a troubled pregnancy. When she goes into premature labor, there are doubts whether her child will survive unscathed. And then, out of nowhere, Sally is hit by an appalling postpartum depression—a descent into a temporary, but very personal hell, which even sees her articulating a homicidal thought against her baby. However, when she does manage to extricate herself from this desperate state, she finds herself in a fresh new nightmare, as she discovers that the man she thought knew her better than anyone—loved her more than anyone—now considers her an unfit mother and wants to bar her from ever seeing her child again.

At home there are four bedrooms: one for her, one for her little brother Sam, one for her parents, and one for the carcasses. Her father is a big-game hunter, a powerful predator, and her mother is submissive to her violent husband's demands. The young narrator spends the days with Sam, playing in the shells of cars dumped for scrap and listening out for the melody of the ice-cream truck, until a brutal accident shatters their world. This breathtaking debut is a sharp and funny coming-of-age tale in which reality and fantasy collide.

#1 International Bestseller "In this surging epic, a veritable decathlon of the spirit, Kennedy incisively dramatizes the enigma of chance, petty cruelty, and catastrophic evil, 'unalloyed grief,' and the tensile strength concealed beneath our obvious vulnerability." —Booklist (starred review) On the night of her thirteenth birthday, Jane Howard made a vow to her warring parents: she would never get married, and she would never have children. But life, as Jane comes to discover, is a profoundly random business. Many years and many lives later, she is a professor in Boston, in love with a brilliant, erratic man named Theo. And then Jane becomes pregnant. Motherhood turns out to be a great welcome surprise—but when a devastating turn of events tears her existence apart she has no choice but to flee all she knows and leave the world. Just when she has renounced life itself, the disappearance of a young girl pulls her back from the edge and into an obsessive search for some sort of personal redemption. Convinced that she knows more about the case than the police do, she is forced to make a decision—stay hidden or bring to light a shattering truth. Leaving the World is a riveting portrait of a brilliant woman that reflects the way we live now, of the many routes we follow in the course of a single life, and of the arbitrary nature of destiny. A critically acclaimed international bestseller, it is also a compulsive read and one that speaks volumes about the dilemmas we face in trying to navigate our way through all that fate throws in our path.

Elsa has been in a coma for five months. With all hope of reviving her gone, her family and doctors are having to face the devastating fact that it might be time to turn off her life support... They don't realise that in the past few weeks Elsa has regained partial consciousness; she knows where she is and can hear everyone talking around her bed, but she has no way of telling them she's there. Thibault is in the same hospital visiting his brother, a drunk driver responsible for the deaths of two teenage girls. Thibault's emotions are in turmoil and, needing a retreat, he finds his way into Elsa's room. Seeing her lying there so peacefully, he finds it hard to believe she is not just sleeping. Thibault begins to visit Elsa regularly. As he learns more about her through her family and friends, he begins to realise that he is developing feelings for her. And when he talks to her, he can't help feeling that she can hear his every word... For Elsa, his visits are like a breath of fresh air. Here is finally someone who speaks to her as if she is a real life person. Who makes her laugh. And who gives her something to fight for... And so begins a love story that might just save both their lives...

Manhattan, Thanksgiving eve, 1945. The war is over, and Eric Smythe's party was in full swing. All his clever Greenwich Village friends were there. So too was his sister Sara, an independent, outspoken young woman, starting to make her way in the big city. And then in walked Jack Malone, a U.S. Army journalist just back from a defeated Germany, a man

whose world view was vastly different than that of Eric and his friends. This chance meeting between Sara and Jack and the choices they both made in the wake of it would eventually have profound consequences, both for themselves and for those closest to them for decades afterwards. Set amidst the dynamic optimism of postwar New York and the subsequent nightmare of the McCarthy era, *The Pursuit of Happiness* is a great, tragic love story; a tale of divided loyalties, decisive moral choices and the random workings of destiny.

In a story set within the smoldering forges of the Cauldron, Rhapsody uses her singing talents and the help of Achmed the Snake and his friend Grunther to reach Sagia, the great tree that enables them to journey 1400 years into the future. Though much has been written about the political implications of the religious revival which has engulfed America in recent years, a question remains unanswered: what pushes its people into "declaring for Jesus"? Douglas Kennedy spent a long hot summer cruising through that expanse of the American South known as "The Bible Belt" exploring that question. In a remarkable journey into one of the strangest corners of the United States, Kennedy finds himself spending time in Miami with a one-time member of the Mafia turned charismatic preacher, discovering Christian heavy metal music in Nashville, and visiting Death Row in South Carolina with an evangelist who ministers to the condemned. Repeatedly discovering the extraordinary within the ordinary, *IN GOD'S COUNTRY* is a profound, yet brilliantly entertaining exploration of life in late twentieth century America.

Money as a weapon. Money as revenge. Money as a substitute for sex and love. Money as status ... This intriguing and extraordinarily well-written book is cheering for those of us who aren't rich, and will go happily to our graves without ever pulling down £300,000 per annum' Simon Hoggart, *LITERARY REVIEW* 'How we chase Mammon defines us. Because, like it or not, we are what we earn,' *CHASING MAMMON* is the first travel book ever written about the uses of money and the attitudes of the wheelers and dealers in the international marketplace. Douglas Kennedy spent a year loitering with intent in six very disparate financial realms, including the Casablanca bourse (where stocks and bonds are listed on a blackboard), the squeaky-clean Singapore money markets, the Sydney futures market and the first Hungarian stock exchange to open since 1948. From the 'New Age' City folk in London, unsure whether greed really is good for you, to the tireless toilers of Wall Street, Kennedy's encounters with money-makers around the globe make for an exhilarating and quirkily original journey through the modern cash nexus.

From the award-winning author of *Art and Desolation* comes this biting funny new novel that follows the absurd adventures of a man struggling with a midlife crisis. Adam Haberberg is losing his sight in his left eye. His new book is a flop. And his marriage isn't doing too well. But while sitting one day on a park bench, he sees an old friend from high school, Marie Thérèse, and suddenly his whole life seems to change. Adam soon finds that his own life has somehow become intertwined with Marie Thérèse's, throwing everything into question. A wry tragicomedy and a nuanced study of a man in the throes of an existential crisis, Adam Haberberg has the same wit and panache that have marked all of Yasmina Reza's work to date.

Kuessipan is an extraordinary, meditative novel about life among the Native Innu people of northeast Quebec. With the grace and perfect pitch, author Naomi Fontaine (herself an Innu) conjures up a world that reads like no other, and a community—of nomadic hunters and fishers, of mothers and children—who endure a harsh and sometimes cruel reality with quiet dignity.

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Leaving the World* comes the compelling story of a woman whose one choice, made decades ago, comes back to haunt her. America in the 1960s was an era of radical upheaval—of civil rights protests and anti-war marches; of sexual liberation and hallucinogenic drugs. More tellingly, it was a time when you weren't supposed to trust anyone over the age of thirty; when, if you were young, you rebelled against your parents and their conservative values. But not Hannah Buchan. Hannah is a great disappointment to her famous radical father and painter mother. Instead of mounting the barricades and embracing this age of profound social change, she wants nothing more than to marry her doctor boyfriend and raise a family in a small town. Hannah gets her wish. But once installed as the doctor's wife in a nowhere corner of Maine, boredom sets in... until an unforeseen moment of personal rebellion changes everything. Especially as Hannah is forced into breaking the law. For decades, this one transgression in an otherwise faultless life remains buried. But then, in the charged atmosphere of America after 9/11, her secret comes out and her life goes into freefall.

Through the sweeping cultural and historical transformations of China, entrepreneur Lan Yan traces her family's history through early 20th Century to present day. The history of the Yan family is inseparable from the history of China over the last century. One of the most influential business leaders of China today, Lan Yan grew up in the company of the country's powerful elite, including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and Deng Xiaoping. Her grandfather, Yan Baohang, originally a nationalist and ally of Chiang Kai-shek, later joined the communists and worked as a spy during World War II, never falling out of favor with Soong May-ling, aka Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek. Lan's parents were diplomats, and her father, Yan Mingfu, was Mao's personal Russian translator. In spite of their elevated status, the Yan's family life was turned upside down by the Cultural Revolution. One night in 1967, in front of a terrified ten-year-old Lan, Red Guards burst into the family home and arrested her grandfather. Days later, her father was arrested, accused of spying for the Soviet Union. Her mother, Wu Keilang, was branded a counter-revolutionary and forced to go with her daughter to a re-education camp for five years, where Lan came of age as a high school student. In recounting her family history, Lan Yan brings to life a century of Chinese history from the last emperor to present day, including the Cultural Revolution which tore her childhood apart. The reader obtains a rare glimpse into the mysteries of a system which went off the rails and would decimate a large swathe of the intellectual, economic and political elite country. The little girl who was crushed by the Cultural Revolution has become one of the most active businesswomen in her country. In telling her and her family's story, Lan Yan serves up an intimate account of the history of contemporary China.

" Une fresque haletante. Unissant petite et grande histoire, autobiographie et fiction, Douglas Kennedy réussit une fresque sociale et familiale pleine de trahisons, de mensonges et de culpabilité. " Christine Ferniot, Télérama On ne peut jamais vraiment prévoir l'avenir ni savoir ce qui nous attend. On peut échafauder des projets, entretenir des espoirs. Mais la symphonie du hasard égrène toujours ses notes, et ses variations incessantes nous rappellent que tout ce que la vie a d'intéressant, de bon, de merveilleux, sera éternellement contrebalancé par le mauvais, le tragique, l'effroyable. C'est le prix à payer pour ce cadeau extraordinaire qui nous est fait : l'absence de certitudes... Sinon celle, absolue, que la présence de chacun de nous dans cet espace grand ouvert touchera un jour à sa fin. Mais pour ceux d'entre nous qui sont toujours là, sur le chemin, que dire de ce qui nous attend ? Quels mots suffiraient à résumer ce qui s'étend devant nous ? " Douglas Kennedy brosse un remarquable portrait de femme en explorant avec acuité l'Amérique des années 1970, où les forces de la liberté et de la contestation se heurtent à celles du racisme, du sexisme, de l'homophobie et de la corruption. " Minh Tran Huy, Madame Figaro

Tells the story of Jean de Florette, a 35-year-old, city-bred, hunchbacked idealist, his wife, Aimee, and his daughter, Manon. In the second novel, Manon seeks revenge for her father's death, and it is she who brings the wheel full circle in a final dramatic retribution in the town square.

Fresque à l'ampleur inédite, La Symphonie du hasard couvre vingt ans d'histoire américaine. Dans le bouillonnement social, culturel et politique des sixties-seventies, de New York à Dublin en passant par l'Amérique latine, un roman-fleuve, porté par un souffle puissant. Pas évident d'échapper à sa famille, a fortiori quand cette dernière est en conflit permanent, avec une fâcheuse tendance à se mettre dans des situations compliquées. Alice Burns, elle, a choisi une solution radicale : mettre un océan entre elle et les siens et poursuivre ses études en Irlande. D'abord déstabilisée par l'accueil quelque peu revêche des Dublinois, elle se surprend à prendre goût à une existence simple, plus sereine. Et sa rencontre avec Ciaran pourrait même lui laisser entrevoir la possibilité d'une autre vie. Mais alors que résonnent les premiers échos des exactions de l'IRA, voici que resurgit une vieille connaissance, et avec elle un passé qu'Alice aurait préféré oublier à jamais...

Precocious and shocking when first published in 1956, *Chocolates for Breakfast* is a candid coming-of-age story of a young girl's sudden awakening to love and desire written by 18-year-old Pamela Moore. Disaffected, sexually precocious 15-year-old Courtney Farrell splits her time between her parents' homes in New York and Los Angeles. When a crush on a female teacher in boarding school ends badly, Courtney sets out to know everything fast—from tasting dry martinis to engaging in a passionate love affair with an older man. Considered an American response to French sensation *Bonjour Tristesse*, *Chocolates for Breakfast* is also a tale of Courtney's close and ultimately tragic friendship with her roommate, Janet Parker, and a moving account of how teenagers approach love and sex for the first time. This edition of *Chocolates for Breakfast* features 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

'A furiously paced, compulsive thriller' *The Times* Ned Allen is young, smart, and upwardly mobile. Several years into his career as an ad salesman for a successful computer magazine, Ned's finally left his small-town roots behind, and is certain that the sophisticated Manhattan world he covets is his forever. His wife Lizzie is also a rising star of a prestigious PR firm. It seems that Ned's made it. But then what appeared to be a career break shows its true colours. Ned's forced to make some tough calls, among them a question of ethics and the small matter of whether to lie to his wife - and when the tough calls just keep getting tougher he finds himself on the brink of losing everything ... Readers say: 'Classic Kennedy. Brilliant plot, wonderful dialogue and characters. You are bowled over by the pace.' 'Excellent five star read from the first to the last page' 'If you haven't read any of Douglas Kennedy books please do'

The spellbinding fourth novel in the acclaimed *Covenant* series from #1 New York Times bestselling Jennifer L. Armentrout. Enter the world of *Covenant*... Alex has Awoken and become the Apollyon. She has connected with Seth and now the thing she feared most has happened: her true self has been lost. But love is stronger than fate, and Aiden St. Delphi will do anything to break the connection and get Alex back. And then there's the fact that the whole Alex-and-Seth combination is pretty dangerous: if Seth drains Alex of her power, he'll become the God Killer and the most powerful being on the planet. The one person needed to stop the impending destruction has been dead for centuries - and Alex will have to search for him in the Underworld. Finding her way into the Underworld to search for one soul among countless millions will be hard enough. Returning will be even harder. Alex needs to prevent Seth from becoming the God Killer...but the cost will be higher than she ever imagined.

At least since the Romantic era, poetry has often been understood as a powerful vector of collective belonging. The idea that certain poets are emblematic of a national culture is one of the chief means by which literature historicizes itself, inscribes itself in a shared cultural past and supplies modes of belonging to those who consume it. But what, then, of the exiled, migrant or translingual poet? How might writing in a language other than one's mother tongue complicate this picture of the relation between poet, language and literary system? What of those for whom the practice of poetry is inseparable from a sense of restlessness or unease, suggesting a condition of not being at home in any one language, even that of their mother tongue? These questions are crucial for four French-language poets whose work is the focus of this study: Armen Lubin (1903-74), Ghérasim Luca (1913-94), Edmond Jabès (1912-91) and Michelle Grangaud (1941-). Ranging across borders within and beyond the Francosphere – from Algeria to Armenia, to Egypt, to Romania – this book shows how a poetic practice inflected by exile, statelessness or non-belonging has the potential to disrupt long-held assumptions of the relation between subjects, the language they use and the place from which they speak.

_____ The new novel from the bestselling author of *The Pursuit of Happiness* and *The Moment* Brendan has always lived a careful, constrained life. A salesman who never liked the work, he's a man who has stayed in his marriage and his faith because it was what was expected of him. But now, having lost his job after corporate downsizing and on the cusp of sixty, he finds himself scrambling to somehow stay afloat in the only Los Angeles work on offer to a man his age - driving for Uber. When one of his rides, a retired professor named Elise, asks to be dropped off outside an abortion clinic where she now volunteers, Brendan finds himself literally driving right into the virulent epicentre of one of the major issues of our time, engulfing his life in the process. A novel of high suspense and considerable moral complexity, *Afraid of the Light* is a tough, affecting social thriller that speaks volumes about the corrosive divisions of our troubled times. _____

'Kennedy is skilled at zigzag plotting, blending domestic twists with turns created by global affairs' OBSERVER
1975. Pour échapper à sa famille toxique, la jeune Américaine Alice Burns est partie étudier à Dublin. En ce début d'hiver, le

climat outre-Atlantique n'y est pas plus joyeux. Pourtant, entre la rénovation de son appartement et les soirées passées à la chaleur des pubs, Alice se fait peu à peu des amis, et trouve à tâtons sa voie. Quand le hasard place sur son chemin le lumineux Ciaran, sa balade irlandaise prend des allures de Symphonie du Nouveau Monde. C'est alors que resurgit une vieille connaissance et, avec elle, un passé qu'Alice aurait préféré oublier à jamais...

From the bestselling author of *Bright Lights*, *Big City* and *Brightness Falls* comes a chronicle of a generation, as enacted by two men who represent all the passions and extremes of the class of 1969. Patrick Keane and Will Savage meet at prep school at the beginning of the explosive '60s. Over the next 30 years, they remain friends even as they pursue radically divergent destinies--and harbor secrets that defy rebellion and conformity.

'Palm-tingling sensation ... captivating ... a completely convincing imaginative performance ... enthralling' *The Times* On the face of it, Ben Bradford is your standard Wall Street hot shot - Junior partner in a legal firm, 6 figure income, wife and two young kids straight out of a Gap catalogue. But along with the WASP lifestyle comes the sting - Ben hates it. He wants - has always wanted - to be a photographer. When he discovers his wife has fallen in love with another man, the consequences of a moment of madness force him to question not just the design of his life but the price of fulfilment. Because finding yourself means nothing when you're pretending to be someone else. From the picket fences of yuppie New England to Montana's untouchable splendour, *The Big Picture* spans states and states of mind in a thrilling novel of genuine originality. Reviews for *The Big Picture* 'The Horse Whisperer recast by Patricia Highsmith ... a compulsive page-turner and a dark moral fable' *Mail on Sunday* 'Kennedy's skill is to send you racing down the slope of sheer story' *Esquire*

Fiction. Performance Art. Biography. Memoir. *THE WHITE DRESS* is the third in Nathalie Léger's award-winning triptych of books about women who "through their oeuvre, transform their lives into a mystery" (*ELLE*). In *EXPOSITION*, Léger wrote about the Countess of Castiglione, the most photographed woman of the nineteenth century; in *SUITE FOR BARBARA LODEN* she took up the actress and filmmaker Barbara Loden; here, Léger grapples with the tragic 2008 death of Italian performance artist Pippa Bacca, who was raped and murdered while hiking from Italy to the Middle East in a wedding dress to promote world peace. A harrowing meditation on the risks women encounter, in life and in art, *THE WHITE DRESS* also brings to a haunting conclusion Léger's personal interrogation--sustained across all three books--of her relationship with her mother and the desire for justice in our lives.

Le Divorce meets *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* in this hilariously entertaining mega-bestseller from France When her chronically unemployed husband runs off to start a crocodile farm in Kenya with his mistress, Joséphine Cortès is left in an unhappy state of affairs. The mother of two—confident, beautiful teenage Hortense and shy, babyish Zoé—is forced to maintain a stable family life while making ends meet on her meager salary as a medieval history scholar. Meanwhile, Joséphine's charismatic sister Iris seems to have it all—a wealthy husband, gorgeous looks, and a très chic Paris address—but she dreams of bringing meaning back into her life. When Iris charms a famous publisher into offering her a lucrative deal for a twelfth-century romance, she offers her sister a deal of her own: Joséphine will write the novel and pocket all the proceeds, but the book will be published under Iris's name. All is well—that is, until the book becomes the literary sensation of the season.

"Girls, living in the country will be your chance," her parents tell her. And so Catherine Meurisse spends her childhood outdoors. Construction all around her: an old farmhouse renovated into a home, trees planted, a garden created, dreams cultivated. They dig, they graft, they plant a rosebush "adopted" from Montaigne, a fig tree from Rabelais. They observe the tumult of the outside world: new developments in industrial agriculture, the citification of rural France... With her characteristic humor, Catherine Meurisse has composed a witty poem dedicated to the countryside where her vocation as an artist first took form. *The Great Outdoors*, like *Lightness*, her previous album, is a testament to her conviction that nature and art —everything that grows, everything that lives against all opposition— always offer us a chance.

The highly acclaimed novel based on America's most infamous unsolved murder case. Dive into 1940s Los Angeles as two cops spiral out of control in their hunt for *The Black Dahlia's* killer in this powerful thriller that is "brutal and at the same time believable" (*New York Times*). On January 15, 1947, the torture-ravished body of a beautiful young woman is found in a Los Angeles vacant lot. The victim makes headlines as the Black Dahlia -- and so begins the greatest manhunt in California history. Caught up in the investigation are Bucky Bleichert and Lee Blanchard: Warrants Squad cops, friends, and rivals in love with the same woman. But both are obsessed with the Dahlia -- driven by dark needs to know everything about her past, to capture her killer, to possess the woman even in death. Their quest will take them on a hellish journey through the underbelly of postwar Hollywood, to the core of the dead girl's twisted life, past the extremes of their own psyches -- into a region of total madness.

Enduring a private midlife after the end of a long marriage, Thomas is unsettled by the arrival of a package from Berlin and remembers a love affair with a police state refugee who was haunted by the city's division and the Cold War.

Death was merciful to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, for it spared her a parent's worst nightmare: the loss of a child. But if Jackie had lived to see her son, JFK Jr., perish in a plane crash on his way to his cousin's wedding, she would have been doubly horrified by the familiar pattern in the tragedy. Once again, on a day that should have been full of joy and celebration, America's first family was struck by the Kennedy Curse. In this probing expose, renowned Kennedy biographer Edward Klein--a bestselling author and journalist personally acquainted with many members of the Kennedy family--unravels one of the great mysteries of our time and explains why the Kennedys have been subjected to such a mind-boggling chain of calamities. Drawing upon scores of interviews with people who have never spoken out before, troves of private documents, archives in Ireland and America, and private conversations with Jackie, Klein explores the underlying pattern that governs the Kennedy Curse. The reader is treated to penetrating portraits of the Irish immigrant Patrick Kennedy; Rose Kennedy's father, "Honey Fitz"; the dynasty's founding father Joe Kennedy and his ill-fated daughter Kathleen, President Kennedy, accused rapist William Kennedy Smith, and the star-crossed lovers, JFK Jr. and Carolyn Bessette. Each of the seven profiles demonstrates the basic premise of this book: The Kennedy Curse is the result of the destructive collision between the Kennedy's fantasy of omnipotence--an unremitting desire to get away with things that others cannot--and the cold, hard realities of life.

An ordinary man finds that his life has been made extraordinary by the catastrophic intrusion of history when, in 1968 his adored daughter plants a bomb that kills a stranger, hurling her father out of the longed-for American pastoral and into the indigenous American berserk.

Sous le choc du drame advenu à Dublin, Alice est rentrée aux Etats-Unis. En rupture avec sa mère, elle quitte la maison familiale et trouve refuge dans le minuscule appartement de son ami Duncan à New York. L'heure est à la résignation : elle accepte un poste d'enseignante dans une petite université progressiste du Vermont et multiplie les allers-retours à New York. Retrouver le goût des autres, simplement de la vie, c'est tout ce qu'elle cherche. Mais comment trouver la paix dans une période où tout n'est que changement ? Il lui faudra un dernier choc, esthétique, naturel, fondamental, pour réaliser que la vie est une succession d'incertitudes, une symphonie du hasard qui vaut le risque d'y prendre part.

From the critically lauded, internationally bestselling author of *The Moment* comes a profoundly moving novel that explores how a single brief encounter can change one's life. Laura spends her days looking at other people's potential calamities. She works in the radiography unit of a small hospital on the Maine coast, bearing constant witness to the fears of patient after frightened patient. In a job where finding nothing is always the best possible outcome, she is well versed in the random injustices of life, a truism that

has lately been playing out in her marriage as well. Since being downsized, her husband, Dan, has become withdrawn, his emotional distance gradually corroding their relationship. With a son in college and a daughter soon due to leave home, Laura has begun to fear that the marital sounds of silence will only deepen once the nest is truly empty. When an opportunity arises to attend a weekend medical conference in Boston, Laura jumps at this respite from home. While checking in, she meets a man as gray and uninspired as her drab hotel room. Richard is an outwardly dull, fiftysomething insurance salesman. But during a chance second encounter, Laura discovers him to be surprisingly complex and thoughtful, someone who, like herself, is grappling with the same big questions about decisions made and the human capacity for self-entrapment. As their conversation deepens and begins to veer into shared confessions, the overwhelming sense of personal and intimate connection arises. A transformative love affair begins. But can this potential, much-longed-for happiness be married to their own difficult personal circumstances? Can they upend their lives and embrace that most loaded of words: change? A love story as clear-sighted and ruminative as it is affecting, *Five Days* will have you reflecting about the choices we all make that shape our destinies. Crafted with Kennedy's trademark evocative prose and pitch-perfect in its depiction of the complex realities of modern life, it is a novel that speaks directly to the many contradictions of the human heart.

Fresque à l'ampleur inédite, *La Symphonie du hasard* couvre vingt ans d'histoire américaine. Dans le bouillonnement social, culturel et politique des sixties-seventies, de New York à Dublin en passant par l'Amérique latine, un roman-fleuve porté par un souffle puissant. Pas évident d'échapper à sa famille, a fortiori quand cette dernière est en conflit permanent, avec une fâcheuse tendance à se mettre dans des situations compliquées. Alice Burns, elle, a choisi une solution radicale : mettre un océan entre elle et les siens et poursuivre ses études en Irlande. D'abord déstabilisée par l'accueil quelque peu revêche des Dublinois, elle se surprend à apprécier une existence simple, plus sereine. Et sa rencontre avec Ciaran pourrait même lui laisser entrevoir la possibilité d'une autre vie. Mais alors que résonnent les premiers échos des exactions de l'IRA, voici que resurgit une vieille connaissance, et avec elle un passé qu'Alice aurait préféré oublier à jamais...

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Leaving the World* and *The Moment* comes the riveting story of a luckless college professor for whom Paris becomes a city of mortal danger. A runaway bestseller in the UK and France that has been made into a film starring Ethan Hawke and Kristin Scott Thomas, this suspenseful tour de force from the internationally renowned Douglas Kennedy is the quintessential sophisticated commercial novel. Harry Ricks is a man who has lost everything. A romantic mistake at the small American college where he used to teach has cost him his job, his marriage, and the love of his only child. Hounded by scandal, he flees to Paris, where a series of accidental encounters lands him in a grubby room with a job as night watchman for a sinister operation. Just when he begins to think he has hit rock bottom, romance enters his life in the form of Margit—a cultivated, widowed Hungarian émigré who shares Harry's profound loneliness but who keeps her distance, remaining guarded about her past. As Harry wrestles with Margit's reticence, he begins to notice that all those who have recently done him wrong are meeting unfortunate ends—and it soon becomes apparent that he has stumbled into a nightmare from which there is no escape. *The Woman in the Fifth* further establishes Douglas Kennedy as an author who “always has his brilliant finger on the entertaining parts of human sorrow, fury, and narrow escapes” (Lorrie Moore).

That dumbshit map. I'd been seduced by it. Seduced by its possibilities. That map had brought me here ... That map had been a serious mistake' The map in question is of Australia, stumbled across in a second-hand bookshop by American journalist Nick Hawthorne, en route to another dead-end hack job in Akron, Ohio. Seduced by all that wilderness, all that NOTHING, Nick decides to put his midlife crisis on hold and light out to the ultimate nowhere-ville - where a chance encounter throws him into a sun-baked orgy of surf, sex and swill, and a nightmare from which there is no escape. 'Douglas Kennedy might never be allowed into Australia again. This is a crazy, compulsive ultimately serious thriller and a bravura fictional debut from one of our best travel writers' Philip Kerr

The delightful first title in a new collaboration with Channel 4's *Walter Presents*: a fast-paced comic mystery enriched by a deep love of books In the small town of Crozon in Brittany, a library houses manuscripts that were rejected for publication: the faded dreams of aspiring writers. Visiting while on holiday, young editor Delphine Despero is thrilled to discover a novel so powerful that she feels compelled to bring it back to Paris to publish it. The book is a sensation, prompting fevered interest in the identity of its author - apparently one Henri Pick, a now-deceased pizza chef from Crozon. Sceptics cry that the whole thing is a hoax: how could this man have written such a masterpiece? An obstinate journalist, Jean-Michel Rouche, heads to Brittany to investigate. By turns farcical and moving, *The Mystery of Henri Pick* is a fast-paced comic mystery enriched by a deep love of books - and of the authors who write them.

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